Frailty is a syndrome related with aging that can develop earlier in the presence of HIV. Frail individuals are more vulnerable to adverse health outcomes. The magnitude of this problem in people living with HIV in Brazil is unknown.

This research aimed to determine the prevalence and associated factors of frailty.

Cross sectional study conducted on adults living with HIV, aged 50 years or older receiving outpatient care between April and November of 2017 at a referral center in Salvador, Brazil. Frailty was defined according to Fried’s frailty phenotype. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Differences and associations among groups were determined using t-test, non-parametric tests or X test. Magnitude of associations was measured using prevalence ratio.

Frailty is common in elderly patients living with HIV. Half of the participants were pre frail, indicating a need for improved long-term outpatient care. Being diagnosed at older ages and common variables associated with social vulnerabilities in Brazil are related to frailty in this patient population. Late presentation to care/treatment was strongly associated to frailty, indicating that early interventions can prevent its occurrence.