



## WILLINGNESS TO ACCESS PEER-DELIVERED HIV TESTING AND COUNSELLING AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS

### BACKGROUND & METHOD

- HIV testing through peer delivery may increase access to HIV testing among people who inject drugs (IDU) and lead to early HIV treatment and care.
- A peer-delivered HIV testing pilot project provided through the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority has recently ended.
- We did a study to explore the acceptability of peer-delivered HIV testing in an effort to identify the need for peer-delivered testing services in the Vancouver area.
- Between December 2011 and May 2012, we interviewed 600 IDU in the Vancouver area.
- We asked them about their willingness to receive peer-delivered HIV testing and counselling.

### QUICK FACT

*PEOPLE WHO HAVE EVER USED INSITE AND THOSE WHO ARE CURRENT MEMBERS OF VANDU WERE MOST WILLING TO RECEIVE PEER-DELIVERED HIV TESTING AND COUNSELLING.*

### FINDINGS

- People who have ever used Insite and those who are current members of VANDU were most willing to receive peer-delivered HIV testing and counselling.
- People who smoked crack recently were also more willing to receive peer-delivered HIV testing and post-test counselling.
- Males were more willing than females to receive peer-delivered post-test counselling.

### IMPLICATIONS

- Peer-delivered HIV testing should be used to complement existing HIV testing programs that serve IDU.
- Implementing peer-delivered testing within already established peer-run organizations and services may increase access to HIV testing within the community.

Markwick N, Ti L, Callon C, Feng C, Wood E, Kerr T. **Willingness to engage in peer-delivered HIV voluntary counselling and testing among people who inject drugs in a Canadian setting.** *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*, 2014; 68(7): 675-678.

