

# Adapting the URICA Assessment for use with PLWH Experiencing Homelessness and Unemployment

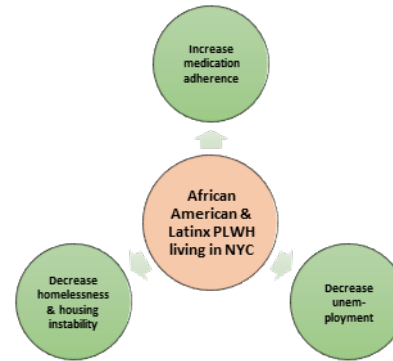
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## The Program: Project HEALTH (Housing and Employment Access Lead to Health)

- SPNS Initiative: Improving HIV Health Outcomes through the Coordination of Supportive Employment and Housing Services, 2017-2020
- HIV Care Coordination + Housing support + Supported Employment to decrease the impact of social determinants of health on HIV outcomes for racial and ethnic minority communities.
- 12 sites nationally: New York NY (GMHC), Chicago IL, Houston TX, San Antonio TX, Kansas City MO, Pasadena CA, Patterson NJ, San Diego CA, Boston MA, Duluth GA, San Francisco CA, New Haven CT
- Enrollment: 107 adult (18 years+) clients, all genders, orientations, race, ethnicity
- 87% cisgender male, 6% cisgender female, 6% transgender, 59% Black, 23% White, 47% Latinx, 18% other, 25% Spanish as primary language

## Program Objectives



## Program Need: Track clients into intervention activities by level of need

- Readiness Track: more intensive levels of intervention activities and coordination, to support the client's "readiness" for independent living and sustained employment
- Action Track: Client has sufficient capacities and motivations to obtain permanent housing, find employment, and remain employed.

## URICA: University of Rhode Island Change Assessment Scale

- URICA assesses an individual's placement on the "stages of change" scale of the Transtheoretical Model of Health Behavior Change: developed for tobacco cessation and substance use
- Pre-contemplation: not aware that a problem exists
- Contemplation: Recognizes the problem, but no clear actions are identified
- Action: Recognizes the problem and is taking steps to change behavior
- Maintenance: Has made changes and must work to sustain the change

Adaptation: URICA Questions adapted into 2 new scales: one focused on housing and one focused on employment. Some examples:

- Alcohol version:** *It doesn't make much sense for me to consider changing my drinking.*
- Housing adaptation:** *It doesn't make much sense for me to consider changing where I live.*
- Employment Adaptation:** *It doesn't make much sense for me to consider changing my job or getting a job.*

- Alcohol version:** *I may have a problem with drinking and I think I should work on it.*
- Housing adaptation:** *I may have a problem with where I live and I think I should work on it.*
- Employment Adaptation:** *I may have a problem with my job or lack of job and I think I should work on it.*

- Alcohol version:** *Anyone can talk about changing the way they drink; I'm actually going to do something about it.*
- Housing adaptation:** *Anyone can talk about changing where they live; I'm actually going to do something about it.*
- Employment Adaptation:** *Anyone can talk about changing their job or finding a job; I'm actually going to do something about it.*

Client Results: URICA Adapted for Housing and Employment

Employment	Baseline	6 Month
Pre-Contemplation	14	13
Contemplation	36	16
Action	51	16
Maintenance	0	0

Employment	Baseline	6 Month
Action	51	16
Readiness	50	29

Housing	Baseline	6 Month
Pre-Contemplation	12	13
Contemplation	31	17
Action	58	18
Maintenance	0	0

Housing	Baseline	6 Month
Action	58	71
Readiness	43	30

## Feasibility and Validity: Principal Component Analysis

- **Chronbach's Alpha<sup>1</sup>:** Employment Scale 0.784; Housing Scale 0.745
- **Main Challenge:** adapting a scale based on a substance use and recovery context to a social determinants context
- **Housing: Three Principal Components: 61% of variance explained**
  - Contemplation and Action (6 items, from the Contemplation and Action subscales, closely aligned): 35% of variance explained
  - Maintenance (3 items, the maintenance subscale): 17% of variance explained
  - "Deferred Responsibility" (4 items, mixing pre-contemplation, contemplation, and maintenance): 10% of variance explained
- **Employment: Four Principal Components: 67% of variance explained**
  - Contemplation and Action (6 items, from the Contemplation and Action subscales, closely aligned): 30% of variance explained
  - Maintenance (4 items, the maintenance subscale + 1 precontemplation item): 15% of variance explained
  - "Deferred Responsibility" (5 items, mixing pre-contemplation, contemplation, and maintenance): 13% of variance explained
  - "Considering Responsibility" (3 items from pre-contemplation, contemplation, and action): 8% of variance explained

<sup>1</sup> Based on 9 items: contemplation, action, and maintenance, not including pre-contemplation questions, which are measured differently.

## Housing and Employment Outcomes, 107 clients

- 29: housed and are currently employed
- 25: received housing and are seeking employment
- 16: have secured employment and are still seeking permanent housing
- 8: lost to follow up
- 29: have neither received housing nor employment

## HIV Continuum of Care

Medical chart data is continuing to be collected and will be available for analysis after August 31, 2020