

**The A/C study: A  
cross-sectional study  
of HIV epidemiology  
among African,  
Caribbean and Black  
people in Ontario**

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**Conflict of Interest Disclosure:**  
*\*I have no conflicts of interest*

# A-C STUDY



**African Caribbean Black Health  
Toronto • Ottawa**



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# Background

African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) communities are disproportionately infected by HIV in Ontario, Canada. They constitute only 5% of the population of Ontario yet account for 25% of new diagnoses of HIV.<sup>1</sup>

## Aims

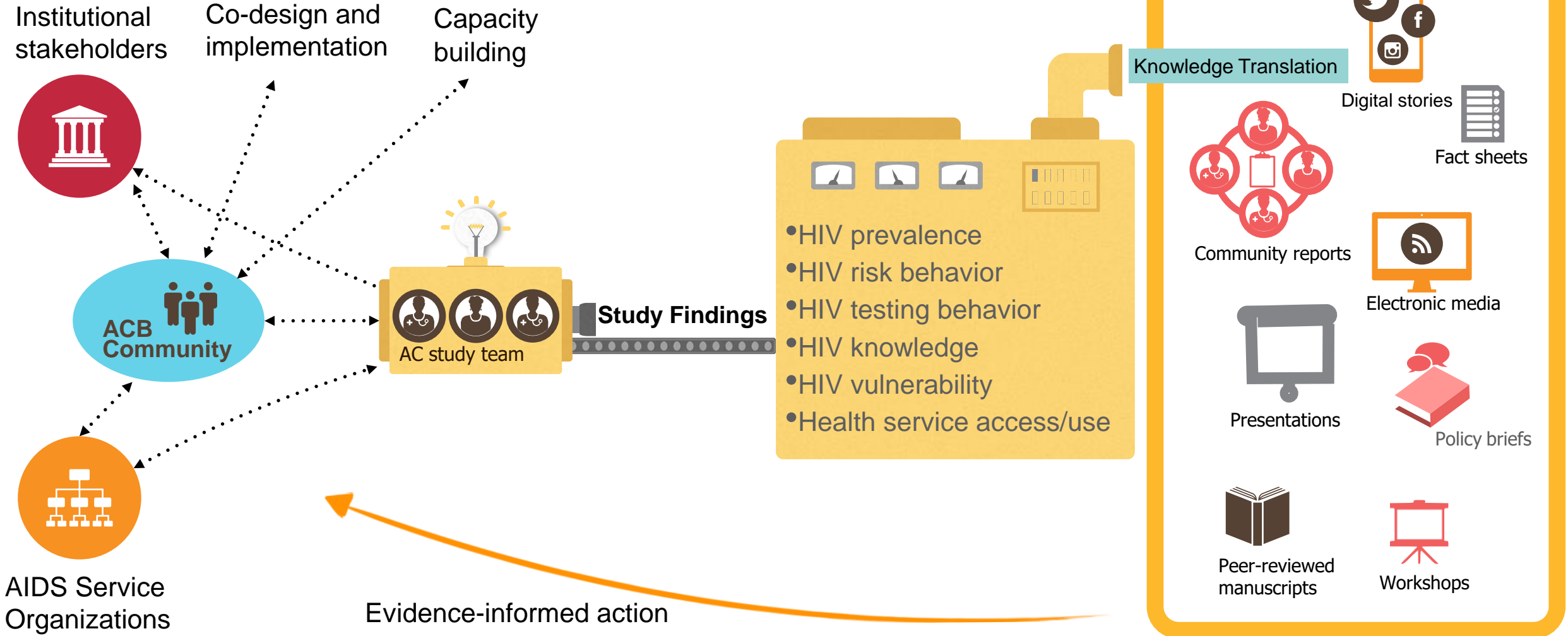
The aim of this study is to understand underlying factors that augment the HIV risk in ACB communities and to inform policy and practice in Ontario.

# Methods

- **Design:** Cross-sectional study of first- and second-generation ACB adults aged 15-64 in Toronto and Ottawa.
- **Dates:** Nov 2018 - Dec 2019
- Following principles of community-based and community-led research.
- Strong stakeholder engagement
- Integrated knowledge translation
- **Analysis:** Descriptive statistics and Logistic regression

1. OHTN. African, Caribbean and Black Communities. Secondary African, Caribbean and Black Communities 2018. <http://www.ohtn.on.ca/research-portals/priority-populations/african-caribbean-and-black-communities/>.

# Community Based Research



**Abbreviations:** ACB= African, Caribbean, and Black; ASO= AIDS Service Organization. For complete information visit: [www.abcdxyz.com](http://www.abcdxyz.com)

# Results

**Table 1: Characteristics of participants**

Variable	Statistic (N=1380)
<b>City: n (%)</b>	
Toronto (or greater Toronto area)	854 (61.9)
Ottawa (or greater Capital region)	526 (38.1)
<b>Age (years): n (%)</b>	
15 – 19	157 (11.4)
20 – 29	426 (30.9)
30 – 39	338 (24.5)
40 – 49	286 (20.7)
50 – 59	108 (7.8)
60 – 64	30 (2.2)
<b>Gender identity: n (%)</b>	
Man	481 (35.6)
Woman	842 (61.8)
Trans persons	6 (0.4)
Non-binary persons	16 (1.1)
<b>Tested for HIV (Yes): n (%)</b>	950 (68.8)
HIV diagnosis (Self report)*	75 (8.1); 95% CI 6.4-10.1
HIV diagnosis (Dried Blood Spot)*	67(8.4); 95% CI 6.7-10.3
<b>Born in Canada (Yes): n (%)</b>	298 (21.6)
<b>Employment: n (%)</b>	
Unemployed/Students	641 (46.4)
Part time	262 (19.0)
Full time	477 (34.6)
<b>Education: n (%)</b>	
University	739 (55.7)
College	249 (18.8)
High school	309 (23.3)
Less than high school	30 (2.3)

\*N=923; \*\*N=942; CI: Confidence Intervals

**Table 2: Factors associated with diagnosis HIV infection‡**

Variables	OR (95% CI)	P
<b>Age</b>	2.19 (1.57-3.05)	<0.001
<b>Ever had an STI test</b>	0.8 (0.35-1.81)	0.596
<b>Employment</b>		
Full time employment	1	
Unemployed	2.43 (0.99-5.94)	0.052
Part time employment	3.65 (1.24-10.69)	0.018
<b>Gender</b>		
Man	1	
Woman	0.58 (0.28-1.22)	0.153
Trans/non-binary persons	6.12 (1.00-37.88)	0.049
<b>Born in Canada (Yes)</b>	0.19 (0.04- 0.92)	0.039
<b>Age at first intercourse</b>	0.97 (0.9-1.05)	0.460
<b>Level of Education</b>		
University	1	
Less than high school	11.45 (1.8-72.83)	0.010
High school	2.12 (0.83-5.39)	0.116
College	2.17 (0.91-5.14)	0.079

‡Based on Dried Blood Spot; STI: Sexually Transmitted Infection; OR: Odds Ratio; CI: Confidence Intervals; Model fit: Nagelkerke R<sup>2</sup>=0.23

# Conclusions

- Among the ACB participants in this study, older people, people without full-time employment, and people who have less than a high school education, trans and non-binary participants are more likely to be diagnosed with HIV.
- People born in Canada are less likely to be diagnosed with HIV.

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