

Co-designing a digital intervention to alleviate social isolation of people aging with HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond

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MAIN FINDINGS

- Building a strong rapport with community advisory board members (CAB) helped build cohesion, a shared group identity, and a sense of investment in the success of the project.
- Active recruitment methods were the most effective when developing the CAB.
- The CAB helped us improve each step of the study and recruit study participants.

INTRODUCTION

- Older people living with HIV (PLWH) face unique health challenges
- COVID-19 has increased the prevalence of depression and social isolation
- Facilitate social connections by creating a virtual village
- A virtual village can connect aging HIV survivors to:
 - each other
 - medical providers during times of isolation
 - community resources
- CAB members will help co-design the virtual village

METHODS

Inclusion criteria to join the CAB:

- 1) Reside in one of the three study sites (Tampa, FL, Palm Springs, CA, and Los Angeles, CA)
- 2) Live with HIV
- 3) Able to commit to monthly Zoom meetings

Study Timeline:

AIM #1: Characterize issues related to depression, isolation, and basic needs of a diverse population of people aging with HIV during the COVID-19 pandemic

Hold focus groups and interviews with PLWH age 50+



AIM #2: Co-develop ideas for what to include in a virtual village

Use conjoint analysis to identify the most important characteristics of the virtual village



AIM #3: Create and pilot the virtual village

Create and pilot the virtual village with PLWH age 50+ at all three study sites

Scan the QR code to access more details about our study.

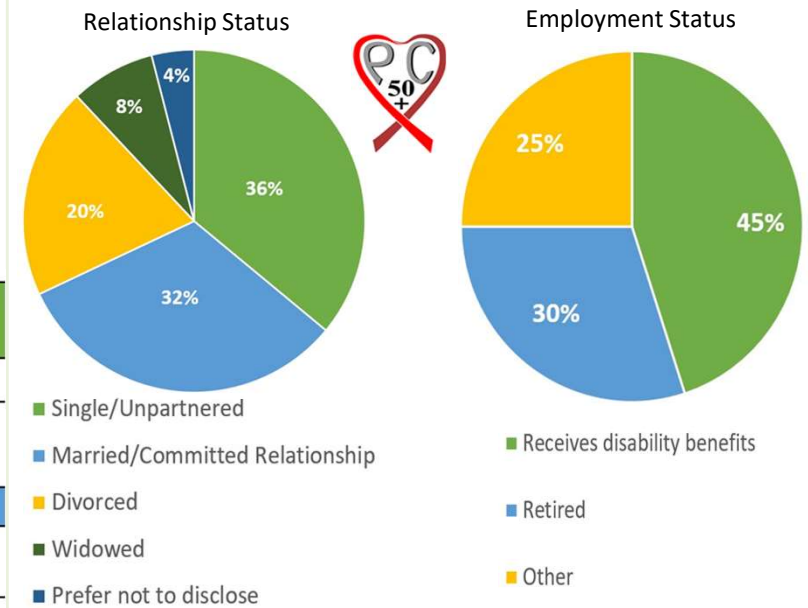


RESULTS

We recruited **24** CAB members from all three sites: Los Angeles, CA (9), Palm Springs, CA (8), and Tampa, FL (7)

Characteristics (N = 23*)	n (%)
Age, mean (range)	61 (48-79)
Race/ethnicity – select all the apply	
Black / African American	7 (29%)
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	2 (8%)
White	14 (58%)
Gender identity	
Man	11 (48%)
Woman	11 (48%)

*Does not match # recruited because 1 CAB member died in 2021



CAB feedback guides all steps of the study.

CAB members have helped design:

- interview guides for focus groups and key informant interviews (question categories: coping during COVID-19, health issues, isolation, and virtual village)
- the assessment for conjoint analysis
- project name: Positive Connections 50+ (PC50+)
- project logo

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