# Healthy Aging at the Library: Connecting Older Adults to Health Information

Carolyn Martin, MLS, AHIP
Consumer Health Coordinator
National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific NW Region
martinc4@uw.edu



## Overview

- Who We Are
- Aging in America
- Health Literacy
- Health Resources
- Patient Engagement
- Library Programs/Services

**Presentation Resources** https://nnlm.gov/pnr/guides/training-resources-you-can-use/presentations

### Who We Are

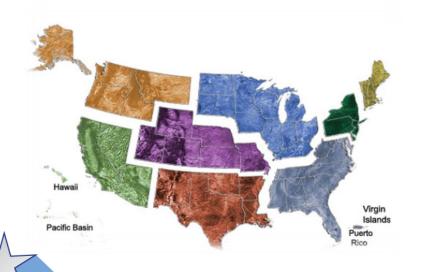


NIH NLM NNLM

What's the difference?







The mission of NNLM is to advance the progress of medicine and improve the public health by:

- Providing all U.S. health professionals with equal access to biomedical information.
- Improving the public's access to information to enable them to make informed decisions about their health.

**NNLM PNR** 

https://nnlm.gov/pnr

# Early Boomers reached 65 in 2011

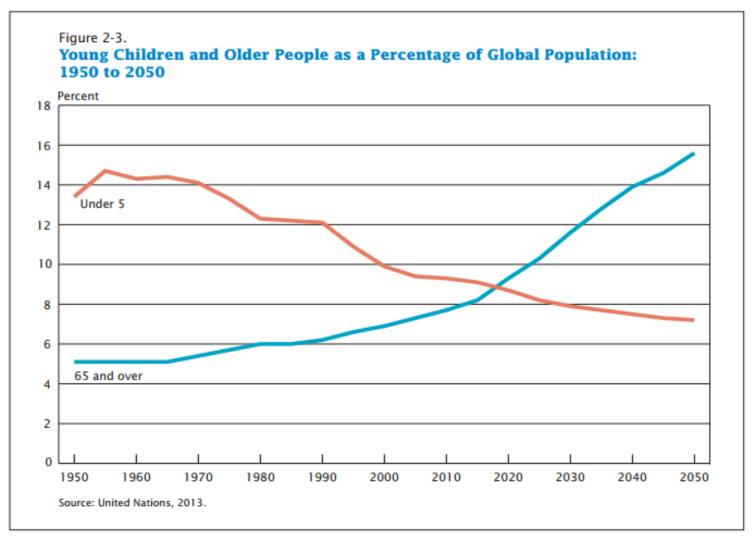




# According to the CDC

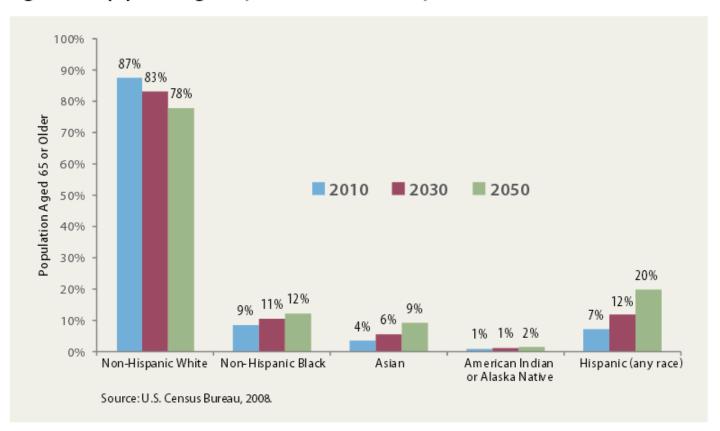
- Number of 65+ Americans will double in 25 years
- By 2030, older adults will be 20% of the U.S. population.
- 2/3 older Americans have multiple chronic conditions

# **Aging Trends**



# More Racially and Ethnically Diverse

Figure 1. U.S. population aged 65 years or older and diversity, 2010–2050



**CDC State of Aging & Health in America** 

http://www.cdc.gov/aging/pdf/state-aging-health-in-america-2013.pdf

## Rural Health Disparities

- Higher incidence of disease and disability
- Higher rates of pain and suffering
- Poor health behaviors
- Lower life expectancy
- Fewer health care options



<u>Rural Health Information Hub about rural health disparities</u> https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/rural-health-disparities

## **Chronic Health Conditions**

- Heart Disease
- Cancer
- Chronic bronchitis or emphysema
- Stroke
- Diabetes mellitus
- Alzheimer's disease

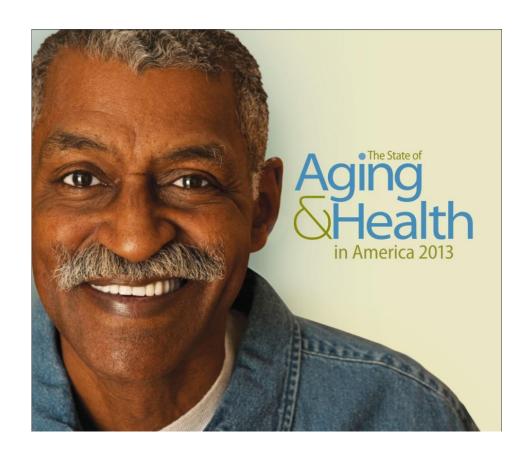


## As well as...

- Multiple Health Conditions
- Falls
- Mobility
- Mental Health
- Excessive Alcohol Intake
- Cannabis and other Drug Usage



# **CDC** Healthy Aging







# **Health Literacy**





# Health Literacy

 "Degree to which individuals have the capacity to <u>obtain</u>, <u>communicate</u>, <u>process</u>, <u>and</u> <u>understand</u> basic health information and services needed to <u>make appropriate health</u> <u>decisions</u>."



# Health literacy affects a person's ability to:

- Navigate the healthcare system, including filling out complex forms and locating providers and services
- Share personal information, such as health history, with providers
- Engage in self-care and chronic-disease management
- Understand mathematical concepts such as probability and risk



## Low Health Literacy

























# Why is an understanding of Health Literacy important for older adults?

- Adults age 65 and older have lower health literacy scores than all other age groups
- Only 3% of older adults surveyed had proficient health literacy skills

The 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy

http://nces.ed.gov/naal/



# Health Literacy - additional factors

- Vision and hearing
- Cognitive abilities
- Physical disabilities
- Multiple health conditions
- Medications
- Comfort level talking to doctors
- Internet/technology comfort levels

# Costs of Low Health Literacy

- Annual health care costs for individuals with low literacy skills are 4 times higher
- Patients with low literacy skills were observed to have a 50% increased risk of hospitalization
- Patients with low health literacy and chronic diseases have less knowledge of their disease and fewer correct selfmanagement skills

#### NPSF Ask Me 3 Resources: Stats at a Glance

https://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.npsf.org/resource/collection/9220B314-9666-40DA-89DA-9F46357530F1/AskMe3\_Stats\_English.pdf

## Recognizing easy to read materials

#### Manage your diabetes

Many people avoid the long-term problems of d Work with your health care team to reach your Al

- Use your diabetes meal plan. If you do not he about one.
- Eat healthy foods such as fruits and vegetable without the skin, dry peas or beans, whole gracheese.
- Keep fish and lean meat and poultry portion of cards). Bake, broil, or grill it.
- · Eat foods that have less fat and salt.
- Eat foods with more fiber such as whole grain pasta.
- Get 30 to 60 minutes of physical activity on g a great way to move more.
- . Stay at a healthy weight by using your meal ;
- Take medicines even when you feel good. Ask prevent a heart attack or stroke. Tell your dog or if you have any side effects.
- Check your feet every day for cuts, blisters, recare team right away about any sores that do
- Brush your teeth and floss every day to avoid gums
- Check your blood glucose. You may want to to card at the back of this booklet to keep a reconsure to take this record to your doctor visits.
- Check your blood pressure if your doctor advis
- · Report any changes in your eyesight to your

Sand Street or the sand of the

### What should I do each day to stay healthy with diabetes?



Follow the healthy eating plan that you and your doctor or dietitian have worked out.



Be active a total of 30 minutes most days. Ask your doctor what activities are best for you.



Take your medicines as directed.



Check your blood glucose every day. Each time you check your blood glucose, write the number in your record book.



Check your feet every day for cuts, blisters, sores, swelling, redness, or sore toenails.

# ABCs (+U) of Evaluation

- Accuracy
- Authority
- Bias
- Currency
- Coverage
- Usability





https://nnlm.gov/professional-development/topics/health-websites

## **Evaluate Resources for Usability**

- Font size
- Glare-free background color/paper
- Clear organization
- "White" space
- Short sentences
- Jargon-free, definitions of medical terms included
- Information in short segments
- Meaningful images



## **Evaluation of Health Resources**



Problems can be avoided if you take HAVIDOL only when you are able to immediately benefit from its effects. To fully benefit from HAVIDOL patients are encouraged to engage in activities requiring exceptional mental, motor, and consumptive coordination. HAVIDOL is not for you if you have abruptly stopped using alcohol or sedatives. Havidol should be taken indefinitely. Side effects may include mood changes, muscle strain, extraordinary thinking, dermal gloss, impulsivity induced consumption, excessive salivation, hair growth, markedly delayed sexual climax, inter-species communication, taste perversion, terminal smile, and oral inflammation. Very rarely users may experience a need to change physicians.

Talk to your doctor about HAVIDOL



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<u>Havidol</u>

http://havidol.com/

## MedlinePlus

- Links to reliable, authoritative health websites
- Health Topics for Seniors
- Easy-to-read articles
- Medical dictionary
- Medical encyclopedia with large illustrations
- Links to local services
- English, Spanish and other languages
- No Advertisements!





https://medlineplus.gov/

# MedlinePlus Magazine



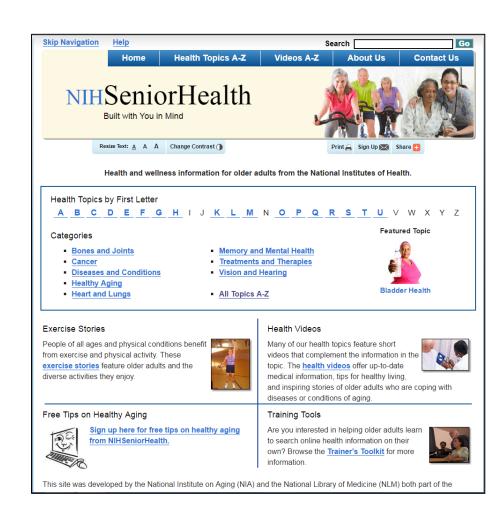


MedlinePlus Magazine

https://medlineplus.gov/magazine/index.html

## NIH Senior Health

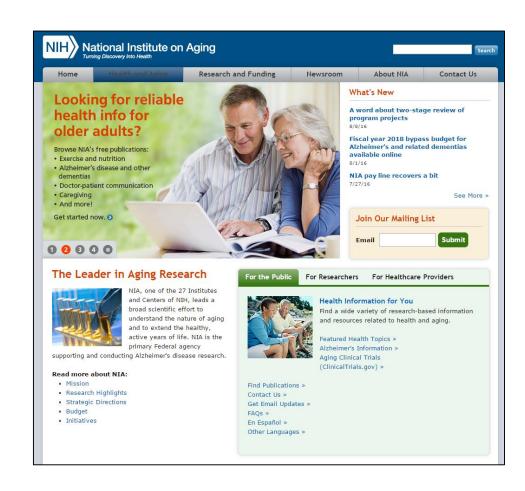
- Health information for older adults
- Partnership of National Institute on Aging and National Library of Medicine
- Information comes from National Institutes of Health
- Senior-friendly features (large text, sound, contrast)
- Information in bite-sized pieces





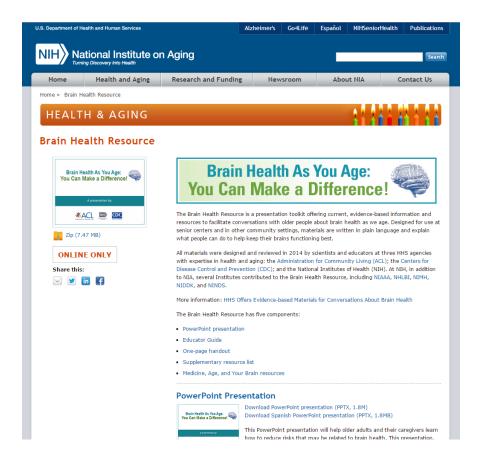
# National Institute on Aging

- Health Topics
- Free publications
- Alzheimer's Information
- Brain health



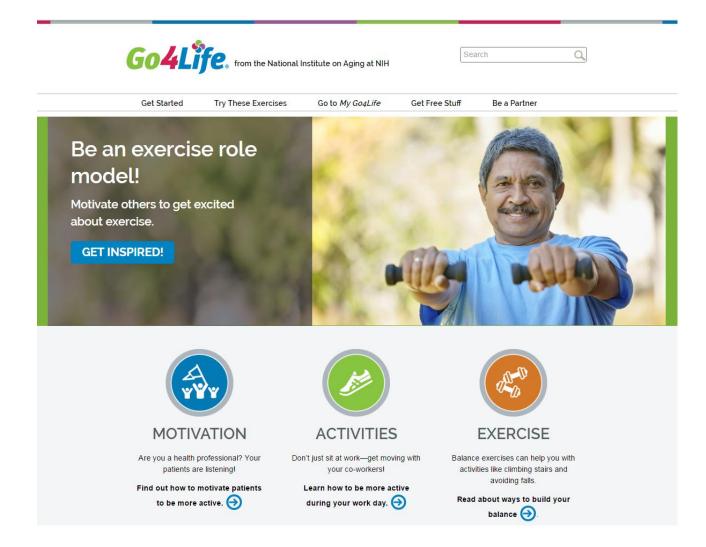
National Institute on Aging https://www.nia.nih.gov/

## Brain Health Resource





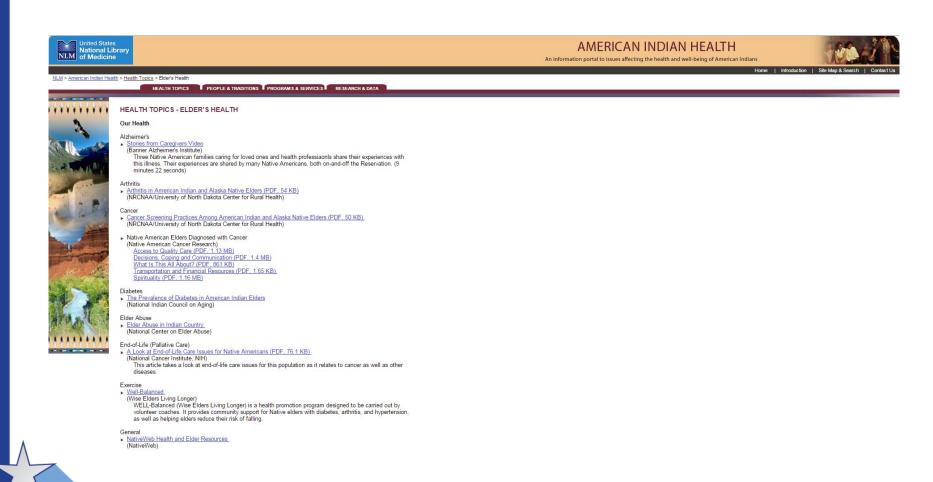
## Go 4 Life



Go 4 Life

https://go4life.nia.nih.gov/

## American Indian Health



<u>American Indian Health, Elders</u> https://americanindianhealth.nlm.nih.gov/elders\_health.html

## Health Reach



#### Health Reach:

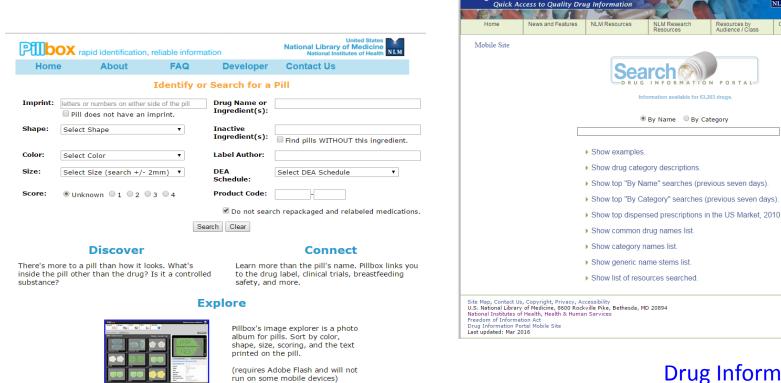
https://healthreach.nlm.nih.gov/

- Multiple language
- Health education materials in various languages and formats
- Provider information
- Special collections on women's health, substance abuse, and mental health
- National collaboration
- Submit your resources



# **NLM Drug Resources**

**Drug Information Portal** 



**Drug Information Portal** 

United States
National Library of Medicine

**USA.**gov

Other Resources

https://druginfo.nlm.nih.gov/drugportal/

#### **Pillbox**

https://pillbox.nlm.nih.gov/pillimage/search.php

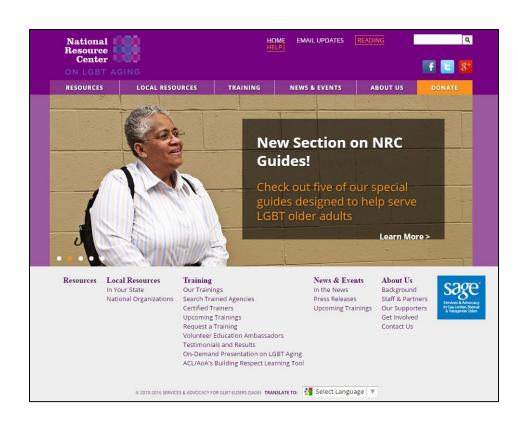
# National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health



NCCIH https://nccih.nih.gov/

# Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders

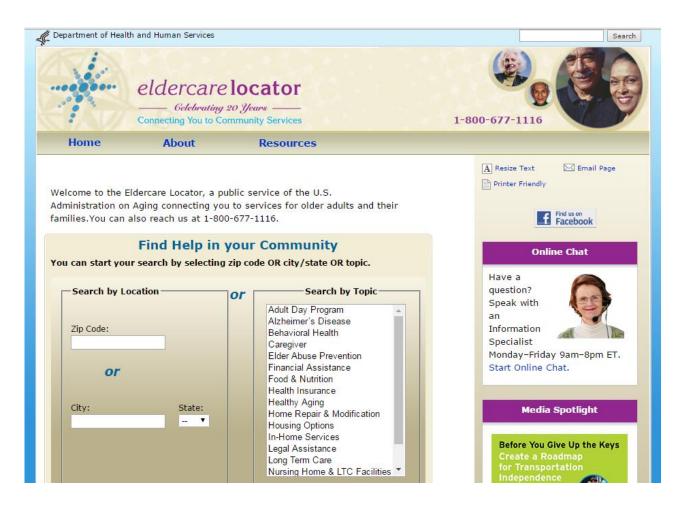
- Specific issues for LGBT older adults:
- HIV and Aging
- Medicaid & Medicare
- Coming Out Later in Life





National Resource Center on LGBT Aging http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/

## **Eldercare Locator**



**Eldercare Locator** 

http://eldercare.gov/Eldercare.NET/Public/Index.aspx

# **Nursing Home Compare**



**Nursing Home Compare** 

https://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/search.html

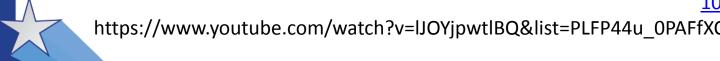
# Talking to Doctors: The New World Order

- Before 1972, doctors told patients what they wanted patients to know, and what they wanted patients to do.
- 1972 AHA Patient Bill of Rights
  - "The patient has the right and is encouraged to obtain from physicians and other direct caregivers relevant, current, and understandable information about his or her diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis."

## Video encourages questions

- Think about it
- Ask about it
- Talk about it





10 – SecMedSchool videos

#### Prepare for Next Doctor Visit

- Write down questions and concerns
- Don't be afraid to ask for information to be repeated or to clarify
- Bring a friend or family member along
- Bring paper and pencil along
- Bring a recording device (phone)
- Have the doctor write the information down (legibly)
- Review information before leaving
- Ask about Personal Health Record availability
- Ask if there is someone to help with information such as a librarian at the hospital, university or a public health librarian

# NIH Senior Health Talking with Your Doctor



NIH Senior Health Talking with your doctor:

https://nihseniorhealth.gov/talkingwithyourdoctor/planningyourdoctorvisit/01.html

### Talking with Your Doctor

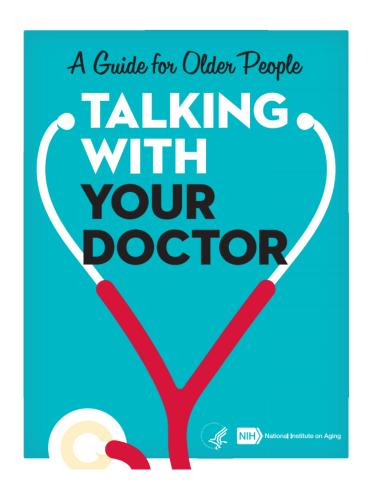
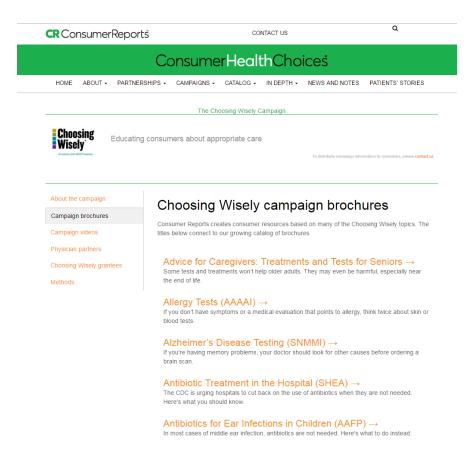


Table of Contents
Opening Thoughts: Why Does It Matter?
Getting Started: Choosing a Doctor You Can Talk To
How Should I Prepare? Getting Ready for an Appointment
What Can I Say? Giving Information
What Can I Ask? Getting Information
How Can I Be Involved? Making Decisions With Your Doctor
Asking More Questions: Talking to Doctors in Special Situations
Changing the Subject: Practical Matters
Can I Really Talk About That? Discussing Sensitive Subjects
Who Else Will Help? Involving Your Family and Friends
Additional Resources: For More Information
For Your Convenience: Worksheets

Guide to Talking with Your Doctor

https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/publication/talking-your-doctor/opening-thoughts-why-does-it-matter

#### **Consumer Health Choices**





http://consumerhealthchoices.org/campaigns/choosing-wisely/#materials



# Buying Health Products/Services Online



OnGuardOnline.gov buying health products:

https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/health-fitness

#### Caregivers

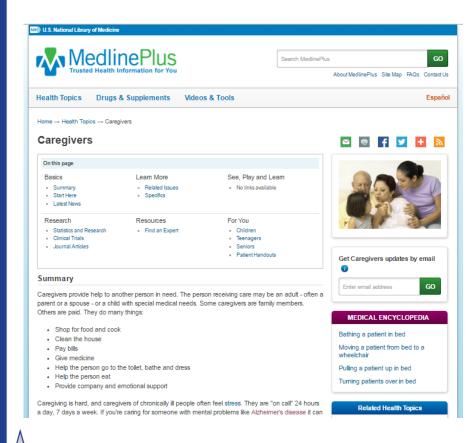
- Almost half are over age 50
  - 1/3 fair to poor health

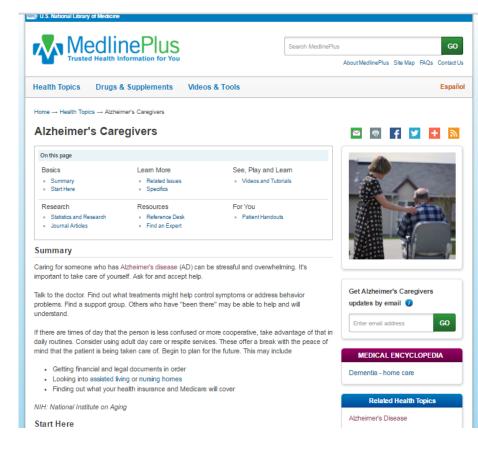


- Caregiving causes heavy emotional, physical and financial toll
- Experience conflicting emotions
- 22% caregivers taking care of 2
- 8% caregivers taking care of 3 or more

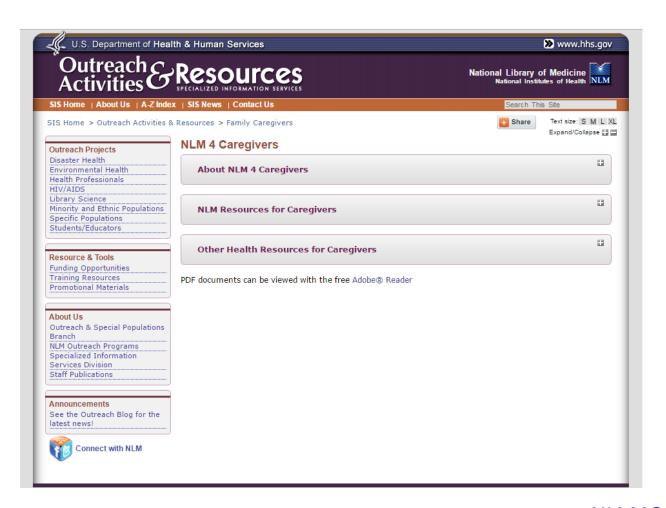


#### Caregivers MedlinePlus topic page





### NLM 4 Caregivers



NLM4Caregivers

https://sis.nlm.nih.gov/outreach/caregivers.html

#### Administration for Community Living



**ACL Caregiver Resources** 

https://acl.gov/Get\_Help/Help\_Caregivers/Index.aspx

# Library Programs / Services





### **Technology Barriers**

- Physical challenges to using technology
  - 2 in 5 seniors report physical or health condition makes daily life difficult
- Skeptical attitudes about the benefits of technology
  - 35% felt they were not missing out on important information versus
     18% who do
- Difficulties learning to use new technologies
  - Significant number felt they needed assistance, 77% who felt uncomfortable versus 18% who felt comfortable
  - However, once adapted, seniors comfortable 71% use technology everyday

2014 Pew report on Older Adults and Technology Use

http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2014/04/PIP\_Seniors-and-Tech-Use\_040314.pdf



# Why Teach Health on the Internet to Older Adults

- Bridge Digital Divide
- Increase confidence
- Increase knowledge of health conditions and healthy lifestyles
- Help people know how to talk to doctors
- Increase skills in evaluating health information resources
- Seniors are eager to learn



#### **Teaching Tips**

- Provide hands-on practice and repetition
- Use health topics they are interested in
- Provide regular access to computers
- Teach small groups, low teacher/student ratio





#### Teaching Resources

- Beanworks: Computers, Older Adults, and Libraries
  - Carol Bean, Palm Beach County Library
  - Includes mousing tutorials
  - Helpful articles
  - Other training materials

**Beansworks** 

http://beanworks.clbean.com/computers-older-adults-and-libraries/



### More Teaching Resources

 NIHSeniorHealth: Helping Older Adults Search for Health Information Online:



Featuring Health Information from the National Institutes of Health



#### Program Ideas

- Fitness classes
- Relationships/sexual health
- Specific health conditions
- Managing medications
- Medicare
- Choosing nursing homes/assisted living
- Brain health
- Health website evaluation

- Caregiving
- End of Life planning
- Creating a safe home
- Hospice
- Health fraud
- Alternative medicines
- Health tools
- Talking to your doctor
- Story Corp model

#### Older Americans Month



Home | Older Americans Month 2017

#### **Older Americans Month 2017**

Each May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads our nation's celebration of Older Americans Month (OAM). ACL designed the 2017 OAM theme, **Age Out Loud**, to give aging a new voice—one that reflects what today's older adults have to say.

This theme shines a light on many important trends. More than ever before, older Americans are working longer, trying new things, and engaging in their communities. They're taking charge, striving for wellness, focusing on independence, and advocating for themselves and others. What it means to age has changed, and OAM 2017 is a perfect opportunity to recognize and celebrate what getting older looks like today.

Let's amplify the many voices of older Americans and raise awareness of vital aging issues across the country. Join us as we speak up and out loud for OAM!

Quick Links: Materials | Activity Ideas | Resources





Points of Interest FOIA Plain Writing No Fear Act Partner Sites ACL.gov HHS.gov USA.gov





Older Americans Month: https://oam.acl.gov/

#### Collaborate!

- You can't do it alone.
- Senior organizations:
  - Area Agencies on Aging
  - Disease specific organizations (Alzheimer's Assoc.)
  - Neighborhood senior centers
  - Faith Communities
  - Hospitals and Clinics
  - University Health Science Libraries
  - Social Service agencies / Public Health
  - American Society on Aging / National Council on Aging
  - Government agencies (city, county, state, federal)



### How do I find partners?

- NNLM Membership Directory
  - https://nnlm.gov/members/directory
- 2-1-1 a free service to help locate local resources
  - http://www.211.org/



# The Consumer Health Reference Interview and Ethical Issues

- Provide welcoming safe environment
- Be aware of the person asking the question, but don't make assumptions
- Get as much information as possible
- Verify medical terminology in a medical dictionary or encyclopedia
- Be aware of the limitations of medical information
- Provide the most complete information to answer the information request
- Do not interpret medical information or provide advice
- Provide referrals



#### NNLM PNR

- Free membership
- Free classes/webinars
- Free brochures and tools
- Funding
- Customized training
- Opportunities for input
- Gateway to NLM and NIH



NNLM PNR: https://nnlm.gov/pnr

#### Questions?





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Consumer Health Coordinator
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National Network of Libraries of Medicine Pacific Northwest Region (NNLM PNR)

#### **Presentation Resources**

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