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Supplementary File S1

Operational Definitions.

Sex and Gender.

This study explores both sex and gender. In keeping with the Canadian Institute of Health Research and international scholars, we use a definition of sex as referring to anatomy and physiology of the physical body (1). Gender refers to social and structural norms, relationships, power dynamics and expectations adopted by individuals and created by societal expectations (1). In this study, sex is primarily related to sex at birth. Gender identity and its relations to HIV care are our primary variables of interest in this study.

Non-binary and Two-Spirit persons.

Recognizing gender is not just a binary and can be fluid, we employ the term non-binary persons for people whose gender identity fall outside the men/women binary (2). Participants in this study could select from a range of gender identities (woman, man, transgender woman, transgender man, non-binary [agender, genderfluid, pangender, genderqueer, gender nonconforming, etc.], two-spirit). Two-spirit is a term developed by indigenous lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and/or non-heterosexual people to describe the multitude of indigenous embodiments related to sex, and gender (3). In our qualitative data analysis non-binary persons included people who self-identified as non-binary and as two-spirit. This decision was made as there were two participants who self-identified as two-spirit and one as non-binary.

Barriers to HIV care.

For this study, a barrier encompasses knowledge, attitudes, practices, beliefs, and feelings that hinder engagement (directly or indirectly) with HIV care (4).

Facilitators to HIV care.

A facilitator entails knowledge, attitudes, practices, beliefs, and feelings that foster engagement (directly or indirectly) with HIV care (4). A factor can be a facilitator and as a barrier depending on how a person describes it.

Access to HIV care.

Access to health services has been described as a multifaceted concept encompassing the supply side of services, the opportunities a population has to obtain services, factors limiting the use of services, the match between services and population, and opportunities for services to lead to meaningful health outcomes (5). Access to HIV care in this study refers to the possibility of receiving HIV care across the cascade of care such as during testing, diagnosis, linkage to care, retention and engagement in care, and viral suppression through medicine. We use the term “access” to describe factors that may influence people obtaining HIV care.

Houselessness

For this project we employ the term houselessness to emphasize that people who may not have a house are not always lacking a home. People experiencing houselessness may still have a home and find a community even when they are not living in a traditional house. However, to understand the specific housing circumstances a participant is experiencing we use the standardized four major concepts on housing by the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness. These four concepts are described as “1) Unsheltered, or absolutely [unhoused] and living on the streets or in places not intended for human habitation; 2) Emergency Sheltered, including those staying in overnight shelters for people who are [unhoused], as well as shelters for those impacted by family violence; 3) Provisionally Accommodated, referring to those whose accommodation is temporary or lacks security of tenure, and, 4) At Risk of [Houselessness], referring to people who are not [unhoused], but whose current economic and/or housing situation is precarious or does not meet public health and safety standards” (6). These four concepts were presented as options for participants when inquiring about their housing situation.

References

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3. Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Meet the Methods Series: “What and who is Two-Spirit?” in Health Research - CIHR [Internet]. 2020 [cited 2023 Dec 11]. Available from: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/52214.html>
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5. Gulliford M, Figueroa-Munoz J, Morgan M, Hughes D, Gibson B, Beech R, et al. What does “access to health care” mean? *J Health Serv Res Policy*. 2002 Jul 1;7(3):186–8.
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Supplementary File S2



Participant Survey: Demographics & Life Circumstances

The following short questionnaire asks questions about you, such as your age, identity, where you live, your experiences with substance use, your sexual practices, and other life circumstances you may have encountered. This information is very helpful as it provides a better understanding of your experiences as a person living with HIV. We understand that these questions are very personal and intimate, and we appreciate your responses. **There is no judgement about anything you share with us.** Every person has different life experiences and situations that affect their health and well-being. Some of these questions may not apply to you, **please only answer what is relevant to your life.**

Please **circle the answer(s) that applies to you, or write your answer in the space provided.** If there are questions you do not feel comfortable answering, please select “Prefer not to say”. Please ask your interviewer if you would like them to better explain any of the questions.

Thank you for taking part in our survey!

PART A: Demographics

1. What is your date of birth? Day: ____/Month: ____/Year: ____
2. How old are you?

3. What gender identity best describes you?
 - a. Woman
 - b. Man
 - c. Transgender woman
 - d. Transgender man
 - e. Non-binary (agender, genderfluid, pangender, genderqueer, gender nonconforming, etc.)
 - f. Two-Spirit
 - g. Other
Which? _____
 - h. Prefer not to say
4. What sex were you assigned at birth? (as shown on your original birth certificate)
 - a. Female
 - b. Male
 - c. Intersex
 - d. Prefer not to say

5. What sexual orientation best describes you?

(Please select all that apply to you)

- a. Lesbian
- b. Gay
- c. Bisexual
- d. Asexual
- e. Heterosexual/Straight
- f. Pansexual
- g. Other

Which? _____

Prefer not to say

6. What cultural background best describes you?

(Please select all that apply to you)

- a. Indigenous
 - i. First Nations
 - ii. Métis
 - iii. Inuk
 - iv. Other _____
 - v. Unspecified _____

- b. African
- c. White/European
- d. East/Southeast Asian
- e. South Asian
- f. South East Asian
- g. Hispanic or Latinx
- h. Middle Eastern
- i. Other (please specify) _____
- j. Prefer not to say

7. What is your marital status?

- a. Single
- b. Married
- c. Divorced
- d. Common-law
- e. Widowed
- f. Other

Which _____

g. Prefer not to say

8. What languages do you speak? **(Please select all that apply to you)**

Languages	Yes	No	Which (please specify) *
English			
French			

Languages	Yes	No	Which (please specify) *
Cree			
Dakota			
Dene			
Inuktitut			
Michif			
Ojibway			
Oji-Cree			
Filipino			
Spanish			
German			
Ukrainian			
Punjabi			
Other (please specify)			
Prefer not to say			

*It applies just for "Other" option answers

9. What religion best describes you? **(Please select all that apply to you)**

- a. Traditional Indigenous
- b. Christianity
 - i. Catholicism
 - ii. Witness of Jehovah
 - iii. Evangelical
 - iv. Protestant
 - v. Orthodox
- c. Buddhism
- d. Hindu
- e. Jewish
- f. Muslim
- g. Sikh
- h. Other Religion _____
- i. No religious affiliation
- j. Prefer not to say

10. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- a. K-12
 - Which was the last grade? _____
- b. Certificate, diploma, vocational course from an educational institution
- c. Bachelor's degree
- d. Master's degree

- e. Doctorate
- f. Other, which _____
- g. Prefer not to say

11. Where do you reside? (City/Town/Rural Community/Reserve)

a. _____

12. The following question are about **difficulties you may have doing certain activities**. Please tell us only about problems that **have lasted or are expected to last for six months or more**. Mark your response with an **X** for each difficulty.

Difficulties	No	Sometimes	Often	Always	Prefer not to say
Seeing					
Hearing					
Walking, using stairs, using hands or finger or doing other physical activities					
Learning, remembering, or concentrating					
Any emotional, psychological, or mental health conditions? (Anxiety, bipolar disorder, substance use, anorexia, etc)					

PART B. Income and Housing

Now we will ask you some questions related to your income and housing. These answers will allow us to better understand the resources that people living with HIV may need to support their health and well-being.

13. Are you currently employed?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

14. What is your main source or source(s) of income?

15. Which of the following is your approximate yearly income?

- a. less than 10,000 CAD/year
- b. 10,000 – 19,999CAD/year
- c. 20,000 - 29,999 CAD/year
- d. 30,000 - 39,999 CAD/year
- e. 40,000 - 49,999 CAD/year
- f. More than 50,000/year
- g. Prefer not to say

16. Please mark with an **X** any items that you currently **have** or **do not** have enough income to cover. **(Please select all that apply to you)**

Items	Have Enough	Do not have Enough	Prefer not to say	Does not apply
Housing (rent, hydro, water)				
Transportation				
Food				
Clothing				
Childcare				
Pet Care				
Healthcare				
Other (please specify)_____				

17. What is your current living situation? (Please select all that apply to you)

Living situation	Yes	No	Which (please specify) *
Living alone (house/apartment)			
Living with partner (married, common-law or relationship)			
Living with children			
Living with roommates			
Living with extended family members			
Experiencing housing instability (insecure housing, shelter, transitional housing, houseless)			
Other (please specify)			
Prefer not to say			

*It applies just for "Other" option answers

Questions 17, 18, and 19 only apply to people who are experiencing housing instability.

18. How long have you experienced housing instability?

Days Months Years

19. If you are experiencing housing instability, which of the following are you experiencing?
(Please select all that apply to you)

Living situation	Yes	No	Which (please specify) *
Insecure housing (month to month, threats by landlord to leave, unsure how you will pay rent next month)			
Couch surfing			
Sleeping rough (sleeping in the streets)			
Staying at a shelter			
Short-term housing program			
24/7 space			
Other (please specify)			
Prefer not to say			

*It applies just for "Other" option answers

20. If you are experiencing housing instability, did you experience housing instability before or after being diagnosed with HIV?

- a. Before I was diagnosed
- b. After I was diagnosed
- c. Before and after I was diagnosed
- d. Other

Which? _____

- e. Prefer not to say

PART C: Criminal Justice System

The next few questions we want to ask you are related to your experiences with the criminal justice system. We are asking these questions as recent HIV infections have shown a number of infections in people who were incarcerated. These questions will help us to also understand how policing and surveillance may be affecting your life and health. We do not judge any of your answers and we are not affiliated in any way with police or the justice system.

21. Have you ever been incarcerated? (prison, jail, correctional facility)

	Initial date (from)	Final date (to)
Yes	Month: _____/Year: _____	Month: _____/Year: _____
	Month: _____/Year: _____	Month: _____/Year: _____
	Month: _____/Year: _____	Month: _____/Year: _____
No	(Skip to Part D)	
Prefer not to say		

22. Did you receive an HIV positive diagnosis while incarcerated?

- a. Yes
- b. No **(Skip to question 23)**
- c. Prefer not to say

23. **If you did receive a positive diagnosis while incarcerated**, who told you about your diagnosis? **(Please select all that apply to you)**

- a. Physician
- b. Nurse
- c. Administration staff
- d. Prison Guard
- e. Other _____
- f. Prefer not to say

24. Did you experience discrimination while incarcerated because of your HIV diagnosis?

- a. Yes
- b. No **(Skip to question 25)**
- c. Prefer not to say

25. **If you did experience discrimination because of your HIV diagnosis**, who did you experience discrimination from? **(Please select all that apply to you)**

	Yes	No	Who (please specify) *
Other incarcerated people			
Prison guards			
Healthcare staff			
Administration staff			
Child and Family Services (CFS)			
Other (please specify)			
Prefer not to say			

*It applies just for "Other" option answers

26. Have your experiences with the criminal justice system affected your ability to access HIV care and other health care services after you were released?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

27. Please select with an **X** the services you had access to while incarcerated

Services	Had Access	Did not have access
Primary health care services (regular physicals, doctor appointments)		
HIV related care (medication, regular blood testing, specialist appointments)		
STBBI testing		
Harm Reduction Supplies (condoms, syringes, pipes)		
Child and Family Services (CFS)		
Mental health services and counselling		
Ceremony		
<u>*Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infections</u>		

28. Are you currently under correctional supervision (e.g., bail conditions, probation, or parole)?

	Start date (from)	Final date (to)
Yes	Month: _____/Year: _____	Month: _____/Year: _____
No	(Skip to Part D)	
Prefer not to say		

PART D: Sexual Practices

Now we would like to ask you some questions about your sexual practices. Please answer what you are comfortable with. We are asking these questions as people can acquire HIV through sexual activity but that is not the only way. The reason we are asking these questions is to help us better understand the sexual practices of people living with HIV which can be useful when informing safe sex education.

29. Are you currently sexually active?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

30. In the 12 months have you had sex with **(Please select all that apply to you)**

	Yes	No	Which (please specify) *
Women			

	Yes	No	Which (please specify) *
Men and women			
Men			
Non-binary person			
Two-spirit person			
Other (please specify)			
Prefer not to say			

*It applies just for “Other” option answers

31. In the past 12 months how many sexual partners have you had?

- a. _____
- b. Prefer not to say

32. When engaging in sexual activity, do you use any of the following safe sex protections?

Protections	All of the time	Some of the time	Never
Condoms			
Dental dams			
Pre-exposure prophylaxis (Prep)			
Post exposure prophylaxis (Pep)			
Regular STBBI testing			
Other (please specify) _____			

33. How easy was it to get safe-sex protections before and during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- a. Easier before COVID-19 pandemic
- b. No difference before and during COVID-19 pandemic
- c. Easier during COVID-19 pandemic
- d. Prefer not to say

34. Do you use a form of contraception? (Birth control, condoms)

- a. Yes
- b. No (**Skip to questions 36**)
- c. Prefer not to say

35. Mark with an **X** your use of the following forms of contraception:

Contraception	Yes	No	Which (please specify)
Short-acting hormonal methods (oral birth control)			
Long-acting reversible contraceptive (IUD)			
Barrier Methods (condom, sponge, cervical cap)			
Natural rhythm methods			
Sterilization (tubal ligation or vasectomy)			
Other (please specify)			
Prefer not to say			

36. How often do you get blood tests for sexually transmitted infections and blood born infections (Hep C, Syphilis, Gonorrhea)?

- a. Before engaging in sexual activity with a new partner
- b. Once a month
- c. Every few months
- d. Once a year
- e. When my doctor/nurse practitioner recommends
- f. Never
- g. Other

When (please specify)? _____

- h. Prefer not to say

PART E: Substance Use

We would now like to ask you about your substance use. These questions may or may not apply to you, and we want to assure you that there is no judgment based on your use of substances. We are asking these questions to understand how to better support people who are living with HIV who also may use substances

37. Do you currently use substances? (alcohol, marijuana, crystal meth, crack, cocaine)

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

38. Please fill in this chart. For every substance please select with an (x) the quantity and length of consumption

Substance	Consumption	Quantity Consumed	Time of consumption
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	Never	Past	Present	Quantity	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Length	Days	Months	Years
Tobacco				# of cigarettes								
Alcohol				# of drinks								
Inhaled Substances				# of inhalations								
Smoked Substances				# of times smoking								
Injected Substances				# of injections								

39. How old were you when you started using substances?

_____ Age

40. What substance did you start with?

_____ Name(s) of substance

41. Please describe your current and past substance use by using an **X** in every line

	Heavy use (one or more times per day)	Moderate use (few times per week)	Light use	Very light use (once a week or a few times a month)	Not using
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Current substance use

Substance use when you started

42. Does substance use impact your sexual practices in any of the following ways, select with an **X** if yes or no:

Impacts	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
I am more likely to engage in sex with multiple partners when using substances			
I am less likely to engage in sex with multiple partners when using substances			

I am **less likely** to use protection when engaging in sexual activity when using substances

I am **more likely** to use protection when engaging in sexual activity when using substances

Other, which

43. If you use substances that you inject, how often do you:

Practices	All of the time	Some of the time	Not very often	Never
Use a new needle				
inject with a needle or syringe used by somebody else				
Bleach or clean needles used by somebody else				
Prepare using a spoon, water, or filter used by somebody else				
Have someone else inject your substances				
Have a safe place to inject				
Know where to find harm reduction supplies				

PART F: Experiences with Violence

For the last portion of this survey, we want to better understand your experiences with violence. This section may or may not apply to you. The reason we are asking these questions is because during the COVID-19 pandemic there was a reported increase in experiences of violence, in particular intimate partner violence and domestic violence. There is also a higher rate of women who have been diagnosed with HIV in Manitoba over the past few years – and women, transgender, non-binary people, as well as those who identify as Indigenous and 2SLGBTQIA+ are more likely to experience all forms of violence.

44. Throughout your life, have you ever experienced any of the following types of violence? (Please select all that apply to you)

Types of Violence	Any point in your life	Past 3 years	Currently
Physical violence			
Sexual violence			

Stalking, harassment

Emotional abuse

Intimate Partner Violence (violence perpetrated by a partner in a romantic or dating relationship)

Domestic Violence (violence among people in a domestic situation- can include any type of family, or roommate)

Cyberstalking/cyberbullying

Child abuse

Psychological / mental violence

Other, which

Prefer not to say

45. If you are currently experiencing Intimate Partner Violence, mark with an X the ways it impacts you:

Impacts	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
I am not able to attend HIV clinic appointments or HIV related care because of my partner (Partner controls my time and schedule, money for health care costs, etc.)			
I am afraid of my partner finding out about when I am going to doctor appointments or taking medication			
My health care is not impacted, and I am able to attend all my appointments			
Other, which			

46. Have you received any support or health care services to support you with healing from experiences of violence (trauma counselling, psychological support, traditional healing)?

- a. Yes
- b. No (**Skip to question 48**)
- c. Prefer not to say

47. If you have received support following your experiences with violence, which of the following have you received? (Please select all that apply to you)

Supports	Yes	No	Which (please specify) *
Counselling (Trauma counselling, Domestic Violence counselling)			
Psychological Support			

Supports	Yes	No	Which (please specify) *
Support groups			
Traditional healing			
Domestic Violence shelter			
Women's centre			
Other (please specify)			
Prefer not to say			

*It applies just for "Other" option answers

48. Has anyone shared your HIV status without your consent?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Prefer not to say

That brings us to the end of the survey. Thank you again for taking the time to fill out this survey. We really appreciate your time and willingness to share your experiences with us. If you have any questions or would like to talk more with the interviewer, or support person, that can happen now. We have also created a resource sheet to access support or counselling if you would like a copy.