

HEALTH CONNECT NEWSLETTER

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CURRENT UPDATES AND PROGRESS REPORTS OF THE HEALTH CONNECT STUDY

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

OVERVIEW OF HEALTH CONNECT STUDY

The Health Connect project, launched in January 2024, aims to characterize access to primary and community healthcare among a cohort of under-served clients of the H2H supervised consumption site. It will also evaluate a patient-centered linkage-to-care intervention for clients tested for HCV, HIV and syphilis through the supervised consumption site.

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA



- +19 years old
- Willing to provide informed consent
- Ability to verbally communicate in English
- Client of the H2H SCS

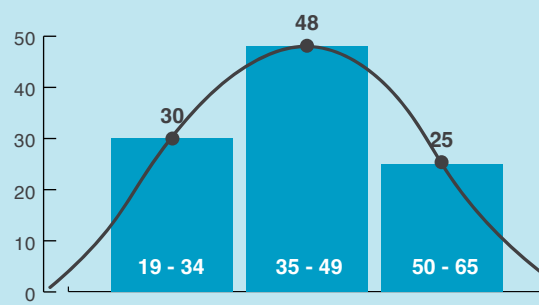
ATTACHMENT TO CARE

Fig 1: Proportion of Current Status

ATTACHMENT	N	%
HOPE TO HEALTH CLINIC	26	24.2
OTHER COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE CLINICS	59	55.1
UNATTACHED TO CARE	22	20.5

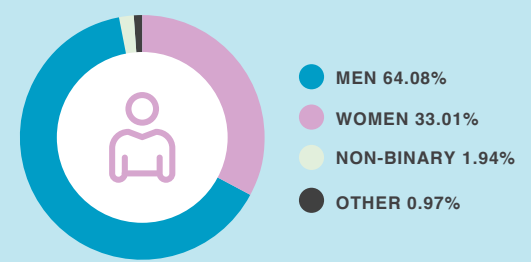
AGE GROUP AT BASELINE

Fig 2: Age



GENDER

Fig 3: Gender



STUDY PROGRESS

Fig 4: Recent & Total

Health Connect has enrolled 107 participants; all of whom have completed the baseline survey. To date, 98 (91.5%) have engaged in HCV POC and 93 (86.9%) have engaged in DBS screening for HCV, HIV and syphilis. We have received 54 DBS results and completed 24 follow-up study check-in visits. Four, previously unattached participants have been connected with the Hope to Health Clinic for follow-up testing and treatment.

BASELINE INTERVIEW COMPLETED	107	100%
ENGAGED IN HCV POC	98	91.5%
ENGAGED IN DBS	93	86.9%
DBS RESULTS RECEIVED	54	50.4%
STUDY CHECK-IN COMPLETED	24	22.4%

HOW IT WORKS!

01

BASELINE

A rapid point-of-care (POC) HCV test and a 30-minute questionnaire.

02

INTERVENTION

Participants will be offered dry blood spot (DBS) testing for HCV/HIV/Syphilis (as part of the H2H SCS SoC) and a referral to the H2H clinic (if unattached to primary care)

03

CHECK-IN VISIT

The HCV POC test will be available immediately following the baseline questionnaire. The DBS results will take approx. 3 weeks to process. Participants will be invited back for a check-in visit one month after the baseline in order to facilitate results, STBBI learning and linkage to care. If a participant is already attached to care, the team will correspond with the participant's primary care provider informing them of the participant's status and ensuring they too have linkage to care.

04

RESEARCH FOLLOW UP

All participants will be invited to engage in one follow-up questionnaire 12 months after the baseline.

CAHR 2024

The Health Connect team will represent the BC Centre for Excellence at CAHR 2024 in London, Ontario next month presenting lessons learned from the pilot project that formed the basis for Health Connect. The presentation "Reducing gaps in the HCV cascade-of-care among people who use drugs: evaluation and application of lessons learned from a health services implementation pilot study" will take place at RBC Place London on April 28th.



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