



# MB HIV Program 2019 Client Survey Summary

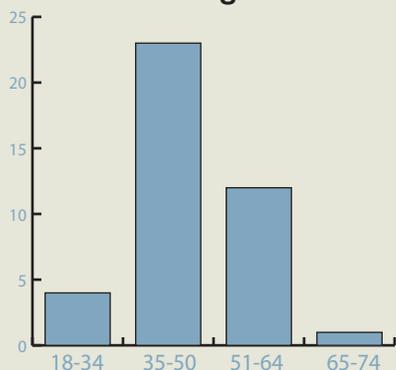
## Background

As part of its ongoing commitment to evaluating programs and services, the Manitoba HIV Program conducted a survey in 2019, by clients, for clients. The responses to this survey will inform future programming. This document summarizes some of the survey responses. Overall, 40 MB HIV Program Clients were interviewed, with 90 per cent living in Winnipeg and 10 per cent living in Brandon. To see the full report, [click here](#). Disclaimer: the survey was conducted before COVID-19 adaptations and administered in only urban locations.

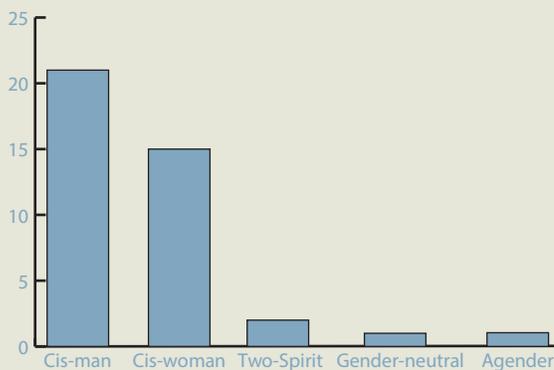


## Demographics of Respondents

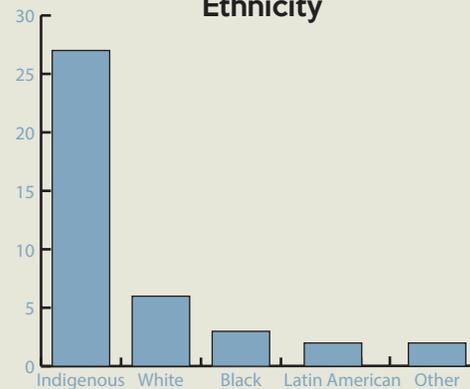
### Age



### Gender



### Ethnicity



## Experience with Stigma

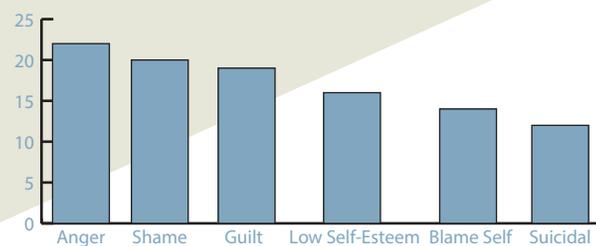
### Internal and external stigma remains an issue

The survey collected information regarding respondents' recent experiences with external and internal stigma and/or discrimination due to their HIV status. Nearly half (47.5 per cent.) reported they had experienced HIV-related stigma and/or discrimination in the past 12 months.

30 per cent had experienced it 'a few times' while 12.5 per cent noted it as 'often'. Instances of being verbally and physically abused, refused employment, denied service and having their rights abused were the most reported forms of discrimination.



### Feelings Related to HIV Status (N=40)



Funded by:



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## MB HIV Program - What's Working

**84.6%**

Of respondents said it was convenient to get to appointments.

**77.5%**

Of respondents rated their overall care within the program to be "very satisfied" or "satisfied."

**75%**

Of respondents felt satisfied or very satisfied with the relationship with their care provider.

*"I am totally satisfied with the care and treatment"*

*"The level of professionalism has been nothing short of exceptional"*

*"They know me by name"*

## Opportunities for Improvements to the Program

*"Nothing about us, without us."*

**1.**



**Expand Service & Program Hours at Clinic Sites**

**2.**



**Develop an HIV Peer Program**

**3.**



**Offer More Culturally Inclusive Programs**

## Recommendations for External Bodies

### **1. HIV Non-Disclosure Law**

Ensure those living with HIV are only required to disclose their HIV status when legally required to in medical and professional settings, and change the law to remove the requirement of disclosure during sex when there is no risk of transmission.

*"Change the law. If you were undetectable, you shouldn't have to wear a condom because you're not putting somebody at risk. So, you shouldn't have to disclose because you're not risking anybody else, so why should you have to?"*

*"They could pay for the drugs, and that way people can go back to work and not be penalized because that's the stigma in itself, not being able to work... If you had your drugs paid for, then you could go back to work, and you wouldn't have people saying, 'What are you doing? You look healthy. What are you doing on disability?'"*

### **2. Access to Medication**

**Cover the entire cost of HIV medications in Manitoba**

Respondents saw not having the cost of antiretroviral medication fully covered in Manitoba as a barrier to long-term health and productivity within society, as well as a source of discrimination against those that held current employment.