

Understanding Research Experiences Among Persons Identifying as African, Caribbean, and/or Black in British Columbia

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As uninvited settlers, we acknowledge that we conducted our study on the stolen traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō, Səlílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam).

We would like to thank all of the survey respondents and our community partners, without whom this project would not be possible!

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I have no conflicts of interest to disclose

References

1. BC Black History Awareness Society. (n.d.). Population. <https://bcblackhistory.ca/information-sources/population/>
2. CCDR. (2017). HIV in Canada—Surveillance Report. <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/ccdr44i12a03-eng.pdf>



INTRODUCTION

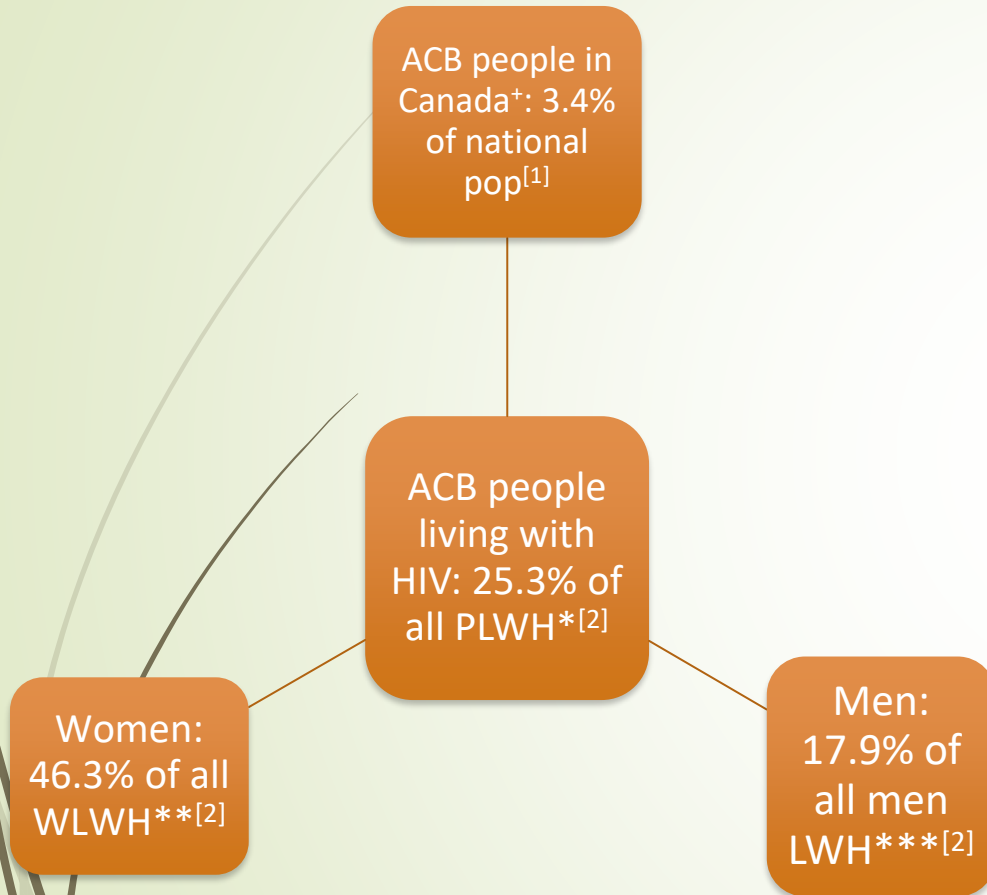


Figure 1: Distribution of ACB persons, and ACB persons living with HIV, in Canada⁺

*People Living With HIV (PLWH)

**Women Living With HIV (WLWH)

***Living With HIV (LWH)

- African, Caribbean and/or Black (ACB) persons are underrepresented in health research in Canada⁺
- Local leaders suggest lack of research engagement can be due to:
 - Lack of trust of research & researchers
 - Stigma with HIV research
 - Unfamiliarity with research & methodology
- Study Aims:
 - To seek input on research participation experiences;
 - To establish future research priorities with ACB persons;
 - To encourage researchers to adopt anti-racist practices

⁺The name 'Canada' is a colonially imposed name given to the stolen unceded and traditional lands of the many Indigenous Peoples who have resided here for millenia.

METHODS



Figure 2: Recruitment Poster for Social Media (ie: Facebook, Twitter)

Created online community survey with key community partners

Collaborated with various ACB community organizations to support survey dissemination and share recruitment material (ie: posters for social media)

Participant Recruitment; Inclusion Criteria:

Identify as ACB
(including mixed race);

Be 16 years of age or
older;

Currently live in BC

Survey open from October 14 - December 9, 2020

Prize Draw for \$100 CAD gift card for all participants

RESULTS

Respondent Demographics (n=56):

- Ethnicity: 50% African (n=28); 30% Caribbean (n=17); 11% Black (n=6); 27% mixed race/multiracial (n=15)
- Birth Country: 66.1% outside so-called "Canada" (n=37); 33.9% (n=19) in so-called "Canada"
- Age: 50% <25 years (n=28)
- Gender: 79% women (n=44); 20% men (n=11); 2% gender queer (n=1)

Table 1: Research study types respondents previously participated in (n=25):

Survey/Questionnaire	22 (91.7%)
1-on-1 Interview	10 (41.7%)
Focus Group	7 (29.2%)
Clinical Trial	3 (12.5%)
Studies including sample collection	3 (12.5%)

Tables 2, 3: Principal facilitators & barriers to research participation

Principal reasons respondents would participate in health research in the future (n=56):	
Benefit to me and/or my community	47 (83.9%)
Good way to share my voice & perspectives	34 (60.7%)
Opportunity to learn something new	28 (50%)
Receiving compensation for my time	23 (41.1%)
I know the research is done in collaboration with the community	20 (35.7%)

Principal reasons respondents would NOT participate in health research in the future (n=56):	
I don't have the time/I have too many other responsibilities	26 (46.4%)
I find it hard to trust researchers	15 (26.8%)
I don't see how research benefits me/my community	13 (23.2%)
I don't have anything valuable to contribute to research	13 (23.2%)
I don't fully understand the consent process	13 (23.2%)
I don't see the value in research	11 (19.6%)

RESULTS & NEXT STEPS

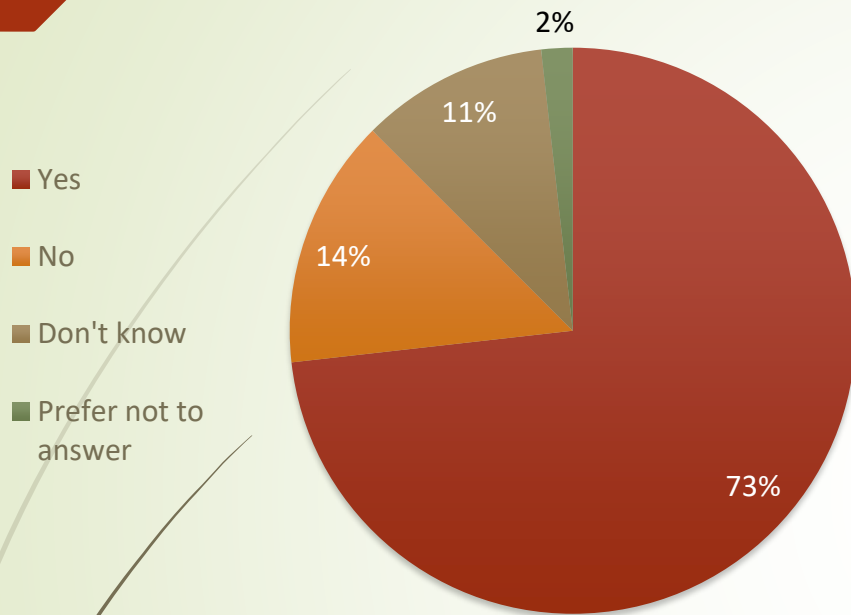


Figure 3: Willingness to participate in HIV research, whether or not respondent is living with HIV

Key Takeaways

- Build trusting, meaningful relationships with community
- Include ACB persons at all stages of a research study
- Adopt & adapt culturally sensitive study methodology
- High willingness of respondents to participate in research

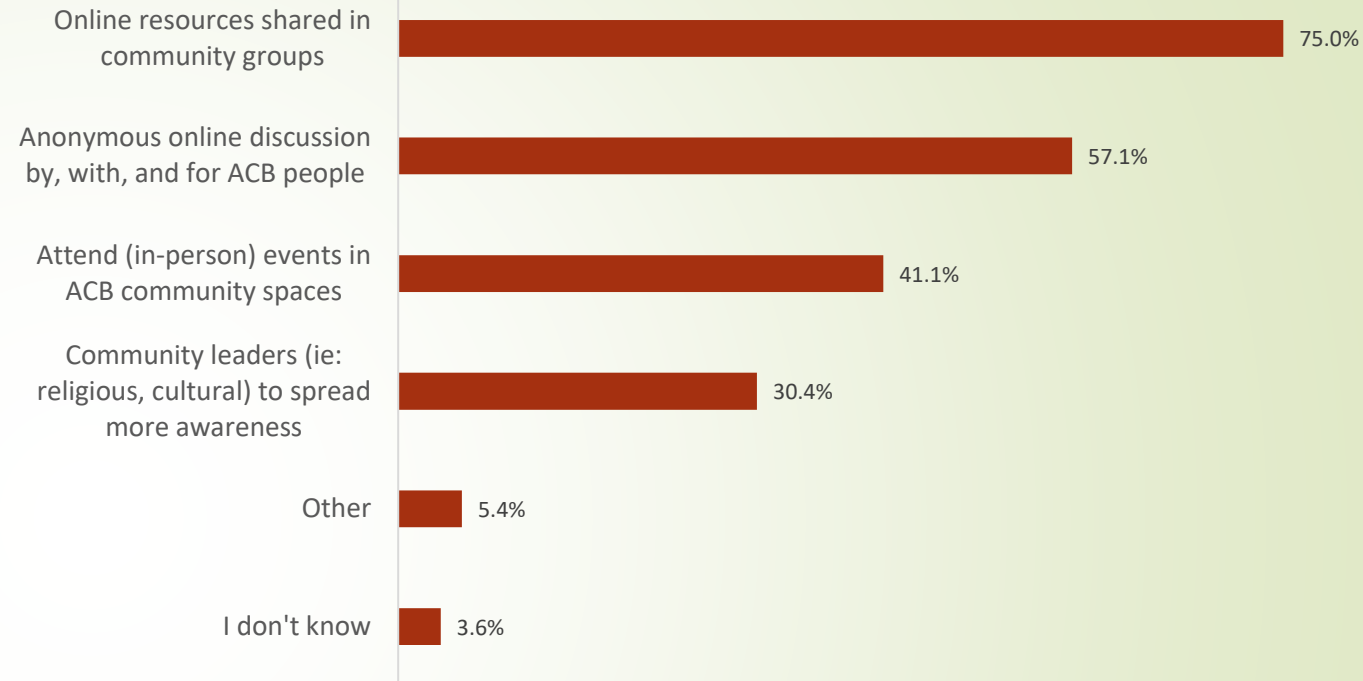


Figure 4: Ways to learn about health topics, such as COVID-19, HIV, sexual & reproductive health

Top 2 Future Research Priorities:

1. Mental health and substance use
2. Sexual and reproductive health, childbirth & family planning