Prioritizing Equity to Close HIV Prevention and Treatment Gaps - Perspective from Montreal -

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Health is a fundamental human right
https://www.who.int/health-topics/health-equity

• Equity - absence of unfair, avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people
• Discrimination contributes to worsening living conditions
• Discrimination often embedded in institutions/systems
• Health equity is when everyone can attain their full potential for health & well-being
Actions needed to achieve equity

https://www.who.int/health-topics/health-equity

• Knowledge - Monitoring - Analysis

• Data disaggregated by age, sex, gender, education, income, disability and other factors

• Findings should be used to design responses
  • For improved equity
  • For ongoing monitoring of health inequalities
HIV Cascade of Care 2020, Montreal

• Québec HIV Cohort
  • All people living with HIV who
    • received care at one of the participating clinics,
    • had at least two HIV viral loads x 2000
  • In 2020 – data includes 4 large clinics in Montreal
    • N >10,000 over 20 years
    • We measured HIV cascade of care for people in care
## HIV Cascade of Care 2020, Montreal Québec HIV Cohort – people in care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>In Care in 2020 N</th>
<th>On ART % (n)</th>
<th>Virologically suppressed (&lt; 200 copies/ml) % (n)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>5706</td>
<td>99.6% (5686)</td>
<td>97.3% (5534)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>4750</td>
<td>99.7% (4738)</td>
<td>97.6% (4624)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>99.2% (942)</td>
<td>96.1% (905)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>100% (6)</td>
<td>83% (5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HIV Cascade of Care 2020, Montreal**

**Specific populations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Knowledge of HIV infection</th>
<th>On ART</th>
<th>Virologically suppressed (&lt; 200 copies/ml)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men who have sex with men</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>97.6%</td>
<td>96.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Engage study, N=1179, 2020-2021)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Injection drug users</td>
<td>97.0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(SurUDI, N=301, 2019)</td>
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Results collected from authors by Direction Santé Publique de Montréal
HIV Cascade of Care 2017, Manitoba Equity analysis

- 703 participants from a clinical cohort of people living with HIV in Manitoba
- Equiplots by ethnicity, immigration history, injection drug use, living area

Black/African American people who don't know they have HIV can't get the care and treatment they need to stay healthy.

In 2019, an estimated 1.2 MILLION PEOPLE had HIV. Of those, 479,300 were Black/African American people.***

It is important for Black/African American people to know their HIV status so they can take medicine to treat HIV if they have the virus. Taking HIV medicine every day can make the viral load undetectable. People who get and keep an undetectable viral load (or remain virally suppressed) can stay healthy for many years and will not transmit HIV to their sex partners.

Compared to all people with diagnosed HIV, Black/African American people have lower viral suppression rates. More work is needed to increase these rates. For every 100 Black/African American people with diagnosed HIV in 2019:†††

- 74 received some HIV care
- 56 were retained in care
- 61 were virally suppressed

For comparison, for every 100 people overall with diagnosed HIV, 76 received some HIV care, 58 were retained in care, and 66 were virally suppressed.

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/racialethnic/africanamericans/index.html
Life-Expectancy Disparities Among Adults With HIV in United States & Canada

AGEISM
is just as harmful as sexism or racism

#UNIDOP
ageing@un.org

60+ COUNTS
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS

AGEISM IN CANADA

1 in 3
Canadians admit they’ve treated someone differently because of their age

63%
of women aged 55 years or older say they’ve been treated unfairly or differently because of their age

71%
Agree that Canadian society values younger generations more than older ones

1/2
of Canadians 15 years or older can name five or more important individuals in their lives

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UNAIDS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF NATIONS
OF HIV/AIDS
Experiences of discrimination, racism and trauma are social determinants of health

Particularly for certain groups in Canada
  Indigenous Peoples
  African Caribbean Black
  LGBTQ

Source: canada.ca
Image: ohtn.on.ca (social isolation)
Learning Health System

• Use of existing data to allow continuous and rapid improvement in clinical care

• Stakeholder involvement

Figure of the learning health system cycle.
Source: [http://www.learninghealthcareproject.org](http://www.learninghealthcareproject.org)
Using the Quebec HIV Cohort as a Learning Health System

- To improve HIV Care Cascade (PIHVOT Grant)
- To improve cancer prevention (CIHR Grant)
  - Data update every 6 mths, continuous quality improvement
  - Examine results and codesign solutions as a team of stakeholders (patients-partners, clinicians, researchers, decision makers, knowledge users)
  - Repeat to examine impact of change
Equity in HIV testing & linkage to care

• Applying the learning health system beyond the HIV clinics - primary care, community organizations,…
• Applying person-centred approach to testing and care
• Reducing stigma / systemic discrimination
• Working together, listening, innovating
Montreal Sans Sida – Fast-track cities
Areas of strategic intervention

1. Reduce discrimination and stigma through communication
2. Eradicate prejudice caused by criminal law enforcements
3. Improve living conditions of vulnerable communities
4. Implement accessible services adapted to individual needs

In summary, prioritizing equity for HIV prevention and care requires

• Data collection/analyses that considers social determinants of health and other factors of equity
• Continuous monitoring of health outcomes
• Codesign of solutions as teams of patients, clinicians, decision makers, knowledge users…
• Collaboration, communication
• Person-centred approaches, adapted to health care context, multiple strategies
• Reducing stigma and discrimination
Thank you, and enjoy Montreal!