

2-SPIRIT ABORIGINAL PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS WHO PARTICIPATED IN ONTARIO'S POSITIVE SPACES, HEALTHY PLACES STUDY



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Potential conflicts of interest

- None to declare.

Background

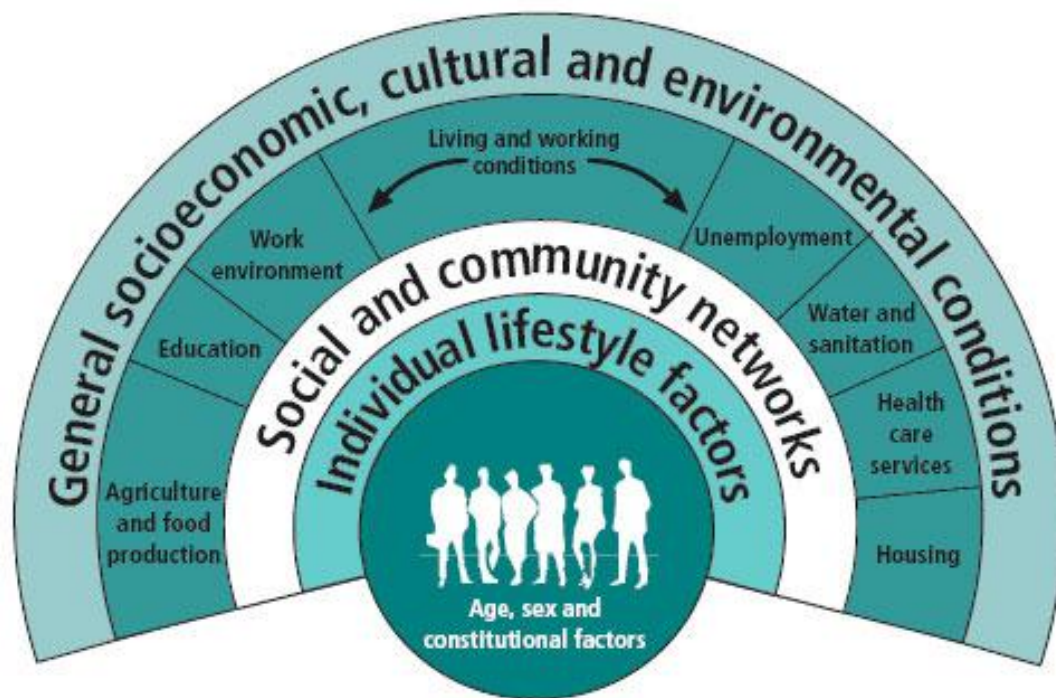


- Some 2-spirit people are at the intersection of “populations at-risk”
- Paucity of research specific to 2-spirit people



Social Determinants of Health

- Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion
→ Health for All



Objective

- Describe the experiences of 2-spirit Aboriginal people living with HIV/AIDS (APHAs), as collected through the *Positive Spaces, Healthy Places* (PSHP) study.



Positive Spaces, Healthy Places

- *“First **longitudinal community-based research** initiative in Canada examining the relationship between **health and housing** in the context of **HIV** to inform housing policies and programs that may lead to **improved health outcomes** and health-related quality of life for **PWAs**.”*
- For more information: www.pshp.ca



PSHP Methods

- **Community-based research**
- **Recruitment**
 - Ontario wide
 - Community organizations
- **Longitudinal data**
 - Baseline questionnaire completed, repeated again 12-, 24- and 36- months later
 - Qualitative interview data in addition



Methods

- **Participants (n=43)**

- All were HIV-positive at baseline;
- *Our operational definition of “2-Spirit”*
- Identified with an Aboriginal ethnicity; and
- Identified as gay, bisexual, lesbian or other (defined further)

- **Baseline and 24-month follow-up**

- Appropriate statistical tests for longitudinal data
- e.g. Paired t-test / Wilcoxon signed rank test



Results

- **Age**
 - mean = 41.7 years, sd = 7.4 years
 - Range 26 – 65
- **Gender**
 - male = 93%
- **Location**
 - Greater Toronto Area = 65.1%
- **Aboriginal ethnicity**
 - First Nations = 62.8%
- **Education**
 - at least high school graduate = 79.1%



Results

- **Currently on treatment: 67.4%**
- **Diagnosed with HIV: 1978 – 2005**
 - ARVs started an average of 3.3 years later
 - Reported AIDS defining illness: 51.2%
- **CD4 cell count**

	Lowest count (<6 months)	Highest count (<6 months)
Baseline	169	461
24-months	173	477
	p=0.83 n=22	p=0.58 n=21



Change over time

- Participants' self-rated **“quality of life”** and self-rated **“physical/mental health”**



	<u>Quality of life</u> “pretty good” or better	<u>Physical/mental health</u> “about the same” or better
Baseline	20 (58.8%)	30 (88.2%)
24-months	22 (64.7%)	28 (82.4%)
	p=0.679	p=0.682



Discussion

- **Diverse sample** of 2-spirit APHAs in Ontario
 - Majority are educated males living in GTA
- **No change over time** in major outcomes explored (that were statistically significant)
 - Possibly from good connection into care and with support
 - May also speak to resilience in maintaining wellness
- Results can inform **population-specific programming**, policy and interventions



Strengths & Limitations

- **Strengths:**

- Community partnership with 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations
- Rich longitudinal data
- Unique focus on 2-spirit people

- **Limitations:**

- Only possible to have a small sample size (n=43)
- Operational definition of “2-spirit”
 - not self-identification



Next Steps

- **Knowledge translation**
 - Presentation and discussion of **interim results** with affected community members
 - Eventually draft manuscript for publication
- Analyze **additional changes over time** for this cohort
 - Social support and life engagement
 - Health care and social service utilization
- Use regression to explore most salient **factors impacting quality of life**



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