

The Know Your Status (KYS) program is a unique program that takes a community driven and culturally sensitive approach to managing and preventing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) within the First Nations population. The program builds community capacity, normalizes testing, increases access to case management services, promotes harm reduction, and provides education within the community. It offers comprehensive and culturally sensitive care to First Nations clients who are diagnosed with HIV and STIs by offering health services within the community. The program focuses on building relationships with each client and individualizing the care that is provided. The KYS program is a successful example of an effective partnership between First Nations, Health Canada, the provincial government, and the regional health authority.

The objectives of the KYS program are to:

- Decrease the number of new cases of HIV and STIs in the community;
- Decrease stigma and increase understanding of HIV and STIs; and
- Develop community and professional capacity to manage HIV and STIs.

The project has identified the importance of assessing community readiness and ownership to ensure the development of culturally appropriate strategies to deal with HIV related issues and harm reduction.