



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Pathways to STBBI Care in BC Corrections

Survey for Input from:
Corrections officers (COs)

Your input will inform the development of
Policy & guidelines for the testing of
Sexually Transmitted & Blood Borne Infections (STBBIs)
In BC correctional facilities

Note: This survey was administered via an online survey. Below is an export of that online survey.

This survey is part of a health system improvement project led by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) in partnership with BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services (BCMHSUS) Correctional Health Services. The purpose of this anonymous survey is to inform the development of a BC Corrections STBBIs (sexually transmitted blood borne infections) testing policy and guideline. The policy and guidelines will be informed by corrections staff, health care providers and people with lived or living experience of incarceration. *STBBI - sexually transmitted & blood borne infection such as HIV, hepatitis C, syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhoea.

Before you begin the survey, please read the [PHAC Pathways Consent Form](#)

By clicking next, you acknowledge you have read the Consent form and agree to participate in this survey.

consent **By starting the survey, you have agreed to give consent to participate in the survey.**

- Yes - I consent to participating
- No - I do NOT consent to participating

Q148 Do you currently work for BC Corrections (e.g., officer, warden, admin staff)? (Check one)

- Yes
- No
- Unsure (please explain) _____

Q5 Know/STBBI From 1 (Novice) to 5 (Expert), how would you rate your knowledge of STBBIs (sexually transmitted and blood borne infections)? (Check one)

- 1 (Novice)
- 2
- 3 (Average)
- 4
- 5 (Expert)

Q6workCC In which BC Correctional Centre do you most often work? (Check all that apply)

- ACCW - Alouette Correctional Centre for Women
- SPSC - Surrey Pretrial Services Centre
- FRCC - Fraser Regional Correctional Centre
- NFRC - North Fraser Regional Centre
- FMCC - Ford Mountain Correctional Centre
- VIRCC - Vancouver Island Regional Correctional Centre
- NCC - Nanaimo Correctional Centre
- PGRCC - Prince George Regional Correctional Centre
- KRCC - Kamloops Regional Correctional Centre
- OCC - Okanagan Correctional Centre
- Other (Please describe below)
- I do not work in BC Corrections (please explain) _____
- Prefer to not answer

Q47Age In what age group are you? (Check one)

- 18-25 years
- 26-30 years
- 31-40 years
- 41-50 years
- > 50 years
- Prefer to not answer

Q48Gender **What is your gender (How do you currently self-identify)?** (Check all that apply)

- Man
- Woman
- Non-binary
- Agender
- Genderqueer
- Transgender
- Two-Spirit (we understand Two-Spirit as an identity for Indigenous peoples)
- Prefer to self-describe _____
- Unsure
- Prefer to not answer

Q49Orientation **What is your sexual orientation (How do you currently self-identify)?** (Check all that apply)

- Straight
- Gay
- Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Queer
- Prefer to self-describe: _____
- Prefer to not answer

Q131 What is the highest level of education that you have completed? (Check one)

- Less than high school graduation
- High school graduation
- Trade certificate, vocational school or apprenticeship training
- Some university or college (but not a certificate or degree)
- Non-university certificate or diploma from a community college, CEGEP (College d'enseignement general et professionnel - General and professional college in Quebec)
- University Bachelor's Degree
- University graduate degree (e.g. Masters or Doctorate)
- Prefer not to answer

Q50 Ethnicity How would you mainly describe your ethnicity? (Check all that apply)

- Prefer to self-describe: _____
- Metis
- First Nations
- Inuit
- Non-status First Nations
- Other Indigenous: _____
- European or White
- South Asian
- Chinese
- Black
- Filipino
- Latin American
- Arab
- Southeast Asian
- West Asian
- Korean
- Japanese
- Other (Please describe below) _____
- Prefer to not answer

Q51IndigReserve Do you normally live on or off a reserve? (Check one)

- On a reserve
- Off a reserve
- Not applicable (e.g. I do not belong to a band)
- Prefer to not answer

Q135 How often is it possible for correctional officers to have access to why inmates are going for a health care appointment?

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Always
- Does not apply to me

Q136 When health care staff talk about confidential matters with inmates, how often can correctional officers overhear these discussions? (Check one)

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Often
- Does not apply to me

Q23AskSTBBI In the correctional centre where you work, how can inmates ask for an STBBI test?

Q28privPhone Can inmates make phone calls to talk to a peer about hepatitis C, HIV or other STBBIs without other people hearing the conversation? (Check one)

- Yes (please explain): _____
- No (Please explain): _____
- I don't know

Q30PWLE-input **How important is it that STBBI testing guidelines for BC Corrections are developed with input from corrections staff? (Check one)**

- Not at all important
- Only a little important
- Neither important or unimportant
- Important
- Very important

Q10TestTiming **When is the best time(s) to offer STBBI testing in Corrections to people who are incarcerated?(Check all that apply)**

- At the health assessment done at intake
- During the 1st week of intake
- 1-2 weeks after initial intake
- During the first appointment with the physician
- At every health care appointment
- At a weekly STBBI clinic where only those who choose to attend are offered testing
- Other time (Please describe below) _____
- Never (STBBI testing should not be offered to people who are incarcerated - they can get this from a health care provider after release)
- None of the above (please explain) _____
- I don't know

Q11TestTimeWhy **Please explain why you selected this/these option(s) around the best time to offer STBBI testing?**

Q12TestSelfKit **Do you think there should be self-testing STBBI kits (i.e., self-done rapid pointofcare HIV or Hep C test) on all units so people can get an STBBI test without having to ask for a health appointment? (Check one)**

- Yes (Please explain) _____
- No (Please explain) _____
- I don't know

Q13InfoHow **What are good ways to distribute STBBI-related information to inmates (Check all that apply).**

- Posters on walls in common area
- Posters on walls in health centre
- Brochures/info packets given at intake
- Brochures in common area
- Messages on TVs in common area
- Messages on TVs in rooms/cells
- Through unit leaders/ reps
- A regular 'Health & Wellness' newsletter to residents from Correctional Health Services
- An 'Entry info pack' provided to everyone at intake from Correctional Health Services
- Other (Please describe below) _____
- None of the above

Q36Policy_Stigma **Which of the following testing options do you think would be best at making STBBI testing less stigmatizing, more confidential and more accessible for inmates in BC Correctional Centres? (Check all that apply)**

- Everyone is tested without asking for consent:** People are tested via a blood draw, or given a cup to pee in but they are not told why. Posters around the centre explain that people can choose to not be tested (but no one is told at the time of testing that they can refuse testing).
- Everyone is tested after they give consent:** Before they are tested a health care provider tells them they can choose to not be tested.
- Not everyone is tested (appointment informed):** During a health care appointment, a health care provider tells people that STBBI testing is available in the centre and they can ask for it anytime.

- Not everyone is tested (poster informed):** There are posters in the centre telling people STBBI testing is available. It is up to each person to ask for it.
- Not everyone is tested (not informed):** Nobody is told about STBBI testing in-person or through posters. It is up to each person to ask for it.
- Other - Please explain _____
- I don't know

Q36 **Policy_ Workload** Which of the testing options below (see previous question for full explanations) would be best for your workload (e.g., LEAST likely to increase your workload)? (Check all that apply)

- Everyone is tested without asking for consent...**
- Everyone is tested after they give consent...**
- Not everyone is tested (appointment informed):** During a health care appointment, a health care provider tells people...
- Not everyone is tested (poster informed):** There are posters in the centre telling people STBBI testing is available...
- Not everyone is tested (not informed):** Nobody is told about STBBI testing in-person or through posters...
- Other - Please explain _____
- I don't know

Q138 What are the main barriers to inmates getting tested for STBBIs at your centre? (e.g., what do you think is preventing inmates from getting tested for STBBIs at your centre?) (Check all that apply)

- Competing priorities for inmates (other needs are more important)
- Competing priorities for health care staff
- Competing priorities for BC Corrections staff
- Too few health care staff on-site (ie: RNs, LPNs) and able to offer STBBI testing & pre-test education
- Not enough health care staff time to devote to STBBI testing
- Not enough hours where labs/phlebotomists are on site to draw blood
- Testing is only available upon request (on-demand)
- There isn't a clear policy for health care staff to follow for STBBI testing
- STBBI-related knowledge gaps among Correctional Health Services staff (health care providers)
- STBBI-related knowledge gaps among BC Corrections staff (e.g., corrections officers or other staff)
- STBBI-related knowledge gaps among inmates
- Stigma
- Support from management is limited

- Other (Please describe below) _____
- None of the above
- I don't know

Q140 You selected knowledge gaps among BC Corrections staff (e.g., officers, other staff).

What type of knowledge gaps do you see among BC Corrections staff? (Check all that apply)

- Types of STBBI tests available in the correctional facility
- Which STBBIs can be treated to reduce likelihood of transmission
- Which STBBIs can be cured
- Other (Please describe below) _____
- None of the above
- I don't know

Q142 You selected STBBI-related knowledge gaps among inmates as a barrier.

What type of knowledge gaps do you see among inmates? (Check all that apply)

- Types of STBBI tests available in the correctional facility
- Which STBBIs can be treated to reduce likelihood of transmission
- Which STBBIs can be cured
- Other (Please describe below) _____
- None of the above
- I don't know

Q146 Which of the following have helped to increase STBBI testing at your centre? (Check all that apply)

- STBBI testing is a priority for inmates
- STBBI testing is a priority for health care staff
- STBBI testing is a priority for BCCorrections staff
- An adequate number of health care staff on-site (ie: RNs, LPNs) and able to offer STBBI testing & pre-test education
- Enough health care staff time to devote to STBBI testing
- Enough hours where labs/phlebotomists are on site to draw blood
- We have routine STBBI testing protocols
- A good level of STBBI-related knowledge levels among Correctional Health Services staff (health care providers)
- A good level of STBBI-related knowledge levels among BCCorrections officers or other staff
- A good level of STBBI-related knowledge levels among inmates
- Our team is sensitive to the stigmatization around STBBI testing
- Management is supportive
- Other (Please describe below) _____
- None of the above
- I don't know

Q148 How much do you agree with the following statement? **In the course of my work duties, I have time to support health care staff (e.g., nurses) in the offering of STBBI care in our facility (e.g., taking inmates to health care appointments). (Check one)**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know
- Does not apply to me

Q149 What else do you think could increase the number of people who get tested for STBBIs in corrections?

Q132 If all inmates at your facility got tested and treated for STBBIs (e.g. HIV, hepatitis C), to what extent do you think it would make your work environment safer? (Check one)

- Not at all
- Very little
- Somewhat
- A lot
- To a great extent
- I don't know

Q133 Are you concerned that increased STBBI testing could negatively impact your job in any of the following ways? (Check all that apply)

- I would have too many people to escort to health care appointments
- I wouldn't have time for other job tasks
- Increased need for restricting inmate movement
- Not enough staff to take people to appointments
- Other (please explain): _____

Q150 What supports/actions/things need to be in place to reduce any negative impacts of new STBBI-related policies on you/your job?

Q151 Do you think most other corrections staff would support increased STBBI testing in corrections?

- Yes (please explain): _____
- No (please explain): _____
- I don't know

Q152 Are corrections staff offered any training/education about STBBIs?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Q153 Would you like your work to offer more training/education about STBBIs?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Q43*condom-access* In the correctional centre where you work, can inmates get access to condoms without having to ask a corrections officer? (*Check one*)

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable (condoms are not available in the correctional centre)
- I don't know

Q44*condom-how* In the correctional centre where you work, how can inmates access condoms?

Q45*SuppliesSex* Which safer sex supplies do you think should be available to inmates? (*Check all that apply*)

- Condoms
- Dental dams
- Lube
- Medical grade gloves
- Other (Please describe below) _____
- No supplies should be available to people who are incarcerated (Please describe below) _____
- I don't know

Q46SuppliesHR **Which safer drug use/harm reduction supplies should be made available to inmates?(Check all that apply)**

- Meth pipes (e.g., bowl pipes, bubble pipes)
- Straight pipes (e.g. crack pipes, hooters)
- Needles for injection drugs
- Needles for steroids
- Cookers
- Vitamin C/ascorbic acid
- Tattoo equipment
- Other (Please describe below) _____
- No supplies should be available to inmates. Please explain:

- I don't know

Q150 In the last 12 months:

How often have you felt stigmatized or judged (e.g., avoidance, shame, blame, bullying, pity, rejection, verbal abuse) because of your work for BC Corrections?

- Always
- Most of the time
- About half the time
- Sometimes
- Never

Q152 In the last 12 months:

How often have you used words or behaviours with inmates in a way that might have them feel stigmatized or judged?

- Always
- Most of the time
- About half the time
- Sometimes
- Never

Q157 In the last 12 months:

How often have you observed a colleague or other staff member use words or behaviours with inmates in a way that might have made them feel stigmatized or judged?

- Always
- Most of the time
- About half the time
- Sometimes
- Never

Q156 If you have comments about stigma in BC Correctional facilities you would like to share, please type them below. Please do not use identifying information (for yourself or others).

Q158 How much has doing this survey or the course increased your intention to interact with inmates in a way that would reduce the likelihood they would feel stigmatized or judged in the course of getting tested for STBBIs?

- Not at all
- Very little
- Somewhat
- A lot
- To a great extent

Q52YM-policy Please detail anything else you want us to know or consider in the development of STBBI policies and guidelines for BC Corrections.

End Thank you for your time completing this survey!

Please click the forward arrow to submit your survey responses. After the forward arrow is clicked, you will not be able to change any of your responses.