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 Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō, Səl̓ílwətaʔ/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
INTRODUCTION

- 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

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)

"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

Participant Recruitment; Inclusion Criteria:

- You identify as African, Caribbean and/or Black
- You are 16 years of age or older
- You live in British Columbia

Complete survey for a chance to win a $100 CAD gift card!

Survey open from October 14 - December 9, 2020

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

Created online community survey with key community partners

Prize Draw for $100 CAD gift card for all participants

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

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal reasons respondents would participate in health research in the future (n=56):</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benefit to me and/or my community</td>
<td>47 (83.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good way to share my voice &amp; perspectives</td>
<td>34 (60.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity to learn something new</td>
<td>28 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receiving compensation for my time</td>
<td>23 (41.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know the research is done in collaboration with the community</td>
<td>20 (35.7%)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal reasons respondents would NOT participate in health research in the future (n=56):</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I don’t have the time/I have too many other responsibilities</td>
<td>26 (46.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I find it hard to trust researchers</td>
<td>15 (26.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t see how research benefits me/my community</td>
<td>13 (23.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t have anything valuable to contribute to research</td>
<td>13 (23.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t fully understand the consent process</td>
<td>13 (23.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t see the value in research</td>
<td>11 (19.6%)</td>
</tr>
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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%) |
RESULTS & NEXT STEPS

Top 2 Future Research Priorities:
1. Mental health and substance use
2. Sexual and reproductive health, childbirth & family planning

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

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