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| **Title of Research Presentation** Promoting tenants’ Right to Remain in Vancouver’s Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Hotels |
| **Maximum 2500 characters (including spaces but excluding title)****Background/Objectives**Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside hosts the highest concentration of Canada’s historic Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Hotels, nearly 100 of which remain under private ownership housing nearly 5000 low-income people. The widely known deplorable state of repair in SROs reflects decades of disinvestment, which began in the aftermath of the dispossession of Japanese Canadians from the neighbourhood in WWII and has only accelerated since. The state of today’s SROs reflects the compounding effects of weak local bylaw enforcement, stagnating levels of provincial housing assistance, and sporadic federal financing support. For advocates, this is an abrogation of care that has deprived generations of tenants of safe, dignified, and healthy housing while placing them in harm's way from landlord exploitation, the opioid epidemic, and the criminal drug trade. In the present national shift toward housing reinvestment, it is important to recognize that tenants themselves can be part of sustainable solutions when supported to assert their rights through legal action, policy advocacy, and research. **Methods**Since 2010, the Right to Remain project has worked with SRO tenant leaders to conduct archival research on the historic context of SRO policy, activism, and inhabitation, to interview tenants (N=70) about the present conditions, living circumstances, and rights violations within SROs, and to impel support for tenant-led organizing *within* some of Vancouver’s most notorious SROs as a strategy for overcoming imposed social isolation, precarious tenancies and chronic habitability deficiencies.**Results**Our results confirm that SROs have the potential to remain a viable form of housing, capable of supporting the needs and preferences of this unique community over the long term. The future of SROs requires a significant effort to develop policies and invest in measures to protect tenants’ rights, support peer organizing, and preserve neighbourhood assets. **Discussion**The findings from our research inform a key policy recommendation to ensure sufficient investment in sustaining the habitability of Vancouver’s SRO (and similar housing stock in other jurisdictions) that would improve the living conditions for thousands of Canadians while facilitating a respectful pace for their sunsetting over the next 20-25 years as new forms of long-awaited social housing stock come online.**Keywords**Housing, health equity, human rights, Vancouver |