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SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF HIV POSITIVE GAY AND OTHER MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN IN ONTARIO.

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Introduction & Method

- Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) account for more than half of those living with HIV in Canada
- We were interested in knowing how the health of HIV+ GBMSM compares to the health of HIV-negative GBMSM
- Data were analyzed from an online survey of GBMSM in Ontario from June 2018 to March 2019

Participants

Demographics HIV +	n = 146
Average Age	50.1 (SD = 12.5)
> 10 years with HIV	82 (56.6%)
On Antiretroviral Therapy	143 (98%)
Undetectable VL	139 (95%)
Identify as male	145 (99.3%)

Demographics HIV -	n = 1565
Average Age	37.3 (SD = 14.7)
Identify as male	1527 (97.5%)

	HIV +	HIV -		HIV +	HIV -
<u>Sex with</u>			<u>Employment</u>		
Only men	135 (92.5%)	1305 (83.4%)	Unemployed	8 (5.5%)	147 (9.4%)
Mostly men	8 (5.5%)	182 (11.6%)	Part-time	15 (10.3%)	282 (18.0%)
Men & women	3 (2.1%)	18 (1.2%)	Full-time	88 (60.3%)	983 (62.8%)
<u>Live with</u>			Retired	35 (24.0%)	153 (9.8%)
Same-sex partner	67(45.9%)	599(38.3%)			
Alone	46 (31.5%)	388 (24.8%)	<u>City</u>		
Friend/ roommate	14(9.6%)	267 (17.0%)	Toronto	39(26.7%)	255 (16.3%)
Parents	9 (5.9%)	223 (14.3%)	Ottawa	25(17.1%)	261 (16.7%)
Other	10 (7%)	88 (5.7%)	Guelph-London	12 (8.2%)	236 (15.1%)
<u>Live</u>			Niagara	18 (12.3%)	176 (11.2%)
Urban	98 (67.1%)	915 (58.4%)	Central	24(16.4%)	201 (12.8%)
Suburbs	15 (10.3%)	330 (21.1%)	Other	28 (19.2%)	436 (28%)
Small town/rural	33 (22.6%)	320 (20.4%)			

Mental and Physical Health

	HIV +	HIV -		HIV +	HIV -
<u>Physical Health</u>			<u>Mental Health</u>		
Excellent/Good	61.2%	66.0%	Depression (PHQ2)	16.4%	23.8%
Average	21.6%	22.2%	Anxiety (GAD2)	20.0%	30.5%
Fair/Poor	17.1%	11.8%	<u>Recreational Drug Use</u>		
<u>Chronic Diseases</u>			Methamphetamine	11.6%	1.5%
Hepatitis B	2.7%	0.3%	Ketamine	3.4%	1.1%
Hepatitis C	5.5%	0.6%	GHB	7.5%	2.6%
Cirrhosis	2.7%	0.5%	<u>History of Abuse</u>		
High Cholesterol	32.2%	11.1%	Forced to have sex	32.0%	18.6%
Heart Diseases	7.5%	2.7%	Physical abuse	41.4%	34.4%
			Childhood sexual abuse	20.0%	15.8%

Conclusions

- HIV+ respondents were older (av age: 50) and 24% were retired.
- Among HIV+ respondents, 98% were on antiretroviral therapy and of those 97% had an undetectable viral load.
- While chronic conditions such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and heart disease were more prevalent among HIV+ respondents, there was only a small difference in the proportion rating their physical health as good/excellent.
- The prevalence of depression and anxiety were notably lower among those with HIV compared to HIV-negative GBMSM.
- HIV positive respondents were more likely to use recreational drugs.
- HIV+ GBMSM were more likely to report a history of physical abuse, being forced to have sex, and childhood sexual abuse compared to HIV-negative GBMSM.

Thank you!

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