A COMPILATION OF PROMISING AND INNOVATIVE

HIV PREVENTION PROGRAM MODELS IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS OF CANADA

Presented by Catherine Worthington, Principal Investigator
and Tamara Herman, Research Assistant

http://ruralhivprevention.ca

SRC CRS
The CIHR Social Research Centre in HIV Prevention
Le centre IRSC en recherche sociale pour la prévention du VIH

the CTN CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network
le Réseau Réseau canadien pour les essais VIH des IRSC

CANADIAN AIDS SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DU SIDA

CATIE

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by the CIHR Social Research Centre in HIV Prevention (SRC). CATIE generously contributed additional funding to translate the electronic compilation, as did the CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network. CAAN, CAS, CATIE and the CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network all contributed substantial in-kind resources to the project.

Team members

Cathy Worthington, University of Victoria

Mona Loutfy, Women's College/Maple Leaf Clinic

Mark Tyndall, Ottawa Hospital/University of Ottawa, & BC Centres for Disease Control

Ed Jackson and **Christine Johnston**, Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE)

Renée Masching and **Sherri Pooyak,** Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN)

Rebecca Lee, CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network (CTN)

Kim Thomas and **Sue Scruton**, Canadian AIDS Society (CAS)

Tamara Herman and **Ashley Mollison,** Research Assistants

Caroline Godbout and **Bharath Kashyap**, SRC, Compendium Development

Why this research?

- There is little published Canadian research specific to rural and remote HIV prevention programs
- SRC partners identified a need for gathering and sharing information on effective HIV prevention programs and interventions in rural and remote areas
- Strategies used in urban settings are often impractical or ineffective in rural settings
- There is an identified lack of basic HIV prevention and sexual health services in most rural and remote communities

Overall project goal

Create a compilation of **promising and proven** HIV prevention program and interventions models that are being developed and delivered by organizations with **rural and/or remote catchment areas** (i.e., non-urban catchment areas) within Canada to provide a foundation for **information sharing, future implementation and intervention research**

Objectives

- Collect program information from selected ASOs and other CBOs providing HIV prevention programs/interventions in rural/remote areas of Canada through interviews

- Develop and share an online compilation of information on these programs for use by ASOs, CBOs, organizational partners and SRC researchers

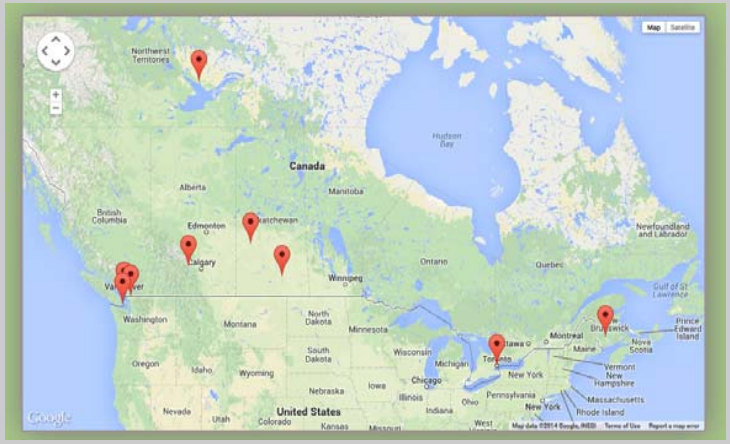
How were programs selected?

Rural/remote programs:

- Provided to a non-urban population with postal codes farther than a 1-hour drive of a metropolitan centre (a centre with a medical school) or a 30-minute drive to centers with populations of 35,000 or larger

Promising/proven programs:

- HIV prevention programs that have been implemented in the field with some form of documented program achievement



How were programs selected?

- We created a list of 160 ASOs & CBOs operating prevention programs for rural/remote areas
- We called all ASOs/CBOs on the list to verify that they:
  - identified as an ASO or had HIV prevention in their mandate;
  - offered programs for rural and/or remote populations;
  - collected data on program effectiveness
- 39 ASOs and CBOs fit the study criteria, and 25 responded to our requests for interviews

A note on excluded agencies

Due to time and resource constraints, our study criteria excluded health, public health and sexual health clinics, which also provide some HIV prevention programming within other programs

Why an online compilation?

- Share hard-to-find information and ideas on HIV prevention programs in rural/remote regions across the country
- Share experiences and innovations in terms of program design, learnings, challenges and evaluations among ASOs/CBOs
- Inspire new innovative programming ideas
- Allow organizations to showcase their interventions and connect with each other across regions

Limitations of the online compilation

HIV prevention programs, like all community programming, are always vulnerable to modification due to changes in funding and program priorities. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of the program information beyond the time frame of the interviews. We recommend that contact be made directly with the organizations to learn more detail about specific programs.

Issues that emerged in research

- Quantity of programs
- Response rate
- Limited agency staff time for interviews
- ASOs/CBOs felt “over-researched”
- Language

Interviews: Key challenges

- Limited funding
- Stigma and discrimination in communities
- Community readiness
- Clients/target population involvement/engagement

Interviews: Key learnings

- Community involvement, allies, partnerships and relationships
- Building relationships with people who form part of the target population/client group
- Local relevancy and appropriateness
- Assessing community readiness
- Flexibility and adaptability

Questions? Comments?

Questions?

- Type your questions in the Chat section

Thank You!

Please evaluate this webinar!