Better health for women living with HIV
We are in this together!

We would like to share some of the knowledge we have gained about women living with HIV in Canada because of YOUR participation and continued support. Thank you!

Over 17 million women are living with HIV worldwide and 16,880 women are living with HIV in Canada.

CHIWOS began in 2013 in BC, QC, ON and has since expanded to SK and MB. There are 1,425 women living with HIV currently enrolled nationally.

Women living with HIV in Canada are diverse

13% of CHIWOS participants identify as LGBTTQ

Average age of participants is 43 ranging from 16 to 74

29% of participants are ACB and 22% are Indigenous

Women living with HIV are looking after their health

83% are currently on antiretroviral therapy (ART)

82% report having an undetectable viral load

Women-centred HIV care is important to women

80% agree that women-centred HIV care is important to them

92% are satisfied with the care they are receiving from their HIV clinic

57% agree that the care they receive from their HIV clinic is women-centred
Stigma and discrimination continue to affect women living with HIV

64% have been hurt by how other people have reacted to learning that they have HIV

68% have been afraid to tell others that they have HIV

68% agree that most people with HIV are rejected when others find out

Motherhood and life with HIV is possible

65% CHIWOS participants have children

Among sexually active females, 42% want to have children in the future

There is life and love with HIV

48% are content with physical intimacy in life

41% feel they have enough emotional closeness in their sex life

49% have had consensual sex in the past 6 months

Women living with HIV are resilient

"Through the [survey] questions I have realized that certain wounds from the past have healed; I have realized my positive journey."
- CHIWOS Participant

"Doing the survey was a good experience because it helped realize my resilience."
- CHIWOS Participant

There is still much work to do to achieve our mission of helping women living with HIV in Canada achieve optimal health and well being through new and meaningful knowledge. We can achieve this together! We gratefully acknowledge all the women living with HIV who contribute to CHIWOS. We also thank all of our partners for supporting the study.