

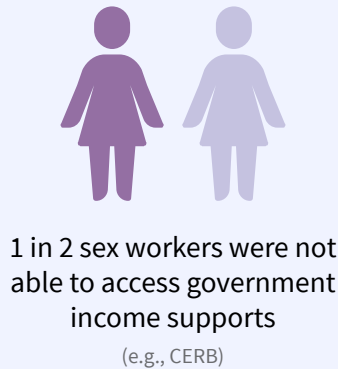
Impacts of COVID-19 on sex workers' financial security & access to community services



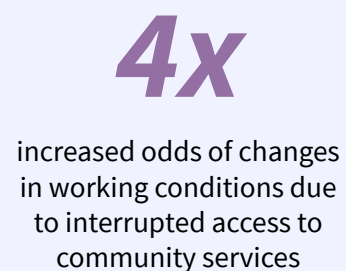
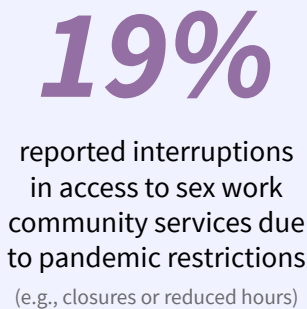
During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, >200 Vancouver-based sex workers answered survey questions about potential changes faced in working conditions, income, food security, and access to services during the pandemic, as part of the AESHA study.

What did we find?

Impacts on financial security ¹

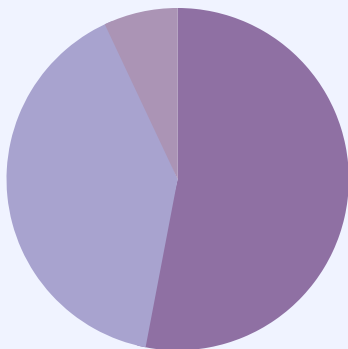


Interruptions in service access ²



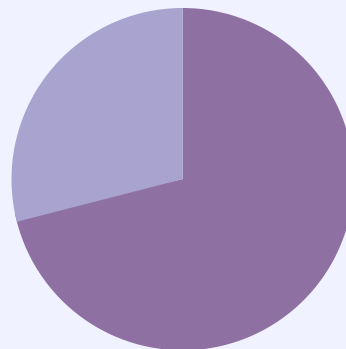
AESHA (An Evaluation of Sex Workers' Health Access) is a long-standing, community-based research project housed at the Centre for Gender & Sexual Health Equity at UBC in Vancouver, BC. AESHA includes > 900 sex workers across outdoor and indoor venues, with Indigenous, racialized and im/migrant sex workers overrepresented among participants. The current findings are based on research with ~ 200 AESHA participants who completed COVID-19 questionnaires between April 2020 and April 2021.

Who did we ask?



53%	Indigenous
40%	white
7%	women of colour*

*Asian, Southeast Asian, or Black



71%	serviced clients indoors
29%	serviced clients outdoors



Calls to action

To promote sex workers' health, safety and dignity during a global pandemic and beyond, this research suggests the need for:

- Full decriminalization of sex work to improve access to income supports & labour protections
- Sustainable funding for sex worker-led organizations & services
- A basic income for all to promote better working conditions

¹ Pearson, et al (2022). Barriers to Governmental Income Supports for Sex Workers during COVID-19: Results of a Community-Based Cohort in Metro Vancouver. *Social Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11090383>

² McBride, et al (2023). Association between interrupted access to sex work community services during the COVID-19 pandemic and changes in sex workers' occupational conditions: Findings from a community-based cohort study in Vancouver, Canada. *BMJ Open*. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2022-065956>