Future Life Goals of HIV-positive Gay and Bisexual Emerging Adults

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Abstract

This qualitative study explores the future life goals reported by a sample of HIV-positive gay/bisexual male emerging adults. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 54 participants ages 17-24 at four geographically and demographically diverse adolescent HIV medicine programs to explore the content of participants’ goals, perceived obstacles and sources of resilience. We provide descriptive data on goals articulated by participants to begin to understand (1) how gay male emerging adults may differ from the heteronormative samples that have characterized most research on emerging adulthood to date, (2) how living with HIV/AIDS may impact the future life goals of this population, and (3) implications for HIV/AIDS service providers as HIV-positive emerging adults are transitioned from adolescent to adult care.

Keywords

emerging adulthood, lesbians/gays/bisexuals/transgenders, work, identity issues, HIV/AIDS

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