



POLICY AGENDA

The Association of Nurses in AIDS Care (ANAC) was founded in 1987. The mission of ANAC is to foster the professional development of nurses and others involved in the delivery of health care for persons at risk for, living with and/or affected by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and its co-morbidities. ANAC promotes the health, welfare and rights of people living with HIV around the world.

Through our organizational and membership activities and through collaboration in coalitions, we strive to address the following policy issues:

1. Access to care for all people living with HIV/AIDS.

Critical issues include:

- Support and recognition of the on-going critical role of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program
- Support for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as a means to expand access to insurance coverage that will, in coordination with Ryan White programs, facilitate earlier access to care and treatment
- Equity in benefits across state-based programs, including Medicaid and ADAP, so all individuals have access to DHHS recommended regimens, regardless of their state or residence
- Support for PEPFAR, Global Fund and other mechanisms to maintain and increase access to care in global settings

2. Human Rights: Decriminalization of HIV, HIV exposure/transmission and support for full LGBT rights in all jurisdictions locally and globally.

This includes:

- Advocating for changing laws and policies that criminalize HIV or homosexuality or infringe upon full LGBT rights
- Educating nurses and policymakers about evidence that such laws and policies are counterproductive to HIV and other disease prevention efforts
- Promotion of full and equitable civil rights for LGBT individuals
- Educating nurses, other health care providers and policymakers of the importance of human rights-based approaches to HIV management and the delivery of socially just health care
- Identifying and addressing intersectional issues, including but not limited to: bias-driven violence, Intimate Partner Violence and other forms of intimidation of people living with/at risk for HIV
- Advocating for sound immigration and migration policies that do not harm the health, welfare and rights of people living with or at risk for HIV

3. Support for the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based and scientifically driven HIV treatment and prevention programs.

This includes:

- Full implementation of routine HIV testing of adolescents, adults and pregnant women
- Support for age-appropriate, evidence-based, comprehensive sexual education in public schools and the integration of sexual minority health content into all health care curricula
- Support for rational, evidence-based substance use treatment and risk reduction strategies
- Collaboration with communities to develop and implement a range of comprehensive HIV management strategies that promote prevention through care and treatment
- Full access to comprehensive HIV prevention strategies, including education and expansion of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) programs
- Supporting provider and patient education that durable ,undetectable HIV viral load effectively eliminates the risk of sexually transmission of HIV, often referred to as U=U
- Educating nurses, other health care providers, and policymakers about HIV co-morbidities, including viral hepatitis and TB

4. Support for HIV/AIDS Workforce Development.

This includes support for :

- Adequate funding and support for Nursing Education programs
- Full practice authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses
- Research that informs evidence-based nursing practice
- Safe and reasonable working conditions for nurses and others caring for patients with HIV and its co-morbidities, such as TB
- Provision of incentives for nurses to work in HIV care through initiatives, such as student loan forgiveness programs and HIV clinical fellowships
- Appropriate reimbursement for nurses and others for the complex care provided to HIV patients
- Recognition of the critical role of nurses in established and emerging models of health care delivery, including interprofessional health care teams and task-sharing strategies.

Inherent in our policy work is the identification and mitigation of policy issues that contribute to or enhance stigma related to HIV or its co-morbidities.

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