

**Epidemiology and Public Health Sciences - Poster Abstracts / Épidémiologie et sciences de la santé  
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Abstract #306

**Trends in Key Populations Within a Large HIV Cohort: The Ontario HIV Treatment Network Cohort Study, 2015–2024**

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**Background**

Monitoring trends among key populations is essential for equitable HIV prevention, care, and policy. The Ontario HIV Treatment Network Cohort Study (OCS) is a long-standing, multi-site cohort of people living with HIV in Ontario that supports longitudinal surveillance of populations disproportionately affected by HIV. We describe 10-year trends (2015–2024) in the representation of key populations within the OCS.

**Methods**

The OCS is an open prospective cohort recruiting adults (≥16 years) living with HIV from hospital- and community-based clinics across Ontario. Analyses focused on participants with a clinic visit or interview in the current year. Key populations included gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM), women, people who inject drugs (PWID), Black populations, and Indigenous Peoples. Annual counts and proportions were examined to assess trends over time.

**Results**

GbMSM represented the largest key population, comprising 60.8%–66.0% of interviewed participants annually, with 2,155 gbMSM interviewed in 2024 (63.2%). The proportion of women among participants with clinic visits increased from 18.8 % in 2015 to 22.5% in 2024. PWID declined steadily from 7.9% to 2.3%. Black participants increased from 17.0% to 24.2%, while Indigenous Peoples dropped from 4.8%-3.4% Across groups, both male and female participants were represented across race and exposure categories.

**Conclusions**

The OCS has documented stable proportions of gbMSM, increasing proportions of women and Black populations, and declining proportions of PWID and Indigenous People. These findings underscore the importance of sustained, equity-informed surveillance to guide HIV prevention and care.

**Supporting Document**

Table. Key populations among those who had an interview in the current year (2015-2024)

Year	Total number who completed an interview	Gay, Bisexual, Men who have Sex with Men	Women	People who inject drugs	Black People	Indigenous People
2015	2142	65.1%	18.8%	7.9%	17.0%	4.8%
2016	1921	64.8%	19.8%	6.6%	18.5%	4.4%
2017	1691	61.3%	20.0%	5.3%	20.8%	4.0%
2018	1868	66.0%	18.4%	4.3%	19.4%	3.9%
2019	2096	62.4%	22.3%	4.3%	23.2%	4.1%
2020	1905	60.8%	23.9%	3.8%	23.9%	3.7%
2021	2461	61.9%	22.1%	3.9%	22.9%	4.8%
2022	2240	63.0%	21.6%	3.3%	22.0%	3.4%
2023	2362	61.6%	23.5%	2.9%	25.4%	3.0%
2024	2155	63.2%	22.5%	2.3%	24.2%	3.4%