

## Keeping Up with the Evidence: Issue 4

### Background

Highlights and references of recent publications related to HIV and other STBBIs, harm reduction, and other related work.

### The sexual and reproductive health of women living with HIV: the CHIWOS study.

This month's *Keeping Up with the Evidence* is dedicated to recent publications coming out of the Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study (CHIWOS). This is a Canadian study with main sites in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia that has also expanded into Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The project was initiated in 2011 and followed a phase approach including consultations and assessments before moving on to a national survey phase. The study is now in the third wave of its survey phase which will conclude in September of this year.

The CHIWOS website also offers for download a series of posters and other resources related to their project.

Link to the study website: <https://bit.ly/2ri7hz2>

### Involving women living with HIV in community-based research (Webster, 2018)

**Summary:** The CHIWOS team analyzed their recruitment approaches, challenges and successes. This article provides details as to how they proceeded to recruit the 1424 participants to their study. They conclude that a multi-prong approach is more effective in recruiting a wide range of participants. While recruiting through clinics and ASOs was effective for a segment of the population, the hiring of peers as research associates was instrumental in creating the trust necessary to recruit harder to reach population.

**Implications:** As ACCH, and ACCH members, are getting involved in research, such publications provide useful evidence of the necessity to approach participant recruitment from a variety of angles.

**Link:** <http://www.chiwos.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Strategies-for-Recruiting-Women-Living-with-Human-Immunodeficiency-Virus-in-Community-Based-Research-Lessons-from-Canada.pdf>

**Reference:** Webster, K. C., Allison; Proulx-Boucher, Karène; Bubud, Danièle; Nicholson, Valerie; Beaver, Kerrigan; Gasingirwa, Claudine; Ménard, Brigitte; O'Brien, Nadia; Mitchell, Kayla; Pereira Bajard, Micaela; Ding, Erin; de Pokomandy, Alexandra; Loutfy, Mona; Kaida, Angela. (2018). Strategies for Recruiting Women Living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus in Community-Based Research: Lessons from Canada. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*, 12(1), 13. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1353/cpr.2018.0003>

### **Social inequities and pathway to care for women living with HIV (Logie et al., 2018)**

**Summary:** In this article, CHIWOS analyses some of the data it collected to describe some of the factors creating inequities in health-related quality of life among women living with HIV. The complex relationship between HIV-related stigma and factors such as economic insecurity, social support, and race and gender discrimination we explored. The study provides evidence of this relationships and suggests that those should be considered for more effective stigma-reducing strategies.

**Implications:** While discussing issued that are known to community-based organizations, this article provides evidence from a large scale studies which can be used to provide support for a range of initiatives surrounding the reduction of stigma for women living with HIV.

**Link:** <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2017.12.018>

**Reference:** Logie, C. H., Wang, Y., Lacombe-Duncan, A., Wagner, A. C., Kaida, A., Conway, T., . . . Loutfy, M. R. (2018). HIV-related stigma, racial discrimination, and gender discrimination: Pathways to physical and mental health-related quality of life among a national cohort of women living with HIV. *Preventive Medicine, 107*, 36-44. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2017.12.018>

### **Contraceptive Choice among women living wit HIV in Canada (Kaida et al., 2017)**

**Summary:** This article further discusses some of the data collected through CHIWOS, focusing on the choices women living with HIV make in relation to contraceptive, filling a gap in established knowledge on the issue. The authors place the discussion in relation to the WHO recommendations for dual protection (using both condoms AND other means of contraception) for women who are not wanting to become pregnant. They are considering recent wok which indicate that there is no HIV transmission risks when a person living with HIV is on antiretroviral therapy and achieves sustained HIV viral suppression.

**Implications:** The authors point out that the proportion of unplanned pregnancies is higher among women leaving with HIV then in the general population, since women living with HIV have concerns over HIV transmission and therefore do not plan to become pregnant. The data obtained by CHIWOS show that a women-centered approach to HIV care is warranted in order to improve the rates of women living with HIV using effective contraception methods as well as to increase knowledge about adequate options for contraception and the prevention of HIV transmission, which is still lacking in many areas.

**Link:** <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=126685475&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

**Reference:** Kaida, A., Patterson, S., Carter, A., Loutfy, M., Ding, E., Sereda, P., . . . de Pokomandy, A. (2017). Contraceptive Choice and Use of Dual Protection Among Women Living with HIV in Canada: Priorities for Integrated Care. *Perspectives on Sexual & Reproductive Health, 49*(4), 223-236. doi:10.1363/psrh.12046