

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH LOW NEIGHBORHOOD COHESION AMONG WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV IMPACTED BY SOCIAL-STRUCTURAL INEQUITIES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

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BACKGROUND AND METHOD

- The study looked at the relationship between HIV-related stigma, living conditions, and neighbourhood cohesion of **People Living with HIV** (PLHIV)
- In particular, **gender** plays an important role in the quality of life and medical access among WLHIV
- Between 2007 and 2010, 1,000 PLHIV enrolled in the BC Drug Treatment Program were surveyed on many issues including food security, housing stability and **HIV-related discrimination**
- All data collected were analysed to measure neighborhood cohesion, which is one's sense of **belonging in their community**

QUICK FACT!

WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV (WLHIV) WERE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY TO BE UNSTABLY HOUSED AND LESS LIKELY TO HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF NEIGHBORHOOD COHESION COMPARED TO MEN LIVING WITH HIV (MLHIV)

FINDINGS

- Many of the surveyed PLHIV are **unstably housed**, and **experience food insecurity, violence, drug use and incarceration**
- These factors affect a greater proportion of Women Living with HIV (WLHIV) compared to Men Living with HIV (MLHIV)
- WLHIV were significantly less likely than men to have a strong sense of **neighbourhood cohesion**
- WLHIV who report being less stably housed and **experience more HIV stigma** have lower **neighbourhood cohesion**

WHAT NOW?

- **Reducing HIV-related stigma** in the community could **enhance neighbourhood cohesion**, which could help improve access to health services and safer social spaces
- **Availability of safer housing** will improve the neighbourhood cohesion and health of PLHIV
- In order to improve HIV-related care for women, **awareness** needs to be raised to help breakdown the gendered barriers to stable housing and increase access to **women-centered care**



Infographic prepared by: Mackenzie Dewar-Pratt, Remi Walde, Revika Gupta in March 2021

Summary compiled by: Betty Liu, Neo Ni, Eli Hodges, Maneet Kaur, Leonie Withoeft

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