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Mpox Immunization Coverage Survey among 2SLGBTQI+ and Men who have Sex with Men, 2024

Methodological Report

Prepared for the Public Health Agency of Canada

Supplier name: Advanis Inc.

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por-rop@hc-sc.gc.ca

Ce rapport est aussi disponible en français.

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This report presents the methodological details for the Mpox Immunization Coverage Survey among 2SLGBTQI+ and men who have sex with men (MSM), conducted by Advanis Inc. on behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). The survey was administered among 5,885 members of the adult Canadian general public, between December 7th, 2023, and January 29, 2024 (recruitment was paused between December 22nd and January 2nd).

Ce rapport est aussi disponible en français sous le titre: Enquête sur la couverture vaccinale contre la variole simienne chez les 2SLGBTQI+ et les hommes ayant des rapports sexuels avec des hommes, 2024 : rapport méthodologique

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por-rop@hc-sc.gc.ca

Health Canada, CPAB
200 Eglantine Driveway, Tunney's Pasture
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1. Executive Summary

1.1 Background

With the emergence of the multi-country outbreak of mpox (formerly referred to as “monkeypox”) in May 2022, Canada launched an unprecedented immunization campaign to help control the spread of the virus¹. In particular, the vaccination campaign has targeted key, at-risk populations following the National Advisory Committee on Immunization’s (NACI) guidance for prevention among 2SLGBTQI+ and men who have sex with men (MSM) communities, with some variance in the vaccination approach in provinces and territories. In 2023, PHAC commissioned an initial study to determine vaccination coverage estimates among these populations at the national level. Ongoing surveillance information is required to monitor the mpox situation in Canada, to help inform public health vaccination programs and prevention strategy initiatives.

The purpose of this survey was to provide an update in 2023/2024 to the information on mpox vaccine coverage for the 2SLGBTQI+ as well as MSM adult populations, and continue to help understand the knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs concerning mpox vaccines (e.g., vaccine effectiveness, vaccine safety, vaccine relevance). This includes exploring reasons for vaccine hesitancy and vaccine refusal and the impact this has on vaccine. Its purpose was also to identify risk factors for transmission of mpox as well as these populations’ willingness to limit high-risk activities amid the current mpox outbreak.

The survey applied a sex and gender-based analysis plus (SGBA+) lens, considering the multiple identities and contextual factors of 2SLGBTQI+ people or those who are MSM living in Canada².

1.2 Objectives

The primary objective of this surveillance survey was to measure mpox immunization coverage-related information for 2SLGBTQI+ and MSM people living in Canada using the enhanced surveillance tool developed for the 2023 survey.

Specifically, this surveillance survey aimed to collect information on:

- Mpox immunization status.
- Intent to get vaccinated for those not yet vaccinated against mpox.
- Reasons for non-vaccination of mpox (including barriers).
- Knowledge, attitudes and beliefs toward mpox vaccines.
- Sources of information on mpox vaccines.
- Socio-demographic characteristics potentially linked to inequalities in vaccination uptake.

The second survey objective was to document the socioeconomic, cognitive, and motivational factors associated with low uptake of the mpox vaccine among these two (2) at-risk populations.

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/monkeypox.html>

² <https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/free-to-be-me/federal-2slgbtqi-plus-action-plan/survey-findings/quick-stats.html>

1.3 Methodology

Data collection started December 7, 2023, and ended January 29, 2024, and was conducted by Advanis.

A sample of 26,891 Canadians aged 18 or older were called through the use of Advanis' General Population Representative Sample (GPRS) and invited to participate in an online survey. To reach members of the 2SLGBTQI+ population, recruitment was completed using targeting information Advanis had profiled within the GPRS database to ensure quota minimums were met. A total of 13,824 recruits agreed to participate and received an email or SMS inviting them to take part in the survey.

Of those invited, 5,886 answered the online survey. However, 1 case was removed from the data due to non-valid or inappropriate verbatim responses. Hence, 5,885 were considered to have completed the survey. Of those, 792 (13.5%) were non-heterosexual members of the 2SLGBTQI+ population, 49 (0.8%) were heterosexual members of the 2SLGBTQI+ population (e.g., a heterosexual transgender person) and 8 (0.1%) were heterosexual men who had male sexual partners in the last 12 months.

Survey results were weighted by age group, gender and sexual orientation. The results are based on responses from 5,885 Canadians across all provinces and territories. Recruitment ensured quotas were reached for key sub-populations to ensure statistical relevance and representativeness.

1.4 Contract Value

The contract value for this study was \$107,304.80 (including HST).

1.5 Political Neutrality Requirement

I hereby certify as a Senior Officer of Advanis that the deliverables fully comply with the Government of Canada's political neutrality requirements outlined in the Communications Policy of the Government of Canada and Procedures for Planning and Contracting Public Opinion Research.

Specifically, the deliverables do not contain any reference to electoral voting intentions, political party preferences, standings with the electorate, or ratings of the performance of a political party or its leader.



Nicolas Toutant
Vice President, Research and Evaluation
Advanis
nicolas.toutant@advanis.ca