



NEWSLETTER ISSUE #2

- Study Update -

The Engage Study has **recently changed its eligibility criteria** to include people who have initiated treatment within the **last year** rather than the last 6 months. This will provide us with more opportunities to contact people, give people more time to participate, and, we hope, increase our study enrolment.

Since kicking off recruitment in December, 2013, we have enrolled 57 participants from across BC in this study. We will be recruiting participants until December, 2015.

We are beginning work to disseminate our preliminary results. For example, we recently submitted two abstracts to the 2015 Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research (one on our preliminary study results and one on our recruitment methods). Future presentations and posters will be uploaded to the

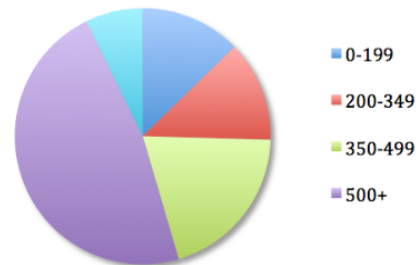
[Engage website.](#)

We are very excited by the output that has been generated from this study so far. Here are a few key highlights from our preliminary results:

		Overall % of study pop.	CD4 Cell Count at ART initiation	
			≤500 (n=30)	>500 (n=25)
Sex at Birth				
	Male	85%	77%	96%
	Female	15%	23%	4%
Employed*				
	Yes	36%	30%	44%
	No	64%	70%	56%
Hepatitis C Infection (Ever)				
	Yes	22%	20%	24%
	No	78%	80%	76%
Health Region*				
	VCH	67%	59%	76%
	FHA	25%	30%	20%
	Other	8%	11%	4%

*At time of baseline interview

CD4 Count at Initiation



Age Category at Initiation



- Quick Tips - for recruiting more participants in Engage:

- Share information on the study on your social media channels. See samples below.
- Remind eligible individuals they will indirectly be helping understand more about people living with HIV and how to best provide support.
- Distribute and share the *updated poster* and *postcard* available for download. [Contact us](#) for hard

copies of this material.

Sample tweet:

Are you HIV+? You could help create better HIV care by participating in the @bccfe Engage study: <http://www.cfenet.ubc.ca/research/engage-study/participation>

Sample Facebook post:

Help create better care and treatment for people living with HIV by participating in the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS Engage study. Eligible participants are HIV positive, residents of BC, over the age of 19, and have started taking HAART for the first time within the past year. More information available online:

<http://www.cfenet.ubc.ca/research/engage-study/participation>

- Thank You! -

Thank you to all of our community, clinic and research partners across BC for your support of this project and your recruitment efforts. This research would not be possible without you.

- Other Study Information -

Study Components

Participants complete a 1-hour initial survey and follow-up survey 6 to 12 months later. The survey can be done in-person at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver or over the phone using our toll-free number (1-855-506-8615). Participants receive their choice of a \$50 honorarium or entries into a draw for an iPad for each survey.

Study Team

The study team is made up of Sarah Kesselring, the Project Coordinator, and Chuck Osborne, the Peer Research Associate. We can both be reached toll-

Eligibility

If you know anyone who may be eligible please pass along our study information. To be eligible, as person needs to be:

- Over the age of 19,
- Diagnosed HIV positive,
- A resident of British Columbia,
- Comfortable completing the survey in English, and
- Started taking HAART for the first time within the past year (their first prescription ever, not restarting treatment).

free at 1-855-506-8615 (option 2) and
skesselring@cfenet.ubc.ca or
cosborne@cfenet.ubc.ca.



Facebook



Twitter



Website

The Engage Newsletter is intended to inform investigators, collaborators and interested parties on the study's status and our progress to date. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Project Coordinator, Sarah Kesselring, at skesselring@cfenet.ubc.ca or 604-682-2344 x 63237.

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