

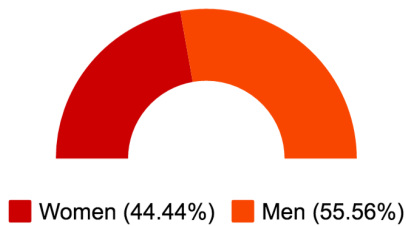
Positive Living, Positive Homes

Data from first-round interviews with participants living with HIV in Prince George (n=36), May 2017

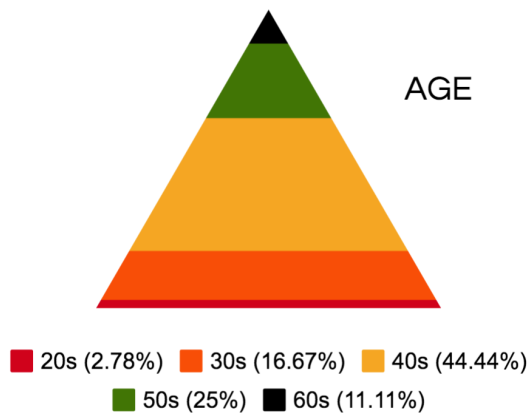
For more information or to contact the study team, email plph@pacificaidnetwork.org

Demographics

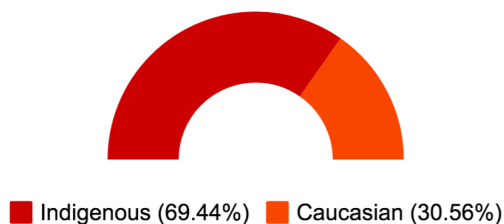
GENDER



AGE



CULTURAL BACKGROUND



Housing Situation

77% live in market housing

67% have been in current housing for a year or less

55% experienced 4 or more housing transitions in previous 5 years

28% were unsure if their name was on a lease or RTA

25% live with one or more roommates (not including spousal relationships)

22% live on their own



Income & Rent

Even though **75%** of participants spend less than \$500 per month on housing,

because **47%** have incomes of less than \$1000 per month,

we see **66%** of participants spending more than 30% of their income on housing.

Health Issues



42% are living with one or more mental health issues. Depression is most common.

28% are living with mobility issues that affect their quality of life. Pain from neuropathy, arthritis and injury are most common.

44% are living with hepatitis C

14% have cleared hepatitis C

94% are regularly taking HAART

Substance Use

75% of participants disclosed that they used substances within the past year. Many participants use substances for pain relief, and to alleviate depression.



Some participants find substance use to be problematic within their housing situation and others do not.

Health & Housing Links*

"I was sick. Because I was living on the streets. I was actually-took branches and made myself a lean-to, that's how bad it was. I was right on the streets. Sometimes I was even sleeping on the sidewalks and stuff like that. But yeah, I was getting sick and I went and seen a doctor and he called me in a week later and told me that I had it."

"I know that my CD4 count goes way down when...when I'm in a bad- like when I was in the rooming house and stuff like that. When I moved to Tsekoo, I was undetectable, I was doing good. So yeah, I guess it really - it does."

"Well, being down here now, I'm in the bowl- the dust and air is like-kind of get- like every morning sneezing and coughing and stuffed up for a bit."

"It'd be really cool to have a place for people that are HIV. Homes. Where we could go. And not be discriminated for. Or looked down on. It pisses me off because I don't tell everybody either, though. Because just- because of that reason. People with HIV- 'You don't even fucking know, so don't be looking at me like that.'"



"So I've had a place now for two years, I've been out of the shelters. But that's only because I have to take better care of myself. My health, with HIV and Hep C, I have to take better care of myself. So, yeah. There's more... disease and stuff in the shelters and stuff and I was using drugs."

Social Life*



"You're family [people who want to crash at participant's house]. I can't say no" and that's the worst thing. You can't say no."

"We weren't even allowed in each other's space. It got to be that bad. And her and I were just the type of couple that loves being around each other all the time and they found that detrimental. They [shelter staff] said because it's taking your individuality. You know what, if it's not broke, don't fix it. I mean, this is what we like. This is what we're comfortable with."

"So that keeps me active too, and healthy. And I just love it. It's the highlight of my day to have grandkids here."

PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS and COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

can have major impacts on health and housing situation

"...like a lot of the women there, I talked to and stuff and they all knew. And not one of them had a problem with it [her being HIV+], they were actually- I actually helped one lady who had it- like she was in tears....And you make it like it's not like this big secret dirty thing. And that made me feel really good. Just to be able to help one person, you know, feel a bit better about it."

"I went to go try another [rental], they said 'No', they won't let my dog. I love, love my dog."

"...it's the biggest thing in my life. It's my relationship with her."

"If she [roommate] wasn't around now, I think I would've flipped out by now. She's a good support to me."

* Quotes are from interviews with Prince George PLPH participants; identifying information removed to maintain confidentiality