




Why are population size estimates important?

Certain groups of people are often more affected by health or social problems than the general population, as is the case with HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV). It is often known which groups experience more risk of acquiring HIV/HCV, but the total number of people within these risk categories are often unknown.

Since we do not know the total population sizes across the province (regardless of HIV/HCV status) or where people live within different regions and cities, it is difficult to adequately respond and plan services, programs, policy, and laws.



For many reasons including stigma and legal issues, the total number of people are often underestimated. This can lead to under-resourcing or misallocation of resources.

Supporting the Development of Services

Knowing how many people there are, and where they live, supports clinical and social service planning and ensures we are correctly responding to needs. It can help decide where to put new services such as testing, primary health care for these populations, and prevention services.

Understanding Incidence

If we know the total size of these populations, we can use information about new infections to determine if our assumptions about priority populations are correct.

Other ways PSE can be used by planners, service providers, and community-based organizations

1

Development of new HIV and HCV programming

3

More understanding of broad social determinants of health

5

Policy and law revisions, supporting work around criminalization of sex work, HIV non-disclosure, harm reduction

2

Planning, implementation, and evaluation of interventions

4

Anti-stigma work



PSEs are essential to understand the scope of the problem, set targets, estimate resource needs, plan appropriate interventions, and evaluate their effectiveness