

# The cascade of care for hepatitis C virus among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal.

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# Background

- ▶ Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBM) are a priority population for microelimination of hepatitis C virus (HCV).
- ▶ We estimated HCV care cascade indicators and correlates of detectable HCV RNA among GBM recruited in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

# Methods

- ▶ Sexually active GBM, aged  $\geq 16$  years, were recruited through respondent-driven sampling (RDS) from February 2017 to August 2019.
- ▶ Participants completed a computer-assisted self-interview and tests for HIV, HCV, and other sexually transmitted infections.
- ▶ We conducted bivariate analyses comparing the RDS-II adjusted proportions for indicators across cities.
- ▶ Using pooled three-city data, we used RDS II weighted logistic regression to examine associations with detectable HCV RNA among HCV- positive participants.

# Results

- ▶ We recruited 1179 participants in Montreal, 517 in Toronto, and 753 in Vancouver.
- ▶ **HCV seroprevalence** was 6.8% in Montreal, 3.8% in Toronto, and 5.9% in Vancouver ( $p=0.006$ ).
- ▶ **Undiagnosed infection** among HCV-seropositive participants was 3.1% in Montreal, 1.1% in Toronto, and 2.3% in Vancouver
- ▶ **Reported receipt of HCV treatment:** 65.3% in Montreal, 92.6% in Toronto and 88.7% in Vancouver ( $p=0.372$ )
- ▶ **Detectable HCV RNA:** 37.6% in Montreal: 7.4% in Toronto 11.3% in Vancouver ( $p=0.039$ )

# Results

- ▶ Multivariable modelling found no differences in detectable HCV RNA by city;
  - ▶ AOR for Vancouver = 0.26 (95% CI 0.05–1.46) compared to Montreal.
  - ▶ AOR for Toronto = 0.19 (95% CI 0.01–3.54) compared to Montreal.
- ▶ Detectable HCV RNA was associated with:
  - ▶ Age (AOR = 0.90 per year increase; 95% CI 0.84–0.97)
  - ▶ Injection drug use in past six months (AOR = 8.39; 95% CI 2.11–33.39)

# Conclusions

- ▶ Among GBM in these three cities, we found very low proportions of undiagnosed HCV but gaps remain in treatment uptake.
- ▶ Additional interventions may be required to better engage younger GBM and those using injection drugs

# Acknowledgements



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