

# Factors Associated With HIV Prevalence Among A Canadian Clinical Cohort Of Transgender Women

Lacombe-Duncan, A., Persad, Y., Shokoohi, M., Underhill, A., Machouf, N., Côté, P., Wheatley, M., Gupta, M., Kyne, L.T., Besharati, A.A., Chan, L.Y.L., Hranilovic, S., Bourns, A., Nguyen, Q., & Loutfy, M.

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# Study Rationale, Aims, and Methods

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## Rationale

- HIV prevalence data among transgender (trans) people are lacking in Canada, which may contribute to gender-based inequities in the HIV response.

## Aims

- To examine a) HIV prevalence and b) associated factors among trans women engaged in clinical care in Toronto, Ontario and Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

## Methods

- Retrospective chart review
- Collected sociodemographic and clinical characteristics, including HIV prevalence data from:
  - Trans women
  - Aged 16 years or older
  - Accessing health care at one or more of six family medicine and/or HIV clinics in Montreal and Toronto, Canada \*excluded patients only seen at endocrinology clinic
- Between July 2018 and December 2019
- Prevalence of HIV reported overall and then compared across sociodemographic and clinical subgroups using univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses

# Results: HIV Prevalence & Associated Sociodemographic Factors

	n/%
HIV negative	599 (40.1%)
HIV positive	86 (5.8%)
Missing	810 (54.2%)

- **Sociodemographic factors statistically significantly associated with HIV prevalence among trans women in multivariate analyses:**
  - Age: 50+ vs. < 30 years, aOR: 2.52, 95% CI: 1.10, 5.81
  - Race/ethnicity: Black vs. white, aOR: 4.35, 95% CI: 1.41, 13.43
  - Immigration status: Landed immigrant/permanent resident vs. Canadian citizen: aOR: 5.76, 95% CI: 1.54, 21.42
  - Source of income: Receiving social assistance vs. not, aOR: 4.63, 95% CI: 1.43, 14.93
- *Not statistically significant:* birthplace, relationship status

# Results: Associated Clinical Factors and Study Implications

- **Clinical factors statistically significantly associated with HIV prevalence among trans women in multivariate analyses:**
  - Ever using recreational drugs vs. never, aOR: 3.95, 95% CI: 1.19, 13.06
  - History of hepatitis B vs. no history, aOR: 4.44, 95% CI: 1.12, 16.75
- *Not statistically significant:* cigarette history, history of injection drug use, history of sex work, history of hepatitis C

## Implications:

- Prevalence of HIV was high at 7.5%, while lower than expected based on global estimates.
- Over one-third of patients did not have a documented HIV status, suggesting gaps in HIV testing.
- Findings highlight socioeconomic, psychosocial, and medical challenges among trans women that may be associated with HIV or represent experiences of trans women post HIV-diagnosis.
- Findings inform future HIV prevention programs and support opportunities for trans women in Canada.



# TRANS WOMEN HIV RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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**Contact Ashley: [lacombed@umich.edu](mailto:lacombed@umich.edu) or Yasmeen: [yasmeen.persad@wchospital.ca](mailto:yasmeen.persad@wchospital.ca)**

