

A Provincial Overview of Community-Based Organizational Supports for Older Adults Living with HIV in British Columbia

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BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE *for* EXCELLENCE
in HIV/AIDS



Objectives and Methods

- Adults 50+ make up large proportion of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in Canada (1), due to increased life expectancy (2)
- It is necessary to investigate services available to this growing demographic to address service gaps

We set out to:

1

Provide an overview of programs available to older adults living with HIV (OALHIV) in British Columbia, Canada

2

Identify whether home and community care services are being supplemented by Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)

- Potential CBOs first identified by a Peer Research Associate (PRA) and online scan
- Organizations invited to participate if mandate included providing support to PLHIV
- N=30 CBOs across the five regional health authorities agreed to participate in a short phone interview, co-administered by a PRA in 2018



Findings: Service Availability

Most Offered Services Across British Columbia

- Food Security Assistance (90%)
- Support Services (83%)
- Outreach Services (80%)

Least Offered Services Across British Columbia

- Vocational Counselling (13%)
- Financial Aid (27%)
- Medical/Dental Services and Alternative Therapy (33%)

Services Provided More Frequently by Health Region

Northern

Medication
Information
and Education

Coastal

Counselling and
Volunteering
Services

Island

Transportation
and Volunteer
Services

Fraser

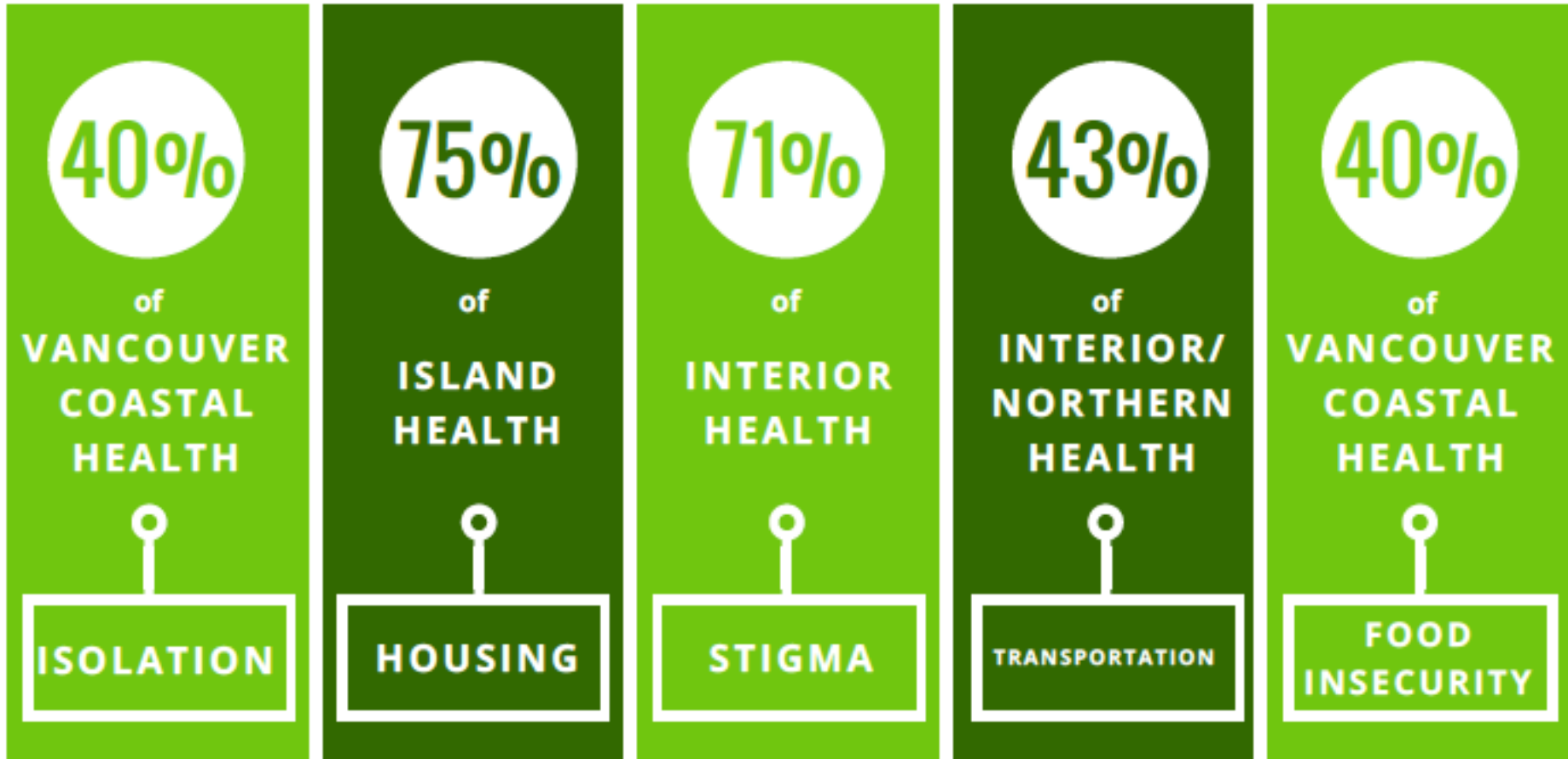
Medical/Dental
and Women
Only Services

Interior

Transportation



Findings: Challenges with Access



The figure above outlines the percentage of organizations within a given regional health authority that reported specific challenges faced by older adults with accessing services. This question was open-ended in the survey.



Conclusions

- Community-based organizations are providing services for PLHIV that may be lacking from formal care services
- There remain challenges experienced by OALHIV which may impede access to these services
- Note that this survey was conducted in 2018, and participating CBOs may have since altered their services

For more information about this report, and additional information regarding home and community care access within British Columbia, please see:
<http://cfenet.ubc.ca/research/epidemiology-population-health/thrive/publications>

References:

1. Sok P. Older Persons with HIV in Canada. *J Infect Dis Epidemiol.* 2019;5(4) doi: 10.23937/2474-3658/1510084
2. Samji H, Cescon A, Hogg RS, Modur SP, Althoff KN et al. Closing the Gap: Increases in Life Expectancy among Treated HIV-Positive Individuals in the United States and Canada. *PLoS One.* 2013;8(12): e81355.