

# The 29th Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research Le 29e Congrès annuel canadien de recherche sur le VIH/sida

Session: **KP2**: Saturday May 2 – 11:00:12:30 – Indigenous Communities

Track: Epidemiology and Public Health  
Subject: Indigenous HIV Prevention and Control Programs - Implementation and Program Science  
Presentation Type: Oral  
Title of Abstract: **Tracks Survey of people who inject drugs in Canada, Phase 4 2017-2019 - Selected findings among Indigenous participants**  
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## **Abstract**

### **Background:**

A partnership approach is expanding to examine findings among Indigenous respondents from the Tracks survey among people who inject drugs (PWID), which monitors HIV and hepatitis C prevalence and associated risk behaviours, conducted in Phase 4 (2017-2019). The partners include the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, the Public Health Agency of Canada and an advisory group comprised of members from national Indigenous organizations and people with living experience.

### **Methods:**

Information was collected through confidential interviewer-administered questionnaires and included socio-demographics, social determinants of health, drug use and injecting behaviours, sexual behaviours, use of health and prevention services, and HIV and hepatitis C testing and treatment. A biological specimen was collected and tested for HIV and hepatitis C. Descriptive analyses for selected indicators were examined among Indigenous respondents. The partnership has met through conference calls, supported by in person meetings between staff, email correspondence and secure access data sharing.

### **Results:**

Of 2383 participants in Phase 4, 997 participants (42.2%) self-identified as Indigenous: 82.9% First Nations, 14.9% Métis, 2.2% Inuit. Nearly one-third (33.8%) reported living in stable housing; 84.0% indicated fair to excellent mental health; and 90.2% reported ever experiencing any stigma or discrimination.

Borrowing used needles and/or syringes in the 6 months prior to the interview was reported by 10% and 93% used both a sterile needle and syringe at last injection. Consistent condom use was higher with regular partners (85.6%) compared with casual partners (57.6%).

HIV prevalence was 15.4% with 78.2% aware they were HIV-positive. One-third (36.4%) were hepatitis C RNA-positive and 49.4% were aware of their current hepatitis C infection.

### **Conclusions:**

A collaborative analysis is an important step in reconciliation. The future development of knowledge products will share Indigenous-specific results contextualized for where the data is most relevant.