

THE CO-INFECTION STUDY

123 to abc

How participants derived qualitative meaning from a quantitative study

WHAT:

The original co-infection study aimed to define the epidemiology of HIV and co-infections such as Herpes simplex virus type 2, human cytomegalovirus, human papilloma virus (HPV), syphilis, gonorrhoeae, albicans, trachomatis and bacterial vaginosis, in African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) communities in Toronto.

WHY: ?

After defining how co-infections drive HIV transmission and immuno-pathogenesis, we needed to translate and disseminate this information to inform programs and services for ACB populations.

The aim was to translate the research results into evidence-based community and public health action(s)

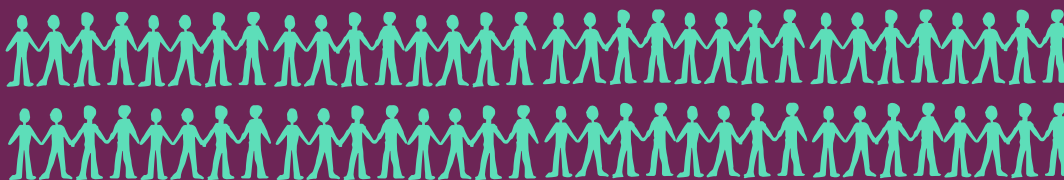
HOW:

A sample of **486 ACB men** and **417 ACB women** with mixed HIV status were recruited from community centers and clinics. Data was collected on social demographics, HIV testing and sexual behaviours, condom use and co-infections that impact susceptibility to HIV and immune-pathogenesis

A Knowledge Translation and Exchange (KTE) project was also funded to move knowledge into action.

IMPACT:

900 ACB men and women were recruited making it the **largest cohort of ACB participants of any study in Canada.**



...But numbers are only half the picture, to explore how people understood the data, we held **3 focus groups:**

12 young adults
13 men
9 women

+

3-day **digital storytelling** session with **10** participants



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- Understanding of self and belonging as migrants
- Experiences about research participation
- Perception of and expressions of sexuality
- Perspectives on sexual practices and experiences with STIs/HIV
- Opinions about effective STI/HIV prevention & treatment programs

*Digital stories available on the WHIWHs website

WHO:

This study was led by Drs. Kaul, Remis and Loutfy, and Wangari Tharao

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