Sexuality Disclosure and HIV/STBBI Testing among Two-Spirit, Gay, Bisexual, & Queer Men in Manitoba

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Data were drawn from a community-based, Manitoba-wide online survey of Two-Spirit, gay, bisexual, queer, and other men who have sex with men (2SGBQ+).

This study examined the relationship between the disclosure of sexual identity to healthcare providers and HIV or sexually transmitted and blood-borne (STBBI) testing among Two-Spirit, gay, bisexual, queer (2SGBQ+) men in Manitoba.

**Eligibility:**
1) Identify as a man (cisgender or transgender); 2) Report any sex with another man in the previous 12 months or identify as 2SGBQ+; 3) Be 18 years of age or older; 4) Live or work in Manitoba.

**Recruitment and Sampling:** Participants for the survey were recruited across Manitoba using flyers, CBOs, social media, and our website [www.manitobamenshealthstudy.com](http://www.manitobamenshealthstudy.com)

**Statistical Analyses:** Chi-square and logistic regression analyses were used to examine the relationship between the disclosure of sexual identity to healthcare providers, socio-demographics (age, ethnicity, income, and education), and lifetime HIV & STBBI testing (outcome variable).
DESCRIPTIVE FINDINGS

Among 304 participants:

• The mean age was 32 years (SD=8.4, range=18-80)

• 56.4% were White/Caucasian, 18.5% Indigenous, and 25.1% were men of colour

• 25% reported incomes less than $30,000

• 19.4% and 27.3% reported never being tested for HIV or any STBBI, respectively

• 25.5% did not talk openly about their sexual orientation with healthcare providers.
• Younger people were more likely to be tested ($AOR=0.93, 95%CI: 0.88-0.98)$.

• Participants with highest household incomes ($100,000$ versus $<30,000$) were more likely to test for both HIV ($AOR=3.89, 95%CI: 1.62-33.34$) and STBBBI ($AOR=4.66, 95%CI: 1.59-13.68$).

• Disclosure of sexual identity to healthcare providers versus not was positively associated with HIV ($AOR=9.34; 95%CI: 1.09-13.92$) and STBBBI ($AOR=5.31; 95%CI: 2.69-10.47$) testing.
DISCUSSION: Our findings indicate a strong relationship between the disclosure of sexual identity to healthcare providers and HIV/STBBI testing. Future research needs to understand the relationship between HIV and STBBI testing uptake and healthcare settings conducive to 2SGBQ+ men’s disclosure of their sexuality and sexual practices. To promote HIV and STBBI testing and offer optimal care for 2SGBQ+ men, service providers need to create environments conducive to clients’ disclosure of their sexuality and sexual practices. Our findings reinforce the need for safe, nonjudgmental settings for 2SGBQ+ men in Manitoba to discuss their sexual identities freely with their healthcare providers in the context of HIV and STBBI prevention, harm reduction, and other healthcare.

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