



COVID-19 IMMUNITY
TASK FORCE

Spotlight on **CITF-FUNDED RESEARCH**



CITF-Funded Research Results

Seroprevalence due to infection was 79.6% in May, similar to April

The latest CITF-funded seroprevalence report from Canadian Blood Services shows that approximately 79.6% of adult blood donors had infection-acquired seroprevalence in May, which is similar to April (79.4%). Younger donors (ages 17-24), self-declared racialized and Indigenous people continued to have high seroprevalence due to infection.

[Read more](#)

Third COVID-19 vaccine dose during pregnancy does not pose any significant risk to pregnant individuals or their newborns

A CITF-funded study, published in *BMJ Medicine*, reported that pregnant individuals who received a third COVID-19 vaccine dose (first booster dose) during pregnancy had no increased risk of adverse pregnancy, fetal, and neonatal outcomes compared to those who did not receive a third dose.

[Read more](#)

People living with HIV had more than two times the risk of COVID-19 hospitalization compared to HIV-negative individuals

A CITF-funded study, published in the *International Journal of Infectious Diseases*, found that people living with HIV (PLWH) had more than 2 times the risk of being hospitalized with COVID-19 as did HIV-negative individuals. The difference in risk can be explained by sociodemographic factors and a history of comorbidity. The findings underscore the need to address the social and comorbid vulnerabilities (e.g., injecting drugs) that were more prominent among PLWH.

[Read more](#)

COVID-19 vaccines were equally effective in British Columbia and Ontario among patients receiving kidney dialysis

A CITF-funded study, published in *Canadian Journal of Kidney Health and Disease*, found that COVID-19 vaccines were highly effective in preventing infection and severe outcomes among patients on maintenance dialysis in both British Columbia and Ontario. This was true even when accounting for differences between the two provinces in the number of pandemic waves, COVID-19 infection rates in the community, and vaccination strategies.

[Read more](#)

Natural language processing tool improves efficiency in systematic review

A CITF-funded study, published in *Research Synthesis Methods*, found that implementing a natural language processing (NLP) tool for abstract screening in a living systematic review of SARS-CoV-2 prevalence was feasible and beneficial in a real-world context. Using the tool improved efficiency by reducing the screening time per abstract by 45.9%, while

maintaining both the precision and recall of the screening process. Users provided positive feedback overall and gave a mean satisfaction score of 4.2 out of 5.

[Read more](#)



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