

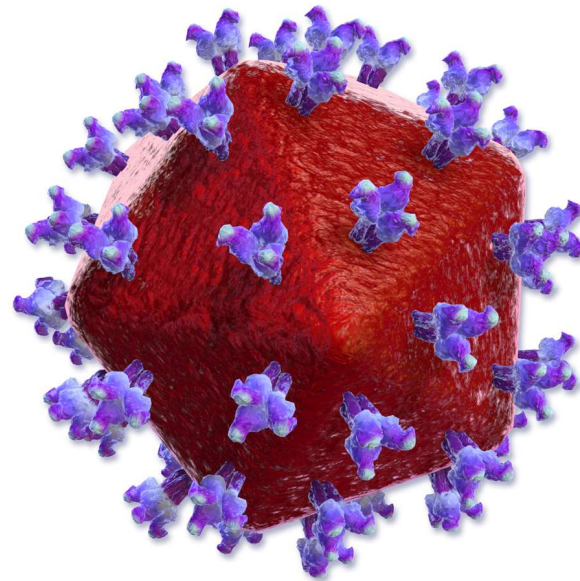


# Positive Living, Positive Homes

UNDERSTANDING HOME: EXPLORING COMPLEX RELATIONSHIPS  
BETWEEN HOUSING AND HEALTH OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV IN  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Little bit about HIV...

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**Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)**

# What else affects health & housing?

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- Housing affordability
- Choice and autonomy
- Social connections
- Geographic location
- Substance use

# Intersections of Stigma, Health, Housing & Services

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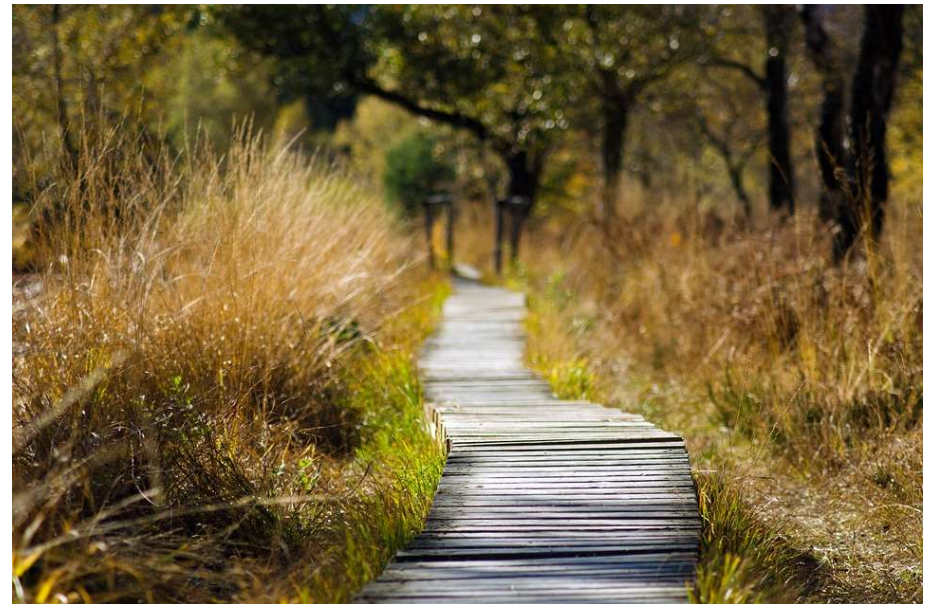
*"If I'm feeling stigma'd or bullied, I don't stick around. And that's another reason I isolate is because I get stigma'd all the time and I get bullied all the time. There are some people on the street that know me that don't like me. They call me bad names, they put me down. That's why I stay home,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

*"...we have service providers here who still don't have a knowledge of HIV. ...HIV is manageable. No one is dying now. And the only way – the only reason why people are dying is because of stigma and they stop accessing care and treatment because of discrimination"*

# Housing Transitions between Initial & Follow-Up Interviews

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- Relationships
- Neighbourhoods/communities
- Housing affordability
- Aging
- Evictions
- Housing subsidy



# Housing Transitions & Negative Health Impacts

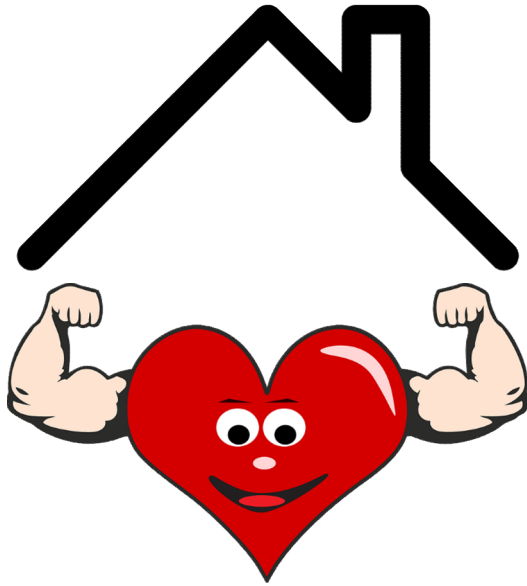
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- ☹ Transitions that increase isolation & exposure to physical and mental stressors
- ☹ Transitions that pose risks related to substance use (e.g. barrier to harm reduction, threat to sobriety/recovery)
- ☹ Transitions that increase experiences of stigma and discrimination



# Housing Transitions & Positive Health Impacts

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- 😊 Transitions that strengthened ties to community supports
- 😊 Transitions that facilitated good relationships with landlords and housemates
- 😊 Transitions that increased autonomy



# Challenges in Housing Programs & Policies for PLHIV's Health

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- ☹️ Housing access and affordability
- ☹️ Welfare and support systems
- ☹️ Intra- and inter-disciplinary silos
- ☹️ Government investment in capital-based social housing and related operating costs
- ☹️ Non-centralized system
- ☹️ Lack of public awareness, and the ensuing stigma and NIMBY



# Successful Policies & Practices that Promote PLHIV's Health

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- 😊 Rent determined based on income
- 😊 Portable housing subsidies
- 😊 Mixed housing
- 😊 Pets allowed!
- 😊 Free electronic registry and community voicemail
- 😊 Partnerships with municipalities for land & incentives for developers
- 😊 Proactive municipal governments, mayors and councils



# Recommendations based on Service Provider and Policy Maker interviews

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- Apply *housing first* approach
- Treat housing as a public health issue
- Address stigma related to HIV, mental health and substance use
- Increase meaningful consultations with people with lived experience
- Increase the amount of government assistance
- Build partnerships with landlords, developers and other stakeholders
- Engage and advocate to policy makers and political leaders
- Increase availability of housing options
- Research and evaluation findings integrated into programs, policies and guideline development

# Key Take Home Messages

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- Each individual's health and housing experience is unique. One size *DOES NOT* fit all.
- Need to develop specific approaches that support PLHIV in their housing journeys.

