

STOP HIV/AIDS Program Evaluation (SHAPE) Study



Seek and Treat for Optimal Prevention of HIV/AIDS (STOP HIV/AIDS) Program Evaluation (SHAPE) study is an on-going study examining factors influencing how people progress along the HIV cascade of care, how they access care, as well as their attitudes and behaviours towards HIV care over time. The study cohort includes people living with HIV (PLWH) who are 19 years or older and who live in British Columbia (BC), Canada¹. The information gathered will be used to identify barriers facing PLWH in accessing HIV health care, and understanding attitudes and behaviours towards care. This knowledge will strengthen the provincial HIV care programme to better meet the needs of PLWH in BC.

Data collection methods:

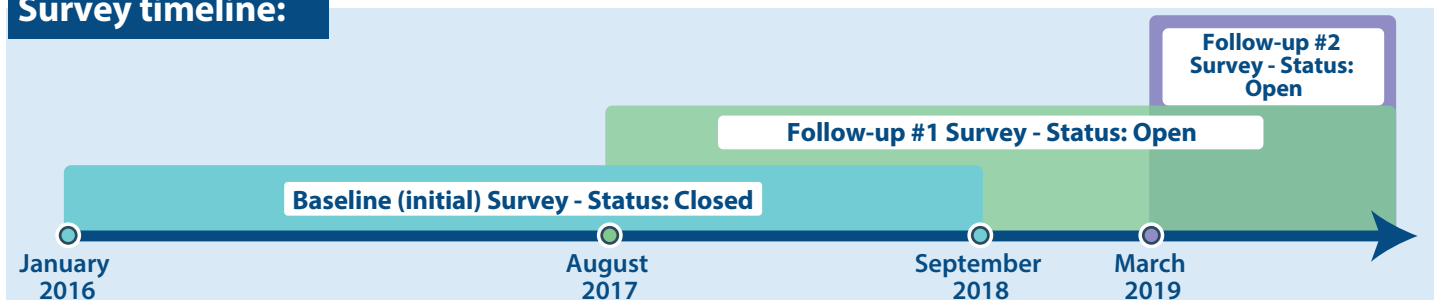
Throughout the course of the study, participants will complete one initial baseline survey and two follow-up surveys, 18 months apart. Participants can complete the survey online by themselves, or be interviewed by a peer research associate (PRA) by phone or in-person.



Each survey takes about 1 hour to complete, and participants are paid \$30 per survey for sharing their time and expertise.

Participants were recruited through posters and postcards placed at HIV clinics, community centres, AIDS service organizations (ASOs), pharmacy HIV prescription refill packages, clinic bulletin boards, social networking sites, and through the help of peer navigators. In order to more accurately represent the diversity of PLWH in BC and their lived experience, the SHAPE study recruited participants by considering factors such as age, gender, Indigenous identity, health authority of residence, sexual identity and hepatitis C co-infection¹. The SHAPE study benefits immensely from being able to link study data with the provincial Drug Treatment Program (DTP) that collects routine clinical data¹.

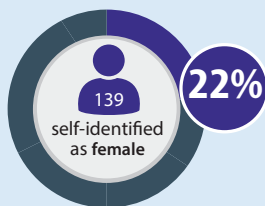
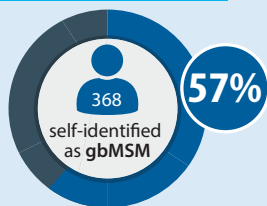
Survey timeline:



Cohort characteristics



Of 644 study participants:



gbMSM: Gay, bisexual or other men who have sex with men

SHAPE participants were enrolled from each health authority in the province including:



At time of study enrolment:

Median age of SHAPE participants was 51

50% of participants between the ages 43 - 57



50% of participants had been diagnosed with HIV for at least 15 years

50% of participants started ART 7 years ago

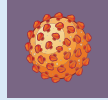
Participants reported¹:



42 % 273 participants reported a history of injection drug use (IDU)



35 % 228 participants reported a history of incarceration



33 % 215 participants reported hepatitis C co-infection¹



51 % 326 participants reported **food insecurity** (Often or sometimes unable to afford to eat balanced meals in the past 12 months)



53 % 341 participants reported a diagnosis of mental illness

More detailed findings using SHAPE data can be found under 'Posters and Publications' on the SHAPE website <http://bccfe.ca/research/SHAPE>.

Acknowledgements

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that our work takes place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. We gratefully thank all the participants who allowed their information to be a part of the SHAPE study including participants who have passed away, all co-investigators, the BC-CfE, and all partnering organizations that assisted with recruitment and data collection. This project is funded by the BC Ministry of Health and BC-CfE.

Abbreviations

ART: Anti-retroviral therapy
IDU: Injection drug use
PLWH: People living with HIV
SHAPE: STOP HIV/AIDS Program Evaluation study
STOP HIV/AIDS: Seek and Treat for Optimal Prevention of HIV/AIDS

References

1. Bever A, Salters K, Tam C, et al. Cohort profile: the STOP HIV/AIDS Program Evaluation (SHAPE) study in British Columbia, Canada. *BMJ Open* 2020;10:e033649. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2019-03364

STAY IN TOUCH!

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at:

✉ shape@bccfe.ca

🌐 <http://bccfe.ca/research/SHAPE>

📍 Mailing address:
(c/o SHAPE study)
608-1081 Burrard Street Vancouver,
BC V6Z 1Y6

