

# THE CHIWOS STUDY



The Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study

## WHAT:

CHIWOS is committed to creating new knowledge that will be used to support women living with HIV in Canada to achieve optimal health and wellbeing through meaningfully involving them in every stage of the research process by providing a safe, transformational, and innovative research environment.

## WHY: ?

Research demonstrates that women face biological susceptibility to HIV, along with amplified vulnerability due to social factors such as poverty, violence, and gender inequity. Women living with HIV have unique care needs, but often face challenges to access, particularly around sexual, reproductive and mental health related services. CHIWOS aims to address these issues through critical, feminist and anti-oppression research frameworks.

## HOW:

The CHIWOS study is carried out in two phases, (formative and the national survey). The formative phase included focus groups to determine community definitions and perceptions of women-centred HIV care, and to collect feedback on a preliminary survey before it was used on a larger scale.

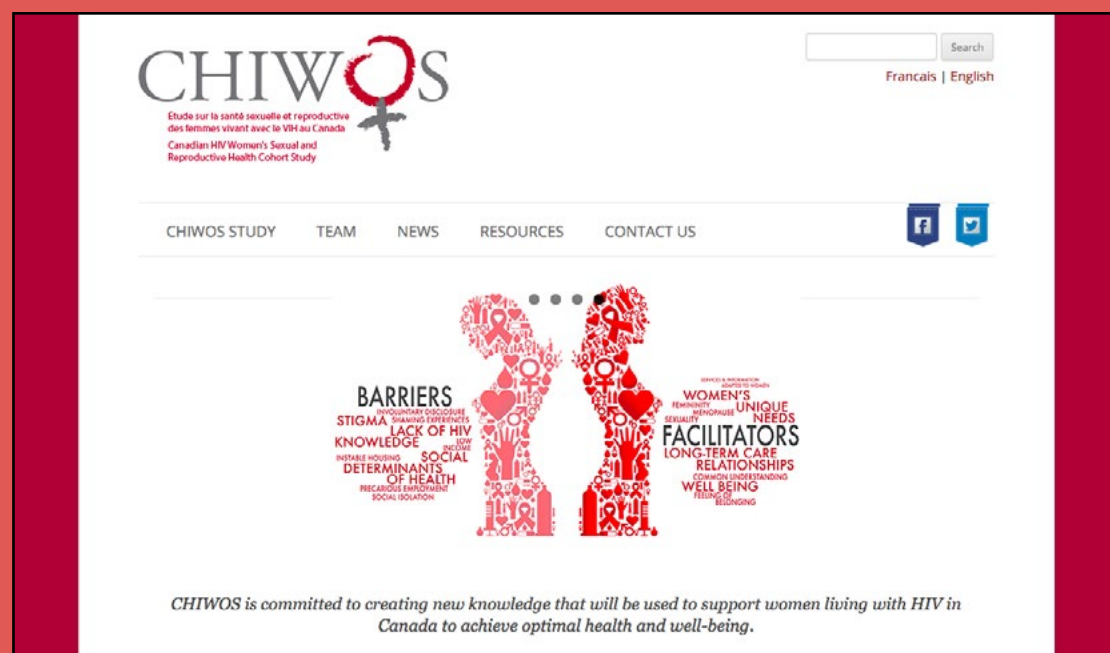
The second phase included a total of 1422 women living with HIV having completed a peer research associate (PRA) administered survey at baseline, 18 and 36 months. 1252 participants completed the second wave survey,

## IMPACT:

The CHIWOS study has yielded considerable data and resources that have been presented and shared at multiple local, national and international spaces.

Visit [www.chiwos.ca](http://www.chiwos.ca) to learn more or to view research posters, webinars, presentations, reports and findings. Stay connected:

**Twitter:** @CHIWOSResearch  
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## WHO:

Principle Investigators: Dr. Mona Loutfy, Dr. Alexandra de Pokomandy, Dr. Angela Kaida, Dr. Sharon Bruce, Dr. Marissa Becker, Dr. Saara Greene, Dr. Carrie Bourassa. CHIWOS has a large research team consisting of a national core research team, national steering committee, provincial coordinators, partner sites and 33 Peer Research Associates across the country. Women's Health in Women's Hands is a key partner of this study.