



Funder: The Ontario HIV Treatment Network

OutLook Study Backgrounder

What is the OutLook Study?

The OutLook Study is a very significant research project for Waterloo Region – it is designed to learn more about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) people who live, work, or go to school in Waterloo Region. It is also designed to learn more about the sexual health needs of men who have sex with men (MSM) in Waterloo Region.

OutLook is different from most large research studies in that community partners worked in collaboration with public health and university based researchers to build and implement all project phases. From May to November of 2016, the OutLook Study Team collected responses from 526 LGBTQ participants in an online survey. The survey questions were derived from existing surveys on LGBTQ communities (e.g. HiMMM, Trans PULSE), as well as from members of the OutLook Study Team. It was important to the team to have the survey items be inclusive of issues facing LGBTQ communities. We wanted to ensure that the questions being asked could better illuminate the voice of those with lived experience as LGBTQ individuals.

What is the purpose of the OutLook Study?

Once the information has been collected, analyzed and distributed (eg. through community meetings, factsheets, reports, etc.), members of the OutLook Study Team, the Rainbow Community Council (RCC), and other community partners will work to develop initiatives that promote the health and well-being of Waterloo Region's LGBTQ and MSM communities.

Who is the OutLook Study Team?

The OutLook Study Team is a sub-committee of the Rainbow Community Council (RCC). It is a working group comprised of representatives from Region of Waterloo Public Health & Emergency Services (WRPHES), the AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo & Area (ACCKWA), the Waterloo Region Rainbow Coalition, Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU), and various other organizations and members of the community. Its members, and their affiliations, include:

Grace Bermingham (RWPHEs)
Colin Boucher (ACCKWA)
Ruth Cameron (ACCKWA)
Todd Coleman (WLU)
Simon Coulombe (WLU)
Charlie Davis (WLU)
Chris Harold (RWPHEs)
Victor LeFort (ACCKWA)
Jeremy Steffler (RCC)
Robb Travers (WLU)
Sue Weare (CCRLA)
Ciann Wilson (WLU)
Michael Woodford (WLU)

What kind of ethical approval process did the OutLook Study go through?

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Wilfrid Laurier University Research Ethics Board (REB #4875), which receives funding from the [Research Support Fund](#). If you feel you have not been treated according to the descriptions in this form, or your rights as a participant in research have been violated during the course of this project, you may contact Dr. Robert Basso, Chair, Research Ethics Board, (519) 884-0710, ext. 4994 or rbasso@wlu.ca

This project has also been reviewed and approved by the Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services Research Ethics Board. Any ethics-related questions in regards to the RWPHEs Ethics Board can be directed to Celina Sousa, Chair, at csousa@regionofwaterloo.ca or 519-575-4400 ext. 5300.

Where can I see the results?

The results of the OutLook Study will mainly be disbursed in the form of fact sheets, accessible via www.outlookstudy.ca as they become available.

Where will OutLook go next?

The OutLook Study Team is currently seeking funding for various and future phases of the project. Stay tuned as we make progress on this front!