



An Evaluation of Sex Workers' Health Access: (AESHA)

The Gender & Sexual Health Initiative is...

A core program of the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, a part of Providence Health Care and the University of British Columbia (UBC).

GSHI researches gender and social inequalities, sexual health and HIV/AIDS among marginalized populations, including sex workers, to inform changes in policy and practice.

The GSHI team is committed to research that **promotes gender and sexual equality, and human rights for all**, including access to safe, non-judgmental health care free of stigma and discrimination.

The AESHA Project

- **Is An Evaluation of Sex Workers Health Access:** A project building on community-based research partnerships (such as the Maka Project) since 2004.
- AESHA's experiential and non-experiential outreach teams visit indoor and outdoor sex work venues.
- Participants are interviewed every 6 months by trained interviewers about their physical, social and policy environment, their sexual health, HIV vulnerability, and access to health care.
- Over 1000 sex workers have been interviewed, including street-based, indoor in massage parlours, in micro-brothels, escorts or who self-advertise online.
- A Community Advisory Board of more than 15 agencies representing sex work, women, youth and sexual health organizations monitors the AESHA Project.



AESHA's Impact

AESHA Project research has been published in academic papers, contributed to international policy recommendations, and was relied on in the legal challenge to Canada's prostitution laws and in the BC Missing Women's Inquiry.

AESHA Project research has shown how law, policy, and the physical and social environment impacts sex workers in relation to violence, sexual health and HIV/STIs, and access to care.

Find out more about GSHI & AESHA:

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