

Structural violence and trajectories of stigma and discrimination among women living with HIV in Vancouver, Canada

C.H. Logie^{1,2,*}, K. Shannon², M. Braschel², A. Krusi², M. Lee³, C. Norris², K. Deering²

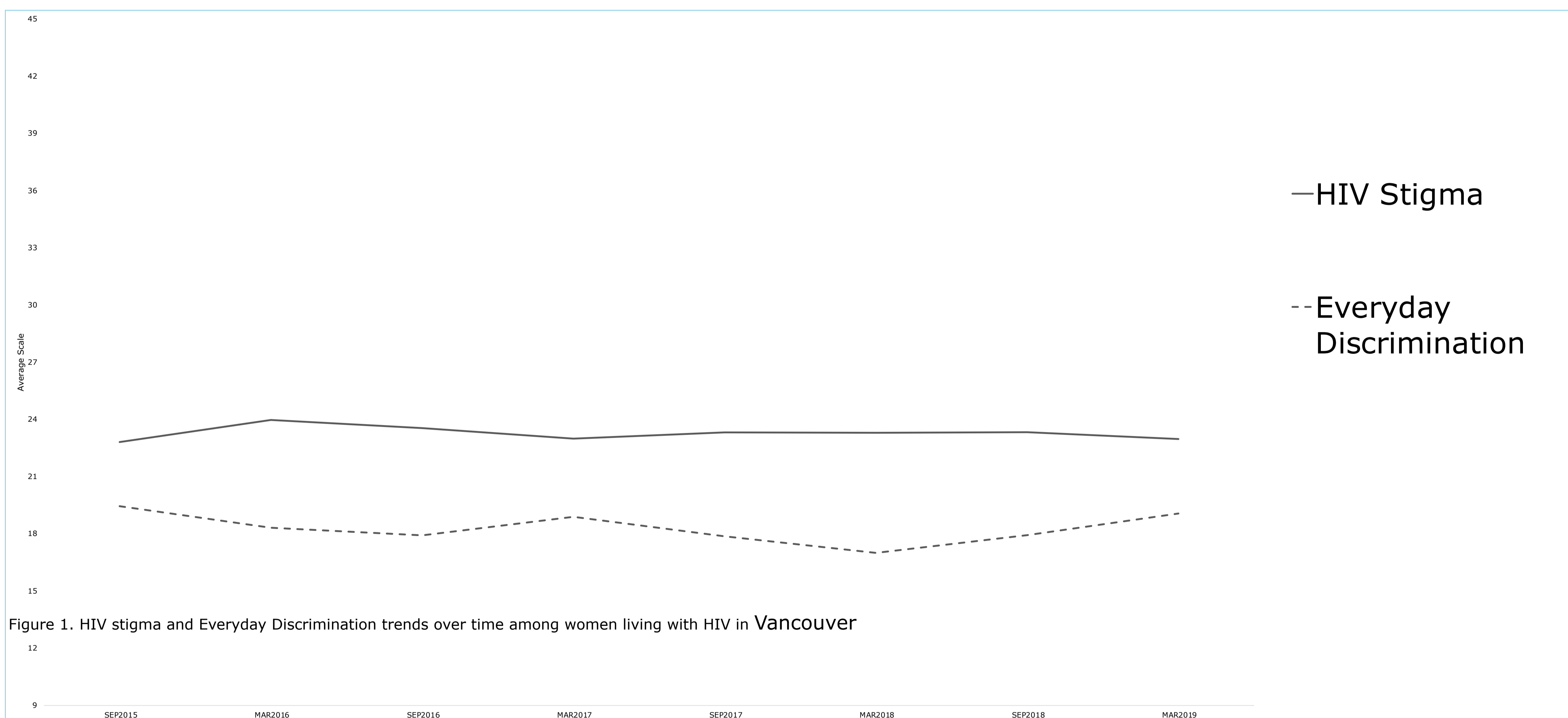
¹Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada; ²Centre for Gender & Sexual Health Equity, Vancouver, Canada. ³University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.
Contact: carmen.logie@utoronto.ca

Background

- Women living with HIV and AIDS (WLWH) experience stigma and discrimination rooted in interlocking social-structural processes of oppression.
- Yet knowledge gaps remain regarding how and why HIV-related stigma and other forms of discrimination shift over time.
- We examined associations between social-structural factors (food/housing insecurity, violence, sexual minority identity) and HIV-related stigma and discrimination trajectories among WLWH.

Results

- The sample included 197 participants with 985 observations over 4 years of follow-up.
- Semiannual time trend plots showed little variation over time for stigma/ discrimination and LCGA identified 3 distinct trajectories of HIV-related stigma and discrimination: sustained low, medium and high.
- In multivariable analysis, recent (past 6-month) concurrent food and housing insecurity (CFHS) and physical/sexual violence were associated with higher odds of being in the sustained medium (CFHS: AOR=1.99, 95%CI=1.03-3.83; violence: AOR=1.96, 95%CI=0.88-4.39) and high (CFHS: AOR=6.93, 95%CI= 2.00-24.04; violence: AOR=2.61, 95%CI=0.76-8.98) HIV-related stigma trajectories (vs. sustained low trajectory).



Methods

- We conducted a community-based open longitudinal cohort 'Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS: Longitudinal Women's Needs Assessment' (SHAWNA) with WLWH living in and/or accessing HIV care in Metro Vancouver, Canada.
- Using data from 2015-2019, semiannual averages in recent (past 6-month) a) HIV-related stigma and b) everyday discrimination were plotted.
- Latent Class Growth Analysis (LCGA) was then used to identify distinct trajectories of HIV-related stigma and discrimination, and baseline correlates of each trajectory were examined using multinomial logistic regression.
- Adjusted odds ratios (AORs) and 95% confidence intervals (95%CIs) are reported.

- Identifying as a sexual minority (AOR=2.18, 95%CI=1.10-4.31) and recent CFHS (AOR=2.15, 95%CI=1.05-4.40) were associated with higher odds of being in the sustained medium discrimination trajectory. Recent physical/sexual violence (AOR=2.90, 95%CI=1.07-7.85), sexual minority identity (AOR=2.43, 95%CI=1.06-5.55), and recent CFHS (AOR=2.24, 95%CI=0.95-5.28) were associated with the sustained high discrimination trajectory.

Discussion

- Findings signal the role of social inequities (food/housing insecurity, violence, sexual minority identity) in sustaining, and the chronicity of, stigma and discrimination among WLWH.
- Multi-level strategies to address the structural violence embedded in socio-economic systems that elevate exposure to poverty and violence and exacerbate stigma/discrimination are required to optimize health and rights with WLWH.