

PROUD

OUT LOUD!

Volume 4: May 2014

Housing—Byward Market Edition

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 covers some of the questions in the PROUD study relating to housing and homelessness issues. The data in this issue covers 597 people who had injected drugs or smoked crack in the previous 12 months who were recruited in the Byward Market Area.

The PROUD cohort survey asked participants if they were satisfied with their current housing situation:

48% of participants were **not satisfied** with their current housing

42% were **satisfied** with their current housing

8% were **somewhat satisfied**

89% of participants reported **having ever been homeless** in their lives

Where survey participants were currently living:

Their own apartment or house	30%
Rooming house	7%
Shelter	47%
Supportive housing	1%
Recovery house/detox	2%
At a friends/relatives place	5%
On the street/homeless	3.5%
Hotel or motel room	1%
Other	2%

Out of 272 participants who had injected drugs in the past 12 months, 93% had ever been homeless, and 58% were currently unstably housed.

Out of 209 participants who reported accessing housing services, 36% had ever felt **stigmatized or discriminated** against by housing services **because of their drug use**

57% of participants reported that they had ever been kicked out of where they live

70% of these participants reported that their last eviction was related to drug use, including rent money spent on drugs

What is 'Housing First'?

Housing First is a concept that is becoming popular among service providers and policy makers. "Housing First puts the priority on a rapid and direct move from homelessness to housing, instead of requiring people to graduate through a series of steps before getting into permanent housing."

There are four core principles to Housing First:

- consumer choice and self-determination;
- immediate access to permanent housing with the support necessary to sustain it;
- housing is not conditional on sobriety or program participation;
- social inclusion, self-sufficiency and improved quality of life and health."

Information taken from, and more available at, Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness caeh.ca/a-plan-not-a-dream

Out of participants who reported injecting drugs within the past 12 months, those who were 'unstably housed' at the time of the survey were more likely than those who were 'stably housed' to have:

- injected drugs with a used needle
- have injected in public
- have overdosed in the past year
- received drugs, money, gifts for sex
- reported drug use in living space

HOMES FOR ALL!

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

Community Partners: DUAL, OASIS, Ottawa Inner City Health, ACO, Shepherds of Good Hope. Thank you to Ottawa Public Health for their support with Point-of-Care HIV testing.

Funding received from: CIHR, OHTN, SRC, The Ottawa Hospital Department of Medicine and Infectious Diseases.

CONTACT US! 216 Murray St, Ottawa

Tel: 1-855-212-0869 www.theproudproject.com