The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is developing national measures for the HIV care cascade in Canada. "Tracks" are enhanced surveillance systems that monitor the prevalence of HIV and related infections, as well as the associated risk behaviours among the key populations such as Aboriginal peoples (A-Track) and men who have sex with men (M-Track).

The HIV care cascade, as described by Gardner et al., is a framework to show the extent to which people living with HIV are engaged along the continuum of care. PHAC is developing national measures for the HIV care cascade in Canada.

**OBJECTIVE**

To develop the HIV care cascade for A-Track pilot and M-Track phase 1 surveillance systems using available data.

**METHODS**

Figure 1 illustrates the overall Tracks survey design.

- A-Track pilot survey:
  - In Regina, SK from Dec. 2011 to June 2012
  - Self-identified as Aboriginal or Aboriginal ancestry, age 16 to 60
- M-Track phase 1 survey:
  - 5 sites (Victoria, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, and Montréal) between 2005 and 2007
  - Men who self-identified as ever had sex with another man (MSM), at least 15 years old

To analyze the data, and appropriately construct the HIV care cascade for each survey, we applied a multi-step process as depicted in Figure 2.

**RESULTS**

Table 1 summarizes the main results, and Figure 3 shows the measured elements of the cascade of care for both survey analyses.

- A-Track pilot: From 1064 participants, 1045 provided a dried blood spot (DBS), of which 54 (5.2%) were HIV-positive.
- M-Track phase 1: Overall, 4888 men participated but only 4793 completed the survey questionnaire. 3410 participants offered a biological sample, where 501 (15.1%) showed positive results for HIV.

**DISCUSSION**

- Both populations, i.e. Aboriginal peoples and MSM, are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS.
- It is important to reach undiagnosed people, to take advantage of available treatment and care and reduce the transmission rate.
- Limitations of the study include:
  - Convenience sampling, therefore the results may not be representative.
  - Self-reported data are subject to recall bias and social desirability bias.

**CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS**

The results of this analysis emphasize the need for ongoing monitoring of HIV through multiple surveillance systems, with a focus on the key populations in order to provide national-level data on its epidemic in Canada.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

My sincere gratitude to Ms. Claudia Rank, Ms. Xiaoquan Yao, and Mr. Stephen Cule. This project was an exploratory analysis of data as part of a student practicum with the Surveillance and Epidemiology Division in PHAC. My sincere gratitude to Ms. Claudia Rank, Ms. Xiaoquan Yao, and Mr. Stephen Cule. I would like to thank Dr. Philip Grieben, Dr. Michael Szafrański, and Ms. Karen Ruston.

**KEY REFERENCES**