

MSAFIRI PROJECT



Understanding HIV transmission among persons from Africa and the Caribbean following their arrival in Canada

WHAT:

MSAFIRI studies HIV acquisition in persons from Africa and the Caribbean (ACB) following migration to Canada.

By exploring patterns and contextual factors associated with acquiring HIV after arrival, we aim to identify and support interventions in HIV testing, disclosure and condom use that may likely prevent new infections in the ACB community.

WHY:

Despite the considerable investment in HIV prevention and support, little is known about people from ACB communities who acquire HIV after arriving in Canada.

With little evidence of the direct and indirect factors underlying HIV transmission, current services are unfocused and somewhat limited. No research has yet been done to shed light on this important question in Canada.

HOW:

Existing data from ACB participants in the Ontario Cohort Study was analyzed to understand factors of acquiring HIV either before or after arrival in Canada. Quantitative questionnaires were also used to gather data on people who were infected after arrival such as testing history, entry to care and sexual history. Qualitative data was gathered for more in-depth understanding of participants' perceptions of, and experiences with, HIV, disclosure and condom use.

IMPACT:

MSAFIRI engaged **108 participants** 
(3% of participants were not included in the sample due to missing information)

 **50** identified as MSM or men who like men

 **28** identified as heterosexual women

 **28** identified as heterosexual men

 **57%** acquired HIV from a **regular partner**

 **91%** of women acquired HIV from a **regular partner**

 **71%** acquired HIV from a **regular partner**

Condom Use:

only **16%** indicated they always use condoms for insertive sex, and **14%** indicated the same for receptive sex

Condom Use:

17% indicated they always use condoms and **61%** indicated they never use condoms

Condom Use:

0% indicated they always use condoms, **50%** indicated sometimes and **50%** indicated never.

“He was somebody that I was seeing for several months... He was Canadian, so a Canadian citizen... I sort of thought that somehow I would be immune.”

“I was new in the country... And I didn't think that AIDS would be a problem in Canada.”

“HIV was mostly an African thing, a black people thing, and a homosexual thing. Nothing else. I've never heard a white girl, even on TV or in the news, that a white girl is HIV positive.”



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