



## **Appendix 24 - weSpeak: Heterosexual Black Men Building Resilience to HIV in Ontario Project**

### **Toronto Site - Participant Consent Agreement (ACB Men - weSpeak E-Survey)**

You are being invited to participate in **weSpeak**, a research project funded by the Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN) and Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR). Please read this consent form so that you understand what your participation will involve. Before you consent to participate, please ask any questions to be sure you fully understand what your voluntary participation will involve.

#### **INVESTIGATORS:**

weSpeak is carried out by a large team of researchers in Toronto, Ottawa, London and Windsor. All team members are listed on the last page of this consent form. The principal investigators of this study are:

- Dr. Josephine P. Wong (Associate Professor, Ryerson University)
- Dr. Winston Husbands (Senior Scientist, Ontario HIV Treatment Network)
- Dr. Josephine Etowa (Associate Professor, University of Ottawa)
- Dr. Isaac Luginaah (Professor, Western University)
- Dr. Francisca Omordion (Associate Professor, University of Windsor)

#### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:**

The goal of this research project is to reduce HIV vulnerabilities and promote resilience through active engagement of self-identified heterosexual African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) men in community HIV responses, programs, research, and policy. We will engage and mobilize self-identified heterosexual ACB men who are: aged 16 and over; residing in the Greater Toronto Area, London, Ottawa, and Windsor; and HIV-positive or have never been diagnosed with HIV. We will also engage service providers, policy/decision-makers and other relevant stakeholders who work in or with ACB communities to address HIV and other related issues that affect the health and wellbeing of heterosexual ACB men and their communities.

#### **TAKING PART IN THIS STUDY**

Taking part in this study is totally voluntary. You must self-identify as a heterosexual ACB man, aged 16 or over, and living in one of the four project cities – Toronto, Ottawa, London, or Windsor. If you choose to participate in the weSpeak study, you will be asked to do the following:

- Complete a short demographic and health practices survey, which consists of a range of questions about you (e.g., your age, faith/religion, housing arrangement), your sexual practices (e.g., condom use) and your access to health information and services (e.g., whether you have a family doctor).
- Complete the weSpeak Survey (in paper or electronic format), which consists of a range of questions about your perceptions of resilience, gender role expectation, knowledge of HIV, condom use practices and experiences of everyday discrimination.
- Completing the above surveys will take about 35 to 40 minutes.

### **FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

If you agree to take part in this study, you will also be asked if you wish to be contacted to take part voluntarily in the following activity at a later date:

- **Concept Mapping Focus Group Sessions:** This is a series of 4 focus group sessions during which you will work with other heterosexual ACB men to draw on the weSpeak study results to develop a best practices model for HIV prevention and resilience promotion for heterosexual ACB men and their communities

If you wish to be contacted to take part in the concept mapping focus groups, you may fill out a separate contact information form at the end of this interview

### **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION**

Taking part in this research study is completely voluntary and you may refuse to participate, refuse to answer any questions or withdraw from the study at any time. Withdrawing from the study will not affect any services that you now receive or will receive from any of the weSpeak partnership agencies (see list of research team members on the last page). Should you choose to withdraw within 3 months of your participation, we will do our best to remove your individual information from the study. However, because the survey is anonymous (i.e. you will not be asked to provide your name), if you request for the individual information you contributed to be removed from the study data, we will need you to provide us with the following information: (1) the number shown on the card that you received from the individual who recruited you into the study; (2) your first and last initials as you indicated during the survey; (3) your birth month as you indicated during the survey. However, after 3 months of your participation, we may not be able to remove your data entirely if the information you have provided has been integrated with the data of other participants and removal of your data may affect the data of other participants.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

All information you provide during the research will be kept private. Your name will not appear in any report or publication of the research. We will use a study code on all the data we collect from you. Paper copies of the surveys will be kept in a locked filing cabinet in a secured office. Electronic copies of the survey will be kept in encrypted and password protected computer or electronic device. We will store the consent form and your contact information separate from research data. All surveys will be destroyed 5 years after the study has been completed completed.

The research team will keep what you share in the survey confidential, except in situations where we are required by law to release the information (e.g., if we hear information that a child has been or is being abused; if we hear that you may harm yourself, that is, there is reason to believe that you are at risk to commit suicide; if we hear that an individual who is HIV positive is having unprotected sexual relations without disclosing his status to his partner(s); or if we hear that

someone has threatened your life or someone else's life, etc.).

### **RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS**

This study is not expected to cause you or others any known harm. However, you may experience some unexpected emotion or discomfort while you are completing the surveys. If you feel upset during the survey, and you wish to express your discomfort, please feel free to approach any member of the research team. You may also refer to the "Community Resources" sheet you received as part of the study information you received. It contains information on support services in the community that may be helpful to you.

### **BENEFITS OF THE RESEARCH**

Although you may not have any direct benefit from taking part in this study, your ideas and sharing may help us develop effective programs and policy to improve HIV programs, services and policies for ACB men and their communities in Ontario.

### **HONORARIUM**

You will receive a \$20 honorarium for taking part in the weSpeak Survey. You will keep this honorarium even if you decide to withdraw from the study at any point in time.

### **RESEARCH REPORT**

You can access our research project results at the weSpeak website ([www.we-Speak.ca](http://www.we-Speak.ca))

### **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RESEARCH**

If you have questions about the research in general or about your role in the study, please feel free to contact: Dr. Josephine Wong, Principal Investigator, Ryerson University, at 416-979-5000 ext. 6303, or by E-mail: [jph.wong@ryerson.ca](mailto:jph.wong@ryerson.ca);

This research has been reviewed by the Ryerson University's Research Ethics Board and conforms to the standards of the Canadian Tri-Council Research Ethics guidelines. If you have any questions about this process, or about your rights as a participant in the study please contact: Research Ethics Board, Ryerson University, at 416-979-5000 ext. 7112, or by E-mail: [rebchair@ryerson.ca](mailto:rebchair@ryerson.ca)

## LIST OF RESEARCH TEAM MEMBERS

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<b>Co-Principal Investigators</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Josephine P. Wong	Ryerson University
Winston Husbands	Ontario HIV Treatment Network
Josephine Etowa	University of Ottawa
Francisca Omorodion	University of Windsor
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Carl James	York University
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Hugues Loemba	University of Ottawa
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Lance McCready	University of Toronto
Paul Mkandawire	Carleton University
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Fanta Ongoiba	APAA
Valérie Pierre-Pierre	ACCHO
Maurice Poon	York University
Wangari Tharao	WHIWH
Zhaida Uddin	Ottawa Public Health
Mandana Vahabi	Ryerson University
Charmaine Williams	University of Toronto

**CONSENT:** Pressing the “I consent” button below means that I have read and understood the information on this page and I have had a chance to ask any questions I have about the study. Pressing this button also means that I agree to take part in this survey and I understand that I can change my mind at any time. I have been given a copy of this agreement (**Please select “print” after you provide your consent**).

Note: Pressing “I CONSENT” will open a window with a “**print**” button. When you press “**print**” a copy of your consent form will be made available to you after the survey. Once your consent form has been sent to the printer, you will be redirected to the weSpeak survey page.

Thank you for participating.

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I CONSENT