

**Clinical Sciences - Poster Abstracts / Sciences cliniques - Abrégés affiches**

Abstract #11

**Socio-economical determinants of virtual care use among people with HIV Ontario: A cross-sectional study**

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**Background:** People living with HIV face several socio-economic factors that impact their HIV-related health outcomes. While virtual care may help reduce barriers to timely HIV care, the socio-demographic factors influencing virtual visit uptake among this group remain unexplored.

**Objectives:** We assessed the association between the social-economical factors and virtual care use among people living with HIV in a clinical cohort in Ontario, Canada.

**Methods:** We used 2022 data from the Ontario HIV Treatment Network Cohort Study (OCS) when virtual care was first introduced. OCS is a multi-site cohort including patients from 10 HIV clinics, with data collected from medical charts, interviews, and record linkage with the provincial public health lab for viral load tests. The three care modes—virtual, in-person, and a combination of both—were analyzed using three-category multinomial logistic regression to identify predictors of the patient's use of virtual care mode.

**Results:** A total of 1,930 participants were included, out of which 19% received virtual care, 45.6% received in-person care, and 34.3% received care through both virtual and in-person modalities. The median age of the participants was 55 years (IQR: 45-62], and 78% of the sample were men who have sex with men (MSM). Residence in the Southwestern and Eastern region of Ontario, as compared to the Toronto region, was associated with virtual care use. Females and men who do not have sex with men (non-MSM) compared to MSM, people with a high school degree as compared to university degree, and HIV diagnosis within the last 10 years as compared to > 10 years of diagnosis used in-person care as compared to virtual care.

**Conclusion:** During the pandemic, virtual care was introduced to enhance healthcare access. Its uptake is linked to various socio-economic factors and health-related factors. However, further research is needed outside of the COVID-19 context.