

Patterns of Changing Reproductive Intentions Among Women Living with HIV in Canada

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Objective: To describe the reproductive intentions of women living with HIV in Canada and how they change over time

Background



With an **undetectable viral load** and **appropriate healthcare**, women living with HIV can conceive with effectively no sexual HIV transmission risk and very low perinatal transmission risk. Understanding reproductive intentions and how they shift over time is key to delivering appropriate healthcare and reproductive counselling.

Methods



Participants: Women living with HIV enrolled in CHIWOS*, age 16-49 and pre-menopausal at baseline, reported pregnancy intentions at 3 survey waves (2013-2015, 2015-2017, 2017-2018).



Data collection: Reproductive intentions measured by responses to “Do you intend to become pregnant in the future?” and categorized as ‘Yes’, ‘No’ or ‘Unsure’.

- **Analysis:** Descriptive stats and logistic regression modelling

Table 1. Baseline characteristics

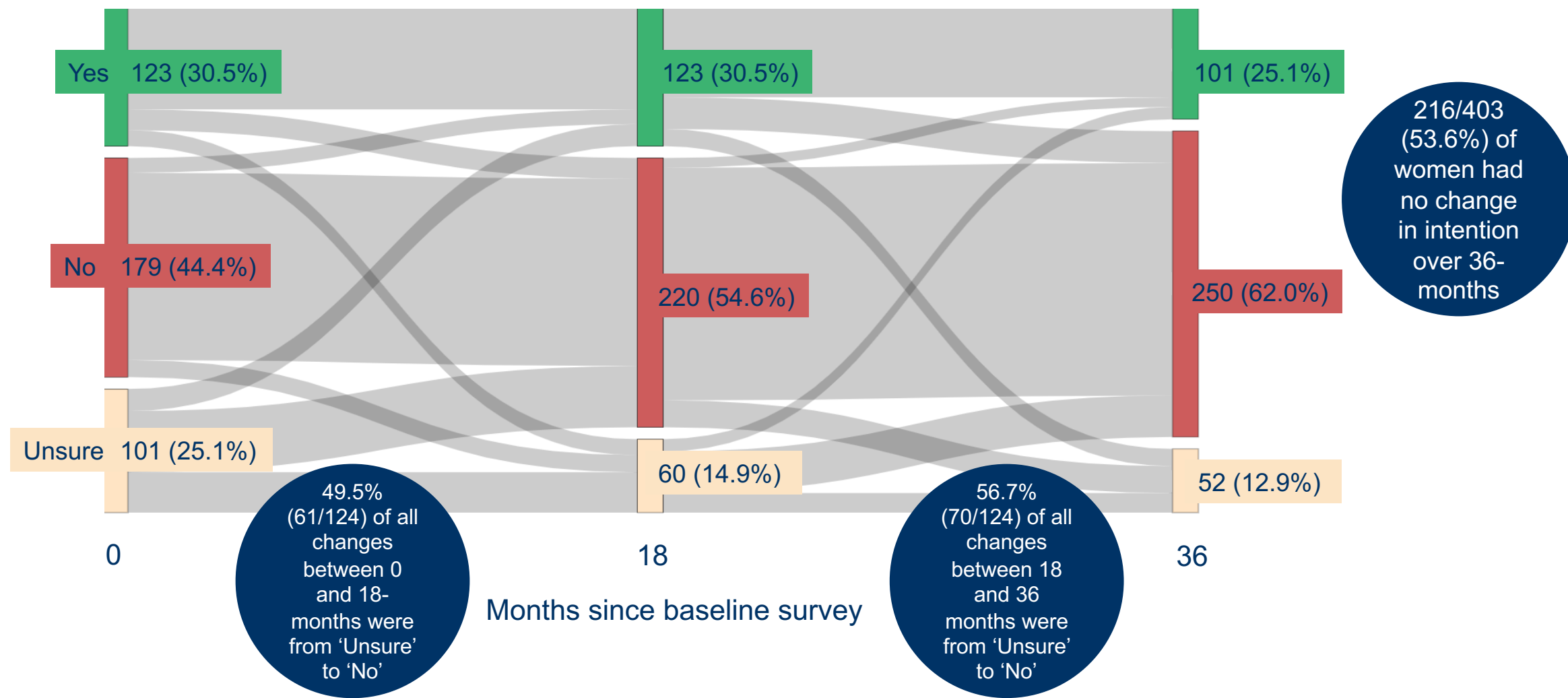
	Overall (N=403)
Age	
Median [Q1, Q3]	34.0 [29.5, 38.0]
Ethnicity	
Indigenous	87 (21.6%)
Black	150 (37.2%)
White	142 (35.2%)
Other/Mixed	24 (6.0%)
Province	
British Columbia	57 (14.1%)
Ontario	267 (66.3%)
Quebec	79 (19.6%)
Relationship status	
Married/In relationship/ Common-law	158 (39.2%)
Single/Other/PNTA	213 (52.9%)
Separated/Divorced/Widowed	32 (7.9%)
Number of children	
None	193 (47.9%)
1 or 2	147 (36.5%)
3 or more	63 (15.6%)
Household income (CAD)	
<20K	224 (55.6%)
ARV use	
Currently on ARVs	285 (70.7%)

*CHIWOS = the Canadian HIV Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study
Rodger AJ, et al. JAMA 2016;316(2); Cohen MS, et al. N Engl J Med 2016;375(9); Van Ommen CE, et al. PLoS One 2019;14(2); *Loutfy M, et al. PLoS One 2017; 12(9)

Results

~ 1/3 of women changed their intention to become pregnant over 18 months and ~1/2 had some change in intention over 36 months.

Figure 1. Intention to give birth across three CHIWOS visits among women living with HIV (n = 403)



Results

Table 2. Association between baseline pregnancy intention and pregnancy between baseline and 18 months

Pregnancy intention (baseline)	OR (95%CI)	Adjusted OR (95%CI)*
Intend to become pregnant	2.29 (1.11, 4.82)	1.75 (0.76, 4.06)
Do not intend to become pregnant	ref	ref
Unsure	1.44 (0.62, 3.30)	1.32 (0.54, 3.19)

Table 3. Association between pregnancy intention at 18-months and pregnancy between 18 and 36 months

Pregnancy intention (18-months)	OR (95%CI)	Adjusted OR (95%CI)*
Intend to become pregnant	2.30 (1.21, 4.42)	2.22 (1.04, 4.81)
Do not intend to become pregnant	ref	ref
Unsure	0.53 (0.12, 1.60)	0.42 (0.09, 1.42)

*logistic regression model adjusted for age category, relationship status at time of survey, ethnicity, and number of children

Conclusions

- Women living with HIV have **diverse and dynamic reproductive intentions**.
- There was no statistically significant association observed between pregnancy intention at baseline and subsequent pregnancy within 18-months. Association was significant between 18 and 36-months.

Implications

- Healthcare providers should **ask women living with HIV about their reproductive intentions, at least annually**, and provide the appropriate counselling, services and support.¹
- Supporting uptake of effective contraception is particularly important given the high proportion of changes from being unsure to not wanting to become pregnant.
- Future research is needed to identify **risk factors for unplanned and unwanted pregnancies** among women living with HIV to better support women's reproductive goals through tailored health services.

1. Loutfy M, et al. J Obstet Gynaecol Canada 2018;40(1)