

RESIDENTIAL EVICTION IS LINKED TO SEVERE HEALTH RISKS AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS

Through semi-annual interviews, VIDUS and ACCESS researchers found that people who experienced residential eviction had:

1.9x the rate of starting (or restarting) crystal meth use



Among participants living with HIV, researchers found...

...those who **weren't** homeless after eviction had: **1.76x** → higher odds of HIV disease progression

...those who **were** homeless after eviction had: **2.25x** → higher odds of HIV disease progression

ACROSS ALL THREE STUDIES: **OVER 1/5 PARTICIPANTS WERE EVICTED AT LEAST ONCE**

These findings highlight an URGENT need to ensure housing stability.

NEXT STEPS FOR POLICY-MAKERS AND RESEARCHERS

1. Expanding low-threshold and affordable housing
2. Strengthening protection from eviction for tenants, including tenants in emergency, transitional, and supportive housing

WHY IS EVICTION RELATED TO HEALTH RISKS?

Starting (or re-starting) crystal meth:

Evicted people may use crystal meth (a stimulant) to stay awake or alert if they are forced to stay outside or in potentially dangerous, unstable housing.

Experiencing violence:

Evicted people may be exposed to more violence due to a lack of a safe shelter and having to spend more time in public places.

Evicted people facing economic hardship or job-loss may turn to street-based work, such as sex work or drug dealing, that may expose them to more violence.

HIV disease progression:

Evicted people may miss their HIV treatment medications due to disruptions caused by eviction, resulting in greater HIV-1 RNA viral load in their bodies.

VIDUS and ACCESS are ongoing open prospective cohort studies of community-recruited people who use unregulated drugs in Vancouver, Canada.

The harmonized cohorts have contributed to advancing health policy and programming in Vancouver and beyond.

The Vancouver Injection Drug Users Study (VIDUS) is one of the longest-running cohort studies of this kind. Since 1996, VIDUS has enrolled more than 2,600 participants.

Since 2005, the AIDS Care Cohort to Evaluate exposure to Survival Services (ACCESS) has enrolled approximately 1,000 people living with HIV who use unregulated drugs.

FIND OUT MORE:

604-685-6355

Toll free: 1-888-338-4387
439 East Hastings
Mon - Fri, 8:30am - 5:00pm
VIDUS@bccsu.ubc.ca

References

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3. Kennedy, M. C., Kerr, T., McNeil, R., Parashar, S., Montaner, J., Wood, E., & Milloy, M. J. (2017). Residential eviction and risk of detectable plasma HIV-1 RNA viral load among HIV-positive people who use drugs. *AIDS and Behavior*, 21(3), 678–687. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-016-1315-z>