



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Pathways to STBBI Care in BC Corrections

Guideline Input Survey for Health Care Workers (HCWs)

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

Background

Q1Employ **What best describes your employer?** (Check one)

- BC Corrections (e.g., you are a corrections officer, manager, warden)
- BCMHSUS (BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services) **in BC Corrections** (e.g., nurse, doctor)
- BCMHSUS (BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services) **NOT** in BC Corrections (e.g., nurse doctor)
- Private practice or other employer (e.g., nurse doctor)
- Other (Please describe) _____

Q2Role **Which of the following best describes your work/role in BC Corrections?** (Check one)

- Healthcare provider (e.g., nurse, nurse practitioner, physician)
- Health Manager/Administrator
- Medical office assistant/Administrative assistant
- Mental health worker (e.g., intake screener, coordinator, supervisor, counsellor)
- Social care worker (e.g., health educator, peer worker, social worker)
- Other (Please describe) _____

Q3occuType **Which of the following best describes your occupation?** (Check one)

- Nurse - LPN
- Nurse - RPN
- Nurse practitioner
- Pharmacist
- Physician - GP
- Physician - Specialist
- Registered Nurse
- Other
- Prefer to not answer

Q4WorkExpSTBBI **How many years of STBBI-related work experience do you have (e.g., screening, testing, counselling, treating, case management, etc.)?** (Check one)

- None
- <1 year
- 1 year to
- 3 years to
- 5 or more years

Q5 **Know/STBBI** From 1 (Novice) to 5 (Expert), how would you rate your knowledge of STBBIs? (Check one)

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

Q6 **workCC** 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) _____
- I do not work in BC Corrections (please explain) _____
- Prefer to not answer

Q7workWho **Do you work directly with any of the following people?** (Please check all that apply)

- People who are incarcerated
- People who use drugs
- Other (Please describe) _____
- None of the above

Q8DutiesPWA **Please select any of the following duties that you provide for people who are incarcerated:**

- Initial intake assessments
- Physical assessments
- General Medication administration
- STBBI medication administration
- Providing people with STBBI information and offering testing
- Provide STBBI testing (ie: Rapid testing or phlebotomy)
- Discussing STBBI results
- Provide immunizations
- Release planning
- Mental health counseling/support
- Other (Please describe) _____
- None of the above

Q9DutiesPWUD **Please select any of the following duties that you provide for people who use drugs:**

- Prescribe OAT treatment
- Dispense OAT medication
- Provide counselling around substance use
- Provide assessment of substance use
- Give overdose prevention education and resources
- Make referrals to substance use treatment and support programs
- Other (Please describe) _____
- None of the above

STBBI Testing

Q10TestTiming Keeping in mind that early diagnosis will increase the likelihood of initiating treatment/interventions for STBBIs, **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) _____
- 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 point of care 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 people who are incarcerated?** (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) _____
- None of the above

Q14PersonTest **Who do you think is the best person to CONDUCT STBBI rapid testing/dried blood spot testing in correctional facilities?** (Check all that apply)

- Any nurse (LPN, RPN, RN) in health services
- A nurse with STI certified practice
- Nurse practitioner
- Pharmacist
- Physician - GP
- Physician – Specialist
- Medical Office assistant
- Unit / Intake clerk
- Lab technician
- Social/mental health workers
- Other (Please describe) _____

Q15PersonTestTXT Please explain your selection about who is the best person to CONDUCT

Q16PersonDiscuss **Who do you think is the best person to DISCUSS STBBI testing with clients and obtain informed consent from clients for testing in correctional facilities?** (Check all that apply)

- Any nurse (LPN, RPN, RN) in health services
- A nurse with STI certified practice
- Nurse practitioner
- Pharmacist
- Physician - GP
- Physician – Specialist
- Other (Please describe) _____

Q17PersonDiscussTXT Please explain your selection about who is the best person to DISCUSS STBBI testing with clients and obtain informed consent: _____

Q18ComfRapid How much do you agree with the following statement? **I would be comfortable providing rapid testing/dried blood spot testing to clients in correctional facilities.** (Check one)

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

Q19ComfRapidTXT **What are the main factors impacting your comfort around providing rapid or dried blood spot testing to clients in correctional facilities?** _____

Q20ComfDiscuss How much do you agree with the following statement? **I am comfortable discussing STBBI testing and treatment with people who are incarcerated.** (Check one)

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

Q21ComfDiscussTXT **What are the main factors impacting your comfort around discussing STBBI testing and treatment with people who are incarcerated?** _____

Privacy/Confidentiality

Q22STBIprivacy In the correctional centre where you work, is there a confidential/private way for people incarcerated to ask for an STBBI test? (Check one)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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

Q24PrivRoutTell How much do you agree with the following statement? **I routinely explain to clients that their medical information is confidential and that it will not be shared with anyone outside Correctional Health Services** (e.g., it won't be shared with Corrections officers) without their explicit written consent. (Check one)

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

Q25PrivRoutTXT Please add any comments you have about routinely explaining to clients about medical confidentiality (e.g., barriers, facilitators)._____

Q26PrivOfficers How often is the following scenario applicable in the correctional facility you most often work? **When health care staff talk about confidential matters with residents, corrections officers can sometimes overhear these discussions.** (Check one)

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Most of the time
- Always
- I don't know
- Does not apply to me

Q27PrivHlthStaff How often is the following scenario applicable in the correctional facility you most often work? **When health care staff talk with other health care staff about residents' health, corrections officers can overhear these discussions.** (Check one)

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Most of the time
- Always
- I don't know
- Does not apply to me

Q28privPhone Can people incarcerated 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

Q29resultsCommunity Can people incarcerated ask correctional healthcare staff to send their STBBI test results/medical info to a community health care provider (e.g., nurse, doctor, mental health worker) of their choice? (Check one)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

STBBI Care in Corrections

Q30PWLE-input How important is it that STBBI testing guidelines are developed with input from people with lived experience of incarceration? (Check one)

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

Q31Barriers What do you think are the main barriers to high rates of STBBI testing at your centre? (e.g., what do you think is preventing residents from getting tested for STBBIs at your centre?) (Check all that apply)

- Competing priorities for people who are incarcerated (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 people incarcerated
- Stigma
- Support from management is limited
- Other (Please describe) _____
- None of the above
- don't know

Q32BarrierCHSknowl You selected that a main barrier to high rates of STBBI testing at your centre include STBBI-related knowledge gaps among Correctional Health Services staff (health care providers). **What type of knowledge gaps do you see among Correctional Health Services staff/health care providers?** (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) _____
- None of the above
- I don't know

Q33BarrierStaffKnowl You selected that a main barrier to high rates of STBBI testing at your centre include STBBI-related knowledge gaps among BC Corrections staff (e.g., officers, other staff). **What type of knowledge gaps do you see among BC Corrections staff (e.g., officers, wardens, admin)?** (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) _____
- None of the above
- I don't know

Q34BarrierPWAknowl You selected that a main barrier to high rates of STBBI testing at your centre include STBBI-related knowledge gaps among people who are incarcerated. **What type of knowledge gaps do you see among people who are incarcerated?** (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) _____
- None of the above
- I don't know

Q35facilitators Which of the following have helped to increase STBBI testing at the correctional facility where you most often work? (Check all that apply)

- STBBI testing is a priority for people who are incarcerated
- STBBI testing is a priority for health care staff
- STBBI testing is a priority for BC Corrections 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 BC Corrections officers or other staff
- A good level of STBBI-related knowledge levels among people incarcerated
- Our team is sensitive to the stigmatization around STBBI testing
- Management is supportive
- Other (Please describe) _____
- None of the above
- I don't know

Q36Policy Which testing option would help make STBBI testing less stigmatizing, more confidential and easier to get for people who are incarcerated 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:** 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:** 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:** 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

Time Management and Logistics

Q37TimeSupportMgr 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., organizing meetings to address questions about new STBBI policy, directing staff to STBBI resources, assuring clinic space allows for confidentiality).** (Check one)

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

Q38TimeDiscuss How much do you agree with the following statement? **In the course of my work duties, I have time to discuss STBBIs with people incarcerated.** (Check one)

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

Q39TimeRapTests How much do you agree with the following statement? **In the course of my work duties, I have time to provide rapid tests to people who are incarcerated.** (Check one)

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

Q40TimeVacc How much do you agree with the following statement? **In the course of my work duties, I have time to provide appropriate vaccinations (Pneumovax, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B).** (Check one)

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

Q41TimeHistTstResult How much do you agree with the following statement? **In the course of my work duties, I have time to review historical test results to assess HIV or Hepatitis status when needed.** (Check one)

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

Q42 SpaceTechnicians How often is the following scenario applicable in the correctional facility you most often work? **There is space in our health center to accommodate increased visits from phlebotomists/lab technicians due to increased STBBI testing.** (Check one)

- Never
- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Most of the time
- Always
- I don't know
- Does not apply to me

Harm Reduction/Safer Sex & Drug Use Supplies

Q43 *condom-access* Can residents access 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* How can residents access condoms at the correctional facility where you most often work? _____

Q45 *SuppliesSex* Which safer sex supplies do you think should be available to people who are incarcerated?

(Check all that apply)

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

Q46 *SuppliesHR* Which safer drug use/harm reduction supplies should be made available to people who are incarcerated? (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) _____
- No supplies should be available to people who are incarcerated. Please explain: _____
- I don't know

Demographics

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

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) _____
- Prefer to not answer

Q51 **IndigReserve** 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

You Matter!

Q52 **YM-policy** What is one thing you want policy makers to know about what health care workers need to provide the best possible STBBI testing and/or care to people who are incarcerated?

Q53 **YM-public** What do you think is needed most for Correctional Health Services staff to be able to improve the quality/reduce barriers to STBBI care for people who are incarcerated?

End Thank you for taking the time to complete 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.