

BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE ON
SUBSTANCE USE

Networking researchers, educators & care providers

Factors influencing people who use drugs' experiences with direct-acting antiviral treatment for hepatitis C virus: A qualitative study in Vancouver, Canada

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Territorial Acknowledgment



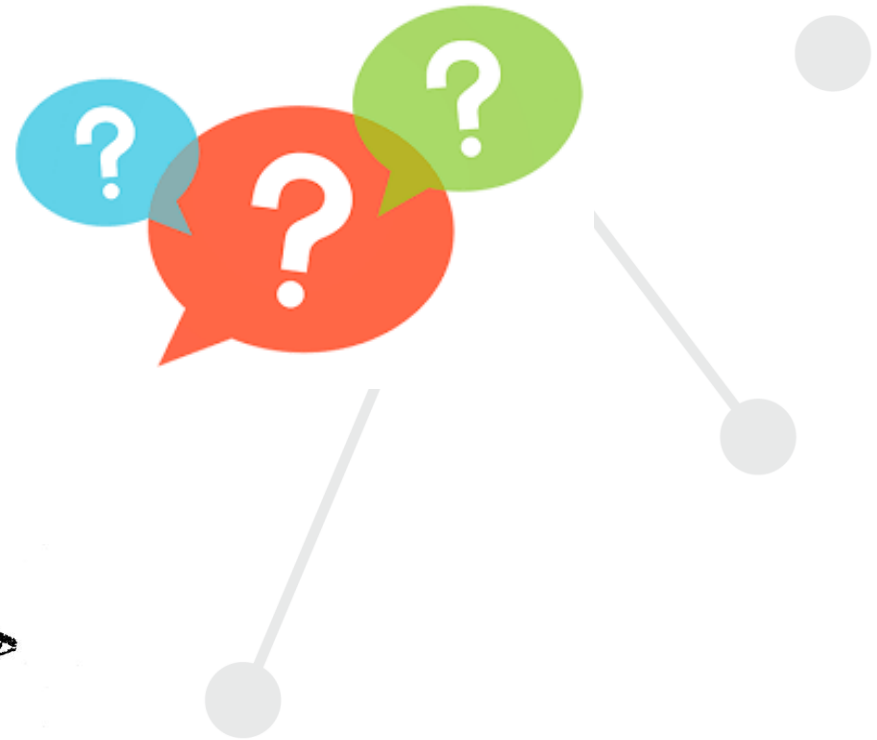
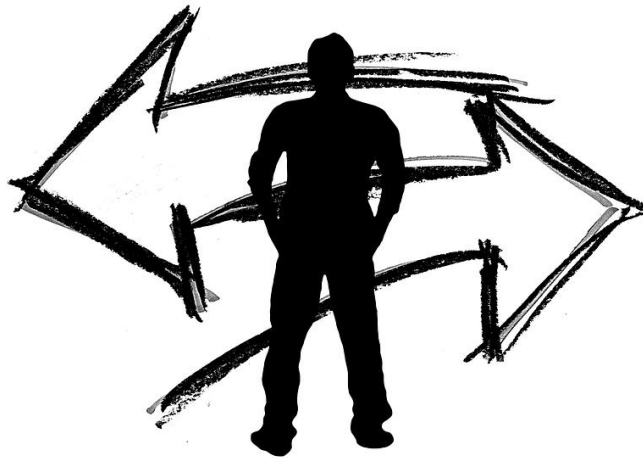
I respectfully acknowledge that we are gathered here today on unceded Indigenous land, including the territories of the Kanien'kehá:ka and Anishinabeg peoples.

Table 1: Key Sociodemographic Data

VARIABLES	(n=56)	(Valid %)
Ethnicity		
Caucasian / White	19	36.5%
Indigenous / First Nations	31	59.6%
Other	2	3.8%
HCV treatment status		
Pre-treatment	21	37.5%
Peri-treatment	12	21.4%
Post-treatment	19	33.9%
Treatment failed/Discontinued	3	5.4%
Reinfection	1	1.8%
Sexual identity		
Heterosexual / Straight	42	79.2%
Sexual minority	11	20.8%
Gender identity		
Female	26	46.4%
Male	29	51.8%
Two-spirit	1	1.8%
HIV status		
HIV+	27	48.2%
HIV-	29	51.8%

Individual Factors

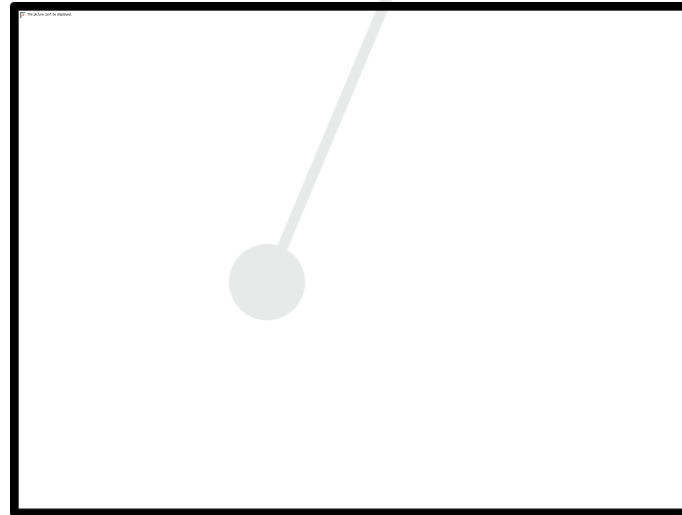
- Motivations
- Concerns
- Perceptions



“That [old treatment] scared me and I said I wasn’t going to do it, until now I heard about the treatments now, that they’re a little bit... you don’t get no side effects, so I’m really looking forward to that, kind of thing” (HCV-DAA_048).

Health Systems- and Service-Related Factors

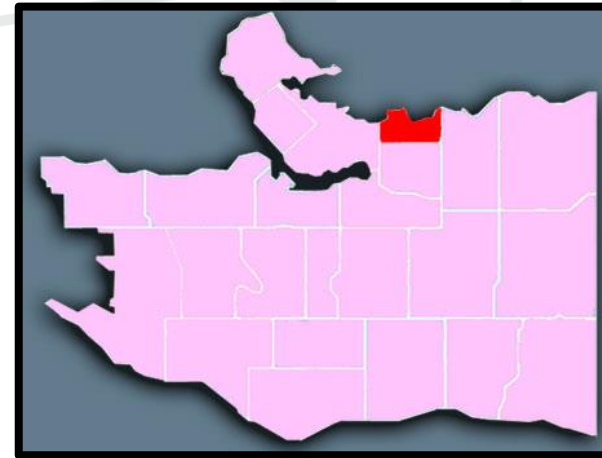
- Difficult to navigate HCV care cascade
- Siloed health services
- Healthcare provider gatekeeping



“Yeah, they [people at the clinic] told me that it [HCV] is treatable, right? But you have to be willing to stop doing this and stop doing that. I’m like I’m not willing to stop anything. [. . .] Like using heroin and crack and coke and all of that B.S.” (HCV-DAA_007).

Socio-Structural Factors

- Stigma
- Drug criminalization
- Poverty
- Housing
- Employment



“If I get at least some of my health back [after DAA treatment], maybe I can, you know, get into a trade. [. . .] I got to do something man. I just can’t sit around. [. . .] [Before having HCV], I used to be active, I used to be logging, I was playing basketball, sports, I was doing everything every day. I had my mind filled with things not as, I don’t even want to do nothing. Like I said, I don’t even want to get out of bed sometimes.” (HCV-DAA_014)

Conclusions

- Perceptions and experiences of DAA treatment are influenced by intersecting individual, service-related, and socio-contextual factors
- Need for HCV-related policies and programming to be person-centered and socio-structurally informed

Acknowledgments

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Questions?

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