



Positive Living, Positive Homes

Community Information Session

Prince George, Jan 27, 2016

What is *Positive Living, Positive Homes*?

Positive Living, Positive Homes (PLPH) is a community-based research study that explores the links between housing and health for people living with HIV in BC. It is “community based” in the sense that our research team is made up of people from diverse backgrounds and experiences, and all of their voices are an important part of our decision-making process. In Prince George, we have people living with HIV on our local advisory group, as well as people from organizations such as Positive Living North, The Prince George Native Friendship Centre, Prince George New Hope Society, Central Interior Native Health Society, and the Needle Exchange, among others.

What do we want to do?

1. Know more about how housing and health interact for people living with HIV in three BC sites: Prince George, Greater Vancouver, and Kamloops)
2. Interview people living with HIV, as well as people who work around health/community services and policy, to see what people’s experiences are.
3. Investigate programs and services that work, so we can use them as models for other locations in the province.
4. Share our data to show how important housing is to people’s health, so that we can help to shape housing programs and policies benefitting the wellbeing of people living with HIV.

Where are we at?

Right now, we’re still interviewing participants who are living with HIV. We’re also analyzing the findings we’ve gotten so far. What we see in the data is interesting, but not totally unexpected. So far, our participants in Prince George are housed, but some are marginally so.

Out of 18 participants analyzed:

- 16 said they would like to move from their current location.
- 3 were in motels
- 3 were in shelters
- 2 were in rooming houses
- remainder were in basement suites (3), townhouses (3), apartments (3), and single family house (1)

Reasons for wanting to move:

- Lack of safety/security
- House needs to be fixed
- Lack of privacy
- No neighbourhood “fit”

Other concerns:

- Affordability of housing vs. cost of living
- Immediate needs are priority
- Not enough space
- Lack of safe outdoor areas
- Proximity to amenities and social life



Major issues so far...

- Accessing housing
- Affordability of housing
- Disclosure of HIV status
- Financial worries
- Mental and emotional health
- Negative aspects of housing
- Personal relationships/social life
- Physical health issues
- Stigma and discrimination
- Substance use

What's next?

Our plan for 2016 is to:

- complete the first round of interviews with participants living with HIV as well as the interviews with service providers and policy makers (Jan – June)
- begin the second round of interviews with HIV-positive folks (beginning July)
- analyze the interview transcripts to understanding people's experiences (throughout)
- share findings with community members, participants, and policy people

Get Involved!

If you would like to participate in PLPH and be interviewed by Devyn, our Prince George Site Coordinator, call her at

778-349-7402

or email: pgplph@pacificaidnetwork.org



We also welcome people to join our participatory analysis working group (PAWG). For more information, contact Heather at **250-221-1617** or email: plph@pacificaidnetwork.org

Thank You!

Thanks for joining us today; please feel free to get in touch and ask questions about the study any time.

A special thanks to our Prince George partner, Positive Living North, for hosting this community event and for supporting this work in your region.



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