Determinants of HIV and Hepatitis C among people who inject drugs in Canada, 2017 – 2019

The Tracks survey of people who inject drugs was conducted between January 2017 and May 2019 in 14 sentinel sites in Canada. People who had injected drugs (PWID) in the 6 months prior to the recruitment were invited to complete an interviewer-administered questionnaire and asked to provide a biological sample that was tested for HIV antibodies and hepatitis C antibodies and RNA.

WHO PARTICIPATED?
2,383 PWID participated in this survey
14 sentinel sites

EXPERIENCED STIGMA, DISCRIMINATION AND ABUSE
- 65.6% cisgender male
- 42.2% Indigenous
- 48.0% completed some high school or less
- 62.6% living in unstable housing
- 75.7% ever incarcerated
- 84.0% fair to excellent mental health

Average age 40 years

TOP 5 INJECTION DRUGS USED IN THE PAST 6 MONTHS
1. 60.0% cocaine
2. 50.1% hydromorphone
3. 43.5% methamphetamines
4. 32.4% heroin
5. 41.6% morphine

INJECTING BEHAVIOUR IN THE PAST 6 MONTHS
- 11.6% borrow used needles and/or syringes (lower compared to previous phases)
- 38.0% borrow used other injection equipment (i.e. water, filters, cookers, tourniquets, swabs, acidifiers) (higher compared to previous phases)

TOP 2 OVERDOSE DRUGS USED IN THE PAST 6 MONTHS
- 22.6% fentanyl and heroin (most commonly reported drugs at last overdose)

PREVENTION SERVICES AND TESTING
- 90.1% used a needle and syringe distribution program
- 90.5% used methadone, suboxone, or other opioid substitution therapy
- 47.3% used supervised injection or consumption site

LOW LEVELS OF PrEP AWARENESS AND USE
- 14.3% PrEP aware
- 0.3% use of PrEP

HIV AND HEPATITIS C (HCV) PREVALENCE AND AWARENESS
- 82.9% aware among 10.3% HIV positive
- 64.2% HCV antibody positive
- 50.1% aware among 36.9% HCV RNA-positive

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