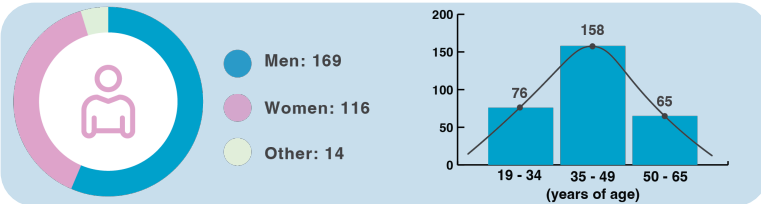


We acknowledge that the land on which we work, learn and organize is the traditional, ancestral and unceded homelands of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), xʷməθkʷəjəm (Musqueam), and Səlilwataʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

STUDY OVERVIEW

The Health Connect project aims to characterize access to primary and community healthcare among a cohort of clients at the Hope to Health (H2H) supervised-consumption-site (SCS). The project evaluates a patient-centered linkage-to-care intervention for participants who engaged in STBBI dried-blood-spot (DBS) testing at the H2H SCS. The research team successfully completed 300 baseline interviews between January and November 2024 (Phase 1) and found DBS to be an acceptable means of screening for STBBIs among this priority population. Following the removal of one duplicate, 258/299 (86%) of the cohort chose to engage in DBS testing for HCV, HIV and syphilis. Encouragingly, 149/288 (52%) of participants reported being offered some form of STBBI testing in the previous 12-months.



Demographics Health Connect Phase 1

HEALTH CONNECT PHASE 2 PROGRESS

Phase 2 of the Health Connect study launched in September 2025 (open cohort design, with a particular focus on retaining folks from phase 1) and focuses solely on the Health Connect interviewer administered survey. We have enrolled 109 participants to date, 51 (47%) of whom are women and 29 (27%) of whom reported attachment to care at Hope to Health. We will continue to facilitate phase 2 baselines until March 2026.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

The Health Connect team, with the support of our knowledge translation coordinator submit a catalyst grant application to CIHR in October. It is our hope that if granted, these funds will help support a collaborative project with external partners to translate lessons learned back into the community. We hope to collaborate with a wide range of partners in order to mobilize this knowledge that contributes to a growing body of research on the role and impact of DBS testing and how it may be used to engage people who might not otherwise be tested. We are committed to identifying opportunities to scale up DBS testing both internally and externally in order to appropriately target advocacy efforts for DBS implementation.

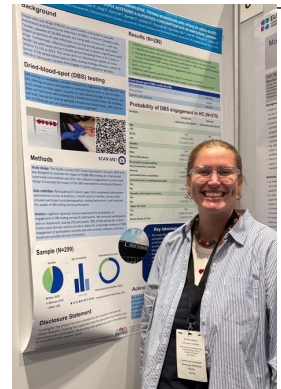
BCCDC GRAND ROUNDS



Kate presented Health Connect lessons learned at the BC Centre for Disease Control September edition of their Grand Rounds. Kate's presentation highlighted the stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings that continues to be a barrier to care for people who use drugs in the Downtown Eastside.

INHSU 2025

We had three presentations at this years International Network on Health and Hepatitis for Substance Users conference in Cape Town, South Africa. We presented analyses on how supervised consumption sites are meeting the needs of people who use drugs, avoidance and engagement in healthcare and willingness to participate in dried-blood-spot testing among our cohort.



PROVIDENCE IN THE PARK



Our team contributed to this years November Providence in the Park event. This is a biannual event held in the Downtown Eastside's Oppenheimer Park, that brings people together over warm meals, meaningful conversations, and shared humanity. It was a wonderful opportunity to share space and connect with our community members.

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