

PROUD

OUT LOUD!

Volume 7: November 2014

HIV/AIDS and Risk Factors

PROUD OUT LOUD is a newsletter produced to communicate preliminary research findings from the Proud Study, as well as relevant information for our community members and partner organizations. This current issue covers data related to HIV and drug use. 858 people were recruited in Ottawa from March 2013 to January 2014,

The PROUD study is a community-based research project that examines HIV risk among people who use drugs in Ottawa. Participants who reported using injection drugs or smoking crack cocaine in the past 12 months were enrolled through a targeted, street-based recruitment strategy. We enrolled a representative sample of participants who completed a comprehensive questionnaire and were offered HIV Point-of-Care testing. The survey and strategy was developed by people who use(d) drugs and their allies.

7.1%(61) of total survey participants self-reported testing positive for HIV

9.7% of male participants who inject drugs self-reported testing positive for HIV

17.5% of female participants who inject drugs self-reported testing positive for HIV

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) - is a virus that attacks and destroys the body's immune system. HIV can be transmitted through semen including pre-cum, blood, breast milk, and vaginal fluids

AIDS (Auto-Immune Deficiency Syndrome) - The final stage of HIV infection, not everyone who has HIV advances to this stage. There are many treatments that prevent people from acquiring AIDS.

25% of participants who injected within the last 12 months had most often injected outside, in a public washroom or shelter

22% of participants who injected within the last 12 months had done so with a used needle

64% of participants who have smoked crack have shared a pipe

36% of participants who had casual sex partners used a condom less than half of the time they have sex

11% of aboriginal participants self-reported testing positive for HIV

14.7% of francophone participants self-reported testing positive for HIV



82.2% of participants with HIV have tested positive for Hepatitis C

20% of participants with HIV are not under the care of a doctor

40% of participants with HIV did not want access to anti-retroviral treatment

34% of total survey participants had felt discriminated or stigmatized by a health or social service agency

Q: How dangerous is a needle stick injury?

A: Minimal, the chances of contracting HIV from an HIV infected needle stick injury is 0.32%

Becker C.E., Cone J.E. & Gerberding J. (1989). Occupational infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) - Risks and Risk Reduction. *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 110(8), 653-656

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