



What Factors are Related to Neighbourhood Perceptions Among People Taking Treatment for HIV?

Importance of this study

- How people feel about their neighbourhood may influence their decisions about medical care, including when to start HIV treatment and the effectiveness of therapy
- Negative neighbourhood perceptions have been linked to poorer health outcomes in a number of chronic conditions, including diabetes
- This study examined whether neighbourhood perceptions are influenced by factors such as food security and stable housing among people receiving HIV therapy

RESEARCH QUESTION:
Are neighbourhood perceptions among people living with HIV related to food security and housing stability?

MAIN FINDING:

Food security and stable housing was associated with better neighbourhood perceptions, which may positively influence decisions about an individual's HIV care

How this study was conducted

- Data was analyzed from the LISA study, a cohort of HIV-positive individuals on antiretroviral therapy in British Columbia, Canada
- This research is based on 457 interviews that asked about sociodemographic characteristics, neighbourhood problems, neighbourhood cohesion and perceptions of standard of living

What the study found

- Of 457 participants, 133 (29%) reported being food secure and 297 (65%) had stable housing
- Being food secure and having stable housing was associated with a 9% and 11% decrease in perception of neighbourhood problems
- Being food secure and having stable housing was associated with a 6% increase in the perception of neighbourhood cohesion

What this means for public policy

- Improvements in living conditions such as housing stability and food security may help enhance the success of treatment for people living with HIV, especially in marginalized communities.

Citation: K. Vasarhelyi, E.K. Brandson, A.K. Palmer, K.A. Fernandes, W. Zhang, D.M. Moore, J.S.G. Montaner, R.S. Hogg. 2010. Home is where the HAART is: An examination of factors affecting neighbourhood perceptions among people with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy. *AIDS Care*. [In press].

