



Impacts of Stigma on Health and Connection:

The BC People Living with HIV Stigma Index



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Pacific AIDS Network

**Over 40 member organizations in BC.
PAN provides members:**

Capacity Building and Leadership

Community-Based Research and Evaluation

Advocacy and Collective Action



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“Stigma and discrimination is an **affront to human rights** and puts the lives of people living with HIV and key populations in danger.”

Executive Director of UNAIDS, Michel Sidibé

UNAIDS warns that HIV-related stigma and discrimination is preventing people from accessing HIV services

http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2017/october/20171002_confronting-discrimination



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STOP THE STIGMA

The People Living with HIV Stigma Index

International

- Over 90 countries have used the Index since 2008.
- The Index is designed **by and for** people living with HIV
- Examining HIV-related **stigma experiences** to identify **advocacy issues**, and **interventions for stigma reduction**

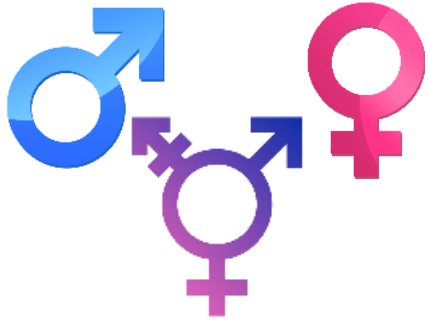
Canada

The **BC People Living with HIV Stigma Index** is first use of the Index in Canada.

The BC People Living with Stigma Index

- **Community-based:** PAN member community recognized that HIV stigma is an ongoing issue, and asked for research
- **Peer-driven**
 - Steering Committee
 - Peer Research Associates
 - Analysis
 - Knowledge Translation

BC Survey Participants



**176 Total
Participants**

MSM = 37%

Gay/Lesbian = 35%



Years living with HIV:

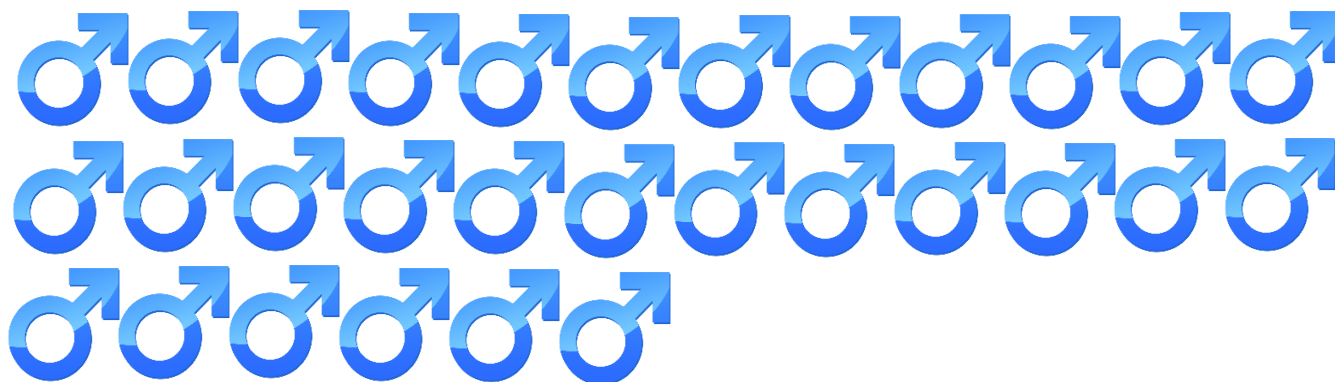
0-4 years = 28%

5-9 years = 22%

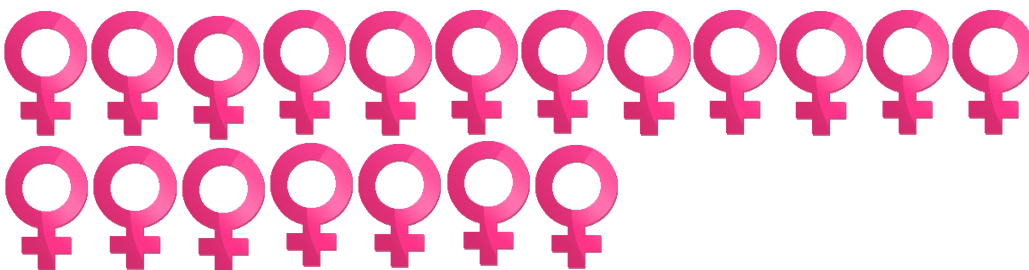
10-14 years = 34%

15+ years = 16%

Gender



60%
Male



38%
Female



2%
Transgender

Indigenous Identity



Idle No More image courtesy Andy Everson, K'ómoks First Nation

23%

self-identified as Indigenous
(41/176)

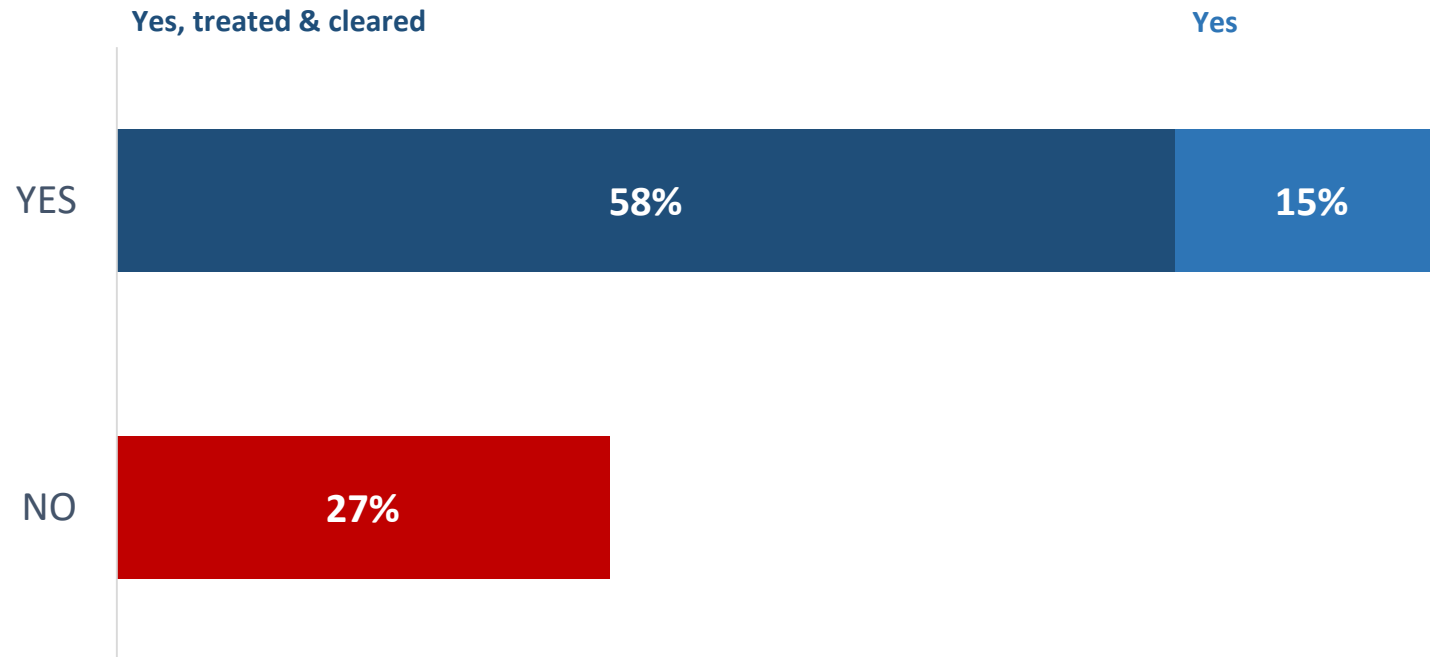


11%

self-identified as Two-Spirit
(19/176)

6% (11/176) self-identified as both Indigenous & Two-Spirit
5% (8/176) identified as Two-Spirit but not Indigenous

Hepatitis C Co-Infection



Questions to Analyze

- Did participants confront stigma?
- Did people avoid healthcare or social services because of stigma?
- Did Indigenous participants' experiences differ from non-Indigenous participants' experiences?



Have You Confronted or Educated Someone About Stigma?

In the last 12 months ...

52% of all Stigma Index participants
had confronted stigma.

MEN

WOMEN

MSM

59%

40%

41%

Stigma Experiences in Healthcare & Social Services

In the last 12 months, did you...



Avoid going to a local clinic?

YES 25% (44)

Avoid going to a hospital?

YES 22% (38)

N: 175



Avoid social services?

YES 24% (42)

N: 175

30%

**avoid healthcare
as a result of
stigma or
discrimination
(52/176)**

Icons courtesy FlatIcon.com

Comparing Indigenous & Non-Indigenous Experiences

	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Avoided going to local clinic	37% (15/41)	22% (29/134)
Avoided going to hospital	27% (11/41)	20% (27/134)
Avoided social services	37% (15/41)	20% (27/134)
Avoided services due to lack of confidentiality	15% (6/41)	7% (9/132)
Sought help from an organization to resolve stigma	45% (18/40)	31% (40/131)

What Do We Know?

In this information -

- Forty-one Indigenous voices (41/176)
- Indigenous participants were largely in cities
- Self-selected through HIV service organizations

What are YOUR experiences?

- Does this information align with your experiences and observations?
- Where would you prioritize anti-stigma work for your communities?

Resources from the Stigma Index Project

Available now

- Posters
- Blogs
- Slide decks
- Webinar
- Postcard

Find these on the PAN site:

<https://pacificaidnetwork.org/>

Coming soon

- Peer research associate analysis
- Summary sheets
- Whiteboard explainer video

Thank you!

Work on the *BC People Living with HIV Stigma Index* is a team effort.

Our team includes Andrew Beckerman, Colt Burrows, Darren Lauscher, Janet Madsen, Antonio Marante, Alan Samuelson, and Catherine Worthington.



Questions?



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