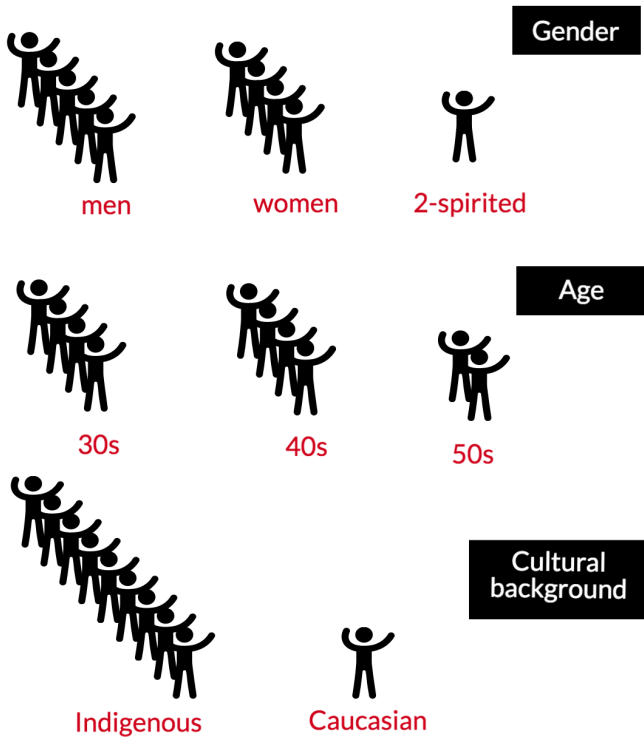


# Positive Living, Positive Homes

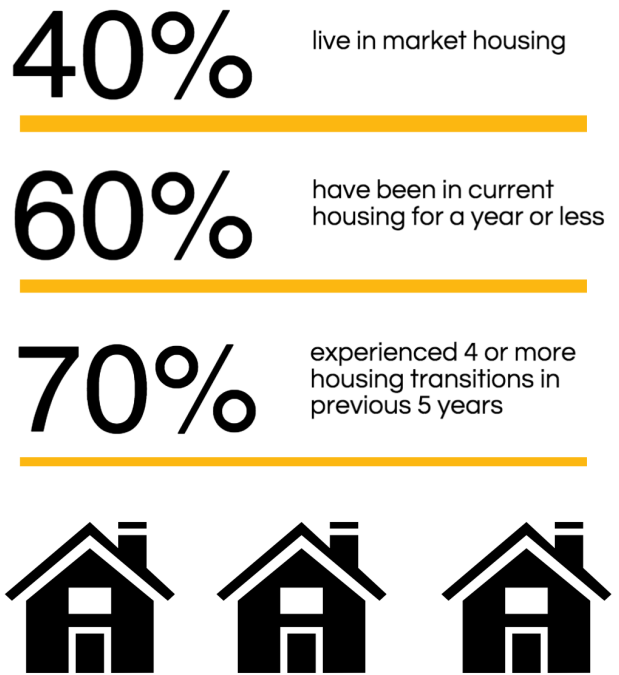
Data from first-round interviews with participants living with HIV in Kamloops (n=10), 2016

For more information or to contact the study team, email [plph@pacificaidnetwork.org](mailto:plph@pacificaidnetwork.org)

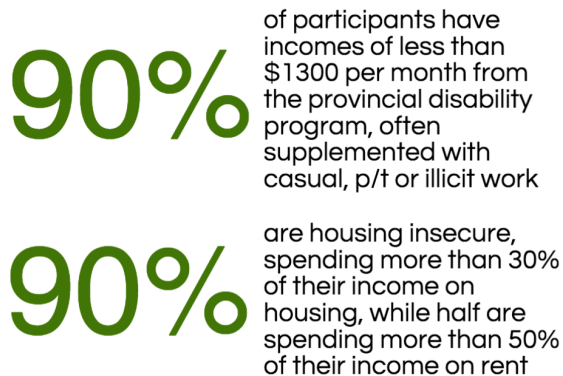
## Demographics



## Housing Situation

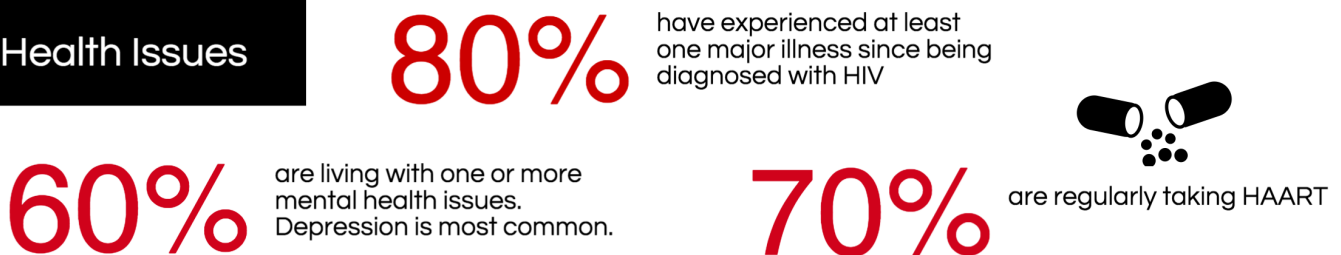


## Income & Rent



*Well it probably limits you more because if you're on disability- unless you're able to continue to work, you get your money and you can only get so much housing with low income with your disability pension.\**

## Health Issues



# Health & Housing Connections\*

**90%** of participants had experienced an illness episode coinciding with unstable housing.

**50%** of participants said their lowest CD4 count coincided with a period of unstable or unsafe housing.

**50%** of participants disclosed that they were in active substance use at the time of interview.

"Have you ever had trouble staying on it [HIV meds] because of where you were living?"

"I guess at first because I was on crutches. Like in the winter time I'd have to walk to the drug store to go get my medication, and that was a real... in town, the snow would be two feet."

"It [substance use] impacted me tremendously because I ended up becoming homeless due to it. I lost my housing, my credibility, my self-esteem. My self worth. I had no value in life. And then I went homeless and stayed homeless. For two years I was on these streets, homeless. Because I figured that I didn't deserve anything more than just a tent by the river with a couple of sleeping bags."

## Social Life\*



**30%** have regular dealings with MCFD

"So I just said 'I just wanted to check in with you, let you know that I'll be starting visits with my kids soon. Is there anything coming up?' and they [housing provider] said 'No, it doesn't work like that. You actually have to have your kids before we'll consider bumping you up on the list [for subsidized housing].'"

"I've had really good experiences and really bad experiences, but it isn't really me, it's more the environment that I live in that plays a key role and the people that are in that environment that make my life either enjoyable or a living hell."

But sometimes, it does make me feel like - like I'm being pushed into retirement when I'm not really at retirement age, do you know what I mean? Like when I start seeing people 70 and 80 years old with mobility issues and they're trying to get around and stuff, and I see them daily, and here I come walking in and I'm like, you know, and then I'm kind of like, will it's nice that it's in an old folks' home, but I'm not a senior citizen yet."

"I think when I had my kids, when we were trying to look for housing. That was really challenging. Because...when- there's a few places I went to, and they're, "Yeah, sure" and I show up there with my kids, and they're like, "Well..." and I said, "Yeah, I told you I had kids" and then, "No". Yeah, so I ran into that a few times when I had my children. And a couple of times when I went and looked, and they seen that I was Native. Mm-hm. So I've had a little bit of that out there. Not too much, not too bad, not as bad as some that I've heard, but yeah."

"The negative part? I guess I would like to more or less get into something where it's a little more...I don't have to worry about going out and having a smoke and seeing drug activity. That's a thing. I see it - like I've done lots of drugs and I can see whose car is coming in and I can see somebody go and pick up, right. I can read. Like most people that don't do drugs, they don't know what's going on. I don't know them from Adam, but I can figure it out."

## PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS and COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

can have major impacts on health and housing situation

"...what I learned early on was that it was my right to keep that [HIV] to myself unless I'd be sharing a needle with you or having sex with you. So I've been pretty good about not disclosing for reasons that, you know, were perfectly acceptable. I don't- if I'm not, you know, bleeding in my mouth and eating off your spoon we're good, you know? You don't need to know my business."

If I'm feeling stigma'd or bullied, I don't stick around. And that's another reason I isolate is because I get stigma'd all the time and I get bullied all the time. There are some people on the street that know me that don't like me. They call me bad names, they put me down. That why I stay home, to stay safe."

Most participants have experienced

## Stigma

related to HIV, ethnicity, low income, or gender