

**CENTER FOR ADHERENCE SUPPORT EVALUATION (CASE)
IMPACT OF EVENTS ON PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS TAKING HAART:
SEPTEMBER 11 EVENTS AND SEQUELAE**

QUALITATIVE INTERVIEW GUIDE

On the morning of September 11, 2001, hijacked passenger jets crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon, in Washington, DC. Since then, the government has warned of additional terrorist attacks, and several persons were exposed to anthrax sent through the mail. These are difficult times and people have been affected by these events in many different ways.

I'd like to talk with you about your experience of these events and your feelings about them. I also want to ask you about any changes you may be experiencing in your day-to-day life. If there are any questions you don't want to answer or you want to take a break, that's okay. If you would like to talk about your feelings with someone after the interview, just let me know and help you get to a mental health professional.

Can you remember how you felt when you heard about the terrorist attacks on September 11th?

AREAS TO PROBE: What were you doing that morning? Where were you? How did you hear about the attacks? Did you know anyone who died or was directly affected by the attacks? Once you heard about it, how did you feel—what was going through your head? What did you do? Call any of your family or friends? Can you think of other times when you felt like that?

Can you tell me how the events of September 11th and afterwards have affected you?

AREAS TO PROBE:

Emotional: Feeling more vulnerable than before? Helpless? Frightened? Angry? Depressed? Hopeless? Restless, edgy, or experiencing rattled nerves? Upset when something reminds you of what happened? Thinking about what's important to you? Getting through day-to-day? Recurring thoughts, mental images or dreams about the terrorist attacks or other stressful events in your life?

Social Interactions: Going out less? Spending more time with family and friends? Talking with others? Participating in public or group activities in recognition of what happened?

Spiritual: Attending religious services more frequently or praying more?

Pragmatic: Feel uneasy about going into tall buildings? Gotten a prescription for or bought antibiotics? Maintain emergency supplies of water or food? Bought gas masks? More careful about opening your mail? Feel uneasy about travel?

Are there ways that your day-to-day life has changed recently?

AREAS TO PROBE: Changed your daily routine? Watching the news on TV or listening to the news on the radio more or less than usual? Read newspapers? Travel patterns (plane, bus, train)? Avoid certain places? How you open your mail? Trouble falling or staying asleep? Eating habits? Your health (e.g., asthma symptoms, heart symptoms)? Having a nagging feeling in your head? Difficulty concentrating or focusing on things? Feeling irritable? Touching base with your loved ones? Talking with staff at the clinics more often than usual? Outlook regarding life?

What about smoking—what changes, if any, have you made in the last three months?

AREAS TO PROBE: Method: Cigarettes, cigars, pipe? Ever smoked? Recently started smoking? Frequency of smoking? Effect of smoking: Feel better or helped you relax?

What about prescription drugs that you get from a doctor or buy on the streets (like sleeping pills, anti-depressants) -- what changes, if any, have you made?

AREAS TO PROBE: Type of drugs? Use before? Frequency of use? Last time used? Effect of use: Makes you feel good, relaxes you, helps you sleep, block out negative feelings?

What about your HIV medications--what kind of changes, if any, have you made in the way you take your HIV medications? Is your pill-taking routine the same or different? Would you say that you are having more or less trouble taking all your doses everyday?

AREAS TO PROBE: Reasons for change? Motivations/desires? Ease of taking medications? Missing pills or doses? Last time missed? Medication-taking intentions?

How about alcohol use—what kind of changes, if any, have you made in your drinking of alcoholic beverages?

AREAS TO PROBE: Type of alcoholic drink? Amount? Frequency? Last time used? Effect of use: Makes you feel good, relaxes you, helps you sleep, or forget your problems?

What about using street drugs— what kind of changes, if any, have you made?

AREAS TO PROBE: Use before? Recently started? Type of drugs? Method of administration? Frequency of use? Effect of use: Feel good, relax you, or help you forget your problems? Difficulty getting drugs?

What about sex – in what ways, if any, has your sexual behavior changed?

AREAS TO PROBE: Condom use before and now? Unprotected sex? Number of sexual partners? Frequency of sex? Type of sex?

What about getting the health and social services you need—in what ways, if any, has your ability to access these services changed?

AREAS TO PROBE: Type of services? Frequency of use? Examples? Access to HIV medications?

What about your economic situation -- in what ways, if any, has it changed?

AREAS TO PROBE: Your job or job responsibilities? Having trouble making ends meet? Household income changed? Family's and friends' economic well-being?

What about your sense of the future – in what ways, if any, have you changed your thinking about this?

AREAS TO PROBE: Hopelessness in taking medications? Helplessness?

With the changes you just mentioned – were any of them in response to how you feel about the recent terrorism in America?

How would you compare the effects of these attacks with other stressful events that you have experienced in your life?

AREAS TO PROBE: Describe specific stressful events? Feelings when first tested HIV+? HIV status disclosure issues?

I really appreciate the time you spent talking with me. Your answers will really help us to understand how terrorism has affected people living with HIV/AIDS.

Is there anything I didn't ask that you think will help me understand how you are feeling about these events? Are there any questions that you would like to ask me?

As I mentioned earlier, do you need any referrals for services? Just tell me what you need and I'll make sure to connect you to the appropriate health care provider.