

CODE BLUE! CODE BLUE! Spanish-Speaking gbMSM individuals in Canada and HIV, a language ethno-specific population need, in a Canadian HIV to Zero strategy —ESTAMOS AQUÍ!

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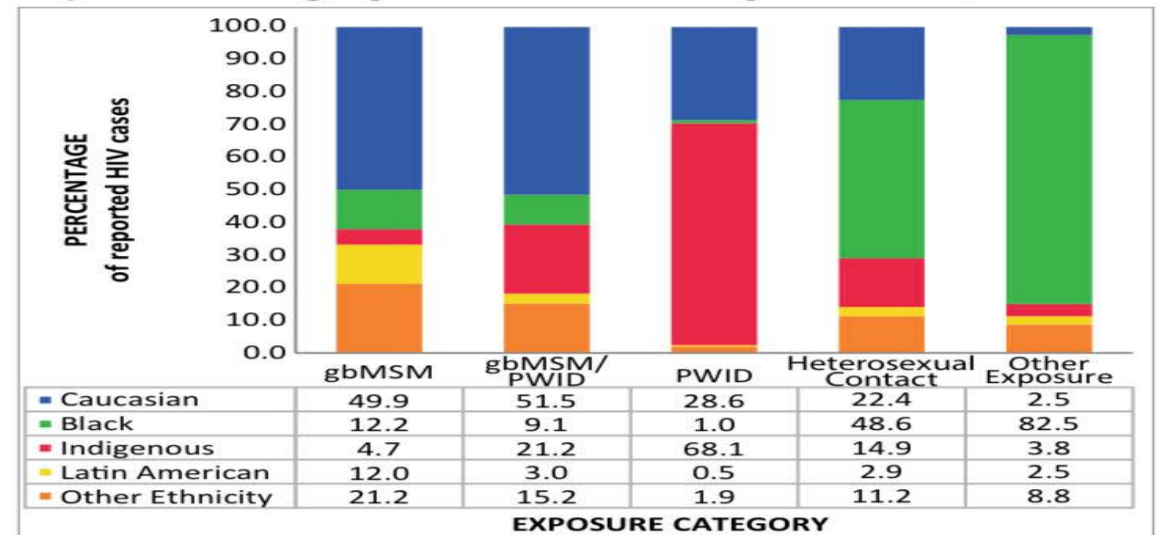


Haddad, N., Li, J. S., Totten, S., & McGuire, M. (2017). HIV in Canada—Surveillance Report, 2017. Retrieved from Ottawa, Canada <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/reports-publications/canada-communicable-disease-report-ccdr/monthly-issue/2018-44/issue-12-december-6-2018/ccdrv44i12a03-eng.pdf> **No conflict of interest declared**



SURVEILLANCE

Figure 4: Proportion of reported HIV cases (all ages) by exposure category and race/ethnicity—Canada, 2017^{a-f}



Abbreviations: gbMSM, gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men; PWID, people who inject drugs
^a Race/ethnicity information is not available for Quebec and British Columbia
^b Excludes HIV cases where race/ethnicity or exposure category was “not reported”
^c “Latin American” includes, for example, Mexican, Central American and South American
^d “Black” includes, for example, Somali, Haitian and Jamaican
^e “Other Ethnicity” includes, for example, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi, Armenian, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Moroccan, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Indonesian, Laotian, Korean, Filipino
^f “Other Exposure” category includes unspecified exposure routes

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Emerging Population Issue

On second data analysis in a comparison proportion[al] study of reported HIV cases (all ages) by sexual exposure within race/ethnicity—Canada, 2017 (Haddad, Li, Totten, & McGuire, 2017), in the category of gay, bisexual and MSM (not including heterosexual infection), or PWID (people who injects drugs), Latin American individuals are forth in the number of infections when compared to White individuals with 49.9%, with over 50% of the total number of infections. The second group is comprised of a 21.2% of infections belonging to an “Other Ethnicity” group. The third group corresponded to the “Black ethnicity” with a 12.2%. Being the Latino group the fourth one of the cited report with a 12.0%. Finally, the Indigenous group is in fifth place with a 4.7%.

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Critical Analysis

Most of the ethnicity categories grouped in this report, corresponded to a racial logic commonly used in Canadian health studies. However, this abstract considers that Latin American individuals shall not only be grouped under a racial category, but also, categorized as a language-specific culture: “Spanish”, making it the biggest group affected by HIV in a language other than the official languages, even when compared to Indigenous populations in Canada (%).



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Results and Next Steps

There is currently a lack of HIV policies, programming, and services for Spanish-speaking Latino gbMSM in Canada. In comparison to the distressing statistical population's needs (when compared to other ethno-racial groups). This gap needs to be addressed in order to intervene with the evidence-based/program science factors associated with HIV social/cultural behavioural risks (e.g., lack of sexual health information —PrEP/U=U) that contributes to the high numbers of HIV infections and stigma, homophobia/transphobia prevalent in this ethnic group.