



BUILDING EVIDENCE FOR STRONGER HIV & HOUSING SERVICES AND POLICIES IN BC

Positive Living, Positive Homes (PLPH) is a community-based research study born out of the community's identification of housing as a critical health determinant for people living with, or at risk of, HIV/AIDS. The study is housed at the Pacific AIDS Network, led by Evin Jones, Executive Director, and Dr. Cathy Worthington from the University of Victoria's School of Public Health and Social Policy. The study team includes over 25 representatives from community-based organizations, housing and policy sectors and people living with HIV/AIDS.

About the Study: Housing is a key determinant of health for people living with HIV/AIDS. Yet within the context of British Columbia, little is known about the effectiveness, availability and appropriateness of various housing options for people living with HIV/AIDS, or of their lived experience as they navigate a complex landscape of housing policies and programs. The purpose of this study is to investigate how housing policies and services interact with and impact people living with HIV/AIDS' abilities to manage their health and wellbeing, documenting policies and programs that can be used as models across jurisdictions in British Columbia and beyond.

The study will utilize comparative case-study methodology, interviewing 125 people living with HIV/AIDS at two time points as well as 60 service providers and decision-makers from three communities in BC – Greater Vancouver, Kamloops and Prince George. The study will also integrate visual methods as well as policy and comparative-survey analysis. Guided by community-based research principles, the research team is committed to integrating community participation and knowledge-translation activities throughout the process. It is hoped and anticipated that this study will impact housing programs and policies in BC, promoting greater access to suitable, affordable and culturally appropriate housing services.

Study Update, November April 2016: Between January and May 2014, a sub-committee collaborated on four interview guides using a participatory approach to research method development. The interview guides now include over 200 open-ended questions, prompts and visual research activities, and full ethics approval was granted from UVic in July 2014. Research Coordinators in the three sites were hired and trained in early 2015, and spent the spring familiarizing themselves with the study and their communities. Community advisory groups participated in developing participant recruitment strategies for each site city. Data collection has been in progress for several months; the first round of interviews with positive participants is currently wrapping up, although we are still looking for some participants in Kamloops.

For more information on this study, please visit www.plphstudy.ca or contact plph@pacificaidnetwork.org.