



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Pathways to STBBI Care in BC Corrections

Survey for Input from: People Who Are Incarcerated (PWA)

*STBBI – sexually transmitted & blood borne infection, such as HIV, hepatitis C, syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea.

Your input will inform the development of
policy & guidelines for STBBI* testing in
BC correctional facilities

Demographics

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

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

2 What is your gender (how do you currently self-identify)? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Man | <input type="checkbox"/> Genderqueer | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woman | <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer to not answer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary | <input type="checkbox"/> Two-Spirit* | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agender | Prefer to self-describe (please describe): | |

**We understand Two-Spirit as an identity for Indigenous peoples*

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

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Straight | <input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gay | <input type="checkbox"/> Asexual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian | <input type="checkbox"/> Queer |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer to not answer |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer to self-describe (please describe): |

4

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*
- ☐ University Bachelor's Degree
- ☐ University graduate degree (e.g. Masters or Doctorate)
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

*CEGEP: Collège d'enseignement général et professionnel –
General and professional college in Quebec

5

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

- ☐ Prefer to self-describe _____
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

- ☐ 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

5b. 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

STBBI Testing

6

Were you given an intake health assessment when you entered the correctional centre? (Check one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Does not apply to me (I have only been incarcerated in a FEDERAL correctional centre)
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

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7

During your intake health assessment, was an STBBI* test offered to you? (Check one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ No, but they told me how to ask for an appointment at the health center to get tested later
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

8

If you wanted to get your blood tested for an infection like HIV or hepatitis C while in prison, which method would you most prefer? (Check one)

- ☐ A blood sample from a vein
- ☐ A blood sample from a finger-prick
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

9

What is the main reason that you prefer this way of collecting blood? (Check one)

- ☐ It is quick
- ☐ It does not hurt/is less painful
- ☐ Nurses/people who take blood samples have trouble taking blood from my veins
- ☐ Other (please describe):

- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

Myself

- ☐ I would not want to know if I was positive for HIV
- ☐ I would be afraid to know the results
- ☐ I don't like medical procedures
- ☐ I would just not be interested in getting tested for HIV

Privacy

- ☐ Corrections officers would know I was getting tested for HIV
- ☐ I would worry my test results won't be kept confidential (i.e., from correctional staff)
- ☐ Other people who are incarcerated would know I am getting tested for HIV
- ☐ If I tested positive, I would not want to have to take treatment while in prison

Lack of information

- ☐ Not being given enough information about HIV (e.g., health impacts, how it spreads)
- ☐ Not being told what the test results would mean

Other

- ☐ I would not trust the healthcare staff in prison
- ☐ Other (please describe):

- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

What might stop you from wanting to get tested for an STBBI other than HIV*? (Check all that apply)

*STBBIs other than HIV = sexually transmitted & blood borne infection, such as hepatitis C, syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea.

Myself

- ☐ I would not want to know if I was positive for an STBBI
- ☐ I would be afraid to know the results
- ☐ I don't like medical procedures
- ☐ I would just not be interested in getting tested for an STBBI

Privacy

- ☐ Corrections officers would know I was getting tested for an STBBI
- ☐ I would worry my test results won't be kept confidential (i.e., from correctional staff)
- ☐ Other people who are incarcerated would know I am getting tested for an STBBI
- ☐ If I tested positive, I would not want to have to take treatment while in prison

Lack of information

- ☐ Not being given enough information about STBBIs (e.g., health impacts, how it spreads)
- ☐ Not being told what the test results would mean

Other

- ☐ I would not trust the healthcare staff in prison
- ☐ Other (please describe):

-
- ☐ None of the above
 - ☐ Prefer to not answer

12

Would fear of being judged or stigmatized prevent you from being tested or treated for STBBIs* while incarcerated? (Check one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

13

What could be done to reduce the chance of being judged or stigmatized because of STBBI testing or treatment?

For example, what needs to change in order for you to feel safe accessing STBBI testing and treatment in prison?

14

Are you concerned that any of the following people might see your test results (or other health information)? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Nurses who work in corrections
- ☐ Doctors who work in corrections
- ☐ Corrections officers
- ☐ Other people who are incarcerated
- ☐ Family and friends
- ☐ Other (please describe):

-
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

15

Who would you be comfortable talking with about STBBI testing*? (Check all that apply)

***STBBI testing information** talked about can include STBBI symptoms, risk factors, what test results mean, treatment options, other STBBI concerns

- ☐ Prison health care physician
- ☐ Prison Health care nurse
- ☐ Nurse from an external agency
- ☐ A peer health worker
- ☐ Other (please describe):

-
- ☐ I don't know
 - ☐ None of the above
 - ☐ Prefer to not answer

16

Would you be comfortable talking about STBBI* testing with a non-prison health care provider or peer health worker over the phone or virtually (e.g., tele-health, Zoom)?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No (Please explain)
-
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

17

Have you ever tried to get an STBBI* test while incarcerated?

☐ Yes → If yes, please list anything that made it hard to get the test.

☐ No → If no, please list anything that stopped you from trying to get the test.

☐ Prefer to not answer

18

In the correctional centre you are in, is there a confidential/private way to ask for an STBBI* test? (Check one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

19

In the correctional centre you are in, how can people ask for an STBBI* test?

20

In the correctional centre you are in, do you have any other privacy concerns around STBBI testing?

- ☐ Yes (Please explain):

- ☐ No (Please explain):

- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

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

Around the time of intake

- ☐ At the health assessment done at intake
- ☐ During the 1st week of intake
- ☐ 1- 2 weeks after initial intake

At medical appointments

- ☐ 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

- ☐ Other time: _____
- ☐ 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
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

22

Do you think there should be self-testing STBBI* kits 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
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

23

What would you want to know about an STBBI* before you would say 'yes' to being tested?
(Check all that apply)

Symptoms and health issues

- ☐ What are the symptoms of the STBBI(s) I am being tested for
- ☐ What health issues could I have if I don't get treated for it
- ☐ How can it be passed to others
- ☐ Is there is a cure or treatment

Getting your test results

- ☐ How will I get my test results
- ☐ Who will give me my test results
- ☐ Who else will be told what my test results are

What else is done with the test results

- ☐ If I have an STBBI, who else has to know about it (e.g., The BC Centre for Disease Control)
- ☐ Is there is a law that I have to tell a sex partner if I test positive
- ☐ Will contact tracing happen (i.e., someone will call people I have had sex with, but not tell them my name)

Other

- ☐ Nothing (I don't need more information)
- ☐ Other (please explain _____)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

24

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
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

25

Is there a toll-free support line that you can use in prison to talk to a peer about STBBIs*? (Check one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

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If yes, do you feel you can make phone calls to talk to a peer about HEP C or HIV or other STBBIs* without other people hearing the conversation? (Check one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (Please explain) _____
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

27

If I want to, I can ask the correctional healthcare staff to send my STBBI* test results/medical info to a community health care provider of my choice. (Check one)

Note: a health care provider may be a nurse, doctor, mental health worker

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (Please explain) _____
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

28

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
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

Which testing option would help to 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:**



Drug Use

30

In the 6 months before you entered this correctional centre, did you use any **criminalized* drugs**? (Check one)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

Note: *Criminalized drugs means an illegal substance (i.e. cocaine, crack, crystal meth/speed, heroin/fentanyl, GHB, ketamine, MDMA/ecstasy, LSD/acid, mushrooms, etc.) or a legal substance that you obtained illegally or without a prescription (i.e. Benzos/Ativan/Xanax, Dilaudid/ hydromorphone, Methadone/Buprenorphine, Kadian/morphine, Dextroamphetamine/Adderall/Dexedrine/ Focalin/Ritalin). For the purpose of this question, illegally obtained alcohol, tobacco or cannabis are not considered illegal drugs.

31

While at this correctional centre, have you **shared** any of the following equipment? (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 _____
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ I did not share any of the above equipment while incarcerated
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

32

Have you been prescribed any medication for opioid use disorder (Opioid Agonist Treatment or 'OAT*') in the last 12 months? (Check one)

- ☐ Yes, OAT*
- ☐ Yes, Safe Supply*
- ☐ Yes, both
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

OAT*: Opioid Agonist Treatment (i.e. Methadone, or Suboxone (buprenorphine), Kadian [oral slow release morphine])

Safe Supply* a medication used as an alternative to illegal drugs (i.e. Dilaudid/ hydromorphone, Dextroamphetamine/Adderall/ Dexedrine/ Focalin/Ritalin)

Harm Reduction/Safer Sex/Drug Use Supplies

33

At the correctional centre you are in, can people who are incarcerated 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
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

34

At the correctional centre you are in, how can people get access to condoms?

35

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 _____
- ☐ No supplies should be available to people who are incarcerated
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

36

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 _____
- ☐ No supplies should be available to people who are incarcerated
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

Stigma

37

In the last 12 months, where did most of your health care appointments take place? (Check one)

- ☐ In a BC Correctional Centre
- ☐ In a Federal Prison
- ☐ In community
- ☐ I have not had a health care appointment in the last 12 months
- ☐ I can't remember
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

38

For any health care appointments in the last 12 months, did healthcare workers make you feel stigmatized or judged* or discriminated against because of your...?

**Stigmatization/judgment can include: avoidance, shame, blame, bullying, rejection*

(Circle one number per row)

| | Never | Rarely | Some- times | Often | Always | Does not apply | Prefer to not answer |
|------------------------------|-------|--------|----------------|-------|--------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Illicit substance use | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| HIV status | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Hepatitis B status | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Hepatitis C status | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Sex work | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Language | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Sexual orientation | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Ethnicity/Ancestry/Culture | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Religion/Spirituality | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Incarceration (past/present) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 0 |

Social Media

39

In the last 12 months, how often have you felt that healthcare workers treated you different (in a negative/ hurtful way) compared to how they treated other people? (Check one)

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Often
- ☐ Always
- ☐ Does not apply to me
- ☐ Prefer to not answer

40

When you have access to a cell phone, tablet or computer, what social media apps do you most often use? Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ Instagram
- ☐ Snapchat
- ☐ TikTok
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Vimeo
- ☐ WeChat
- ☐ WhatsApp
- ☐ YouTube
- ☐ Other _____

You Matter!

41

What is one thing you want policy makers to know about providing STBBI* testing and/or STBBI* care to people who are incarcerated?

42

What is one thing you want the broader community/society to know about people who experience incarceration?

Thanks for your input!