HIV RISK PERCEPTIONS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF HIV RISK AMONG AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND OTHER BLACK PEOPLE: MIXED METHODS RESULTS FROM THE BLACCH STUDY

By: Shamara Baidoobonso

Background

- Epidemiology of HIV among ACB Canadians unknown
- Community members' and service providers' perceptions may not accurately reflect the population's HIV risk
- Compare HIV risk perceptions to the risk profile

Research Methods

- Qualitative semi-structured interviews
  - 30 interviews (22 ACB community members, 8 service providers)
  - purposive sampling → diverse sample
  - Qualitative content analysis
- Self-administered quantitative survey
  - 188 Black people (self-identify as Black)
  - Venue-based sampling, advertising, snowballing → diverse sample
  - Weighted frequencies to estimate prevalence

Qualitative Results

Community Members' Perceptions

- Perception of Low Personal Risk
  - *…[I]t affected me a lot back home like… our friends…they go back home and… it's easy to get contracted with HIV….* [African female]
  - *[Y]ou never know, but I think it's zero because… I am like very careful…* [African male]
- Sexual risk behaviours
  - *I would say a lot of factors; the first one would be unprotected sex, another one would be not knowing the sexual background of your partner.* [Caribbean male]

Service Providers' Perceptions

- Barriers to Women Protecting Themselves from HIV Infection
  - *…[T]he need to be accepted, the need to be loved, the need to feel someone wants to be with me, someone thinks I'm attractive and somehow better judgment saying, "I need to take protection", doesn't happen…* [Female service provider]
  - *…[M]aybe ignorance if they don't know…that is really a problem. Otherwise I think if any woman would know there is… HIV she would protect herself.* [Male service provider]
- Barriers to Men Protecting Themselves from HIV Infection
  - *I think … that notion hasn't been engrained in them that condoms are important and… I'm not even talking about the transmission through intravenous drug use and sharing of… drug paraphernalia use.* [Female service provider]

Quantitative Results

Table 1: Weighted Prevalences for Risk Factors for HIV Infection by Gender

Risk Factors	Female (n= 113)	Male (n= 75)	
	wPrev (95% CI)	wPrev (95% CI)	P-value
History of forced/ unwanted sex	31.8 (21.7, 44.0)	10.1 (3.9, 23.7)	0.033[a]*
Ever mixed sex with drugs or alcohol	26.9 (18.5, 37.4)	43.8 (28.5, 60.3)	0.049[a]*
Num. of sex partners, past yr.			0.019[a]*
0	32.2 (22.5, 43.6)	20.0 (10.5, 34.8)	
1	44.7 (33.2, 56.7)	30.5 (19.0, 45.0)	
2	12.0 (6.0, 22.6)	30.2 (15.7, 50.2)	
3 or more	5.6 (2.6, 11.7)	16.0 (7.2, 31.7)	

n = column total, not adjusted for nonresponse using sample weights.

[a] P-value from Rao-Scott chi-square test.

[b] P-value from Rao-Scott chi-square test with assumed design correction of 2 (conservative estimate).

* Statistically significant at p=0.05.

Table 2: Weighted Prevalences for Risk Factors for HIV Infection by Poverty Status

Risk Factors	At or Below LICO (n= 53)	Above LICO (n= 122)	
	wPrev (95% CI)	wPrev (95% CI)	P-value
History of forced/ unwanted sex	9.8 (4.3, 20.8)	25.0 (15.6, 37.5)	0.011[a]*
Abstinence, lifetime	23.9 (11.0, 44.3)	7.5 (4.0, 13.5)	0.014[a]*
Abstinence, past yr.	41.2 (24.1, 60.7)	16.3 (10.5, 24.5)	0.006[a]*
Unprotected sex, cohabiting regular partner, past yr.	27.9 (15.7, 44.6)	59.9 (46.6, 71.9)	0.001[a]*
Unprotected sex, non-cohabiting regular partner, past yr	18.1 (9.0, 33.0)	48.8 (35.7, 62.0)	<0.001[a]*
Unprotected sex during last intercourse, regular partner	24.0 (13.0, 40.1)	46.0 (33.0, 59.6)	0.016[a]*
Never using condom, past yr.	21.9 (11.3, 38.2)	44.0 (32.4, 56.4)	0.027[a]*

n = column total, not adjusted for nonresponse using sample weights.

LICO= Low-income cut-off

[a] P-value from Rao-Scott chi-square test.

[b] P-value from Rao-Scott chi-square test with assumed design correction of 2 (conservative estimate).

*Statistically significant at p=0.05.

Table 3: Weighted Prevalences for Risk Factors for HIV Infection by Time in Canada

Risk Factors	0-5 years (n= 45)	>5 to 15 years (n= 51)	>15 years (n= 57)	Canadian-Born (n= 29)	
	wPrev (95% CI)	wPrev (95% CI)	wPrev (95% CI)	wPrev (95% CI)	P-value
History of forced/ unwanted sex	11.5 (4.3, 27.4)	9.4 (3.7, 21.7)	16.0 (8.5, 27.9)	58.5 (37.2, 77.0)	<0.001[a]*
Abstinence, lifetime	26.7 (14.5, 43.8)	21.8 (8.4, 45.7)	3.7 (1.1, 12.2)	6.9 (1.9, 21.9)	0.001[a]*
Abstinence, past yr.	52.0 (34.6, 69.0)	32.9 (16.2, 55.4)	20.4 (10.5, 36.0)	10.0 (3.4, 25.9)	0.011[a]*
Unprotected sex during last intercourse, regular partner	20.1 (10.2, 35.7)	50.3 (28.5, 72.1)	55.1 (38.6, 70.6)	25.8 (12.5, 45.9)	0.027[a]*
Ever mixed sex with drugs or alcohol	14.3 (6.7, 28.0)	19.8 (9.8, 36.0)	43.6 (28.2, 60.4)	63.9 (40.4, 82.1)	0.001[a]*
History of STIs	6.1 (2.0, 17.1)	13.3 (5.7, 28.2)	31.4 (17.7, 49.3)	42.3 (23.1, 64.1)	0.032[a]*

n = column total, not adjusted for nonresponse using sample weights.

[a] P-value from Rao-Scott chi-square test.

[b] P-value from Rao-Scott chi-square test with assumed design correction of 2 (conservative estimate).

*Statistically significant at p=0.05.

Table 3: Weighted Prevalences for Risk Factors for HIV Infection by Time in Canada (Continued)

Risk Factors	0-5 years (n= 45)	>5 to 15 years (n= 51)	>15 years (n= 57)	Canadian-Born (n= 29)	
	wPrev (95% CI)	wPrev (95% CI)	wPrev (95% CI)	wPrev (95% CI)	P-value
Num. of sex partners, lifetime					0.021[b]*
None	26.7 (14.5, 43.8)	21.8 (8.4, 45.7)	3.7 (1.1, 12.2)	6.9 (1.9, 21.9)	
1	1.1 (0.1, 9.8)	24.2 (6.7, 58.6)	9.2 (4.0, 19.4)	----	
2 to 4	24.3 (13.5, 39.7)	21.9 (11.2, 38.5)	20.7 (11.3, 35.0)	6.6 (1.8, 21,5)	
5 to 9	22.7 (10.0, 43.8)	8.5 (3.3, 20.4)	26.0 (13.4, 44.2)	23.4 (9.2, 48.1)	
10 to 19	3.3 (0.8, 13.2)	8.1 (2.5, 23.3)	8.6 (3.2, 21.2)	34.3 (15.9, 59.1)	
20 or more	7.9 (1.5, 32.4)	3.5 (0.9, 12.6)	18.3 (7.8, 37.3)	14.4 (5.5, 32.6)	
Num. of sex partners, past yr.					0.003 [a]*
0	52.0 (34.6, 69.0)	32.9 (16.2, 55.4)	20.4 (10.5, 36.0)	10.0 (3.4, 25.9)	
1	27.4 (15.3, 44.2)	24.8 (13.0, 42.2)	47.1 (31.4, 63.3)	56.9 (34.6, 76.8)	
2	10.1 (2.6, 32.2)	35.0 (14.7, 62.8)	18.3 (8.5, 34.9)	3.9 (0.7, 17.8)	
3 or more	6.8 (2.0, 20.7)	4.2 (0.8, 20.2)	12.4 (4.3, 31.2)	29.2 (12.2, 55.0)	

n = column total, not adjusted for nonresponse using sample weights.

[a] P-value from Rao-Scott chi-square test.

[b] P-value from Rao-Scott chi-square test with assumed design correction of 2 (conservative estimate).

*Statistically significant at p=0.05.

Integration: Areas of Convergence

- HIV risk was mainly through sexual behaviours
- Mixing sex with drugs or alcohol was more common among men
- Having unprotected sex was fairly common, especially among people living above the low-income cut-off

Integration: Areas of Divergence

- HIV risk was lower among newer immigrants than among longer-term immigrants and Canadian-born persons
- Women were not significantly more likely than men to have abstained from sex

Conclusions

- Need to bridge the disconnect between community members' and service providers' perceptions about HIV risk in ACB communities
- There is a gradient between HIV risk and SSP
- Interventions should not be based on the belief that lower SSP means higher risk

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Questions?

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