

# Cohort Profile: The STOP HIV/AIDS Program Evaluation (SHAPE) Study

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## Background

- The STOP HIV/AIDS Program Evaluation (SHAPE) study was initiated in 2016.
- The study evaluates the progress of the 'Seek and Treat for Optimal Prevention of HIV/AIDS' (STOP HIV/AIDS) initiative in expanding access to HIV testing, treatment and care throughout BC.
- Socio-structural determinants of progression along the HIV cascade of care are monitored to provide critical information for addressing health inequities and barriers to care.
- Key characteristics that are examined include gender, income, sexual identity, ethnicity and geography.
- For more information, please visit [www.cfenet.ubc.ca/research/SHAPE](http://www.cfenet.ubc.ca/research/SHAPE)

## Methods

### Data Collection

- The SHAPE cohort aims to enrol 810 participants.
- Recruitment quotas reflect key geographic, demographic and clinical characteristics within BC's population of people living with HIV (PLWH).
- Participants complete a baseline and two follow-up surveys over 36 months collecting information about HIV-care experiences.
- Survey responses are linked to longitudinal clinical data from the provincial Drug Treatment Program.
- To promote inclusivity, participants choose between self-administering surveys online or being interviewed peer research associate (by phone or in-person).

### Eligibility Criteria

- Living with HIV
- Over the age of 19
- Able to complete surveys in English
- Able to provide informed consent
- Meets recruitment quota

## Cohort Composition

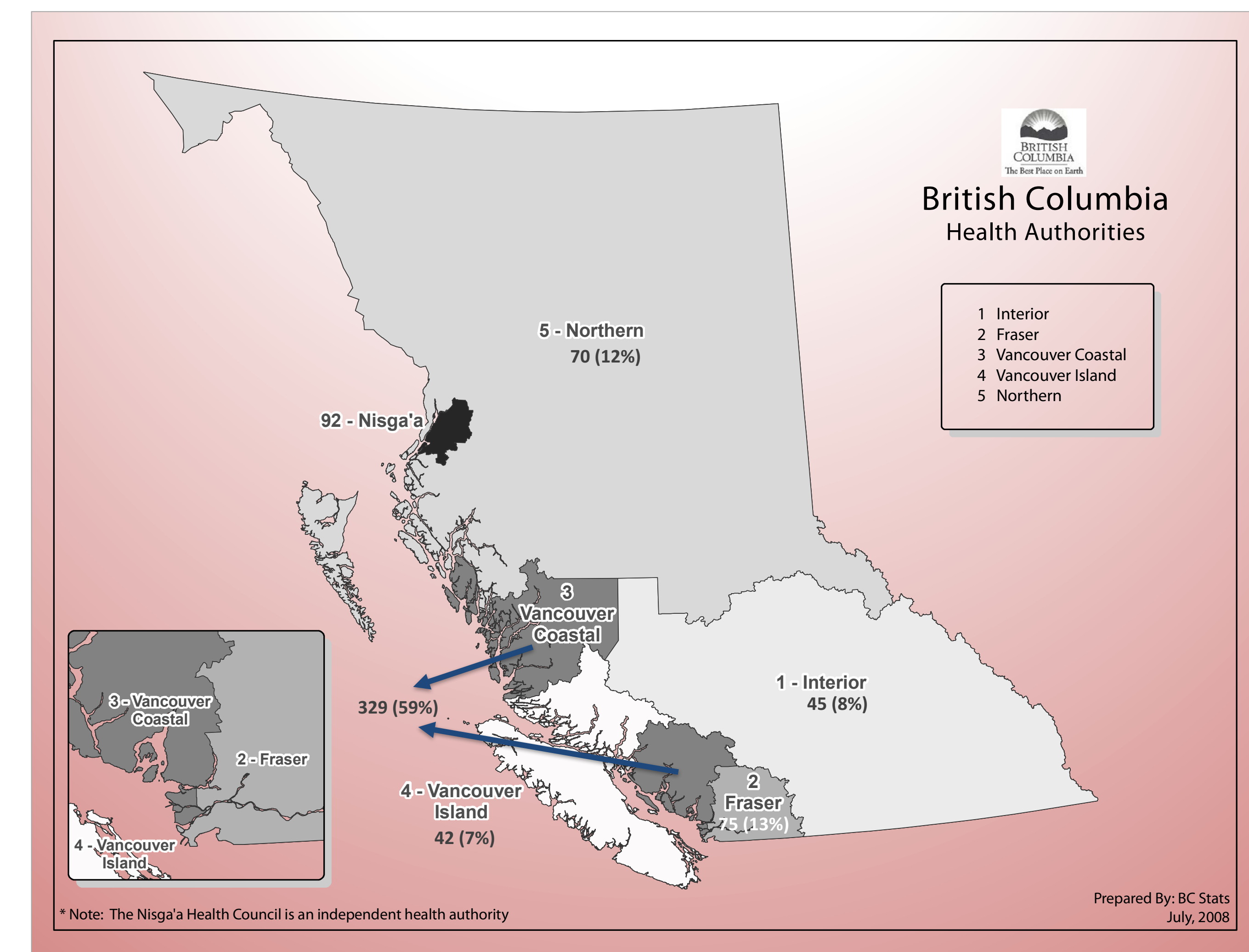
- As of March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018, 561 participants completed the baseline survey.
- The median age is 50 and median income is \$18,480. Table 1 describes key characteristics of the cohort.

**Table 1: Cohort Characteristics as of March 22, 2018 (N=561)**

Variable	N (%)	Variable	N (%)
<b>Age at baseline</b>		<b>HCV co-infection</b>	
Less than 30	22 (4%)	Yes	173 (31%)
30 to 39	93 (17%)	No	388 (69%)
40 to 49	153 (27%)	<b>On / off ART</b>	
50 to 59	197 (35%)	Yes	519 (93%)
60+	96 (17%)	No	42 (7%)
<b>Gender</b>		<b>Born in Canada</b>	
Male	440 (78%)	Yes	478 (85%)
Female	121 (22%)	No	82 (15%)
<b>Indigenous ancestry</b>		<b>Annual household income</b>	
Yes	106 (19%)	\$0 to \$29,999	366 (65%)
No	455 (81%)	\$30,000 to \$59,999	92 (16%)
<b>HIV risk type</b>		\$60,000 or more	85 (15%)
MSM only	309 (55%)	Unknown	18 (3%)
IDU only	101 (18%)		
Both MSM and IDU	34 (6%)		
Neither MSM nor IDU	117 (21%)		

- Participants from Vancouver Coastal Health Authority constituted 61% of the enrolled cohort.
- Other participants resided in Fraser Health (13%), Northern Health (12%), Interior Health (8%), and Vancouver Island Health Authority (7%).

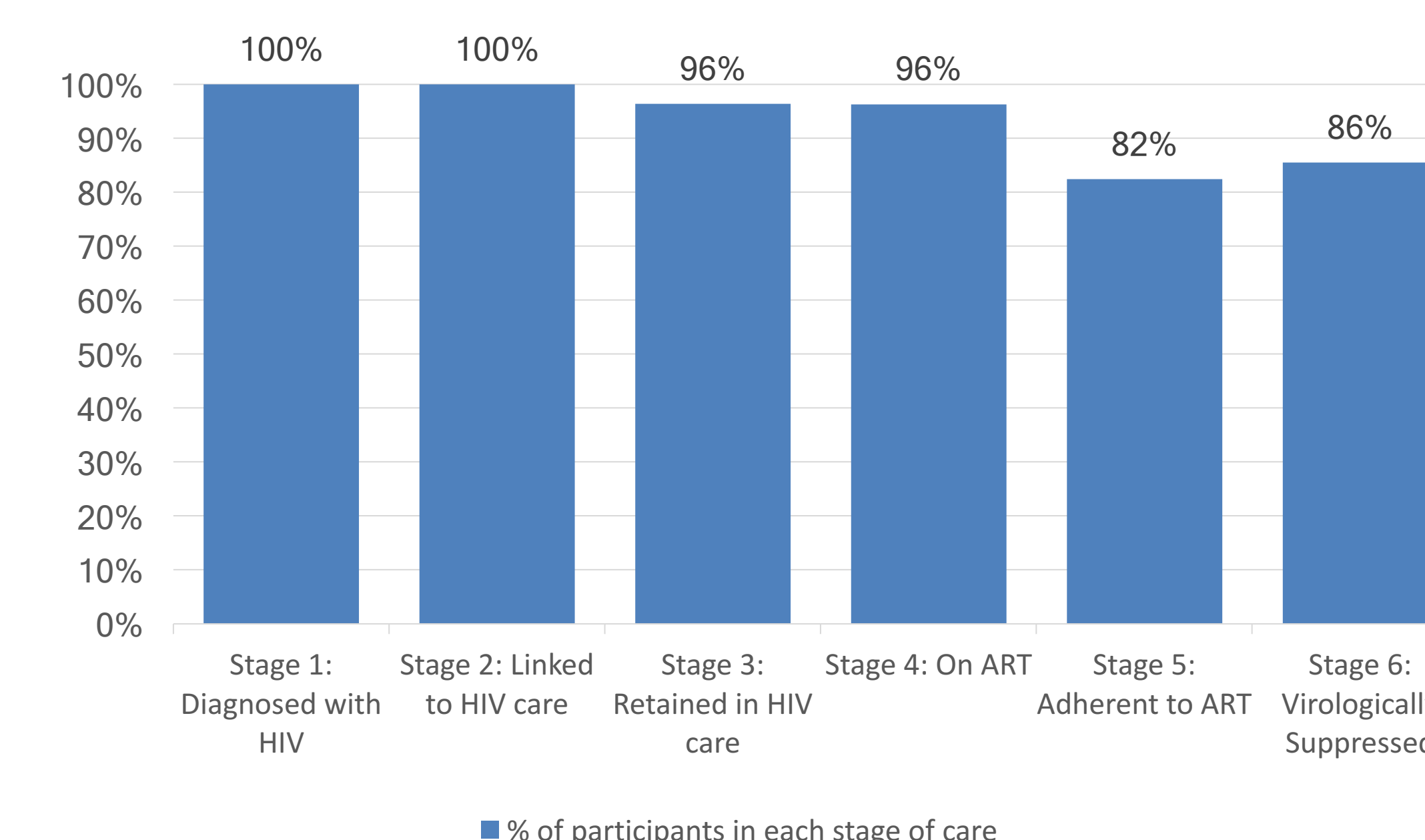
**Figure 1: Cohort distribution by Health Authority (N=561)**



## Preliminary Results

- As of August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017, 96% of participants were on antiretroviral therapy and 86% achieved viral load suppression.
- Early results show high levels of engagement in HIV-care within the cohort.

**Figure 2: Cascade of Care in the SHAPE Study as of August 2, 2017 (N=503)**



## Lessons Learned

- Our sample reflects PLWH in urban areas, and overwhelmingly engaged in HIV-care.
- Creative strategies needed to recruit individuals facing greater barriers to accessing HIV-care and supportive services.
  - E.g., developing partnerships with community outreach nurses and pharmacists that serve areas beyond Vancouver and the Lower Mainland.
- Study findings may inform the development of interventions to support engagement in HIV treatment and care among marginalized populations.