

The ACPNet/CHER-UVic Sub-Saharan African Study

Why and How we Need to Focus on Sub-Sahara African Women (SSAW) Living with HIV and Affected by HIV/AIDS? A Community-Based Population-Specific Approach.

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The SSAW Study
ACPNet/CHER-UVic

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Striving Towards Equity and
Flourishing in the HIV Response

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<https://www.afropositive.org/>

Background

Sub-Saharan African women and girls account for 63% of new HIV infections globally¹.

Despite the dearth of research specific to the sub-Saharan African migrant women living with HIV in Canada, sub-Saharan African women are often aggregated with other Caribbean and Black women concealing their contextual particularities and inequalities.

In BC, Black females represent less than 1% of the general population, but are 13.3% of new HIV diagnoses among females².

From 2011 to 2016, the sub-Saharan African region constituted the highest source of Black immigrants to Canada³.

Aims

To argue for more research involving sub-Saharan Africa women living with HIV (SSAWLH).

To suggest meaningful ways to engage this population group.

Methods

Design: Analysis of 9 community-based HIV studies involving African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) groups in Canada

Dates: Jan 2006 - Feb 2019.

Within CBR principles

Analysis: Traditional narrative literature review

Community Based Research

Identified community

- Afro Canadian Positive Network (ACPNNet)
- <https://www.afropositive.org/>

Specified health & social concerns

Equitable participation & mutual engagement of all stakeholders

Joint production of knowledge & transfer and exchange of knowledge.

- ACPNet is governed by independent board members.
- A non-profit charitable community-based structure founded in 2009.
- Cater for the total health of its members (immigrants and refugees).
- Supports > 50 persons living with and affected by HIV & > 300 family members living majorly in Surrey.
- Hinges on a peer-run provision of culturally responsive, family-oriented values, with holistic perspectives to HIV comprehensive care.
- The organization revolves within an equitable, socially just, human rights' enabled approach, and set on participatory action principles.
- Values of ACPNet is anchored on inclusion, humility, and compassion.
- Activities stretch through community-based research, capacity building and strengthening, peer navigation and outreach, cultural activities, advocacy/activism
- ACPNet allies with structures outside of their community

Continuum of Community Engagement

Continuum of Community Involvement & CBPR





Findings

- Two studies specific to sub-Saharan migrant population^{5,6}
- One other included some East African countries⁷.
- Two of the studies were solely with women^{8,9}.
- Offered insights to addressing challenges and enhancing opportunities in HIV research with SSAWLH⁵⁻¹⁰.
- Supported culturally appropriate approaches to HIV research, relative to those that were community-led⁵⁻¹⁰.



The Sub-Saharan African Study

Conclusion

Meaningfully engaging sub-Saharan African women and their organizations in community-led research represents a critical opportunity to reduce complex health and social inequalities, support social justice and inform HIV policies and programs for this under-served population.

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ACPN
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CHERgroup
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