

## Understanding Research Participation Experiences Among Persons Identifying as African, Caribbean, and Black in British Columbia

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### What Is the Purpose of This Study/Review?

- To use community-based participatory research methods to understand previous research participation experiences, barriers and facilitators to research participation, and future health research priorities among African, Caribbean, and Black (ACB) people in British Columbia, Canada.
- To provide recommendations on how to meaningfully engage members of the ACB community in research to health care researchers and institutional and academic representatives and researchers.

### What Is the Problem?

- Racism is a social determinant of health, which impacts various aspects of our lives as well as health outcomes.
- Under-representation of ACB people in research and underemphasis of ACB health priorities result in unmet health needs.
- In Canada, ACB people are disproportionately affected by HIV and yet health research studies have insufficiently engaged ACB communities.
- Without adopting active anti-racist practices, we cannot achieve health equity and social justice.

### What Are the Findings?

- The majority of our survey respondents are willing to participate in future health research studies, including HIV, sexual and reproductive health, and COVID-19 studies.
- Primary barriers to research participation included time constraints or conflicting priorities, and mistrust of researchers.
- Primary facilitators to research participation included perceived benefits to ACB individuals and communities and having the opportunity to share their voice and perspective(s).
- Preferred recruitment strategies for future health research studies included social media, word of mouth/hearing from peers, and a recommendation from their health care provider.
- Future research topics of interest included mental health, substance use, and sexual and reproductive health.

## Who Should Care Most?

- Health researchers and staff who are designing studies and recruiting participants.
- Members of established community-based research partnerships, and those who are looking to build new partnerships.
- Social leaders and community-based organizations who engage with research.
- Universities that train new researchers.

## Recommendations for Action

- Health researchers should build meaningful long-term relationships built on trust with ACB community organizations and should engage in participatory approaches to support equitable engagement, cultural sensitivity and awareness in research studies.
- Health researchers should engage with ACB communities and assess and incorporate their research priorities into the research aims. Common priorities identified from our participants include mental health, substance use, and sexual and reproductive health research.
- Health researchers should share their study results in community-friendly spaces and in lay terms, so the findings get back to the communities they came from, to nurture meaningful relationships with communities, and to encourage community participation for future studies.