RESEARCH: Neighbourhood level material deprivation is independently associated

with response to combination antiretroviral therapy in the Canadian HIV

Observational Cohort Collaboration (CANOC)

Alison R. McClean PharmD^{1,2}, Jason Trigg MA¹, Monica Ye MSc¹, Taylor McLinden PhD¹, Katherine W. Kooij MD, PhD^{1,3}, Nic Bacani BSc¹, Christian Hui MSW^{4,8}, Paul Sereda BA¹, Ann N. Burchell PhD^{5,6}, Sharon Walmsley MD, MSc^{7,8}, Deborah Kelly PharmD⁹, Nimâ Machouf PhD¹⁰, Julio Montaner MD^{1,2}, Mona Loutfy MD MPH^{6,12}, Robert S. Hogg PhD^{1,2} on behalf of the CANOC Collaboration[†]

- 1. British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, Vancouver, BC, Canada,
- 2. University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada
- 3. Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada,
- 4. Ryerson University, Toronto, ON, Canada
- 5. St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, ON, Canada,
- 6. University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada,
- 7. University Health Network, Toronto, ON, Canada,
- 8. CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network, Vancouver, BC, Canada,
- 9. Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL, Canada,
- 10. Clinique de Médecine Urbaine du Quartier Latin, Montreal, QC, Canada,
- 11. Maple Leaf Medical Clinic, Toronto, ON, Canada,

Corresponding author: Alison McClean, PharmD

Email: alisonmcclean@alumni.ubc.ca

Tel: 250-819-1378

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ABSTRACT

Introduction

Socioeconomic status (SES) has been associated with adverse health outcomes, including higher viral loads (VL) and lower CD4 cell counts (CD4) among people living with HIV (PLWH). However, indicators of SES may be absent from traditional clinical and administrative datasets. This study explored the relationship between neighbourhood level material deprivation, a proxy of SES, and immunologic and virologic response to combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) among PLWH in Canada.

Methods

Response to cART was defined as positive if the CD4 cell count increased ≥50 cells/mm³ (CD4+) and VL decreased to ≤50 copies/mL (VL+) within 6 months of treatment initiation. Response was further categorized as concordant positive (CD4+/VL+), concordant negative (CD4-/VL-) or discordant (CD4+/VL- or CD4-/VL+). Adjusted multinomial regression was used to quantify the relationship between neighbourhood level material deprivation and immunologic and virologic response. Interactions between neighbourhood level material deprivation and age at baseline, sex at birth, and province were examined as well.

Results

This study included 10 133 PLWH, of which 3379 (33.3%) participants lived in materially deprived neighbourhoods. The majority of individuals (n 6277, 62.0%) demonstrated a concordant positive (CD4+/VL+) response to cART. After adjustment for confounding, living in a materially deprived neighbourhood was associated with concordant negative

1 2	
2 3 4	response (adjusted OR 1.34, 95%CI 1.13-1.60). The association between neighbourhood
5	level material deprivation and immunologic and virologic regnones to cAPT was
6 7	level material deprivation and immunologic and virologic response to cART was
8 9	significantly affected by variations in province but not by age or sex.
10	Interpretation
11 12	Interpretation
13	This study supports an association between neighbourhood level SES and response to
14 15	ADT even in the context of universal healthcare in Canada
16 17	cART even in the context of universal healthcare in Canada.
18	Keywords: HIV, material deprivation, CD4, viral load, treatment response
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INTRODUCTION

For people living with HIV (PLWH), combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) has improved HIV-related morbidity and mortality by reducing HIV viral load (VL) and increasing the number of CD4+ T-lymphocyte cells (CD4) (1). Response to cART can be assessed as positive if an individual experiences an increase in CD4 count ≥50 cells/mm³ (CD4+) and a decrease in VL ≤50 copies/mL (VL+) within 6 months of treatment initiation (2–5). Treatment response can be further categorized as concordant positive (CD4+/VL+), concordant negative (CD4-/VL-) or discordant (CD4+/VL- or CD4-/VL+). Concordant positive responses are preferable whereas concordant negative and discordant responses are associated with increased risk of mortality and opportunistic infection (2,3).

In general, individuals of lower socioeconomic status (SES) have been disproportionately affected by HIV and indicators of adverse SES have been associated with suboptimal HIV treatment-related outcomes, including higher VL and lower CD4 counts, at the individual level (6–9). For example, when comparing PLWH who are employed to those who are not, employment predicted significantly higher CD4 counts (10) and education (above the high school level) has been associated with VL <400 copies/mL (11). After adjustment for demographic characteristics and cART adherence, it has also been shown that either being unemployed or not having completed a university education was significantly associated with VL ≥50 copies/mL (Burch et al., 2014). Nevertheless, adherence to cART may be an important mediator in the relationship between material deprivation and immunologic and virologic response (11,13).

Although one's socioeconomic circumstances play an important role in health outcomes, SES can be challenging to assess using standard clinical and administrative databases in the Canadian context. Geographic proxies for individual level data, such as neighbourhood level material and social deprivation indexes, have been developed to address this gap (14). Previous studies have demonstrated an association between neighbourhood level socioeconomic circumstances and specific morbidities (e.g. coronary artery disease, myocardial infarction, end stage renal disease) and mortality (15–19). The objective of this research was to examine the relationship between neighbourhood level material deprivation and concordant positive, concordant negative, and discordant responses to cART. Further, this study addressed the question of whether differences in the magnitude of this effect varied by age at baseline, sex at birth, or province of enrolment.

METHODS

The Canadian HIV Observational Cohort (CANOC) is a longitudinal cohort study of 13 040 PLWH who have initiated cART. CANOC consists of eleven sites spanning five provinces (British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador) and contains data from January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2016. In addition to living with HIV, CANOC inclusion criteria requires participants to (1) be antiretroviral therapy naïve at entry into cohort, (2) have initiated cART consisting of at least three antiretroviral medications on or after January 1, 2000, (3) be 18 years or older at cART initiation, (4)

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be a Canadian resident, and (5) have at least one HIV VL and CD4 count within one year of cART initiation.

Study specific inclusion criteria included having a valid postal code, known sex at birth, at least 6 months of follow up time, and sufficient data to determine immunologic and virologic response. Demographic and clinical data were extracted from medical files at individual sites and collated at the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE). Ethics approval was obtained at participating sites and from the harmonized University of British Columbia-Simon Fraser University Research Ethics Board at Providence Health Care Research Institute (H07-02684). More information regarding CANOC has been published elsewhere (20).

The main exposure, neighbourhood level material deprivation, was derived from an index built using Canadian census data to approximate individual level SES by geographic area (14). The basic geographic unit of the index are dissemination areas (DA) and the score is constructed at the DA level using individuals' postal code information (21). Factor scores are built around the DA using average household income, proportion unemployed of those over 15 years, and high school education rate from the 2006 version of the Canadian census. If information was missing at the DA level, data were taken from the census subdivision (CSD) level. Index scores range from - 8 to +8 where a lower score indicates less deprivation and a higher score indicates more; a value of 0 corresponds to the Canadian average. A dichotomous variable was thus created—i.e. residence in a materially deprived neighbourhood (index >0) or not (index <0).

Based on research published elsewhere, response to cART was categorized as
concordant positive (CD4+/VL+), concordant negative (CD4-/VL-), or discordant
(CD4+/VL- or CD4-/VL+) based on whether CD4 increased \geq 50 cells/mm ³ (CD4+) and VL
decreased \leq 50 copies/mL (VL+) within 6 months of treatment initiation (2,5).
Baseline characteristics between groups with and without neighbourhood level material
deprivation were compared using chi-square tests and Kruskal Wallis tests, where
appropriate. To examine the relationship between neighbourhood level material
deprivation and immunologic and virologic response category, univariable and
multivariable multinomial regression modelling was used. Concordant positive
(CD4+/VL+) was used as the reference category. Multivariable models were adjusted for
a pre-defined list of potential confounders, including age at baseline, sex at birth,
province of enrolment, era of cART initiation, and whether people had injected drugs
(ever). Subanalyses, where an interaction term was introduced between neighbourhood
level material deprivation and age at baseline, sex at birth, or province of enrolment,
were conducted to examine whether the strength of the association between living in a
materially deprived neighbourhood, or not, and immunologic and virologic response
category was affected by each of these potential effect modifiers. Individuals enrolled in
CANOC in Newfoundland and Labrador were excluded from the provincial subanalysis
due to small cell counts (<5 individuals) in some of the categories. All analyses were run
with SAS [®] Proprietary Software version 9.4 (Cary, NC, USA); a p-value of <0.05 was
considered statistically significant.

<u>RESULTS</u>

From 13 040 CANOC participants, 10 133 (77.7%) were eligible for this study (Table 1). Individuals were excluded if they did not have at least 6 months of follow up (n 873, 6.7%), sufficient VL and CD4 data to determine response (n 1192, 9.1%), known sex at birth (n <5), or a valid postal code (n 839, 6.4%). Overall, 6277 (62.0%) of study participants exhibited a concordant positive response whilst 718 (7.1%) were concordant negative. The remaining 2078 (20.5%) and 1060 (10.5%) individuals exhibited CD4+/VL- and CD4-/VL+ discordant responses to cART, respectively. Of those included, 6754 (66.7%) individuals did not live in a materially deprived neighbourhood whilst 3379 (33.3%) did. The largest proportions of study individuals were male (84.6%) and white (43.5%) and the median baseline age was 40 years old (Q1, Q3 32, 47). The median baseline CD4 count was 250 cells/mm³ (Q1, Q3 140, 380) and median baseline viral load was 4.85 log₁₀copies/mL (Q1, Q3 4.34, 5.17).

In the univariable multinomial regression model, individuals living in a materially deprived neighbourhood were more likely to exhibit a concordant negative (OR 1.74, 95%CI 1.48-2.03) or discordant (CD4+/VL- OR 1.21, 95%CI 1.09-1.34; CD4-/VL+ OR 1.19 95%CI 1.04-1.37) response to cART (Table 2). After adjustment for sex at birth, province of enrolment, whether individuals had ever injected drugs, era of entry into cohort, and age at baseline, neighbourhood level material deprivation was significantly associated with concordant negative response (OR 1.34, 95%CI 1.13-1.60).

The interaction term fit between age at baseline and neighbourhood level material deprivation was not significant for any immunologic and virologic response category

(Table 3), which indicates the relationship between neighbourhood level material deprivation and immunologic and virologic response was not significantly affected by variation in age. The effect modification of sex at birth was approaching significance (p-value 0.0820). To further investigate neighbourhood level material deprivation and sex at birth, a 4-level exposure that combines material deprivation and sex at birth was put into the model and adjusted by the same confounders as the main model. Compared to male sex and no neighbourhood level material deprivation, female sex and no neighbourhood level deprivation demonstrated an OR of 1.59 (95%CI 1.20-2.11), but male sex and neighbourhood level material deprivation only showed an OR of 1.49 (95%CI 1.23-1.80) for concordant negative responders.

The interaction term fit between province and neighbourhood level material deprivation was statistically significant (p-value 0.0338; referent no deprivation and residence in BC). Residence in a materially deprived neighbourhood in BC increased the odds of having a concordant negative response (OR 1.82, 95%CI 1.43-2.31). Residence in a non-materially deprived neighbourhood in Saskatchewan increased the risk of concordant negative (OR 6.09, 3.58-10.37) and CD4+/VL- discordant (OR 1.78, 1.05-3.04) response while residence in a materially deprived Saskatchewan neighbourhood was associated with an increased risk of all three response categories (CD4-/VL- OR 7.20, 95% CI 4.79, 10.84; CD4+/VL- OR 2.38, 95%CI 1.62, 3.49; CD4-/VL+ OR 2.25, 95%CI 1.41, 3.60). Within Ontario, residence in either type of neighbourhood was significantly associated with experiencing a CD4-/VL+ discordant response (non-deprived OR 1.25, 1.04-1.51;

deprived OR 1.42, 1.08-1.88). Individuals from Quebec had higher odds of CD4-/VL+ discordance if they lived in a non-deprived neighbourhood (OR 1.31, 95%CI 1.03-1.66).

INTERPRETATION

Among PLWH in Canada who initiated cART between 2000 and 2016, those living in a materially deprived neighbourhood at initiation were least likely to achieve viral suppression and/or an increase in CD4 cells within 6 months of cART initiation (i.e. concordant negative or discordant response). The association between concordant negative response and neighbourhood level material deprivation was robust and persisted with adjustment for individual level factors such as birth sex, province of enrolment, ever injecting drugs, era of entry into cohort, and age at baseline. Specifically, the odds of experiencing a concordant negative response to cART—as compared to achieving a concordant positive response— is statistically significantly and independently increased for individuals living in a materially deprived neighbourhood. Because concordant negative and discordant responses have been associated with increased risk of mortality, this research provides further insights into the previously reported association between neighbourhood level education and income and increased mortality risk (2,22,23). Lower income and education rates at the neighbourhood level have been associated with higher mean community viral load (24) and there is evidence of associations between higher neighbourhood SES and viral suppression (13,25,26). Furthermore, individuals living in a neighbourhood with higher rates of deprivation may be more likely to experience CD4 counts <200 cells/ μ L (27).

The magnitude and direction of the association between neighbourhood material deprivation and treatment response is not affected by age. We did find evidence of effect modification between sex at birth and neighbourhood level material deprivation, showing a stronger association between neighbourhood level material deprivation and unfavourable treatment response in males. In females, neighbourhood context did not appear to affect treatment response. However, females were more likely to have experienced concordant negative response than males regardless of neighbourhood level material deprivation. The provincial subanalysis demonstrated that neighbourhood level material deprivation significantly increased the odds of experiencing concordant negative response to cART in BC, whereas this association was less pronounced in Ontario, Quebec, or Saskatchewan. Individuals from Saskatchewan were more likely to have concordant negative or discordant response regardless of whether their neighbourhood was materially deprived. These results suggest that the impact of neighbourhood setting on immunologic and virologic response to cART likely varies by geographic location of residence. It is worth noting that CANOC relies on clinic-based data in some provinces (SK, ON, QC) and population-based data in others (BC) and this may account for part of the observed provincial differences. Another possible explanation could be that although the current exposure, neighbourhood level material deprivation, has only two categories (i.e. deprived and non-deprived), the contrast between deprived and non-deprived may be more pronounced in some provinces. Readers should be cautious when interpreting these results. Firstly, the study lacked individual level data with regards to indicators of SES (i.e. employment, income, and

education attainment). By definition, the neighbourhood level material deprivation index requires making generalizations about an individual based on a larger group, which may be liable to the ecological fallacy. Additionally, due to CANOC study design and available data, it was not possible to adjust for adherence which is likely related to both SES and response to cART (11,13,27). The generalizability of the results of this study beyond the Canadian context may be limited due to the use of a context specific definition of neighbourhood level material deprivation. However, conclusions regarding an association between neighbourhood level SES and treatment response are likely generalizable to other settings with universal access to cART. Despite these limitations, CANOC remains a large pan-provincial observational cohort following over 13 000 PLWH.

In conclusion, this study provides additional evidence that SES may affect treatment response to cART among PLWH with access to universal healthcare in Canada. To the best of our knowledge, this study is the first to examine the associations between neighbourhood level material deprivation and immunologic and virologic response to cART in the Canadian context. Future studies with access to traditional individual-level indicators of SES (e.g. income, education, employment) could explore whether the associations reported here are consistent across studies. Further inquiry could examine whether SES impacts cART treatment failure in the Canadian context.

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 Table 1. Sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of people living with HIV

 stratified by neighbourhood level material deprivation at cART initiation (n 10 133).

4 5	stratified by neighbor	urhood l	evel material	depriva	ation at cART	' initiati	on (n 10 133).
6		Overall		Neigh	bourhood lev	vel mat	erial	-
7		(n 10 1		depriv				
8		(11 10 1	,	-	6754)	Voc In	3379)	
9				-	-	-	-	
10	-	N	col %	Ν	col %	Ν	col %	p-values
11	Immune response							
12	Concordant positive	6277	61.9	4320	64.0	1957	57.9	<0.0001
13	(CD4+/VL+)							
14	Concordant	718	7.1	402	6.0	316	9.4	
15 16	negative (CD-/VL-)							
17	Discordant response	2078	20.5	1344	19.9	734	21.7	
18	(CD4+/VL-)		_0.0					
19	Discordant response	1060	10.5	688	10.2	372	11.0	
20	(CD4-/VL+)	1000	10.5	000	10.2	572	11.0	
21								
22	Neighbourhood							
23	level material							
24	deprivation							
25 26	No	6754	66.7					
27	Yes	3379	33.4					
28	Sex at birth							
29	Male	8572	84.6	5886	87.2	2686	79.5	<0.0001
30	Female	1561	15.4	868	12.9	693	20.5	
31	Province	1901	13.4	000	12.5	055	20.5	
32		110F	44.2	2200		1077	27.0	<0.0001
33	BC	4485	44.3	3208	47.5	1277	37.8	<0.0001
34	SK	309	3.1	103	1.5	206	6.1	
35 36	ON	2960	29.2	2328	34.5	632	18.7	
37	QC	2339	23.1	1110	16.4	1229	36.4	
38	NL	40	0.4	5	0.07	35	1.0	
39	People who ever							
40	injected drugs							
41	No	6283	62.0	4296	63.6	1987	58.8	<0.0001
42	Yes	1923	19.0	985	14.6	938	27.8	
43	Unknown	1925	19.0	1473	21.8	454	13.4	
44	MSM	1927	19.0	1473	21.0	434	13.4	
45 46			24.2			4000		
47	No	3139	31.0	1746		1393		
48	Yes	5113	50.5	3558		1555	46.0	
49	Unknown	1881	18.6	1450	21.5	431	12.8	
50	AIDS defining illness							
51	(ADI)							
52	No ADI ever	8137	80.3	5430	80.4	2707	80.1	<0.0001
53	ADI before or at	1116	11.0	749	11.1	367	10.9	-
54	baseline							
55	ADI after baseline	546	5.4	322	4.8	224	6.6	
56 57		540	5.4	522	4.0	224	0.0	
57								

2								
3	ADI with unknown	334	3.3	253	3.8	81	2.4	
4	date							
5 6	Era of entry into							
7	cohort							
8	2000-2003	1707	16.9	1142	16.9	565	16.7	0.48
9		-						0.40
10	2004-2007	2266	22.4	1539	22.8	727	21.5	
11	2008-2011	3315	32.7	2193	32.5	1122	33.2	
12	2012-2016	2845	28.1	1880	27.8	965	28.6	
13	ART regimen							
14	NNRTI	4115	40.6	2735	40.5	1380	40.8	0.76
15 16	PI	4365	43.1	2926	43.3	1439	42.6	
17	II	1253	12.4	822	12.2	431	12.8	
18	Other	400	4.0	271	4.0	129	3.8	
19		N	median	N	median	N	median	
20			(Q1, Q3)		(Q1, Q3)		(Q1, Q3)	
21	Age at baseline	10133	40 (32, 47)	6754	40 (32, 47)	3379	40 (33, 47)	0.89
22	-	10133	40 (32, 47)	0754	40 (32, 47)	5575	40 (33, 47)	0.05
23	(years)			·				
24	CD4 at baseline	10133	250 (140,	6754	• •	3379	246 (140 <i>,</i>	0.067
25 26	(cells/mm3)		380)		380)		372)	
20	Baseline viral load	10133	4.9 (4.3,	6754	4.9 (4.4,	3379	4.8 (4.3,	0.047
28	(log10 copies/ml)		5.2)		5.2)		5.2)	
29	Follow-up time	10133	, 76.2 (39.9,	6754	, 77.1 (39.6,	3379	, 74.7 (40.4,	0.21
30	(months)		116.5)		118.6)		113.4)	2
31	BC British Columbia, SK Saskatch	ewan, ON On	,	L Newfoun	,		±±3.77	

BC British Columbia, SK Saskatchewan, ON Ontario, QC Quebec, NL Newfoundland and Labrador

MSM men who have sex with men, ADI AIDS defining illness

cART combination antiretroviral therapy classified by third agent, NNRTI non-nucleoside reverse-transcriptase inhibitor, PI protease

inhibitor, II integrase inhibitor

inhibitor, II integrase inhibitor % col column percent Q1, Q3 quartile 1, quartile 3

Table 2. Univariable and multivariable multinomial associations between neighbourhood level material deprivation and immunologic and virologic response category (n 10 133). Concordant positive (CD4+/VL+) was used as the reference category.

	n	(CD4-/VL-)		Discordant response (CD4+/VL-)			D r (C			
	OR	2	95% CI	OR	9	5% CI	OR	95%	% CI	p-val
Univariable model							I			I
Neighbourhood										
level material										
deprivation										
No [ref]	1.00			1.00			1.00			
Yes	1.74	1.48	2.03	1.21	1.09	1.34	1.19	1.04	1.37	<0.00
				I			I			I
Multivariable Neighbourhood										
level material										
deprivation										
No [ref]	1.00			1.00			1.00			
Yes	1.34	1.13	1.60		0.99	1.24	1.12	0.97	1.29	0.00
Confounders	1.54	1.15	1.00	1.11	0.99	1.24	1.12	0.97	1.29	
Sex at birth										
Male [ref]	1.00			1.00			1.00			
Female	1.33	1.09	1.62		0.84	1.12	1.14	0.95	1.37	0.01
Province	1.55	1.05	1.02	0.57	0.04		1.14	0.55	1.57	
BC [ref]	1.00			1.00			1.00			
SK	4.89	3.49	6.84		1.49	2.82	1.84	1.25	2.72	
ON	0.94	0.76	1.16		0.82	1.06	1.23	1.04	1.45	<0.00
QC	0.82	0.64	1.05		0.84	1.12	1.17	0.97	1.42	.0.00
NL	0.52	0.07	3.92	2.69	1.36	5.31	1.34	0.45	3.99	
Year of entry		0.07	0.01			0.01		01.0	0.00	
into cohort										
2000-2003 [ref]	1.00			1.00			1.00			
2004-2007	0.55	0.43	0.69		0.72	0.98	0.71	0.56	0.88	
2008-2011	0.52	0.42	0.65		0.63	0.84	0.93	0.76	1.13	<0.00
2011-2016	0.53	0.42	0.67		0.47	0.64	1.13	0.92	1.38	
People who						-	_			
ever injected										
drugs										
No [ref]	1.00			1.00			1.00			
Yes	2.77	2.26	3.39		1.32	1.75	1.39	1.15	1.68	<0.00

1											
2 3		I			1			ī		1	
4	Unknown	1.14	0.90	1.45	1.00	0.87	1.16	1.13	0.94	1.36	
5	Age at baseline (10 years)	0.99	0.91	1.07	1.04	0.99	1.10	1.01	0.95	1.08	0.37
6 7	CD4+, an increase of \geq 50 c	 cells/mm w	ithin 6 mor	nths of cART	initiation :	3; VL+, vira	l suppressio	 on ≤50 copi	es/mL with	ا in 6 months o	f
8	cART initiation										
9 10	BC British Columbia, SK Sa			ario, QC Que	ebec, NL Ne	ewfoundlan	d and Labr	ador			
11	OR odds ratio, 95% CI 95%	6 confidence	e interval								
12											
13 14											
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60				For F	Peer Revi	ew Only					

Table 3. Multivariable subanalyses exploring the associations between neighbourhood level material deprivation and age at baseline (n 10 133), sex at birth (n 10 133), and province of residence (n 10 093). Concordant positive response (CD4+/VL+) was used as the reference category.

	C nega	oncorda tive res CD4-/V	ponse	re	scorda spons D4+/V	e		iscorda oonse (/VL+)	CD4-	
	OR	95	% CI	OR	95 9	% CI	OR	9 5	% CI	p-values
Model A										
NLMD*age at										
baseline										
per 10 years					0.9		1.0	0.9		
increase in	0.97	0.87	1.07	1.04	8	1.10	3	6	1.12	
deprivation "no"					-		-	-		0.65
per 10 years					0.9		0.9	0.7		
increase in	1.02	0.79	1.33	1.05	0	1.24	7	9	1.20	
deprivation "Yes"										
Model B										
NLMD*sex at										
birth				•			1 0			
No deprivation	1.00			1.00			1.0 0			
and Male [ref] No deprivation					0.7		1.2	0.9		
and Female	1.63	1.25	2.12	0.92	6	1.11	1.2	6	1.53	
Yes deprivation					0.9		1.1	0.9		0.0002
and Male	1.49	1.23	1.80	1.09 <	6	1.23	5	8	1.35	
Yes deprivation					0.9		1.2	0.9		
and Female	1.59	1.20	2.11	1.12	1	1.37	0	1	1.57	
Model C					_		· ·	-		
NLMD*province										
No deprivation	1.00			1 00			1.0			
and BC [ref]	1.00			1.00			0			
No deprivation	C 00	2 5 0	10.27	1 70	1.0	2.04	1.6	0.8	2.24	
and SK	6.09	3.58	10.37	1.78	5	3.04	5	5	3.21	
No deprivation	1 21	0.95	1 5 4	0.90	0.7	1 02	1.2	1.0	1 5 1	
and ON	1.21	0.95	1.54	0.89	7	1.03	5	4	1.51	
No deprivation	0.99	0.71	1.39	1.00	0.8	1.20	1.3	1.0	1.66	<0.0001
and QC	0.55	0.71	1.55	1.00	3	1.20	1	3	1.00	<0.0001
Yes deprivation	1.82	1.43	2.31	1.08	0.9	1.27	1.2	0.9	1.53	
and BC	1.02	1.40	2.31	1.00	1	1.61	2	7	1.55	
Yes deprivation	7.20	4.79	10.84	2.38	1.6	3.49	2.2	1.4	3.60	
and SK	,.20		10.04	2.50	2	5.45	5	1	5.00	
Yes deprivation	0.88	0.58	1.33	1.13	0.9	1.40	1.4	1.0	1.88	
and ON					1		2	8		

1									
2 3 4	Yes deprivation and QC	1.19 0.88	1.61	1.02	0.8 5	1.22	1.2 3	0.9 8	1.56
5 6	Newfoundland and Labrado	i or were excluded from	the provincia	। Il subanalyse	-	small cell s	1	U	I
7	Models are adjusted for pre	-defined potential age	e at baseline ((models B, C	only), sex	k at birth (i	nodels A,	C only), p	rovince of
8	enrolment (models A, B only	/), people who ever inj	ected drugs,	and era of e	entry into a	cohort			
9	BC British Columbia, SK Sasl	katchewan, ON Ontari	o, QC Quebe	c					
10	NLMD neighbourhood level	material deprivation							
11 12	OR odds ratio, 95% Cl 95% c	confidence interval							
13									
14									
15									
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STROBE Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of cohort studies

	Item No	Recommendation	Pag No
Title and abstract	1	(<i>a</i>) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	1
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was	3-4
		done and what was found	
Introduction			5-6
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	3-0
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	6
Methods			
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	7-8
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of	7-8
		recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	
Participants	6	(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of	7-8
-		participants. Describe methods of follow-up	
		(b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and	NA
		unexposed	
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and	8-9
v ariables	/	effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	
Data sources/	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of	8-9
measurement	0	assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if	
medsurement		there is more than one group	
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	7-8
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	9
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable,	6-8
(describe which groupings were chosen and why	
Statistical methods	12	(<i>a</i>) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	7-8
		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	8
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	9
		(d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed	NA
		(<i>a</i>) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed (<i><u>e</u></i>) Describe any sensitivity analyses	NA
		(<u>e</u>) Describe any sensitivity analyses	1.1.1
Results			9
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially	9
		eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study,	
		completing follow-up, and analysed	
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	9 NA
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	NA
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	9,19 20
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	19- 20
		(c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	9,2
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	9-1 19-

Main results	16	(<i>a</i>) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	9 1 2
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	9
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	N
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	10
Discussion			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	1
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	12
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	11 13
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	13
Other informati	on		
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	2

*Give information separately for exposed and unexposed groups.

Note: An Explanation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE checklist is best used in conjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at http://www.plosmedicine.org/, Annals of Internal Medicine at http://www.annals.org/, and Epidemiology at http://www.epidem.com/). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at http://www.strobe-statement.org.