

Engagement and endorsement by a leading community organization facilitates research participation among people living with HIV and those at-risk in Ontario

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Background and Objectives

Increasingly, community-based organizations are engaged in research studies that aim to improve the lives of people living with HIV and those at-risk.

We explored how engagement and endorsement by a leading community organization may facilitate participation in health research studies for people living with HIV and those at-risk.

Methods

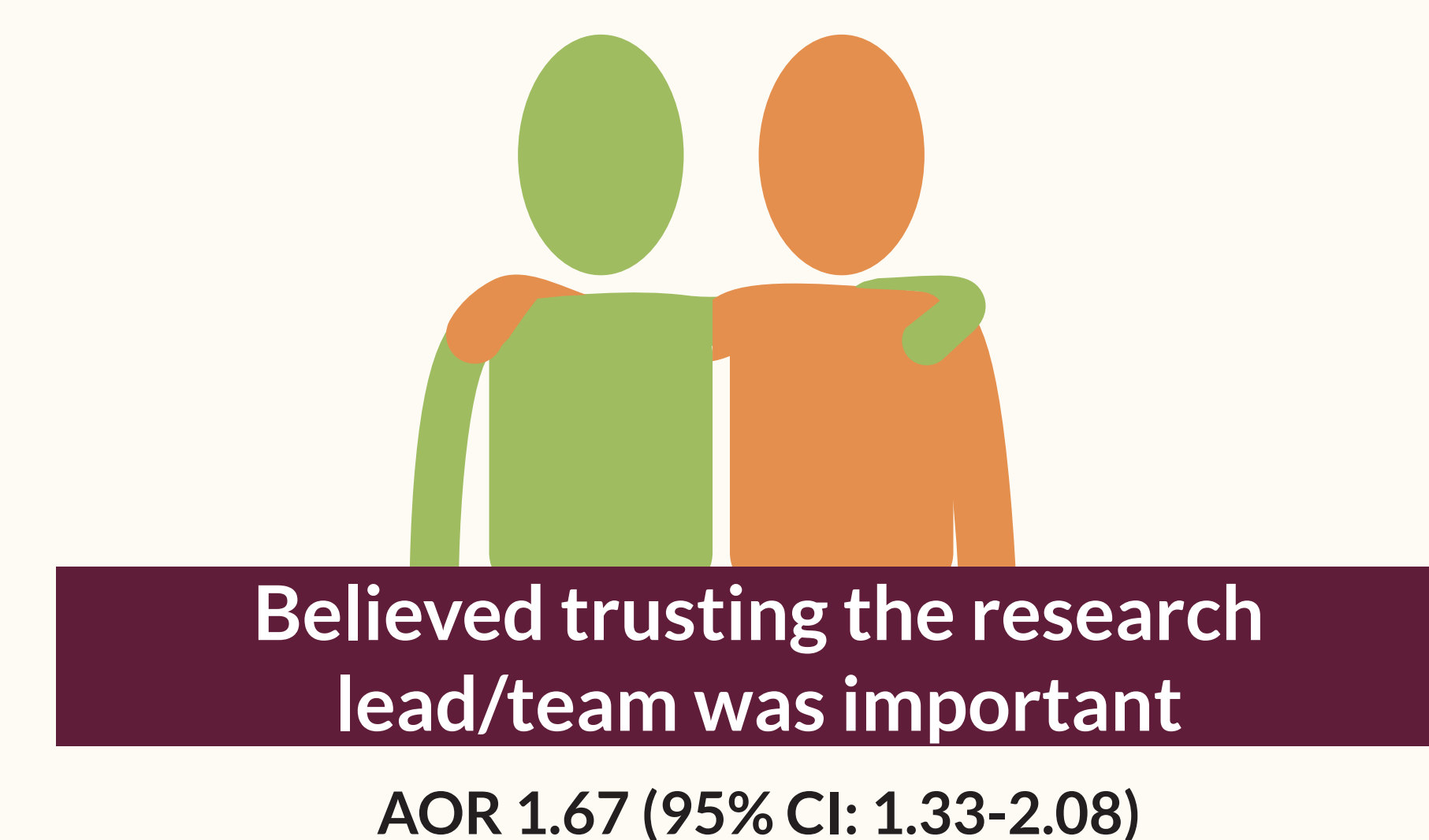
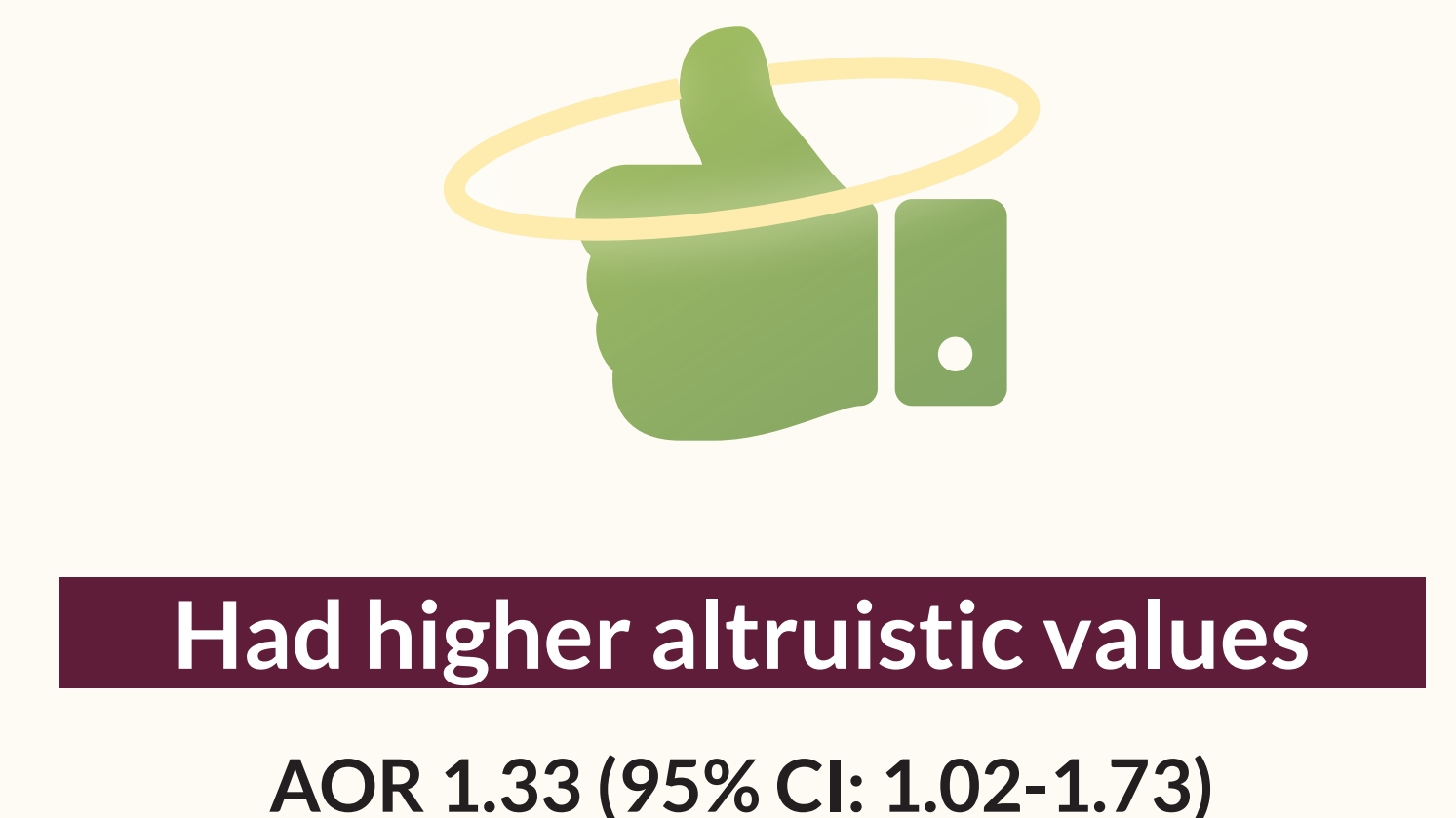
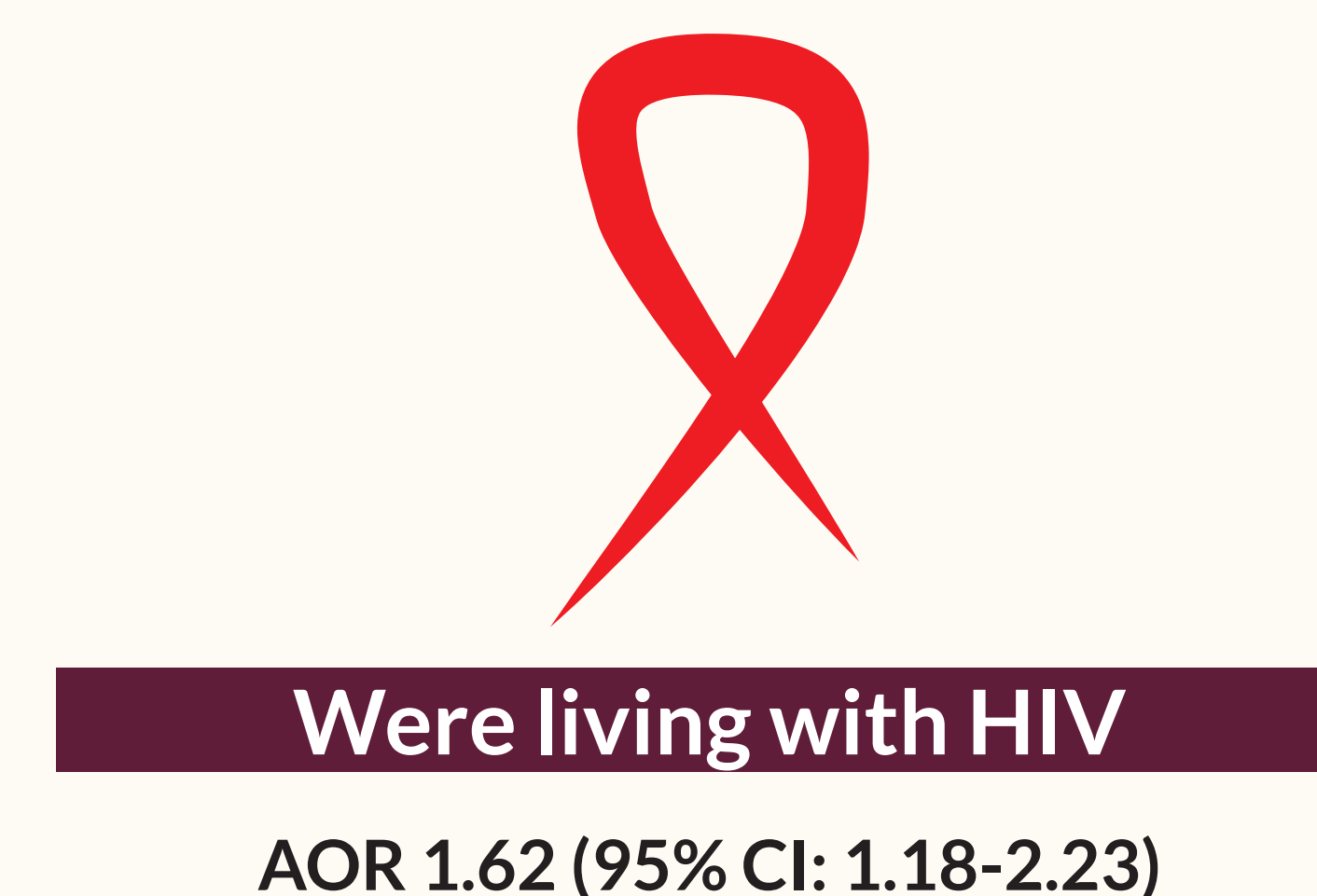
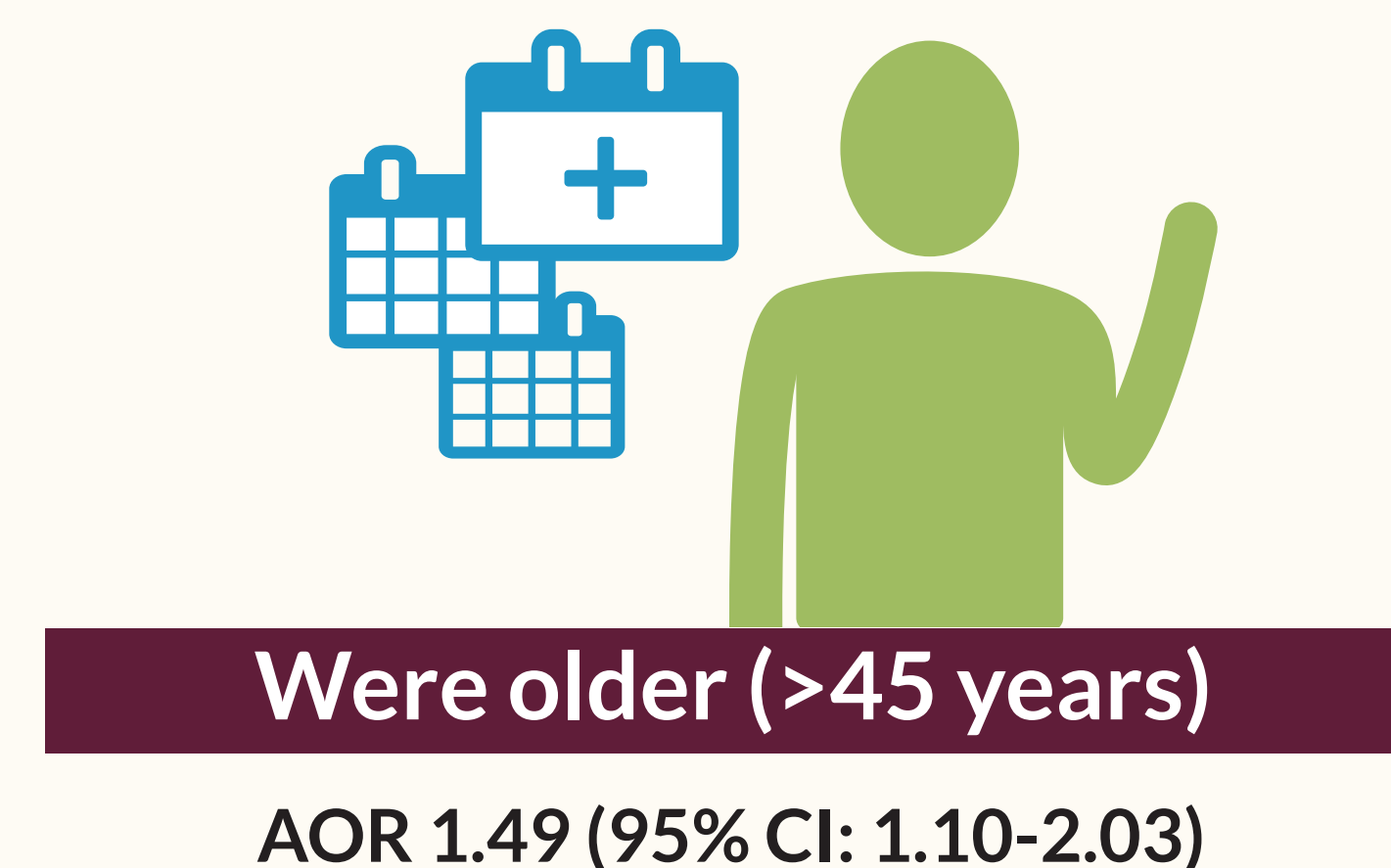
- Participants were recruited from community based agencies, including AIDS service organizations.
- Cross sectional survey administered by Peer Research Associates (PRAs) collected information on: 1) sociodemographics; 2) social determinants of health; 3) prior research experience; and 4) engagement and endorsement by community organizations.
- Univariable logistic regression analyses were conducted to identify factors associated with willingness to participate in a health research study.
- Factors that were significant in univariable analyses were included in the final multivariable model.

Study participants (N=1,011), median age 46 years

53% HIV-positive; 38% HIV-negative; 9% unknown HIV status	64% Male
42% Men who have sex with men (MSM)	62% Caucasian
15% African, Caribbean and Black (ACB)	76% Unemployed
19% Indigenous	64% Annual income less than \$20,000
40% People with harmful drug use (DAST10>3)	24% Born outside Canada
	22% Moderate or severe depression (PHQ9>10)
	48% Never participated in research before

Results

We looked at selected variables associated with research participation. Only those that showed significant association in multivariable logistic regression are presented here. Of 1,011 participants, 61% expressed willingness to participate in a health research study in the future. Individuals willing to participate in future research:



Sub-population analyses among HIV-positive, MSM, ACB and Indigenous participants as well as participants with harmful drug use revealed that HIV-positive status, having higher altruistic values and trusting the research lead/team were most important factors in whether to participate in future research.

Discussion and Conclusions

- ➔ Our study demonstrates that individuals are more willing to participate in research that has been endorsed by a leading community organization or where a leading community organization is engaged in the research.
- ➔ Endorsement by a leading community organization and having previous research experience were consistently demonstrated to be important factors in facilitating future research participation.

AOR = Adjusted Odds Ratio; CI = Confidence Interval



Facilitators and Barriers to HIV-Related Health Research

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