

PROUD

OUT LOUD!

Volume 4: April 2014

PROUD PRESENTATIONS AT CAHR CONFERENCE

PROUD OUT LOUD is a newsletter produced to communicate research findings from the Proud Study, as well as relevant information for our community members and partner organizations. This current issue provides a snapshot of what the PROUD team will be presenting at the Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) 2014 Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland on May 1-4, 2014. The CAHR conference is a major gathering of people involved in the response to HIV/AIDS in Canada, and PROUD is excited to have a presence at this year's event. For more information about the CAHR conference visit cahr.acrv.ca.

For the full information from PROUD presentations, visit our website at theproudproject.com

Establishing a Community-Based Participatory Research Partnership to Examine HIV Prevalence and Related Risk Factors Among People Who Use Drugs in Ottawa: The PROUD Cohort Study (Poster Presentation)

PROUD uniquely applies CBPR principles to engage the communities of people who use drugs in the development of a large-scale prospective cohort study. The core of the PROUD project is the CAC made up of people who use(d) drugs, allies, and medical students. The CAC developed the survey tools, which recruited 862 people in Ottawa with illicit drug use experience. This project successfully supported skill development across the team and empowered people to take on leadership roles.

Burden of HIV Infection among Aboriginal People Who Inject Drugs in Ottawa's Central Core: Results from the PROUD Study (Poster Presentation)

The PROUD study found a significantly higher rate of HIV among self-reported Aboriginal participants who injected drugs compared against non-Aboriginal participants.

In this study, Aboriginal participants were more likely to be women, inject opiates daily, and inject cocaine daily.

In response, **culturally appropriate and evidence-based harm reduction responses are urgently required**

Evaluating a Community-based Participatory Research Project among People who Use Drugs in Ottawa (Poster Presentation)

This study is based on 12 semi-structured interviews conducted with PROUD CAC members about their experiences with the project.

Overall CAC members were satisfied with their involvement. Most CAC members reported feeling meaningfully engaged, with growing ownership and responsibility over the project.

Some members did note frustrations with power imbalances, interpersonal interactions, and the research process in general. Overall the PROUD project was successful in its CBPR goals.

Exploring the Impact of “Red Zones” on People Who Use Drugs in Ottawa’s ByWard Market: A Qualitative Study (Poster Presentation)

This study conducted semi-structured interviews with 10 participants on their experiences with ‘red zones’.

Results from the interviews showed that **red zones reinforced unequal power dynamics**. Participants had to risk arrest and/or detention to access important services. Red zones encouraged risky drug use behaviours, disrupted social relationships and directly limited access to services.

Housing status and HIV Risk in a Community-Based Research Cohort of Injection Drug Users (PROUD study) in Ottawa Ontario (Poster Presentation)

This study looked at 272 people recruited in the Byward Market who had injected drugs in the previous 12 months. HIV risk factors were compared between participants who reported being unstably housed and those who were stably housed.

Findings suggest that unstable housing environments in downtown Ottawa may be associated with needle sharing, public drug use, exposure to drug use, overdose, and transactional sex.

Reaching Those Most at Risk for Drug-Related Harm: Potential Users of a Supervised Injection Service in Ottawa (Oral Presentation)

Out of 272 participants who injected drugs and were recruited in the Byward Market area, 75.4% reported a willingness to use a Supervised Injection Site (SIS) in Ottawa.

People willing to use SIS were also more likely to inject in public, among other risk factors. A SIS in Ottawa would likely reach its target group of high-risk injection drug users.

Evidence indicates that a SIS could make a significant contribution toward engaging hard-to-reach populations and reducing harm.

PROUD Member Bio

When Alana Martin is not working at PROUD you probably see her zipping around the neighbourhood talking to people. She joined PROUD back in 2012, and thanks to working with such supportive people, has been able to take active roles in the PROUD study, as well as a red zone research study. Alana currently acts as project coordinator to the DAART study. She loves working with people and hopes to help create a greater awareness of the struggles and needs of our community.

Special thanks to our:

Community Advisory Committee Kelly F., Chris D., Rick S., Tyler P., Hana D., Alana M., Tarah H., Caleb C., Sean L., Christine L., June S., Gilles D., Fred C., Sharp D.

PROUD participants for supporting our project and sharing their stories

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