


# HIV | SURVEILLANCE REPORT

SPECIAL REPORT

The background features a blurred image of a microscope with a red and blue color scheme. A diagonal red band across the bottom contains faint icons of gears, a pie chart, a line graph, and a bar chart.

## HIV and HCV Infection and Related Behaviors Among Persons Who Use Drugs—6 U.S. Syringe Services Programs, 2021–2022



Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
National Center for HIV,  
Viral Hepatitis, STD, and  
TB Prevention

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# Commentary



The opioid crisis has led to increases in overdoses [1], viral hepatitis [2], and HIV clusters and outbreaks among persons who inject drugs (PWID) [3–5]. Opioids, particularly synthetic opioids (e.g., fentanyl), continue to be the primary driver of increases in deaths due to overdose. More recent attention has focused on the growing role of psychostimulants, such as methamphetamine and cocaine, in overdose deaths [6], and on emerging drug threats, such as those posed by xylazine [7]. These alarming trends indicate an urgent need to strengthen interventions that can prevent overdose and transmission of infectious disease among PWID.

Syringe services programs (SSPs) are community programs that provide a range of services to reduce potential harms associated with substance use. In addition to providing access to, and disposal of, sterile syringes and injection equipment, many SSPs provide, or refer to, treatment for substance use disorders, vaccination, testing, overdose prevention services, including drug checking, naloxone distribution, and care and treatment for infectious diseases. Research shows that comprehensive SSPs are safe, effective, and cost saving; do not increase illegal drug use or crime; and play an important role in reducing the transmission of viral hepatitis, HIV, and other infections [8–12].

Data to inform prevention efforts through SSPs are needed, particularly from nonurban settings that have experienced increases in injection drug use and where current surveillance activities are limited. The Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project (IDU-SP) is a cross-sectional survey that assesses the behavioral characteristics, access to prevention services, and HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) prevalence of persons who inject drugs or used injectable drugs via noninjecting routes (hereafter referred to as persons who use drugs).

This report summarizes findings from IDU-SP data collection among persons who use drugs, conducted June 2021 through July 2022. It provides data collected from SSP clients and their peers who are persons who use drugs. Monitoring these data is useful for assessing behavioral risk factors for HIV and HCV and the use of prevention efforts over time, particularly to support SSPs in providing much needed services to this population. SSPs play a critical role in achieving the goals of the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative in reducing the number of new HIV diagnoses among persons who use drugs [13]. Estimates presented in this report may have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic; however, there is no way to evaluate the effect of the pandemic on data collection.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ANALYSES

### Syringe Services Programs Characteristics

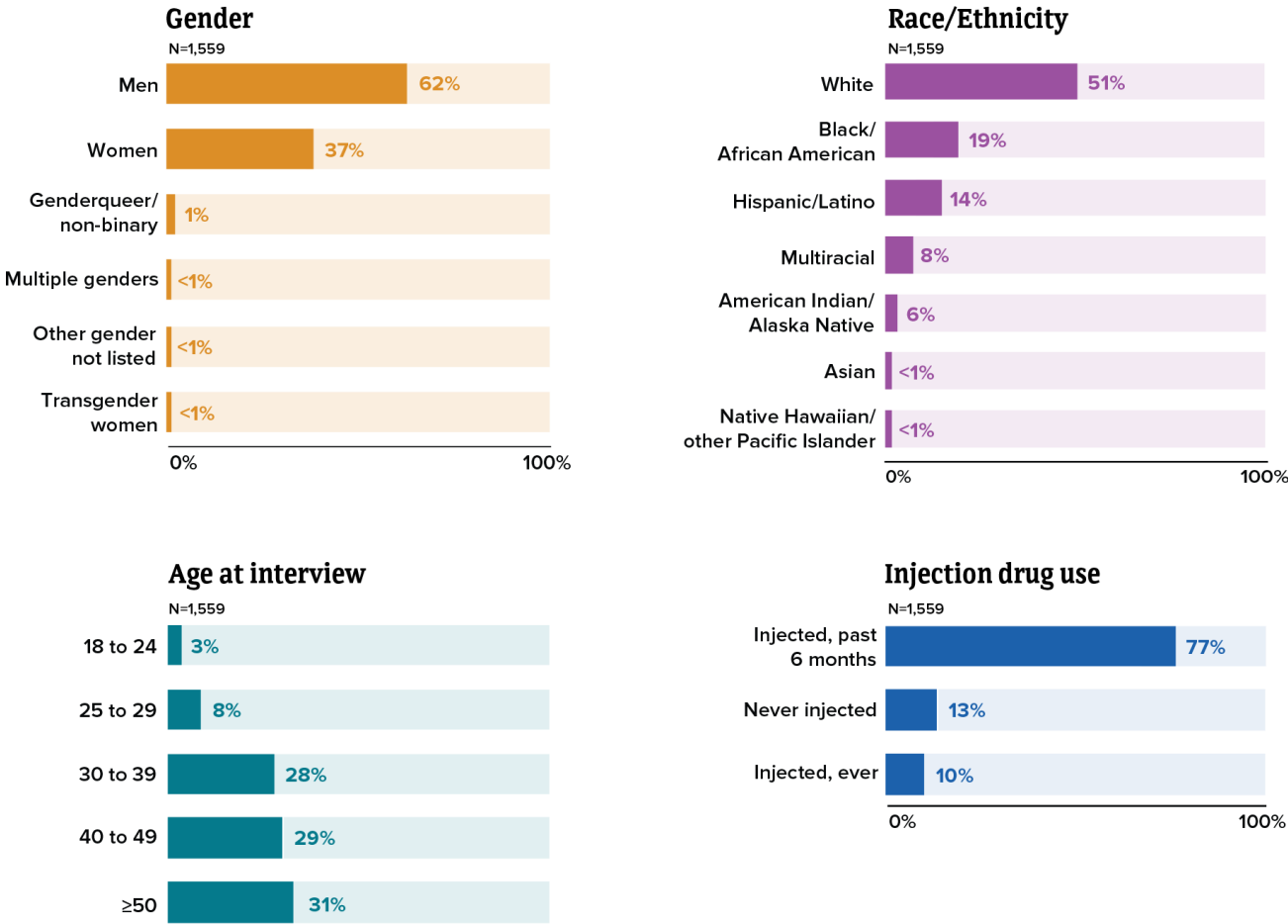
Six SSPs participated in data collection for IDU-SP from Sacramento–Arden-Arcade–Roseville, California; New Haven–Milford, Connecticut; Montana; Eastern North Carolina; Central Washington; and South Central Wisconsin (Table 1). Three SSPs were located in urban areas, two in suburban areas, and one in a rural area.

All SSPs reported having operated for 5 or more years. Three SSPs were community-based organizations, one was affiliated with a university, one was affiliated with a health department, and one was affiliated with a federally qualified health center. All SSPs provide syringes by using a needs-based distribution model, which means sterile syringes are provided without restriction. The estimated number, reported by participating SSPs, of syringes distributed during the study period ranged from 32,273 to 1.5 million syringes. Program size was defined by the number of syringes distributed annually: small (1–9,999 syringes), medium (10,000–54,999), large (55,000–499,999), and extra large ( $\geq 500,000$  syringes) based on categorizations used elsewhere [14]. Based on the estimated number of syringes distributed, 1 SSP is considered a medium-sized program, 3 SSPs large-sized programs, and 2 SSPs extra-large-sized programs.

### Selected Demographic Characteristics and Social Determinants of Health

Of the 1,559 participants, 62% identified as men, 37% identified as women, and less than 2% identified as genderqueer/nonbinary, transgender women, other gender not listed, or multiple genders (Figure 1; Table 2). No participants identified as transgender men. The majority of participants (89%) were aged 30 years or older. Overall, 51% reported being White, 19% Black or African American, 14% Hispanic or Latino, 6% American Indian or Alaska Native, and 8% multiple races. Approximately 76% reported having at least a high school diploma or equivalent.

**Figure 1. Distribution of gender, age, race/ethnicity, and injection drug use—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**



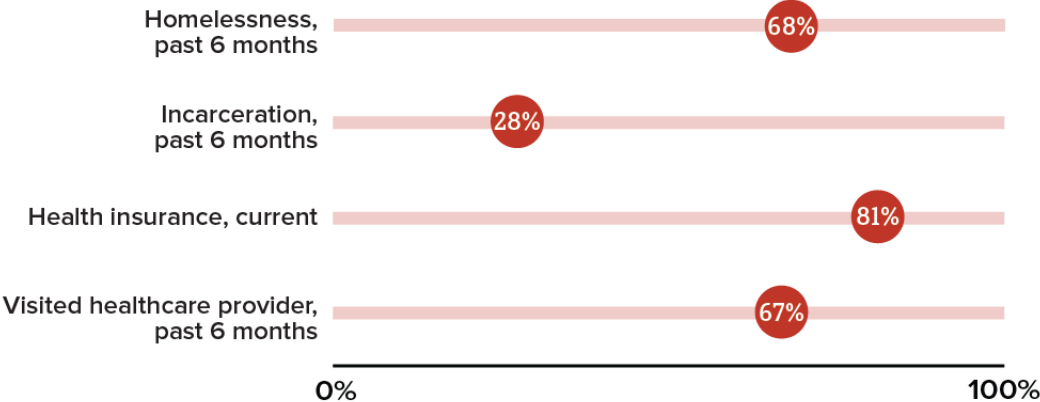
Note. All categories are mutually exclusive.



More than 3 in 4 (77%) reported having injected drugs in the past 6 months, 10% ever injected drugs but not in the past 6 months, and 13% had never injected drugs, but used injectable drugs via noninjecting routes in the past 6 months (Figure 1; Table 2).

Approximately 68% experienced homelessness in the past 6 months, and 28% experienced incarceration in the past 6 months (Figure 2; Table 2). Nearly 1 in 5 (18%) persons did not have health insurance at the time of the survey. Overall, in the past 6 months, 67% reported visiting a healthcare provider; 29% reported being treated poorly by health care staff due to drug use; and 44% reported avoiding health care due to worrying about being treated poorly by healthcare staff because of drug use (Table 2).

**Figure 2. Selected social determinants of health—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**

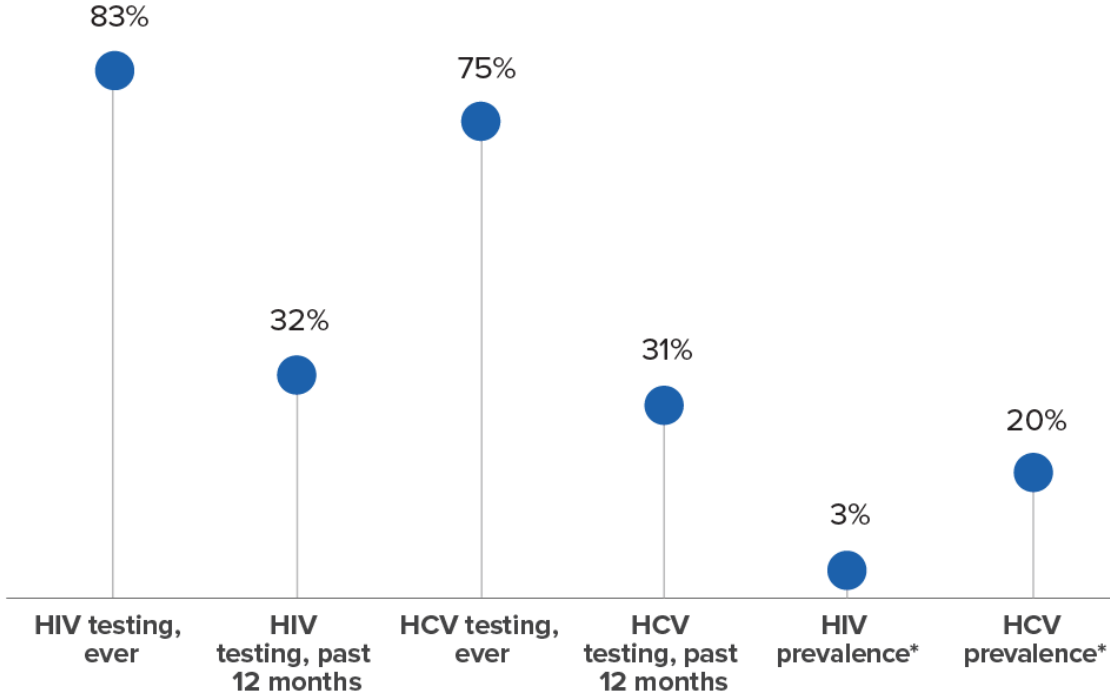


### HIV and HCV Testing and Prevalence

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that persons with risk factors for HIV infection, including PWID and their sex partners, get tested for HIV at least once a year [15]. Among participants who did not report a previous HIV-positive test result, 32% reported having tested for HIV in the past 12 months, while 83% had ever tested for HIV (Figure 3; Table 3). Only 19% of American Indian or Alaska Native participants tested for HIV in the past 12 months. CDC recommends universal hepatitis C testing at least once in a lifetime for all adults, and routine hepatitis C testing for persons who inject drugs and share needles, syringes, or other drug preparation equipment [16]. Overall, 31% reported having tested for HCV in the past 12 months, while 75% had ever tested for HCV. Approximately one-third (33%) of participants who had injected drugs in the past 6 months reported testing for HIV and one-third (33%) reported testing for HCV in the past 12 months.

Among all participants, 3% had a positive HIV test result based on 1 rapid HIV test (Figure 3; Table 4). HIV prevalence was as follows: 4% among persons who identified as a man, 5% among persons aged 50 years or older, 6% among Black or African American persons, 4% among Hispanic or Latino persons, and 5% among persons who had ever injected drugs but not in the past 6 months. HCV ribonucleic acid (RNA) was detected in 20% of participants, which means these participants had current HCV infection (Figure 3; Table 5). HCV prevalence was as follows: 24% among persons aged 30–39 years, 25% among White persons, 23% among American Indian or Alaska Native persons, and 22% among persons who reported multiple races. HCV prevalence was 25% among persons who injected drugs in the past 6 months.

**Figure 3. HIV and HCV testing and prevalence—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**



Abbreviations: HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; HCV, hepatitis C virus; RNA, ribonucleic acid.

Note. HIV prevalence = participants with one positive rapid HIV test result; HCV prevalence = participants with a positive laboratory HCV-RNA test result



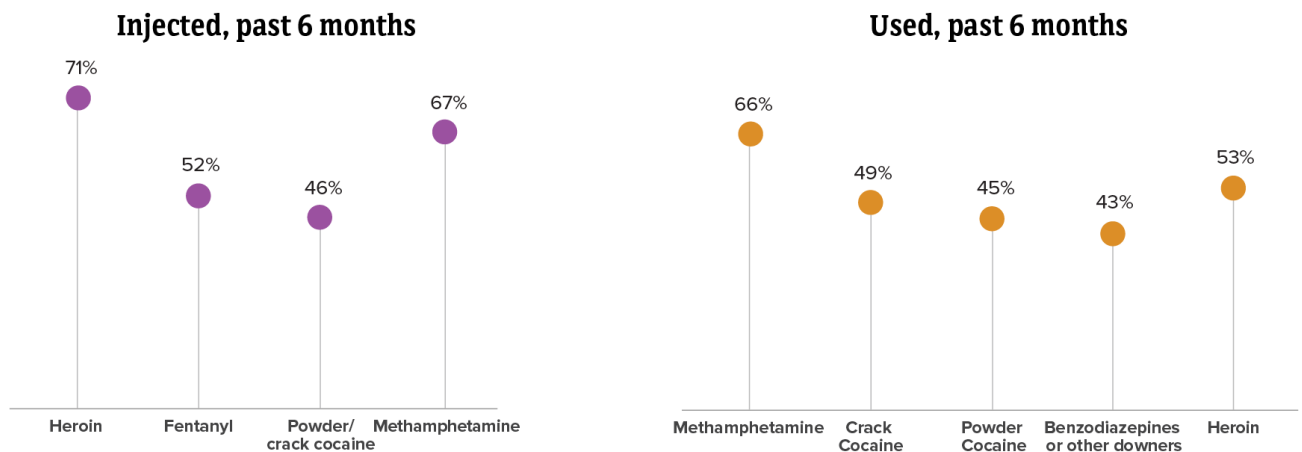
## Injection and Noninjection Drug Use

Among the 1,202 participants who had reported injecting drugs in the past 6 months, the most prevalent drug injected was heroin (71%), followed by methamphetamine (67%) and fentanyl (52%) (Figure 4; Table 6). Injection of heroin was highest among Black or African American participants (past 6 months: 83%; daily: 60%) and Hispanic or Latino participants (past 6 months: 72%; daily: 50%). Injection of fentanyl was highest among White participants (past 6 months: 56%; daily: 31%) and Hispanic or Latino participants (past 6 months: 53%; daily: 31%). Injection of methamphetamine was highest among American Indian or Alaska Native participants (past 6 months: 96%; daily: 69%).

PWID who engage in frequent or unsafe injection drug use are at increased risk of acquiring and transmitting HIV, HCV, and other bloodborne infections [17–20]. Use of sterile syringes and equipment remains the safest, most effective way to limit HIV or HCV transmission during drug injection. Approximately 1 in 5 (21%) PWID reported using a syringe that had been used by someone else (i.e., receptive syringe sharing) and 1 in 4 (25%) reported giving a syringe that they had already used to someone else (i.e., distributive syringe sharing) (Table 7).

Among the 1,443 participants who reported using drugs via noninjection routes, methamphetamine was the most widely used noninjection drug (Figure 4; Table 8). Approximately 61% of persons who injected drugs in the past 6 months, 70% of persons who had ever injected drugs (but not in the past 6 months), and 56% of persons who had never injected drugs reported using methamphetamine via noninjecting routes (Figure 4; Table 8).

**Figure 4. Most frequently reported drugs injected or used via noninjecting routes in the past 6 months—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**

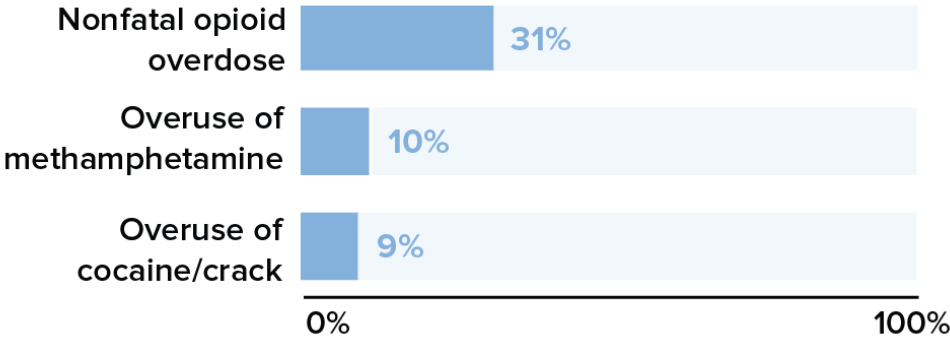


## Opioid Overdose and Overuse of Stimulants

Opioid use continues to be a major public health concern in the United States. In 2021, 107,622 overdose deaths occurred in the United States [6]. Nearly 75% of the drug overdose deaths involved an opioid. Increasingly concerning is the growing number of deaths due to overdoses from psychostimulant use with or without synthetic opioid involvement [21]. In this survey, among those who have reported using opioids, 31% reported experiencing an opioid overdose (Figure 5; Table 9). Among those using methamphetamine and cocaine, 10% and 9%, respectively, reported needing to seek immediate care due to overuse. Although the IDU-SP sample had relatively few participants aged 18–24 years old, approximately 1 in 2 (49%) participants in that age group reported an opioid overdose. Opioid overdose and methamphetamine overuse were highest among persons who injected drugs in the past 6 months (33% and 11%, respectively) (Figure 5; Table 9).

Overuse of cocaine or crack was highest among persons who had ever injected drugs but not in the past 6 months (14%).

**Figure 5. Nonfatal opioid overdose and stimulant overuse in the past 6 months—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**

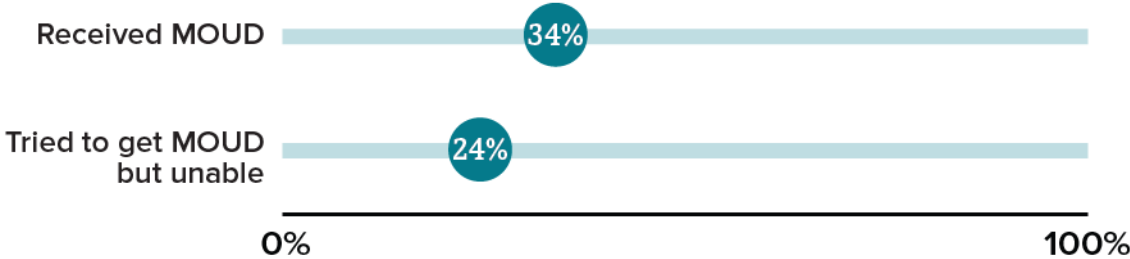


*Note.* Opioid overdose among those reporting opioid use in the past 6 months; stimulant overuse among those reporting methamphetamine or cocaine/crack use in the past 6 months.

**Access to Treatment for Opioid Use**

Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) are effective in increasing treatment retention, and reducing opioid use, overdoses, and behaviors associated with HIV and HCV transmission [22–28]. However, there are still areas in the United States where MOUD is underused or not widely available [29]. SSPs have been shown to engage persons in treatment who may be marginalized or undertreated in more traditional clinical settings [30–32]. Among persons who had reported using opioids, 34% reported using MOUD in the past 6 months (Figure 6; Table 10); however, 24% reported trying but not able to get MOUD in the past 6 months. American Indian or Alaska Native (16%) and Black or African American (20%) participants were the least likely to receive MOUD in the past 6 months.

**Figure 6. Access to, and unmet need for, medications for opioid use disorder in the past 6 months—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**



Abbreviation: MOUD, medications for opioid use disorder.  
*Note.* MOUD among persons who used opioids.

**Sexual Behaviors**

Condomless sex was common among participants; approximately 70% reported having condomless vaginal or anal sex in the past 6 months (Table 11). However, it is unknown whether participants or their sex partners were at risk for acquiring HIV (e.g., based on preexposure prophylaxis use, suppressed viral load, known HIV status). Receiving money or other payment for sex was reported by 14% of participants and giving money or other payment for sex was reported by 10% of participants. Condomless sex and receiving money

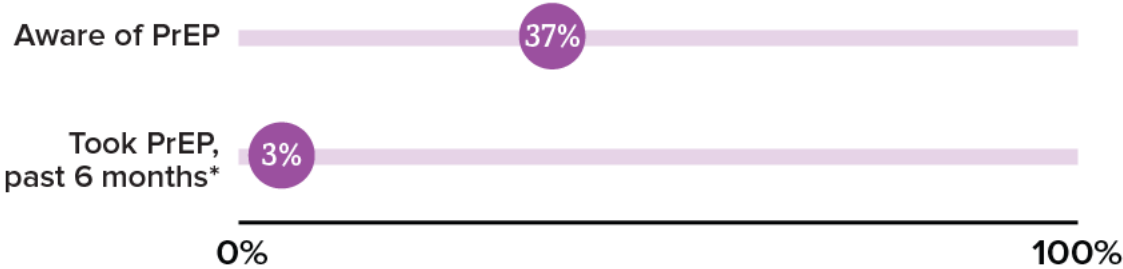
or other payment for sex was highest among persons reporting injection drug use in the past 6 months (72% and 16%, respectively).

### Prevention Activities

In 2021, CDC released an update to clinical guidance recommending the use of preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for persons at increased risk of acquiring HIV, including PWID [33]. PrEP is effective in preventing HIV among PWID [34, 35]; however, access to PrEP is lower among PWID than other priority populations for HIV prevention [36–38]. In IDU-SP, over one-third of participants who did not have a positive HIV test result were aware of PrEP (37%), and only a small percentage (3%) reported using PrEP in the past 6 months (Figure 7; Table 12). Only 18% of American Indian or Alaska Native participants and 28% of participants aged 50 years and older were aware of PrEP.

An estimated 38% of persons were seen in an emergency department at least once, and 4% were seen at least 5 times (Figure 7; Table 6). An estimated 16% of persons were admitted to a hospital for an illness at least once.

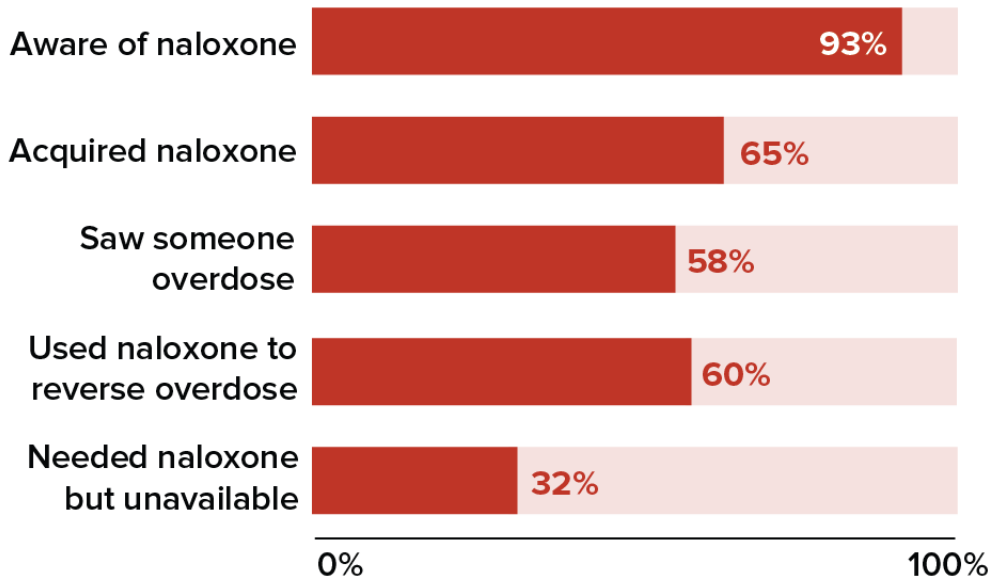
**Figure 7. Awareness and use of PrEP—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**



Abbreviation: PrEP, preexposure prophylaxis.  
*Note.* Use of PrEP only among participants who did not have a positive HIV test result.

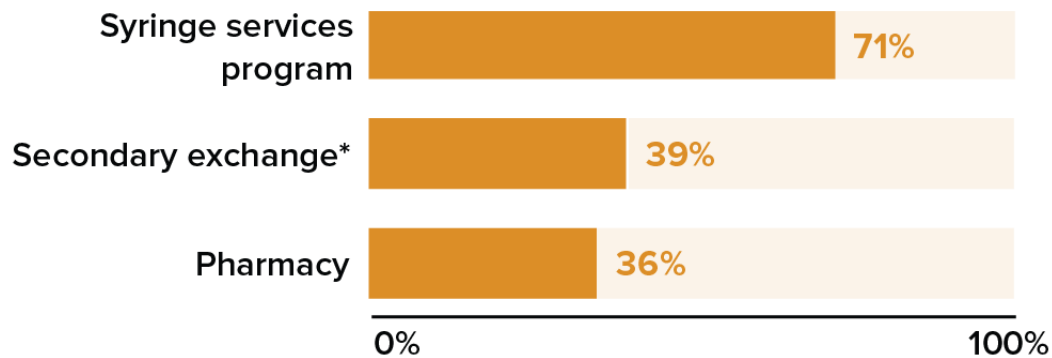
Naloxone is a medication used to reverse opioid overdoses. SSPs offer naloxone for overdose prevention, and recent policy changes have facilitated easier access to naloxone [39, 40]. Almost all participants were aware of naloxone (93%) and 65% reported acquiring naloxone (Figure 8; Table 13). Only 48% of Black or African American participants and 55% of Hispanic or Latino participants reported acquiring naloxone. Additionally, 32% of participants reported witnessing an overdose where naloxone was needed but was unavailable (Figure 8; Table 13). The groups that most frequently reported witnessing an overdose where naloxone was needed but was unavailable included: American Indian or Alaska Native persons (42%), Hispanic or Latino persons (41%), and persons who injected drugs in the past 6 months (35%). Overall, 58% reporting seeing someone overdose, and 60% of those who had witnessed an overdose used naloxone to help reverse the overdose (Figure 8; Table 13).

**Figure 8. Awareness and use of naloxone in the past 6 months—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**



Receiving sterile syringes from SSPs reduces barriers to safer injection practices among PWID and increases access to other prevention services, including MOUD [41]. Sterile syringes can also be obtained through pharmacies or secondary exchange. Secondary exchange is a practice through which SSP participants distribute sterile syringes and injection equipment to peers within their social and drug-using networks. Among those who had injected in the past 6 months, 71% reported receiving syringes from an SSP, 39% from secondary exchange, and 36% from pharmacies (Figure 9; Table 14).

**Figure 9. Sources of sterile syringes among persons who injected drugs in the past 6 months—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**



*Note.* Secondary exchange means a person received syringes from someone who got them from a syringe exchange.

**Table 1. Characteristics of sampled syringe services programs (SSPs)—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**

	Geographic area <sup>a</sup>					
	Eastern North Carolina	Central Washington	Montana	New Haven–Milford, Connecticut	Sacramento–Arden–Arcade–Roseville, California	South Central Wisconsin
	<b>SSP characteristics</b>					
Estimated syringes distributed in 2022	436,279	32,273	250,000 <sup>b</sup>	519,001	1,500,000 <sup>b</sup>	418,926
Program size <sup>c</sup>	Large	Medium	Large	Extra large	Extra large	Large
Urbanicity <sup>d</sup>	Suburban	Rural	Urban	Urban	Urban	Suburban
Syringe distribution model <sup>e</sup>	Needs-based	Needs-based	Needs-based	Needs-based	Needs-based	Needs-based
Length of time in operation	≥5 years	≥5 years	≥5 years	≥5 years	≥5 years	≥5 years
Organizational structure	CBO	Health department	CBO	University	CBO	FQHC
Days and hours of operation	Mon–Fri 12 pm–5 pm	Tue/Thu 9 am–5 pm	Mon–Thu 1 pm–6 pm	Mon–Fri 8:30 am–4 pm	Tue–Sat 1 pm–5 pm	Mon–Fri 10 am–4:30 pm
	<b>IDU-SP implementation characteristics</b>					
Data collection period (months/years)	Sep 2021–Jun 2022	Jun 2021–Jun 2022	Jan–Jul 2022	Nov 2021–May 2022	Jan–May 2022	Dec 2021–Jul 2022
<b>Recruitment method of participants (n, col %)</b>						
Directly from SSP	202 (64%)	33 (34%)	15 (5%)	71 (22%)	75 (23%)	33 (12%)
Peer referral with referral card	95 (30%)	30 (31%)	114 (34%)	145 (45%)	137 (42%)	150 (52%)
Referred without referral card	13 (4%)	18 (19%)	20 (6%)	29 (9%)	55 (17%)	72 (25%)
Word of mouth	6 (2%)	15 (16%)	183 (55%)	79 (24%)	61 (19%)	31 (11%)

Abbreviations: SSP, syringe services program; CBO, community-based organization, FQHC, federally qualified health center; IDU-SP, Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project; col, column.

<sup>a</sup> To protect the confidentiality of participating SSPs, SSP geographic areas are defined to be areas with >500,000 residents that have at least 2 operating SSPs at the time of data collection.

<sup>b</sup> Estimated number based on the annual average distributed by the SSP.

<sup>c</sup> Program size defined by syringes distributed annually: small, 1–9,999 syringes; medium, 10,000–54,999 syringes; large, 55,000–499,999; extra large, 500,000+ syringes.

<sup>d</sup> Urbanicity of residence of clients, as reported by the participating SSP.

<sup>e</sup> Syringe distribution model that is needs-based provides persons who inject drugs (PWID) access to the number of syringes/needles they need with no restrictions, including no requirement to return used syringes. Other types of syringe distribution models include those with some restriction on the number of syringes/needles provided, such as 1-for-1 exchange (i.e., the number of syringes/needles provided equals the number of used syringes returned by the program client).

Table 2. Selected characteristics of persons who use drugs—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022

	Geographic area <sup>a</sup>													
	Sacramento– Arden-Arcade– Roseville, California		New Haven–Milford, Connecticut		Montana		Eastern North Carolina		Central Washington		South Central Wisconsin		Total	
	No.	Col %	No.	Col %	No.	Col %	No.	Col %	No.	Col %	No.	Col %	No.	Col %
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,559</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Gender</b>														
Man	154	51.5	214	69.3	172	56.4	180	60.8	51	60.0	191	72.1	962	61.7
Woman	145	48.5	90	29.1	129	42.3	113	38.2	32	37.7	64	24.2	573	36.8
Genderqueer/nonbinary	0	0.0	5	1.6	2	0.7	2	0.7	1	1.2	4	1.5	14	0.9
Transgender woman	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
Transgender man	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other gender not listed	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.8	2	0.1
Multiple genders	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.7	1	0.3	0	0.0	4	1.5	7	0.5
<b>Age at interview (yr)</b>														
18–24	5	1.7	4	1.3	16	5.3	10	3.4	9	10.6	4	1.5	48	3.1
25–29	14	4.7	12	3.9	40	13.1	37	12.5	8	9.4	17	6.4	128	8.2
30–39	67	22.4	71	23.0	120	39.3	92	31.1	32	37.7	61	23.0	443	28.4
40–49	84	28.1	105	34.0	67	22.0	96	32.4	19	22.4	84	31.7	455	29.2
≥50	129	43.1	117	37.9	62	20.3	61	20.6	17	20.0	99	37.4	485	31.1
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>														
Hispanic/Latino <sup>b</sup>	77	25.8	75	24.3	19	6.2	15	5.1	8	9.4	21	7.9	215	13.8
American Indian/Alaska Native	11	3.7	2	0.7	73	23.9	6	2.0	2	2.4	6	2.3	100	6.4
Asian	3	1.0	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.8	6	0.4
Black/African American	67	22.4	80	25.9	5	1.6	36	12.2	5	5.9	105	39.6	298	19.1
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	3	1.0	0	0.0	1	0.3	1	0.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	0.3
White	106	35.5	138	44.7	173	56.7	211	71.3	64	75.3	105	39.6	797	51.1
Multiple races	28	9.4	11	3.6	32	10.5	26	8.8	6	7.1	22	8.3	125	8.0
<b>Education</b>														
Less than high school	89	29.8	76	24.6	71	23.3	76	25.7	27	31.8	42	15.9	381	24.4
High school diploma or equivalent	107	35.8	156	50.5	122	40.0	109	36.8	34	40.0	111	41.9	639	41.0
Some college or technical degree	95	31.8	69	22.3	91	29.8	89	30.1	21	24.7	93	35.1	458	29.4
College degree or more	7	2.3	8	2.6	20	6.6	22	7.4	3	3.5	19	7.2	79	5.1
<b>Experienced homelessness<sup>c</sup>, past 6 months</b>														
No	88	29.4	116	37.5	70	23.0	121	40.9	32	37.7	76	28.7	503	32.3
Yes	211	70.6	193	62.5	234	76.7	175	59.1	53	62.4	189	71.3	1,055	67.7
<b>Incarcerated<sup>d</sup>, past 6 months</b>														
No	240	80.3	262	84.8	213	69.8	186	62.8	54	63.5	166	62.6	1,121	71.9
Yes	59	19.7	45	14.6	91	29.8	109	36.8	31	36.5	98	37.0	433	27.8

Table 2. Selected characteristics of persons who use drugs—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022 (cont)

	Geographic area <sup>a</sup>													
	Sacramento– Arden-Arcade– Roseville, California		New Haven–Milford, Connecticut		Montana		Eastern North Carolina		Central Washington		South Central Wisconsin		Total	
	No.	Col %	No.	Col %	No.	Col %	No.	Col %	No.	Col %	No.	Col %	No.	Col %
<b>Currently has health insurance</b>														
No	25	8.4	7	2.3	49	16.1	179	60.5	7	8.2	13	4.9	280	18.0
Yes	268	89.6	301	97.4	253	83.0	116	39.2	75	88.2	251	94.7	1,264	81.1
<b>Visited health care provider, past 6 months</b>														
No	119	39.8	73	23.6	117	38.4	113	38.2	24	28.2	74	27.9	520	33.4
Yes	178	59.5	236	76.4	188	61.6	183	61.8	61	71.8	191	72.1	1,037	66.5
<b>Treated poorly by health care staff<sup>e</sup>, past 6 months</b>														
No	106	35.5	136	44.0	98	32.1	78	26.4	33	38.8	120	45.3	571	36.6
Yes	70	23.4	100	32.4	84	27.5	104	35.1	28	32.9	70	26.4	456	29.3
No, did not visit a provider	119	39.8	73	23.6	117	38.4	113	38.2	24	28.2	74	27.9	520	33.4
<b>Avoided health care<sup>f</sup>, past 6 months</b>														
No	181	60.5	174	56.3	158	51.8	148	50.0	42	49.4	169	63.8	872	55.9
Yes	117	39.1	135	43.7	144	47.2	147	49.7	43	50.6	94	35.5	680	43.6
<b>Injection drug use<sup>g</sup></b>														
Never injected drugs	59	19.7	37	12.0	44	14.4	7	2.4	8	9.4	46	17.4	201	12.9
Ever injected drugs, but not past 6 months	48	16.1	26	8.4	26	8.5	16	5.4	11	12.9	28	10.6	155	9.9
Injected drugs, past 6 months	192	64.2	246	79.6	234	76.7	273	92.2	66	77.7	191	72.1	1,202	77.1

Abbreviations: col, column; SSP, syringe services program.

Note. "Past 6 months" refers to the 6 months before interview. No transgender men participated in the survey.

<sup>a</sup> To protect the confidentiality of participating SSPs, SSP geographic areas are defined to be areas with >500,000 residents that have at least 2 operating SSPs at the time of data collection.

<sup>b</sup> Hispanic/Latino persons can be of any race.

<sup>c</sup> Living on the street, in a shelter, or in a car.

<sup>d</sup> Held in a detention center, jail, or prison for more than 24 hours.

<sup>e</sup> Treated poorly by health care staff due to drug use.

<sup>f</sup> Avoided seeking health care because of worry about being treated poorly by health care staff due to drug use.

<sup>g</sup> Persons who never injected drugs or who did not inject drugs in the past 6 months had used drugs via noninjection routes in the past 6 months.



**Table 3. HIV and HCV testing among persons who use drugs—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**

	Ever tested for HIV		Tested for HIV, past 12 months		Ever tested for HCV		Tested for HCV, past 12 months		Total
	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,287</b>	<b>82.6</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>31.9</b>	<b>1,171</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>1,559</b>
<b>Gender</b>									
Man	777	80.8	311	32.3	723	75.2	304	31.6	962
Woman	491	85.7	177	30.9	430	75.0	168	29.3	573
Transgender and gender diverse persons <sup>a</sup>	19	79.2	10	41.7	18	75.0	8	33.3	24
<b>Age at interview (yr)</b>									
18–24	27	56.3	18	37.5	24	50.0	14	29.2	48
25–29	86	67.2	44	34.4	91	71.1	37	28.9	128
30–39	366	82.6	152	34.3	347	78.3	155	35.0	443
40–49	398	87.5	156	34.3	343	75.4	141	31.0	455
≥50	410	84.5	128	26.4	366	75.5	133	27.4	485
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>									
Hispanic/Latino <sup>b</sup>	171	79.5	70	32.6	158	73.5	65	30.2	215
American Indian/Alaska Native	66	66.0	19	19.0	63	63.0	19	19.0	100
Asian	6	100	1	16.7	4	66.7	1	16.7	6
Black/African American	260	87.3	110	36.9	194	65.1	79	26.5	298
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	2	40.0	2	40.0	3	60.0	3	60.0	5
White	664	83.3	249	31.2	644	80.8	275	34.5	797
Multiple races	106	84.8	43	34.4	96	76.8	35	28.0	125
<b>Injection drug use<sup>c</sup></b>									
Never injected drugs	150	74.6	56	27.9	110	54.7	39	19.4	201
Ever injected drugs, but not past 6 months	135	87.1	40	25.8	118	76.1	43	27.7	155
Injected drugs, past 6 months	1,002	83.4	402	33.4	943	78.5	398	33.1	1,202

Abbreviations: HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; HCV, hepatitis C virus.

Note. “Past 12 months” refers to the 12 months before interview. No transgender men participated in the survey.

<sup>a</sup> To maintain anonymity, those reporting genderqueer/nonbinary, transgender woman, other gender not listed, and multiple genders were grouped under “Transgender and gender diverse persons.”

<sup>b</sup> Hispanic/Latino persons can be of any race.

<sup>c</sup> Persons who never injected drugs or who did not inject drugs in the past 6 months had used drugs via noninjection routes in the past 6 months.

**Table 4. Rapid HIV test results among persons who use drugs—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**

	Rapid HIV test result						Total No.
	HIV+ test result		HIV– test result		No test result <sup>a</sup>		
	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1,559</b>
<b>Gender</b>							
Man	37	3.9	899	93.5	26	2.7	962
Woman	13	2.3	552	96.3	8	1.4	573
Transgender and gender diverse persons <sup>b</sup>	0	0.0	24	100	0	0.0	24
<b>Age at interview (yr)</b>							
18–24	0	0.0	46	95.8	2	4.2	48
25–29	3	2.3	124	96.9	1	0.8	128
30–39	10	2.3	417	94.1	16	3.6	443
40–49	12	2.6	437	96.0	6	1.3	455
≥50	25	5.2	451	93.0	9	1.9	485
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>							
Hispanic/Latino <sup>c</sup>	9	4.2	201	93.5	5	2.3	215
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	1.0	98	98.0	1	1.0	100
Asian	0	0.0	6	100	0	0.0	6
Black/African American	17	5.7	278	93.3	3	1.0	298
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0	0.0	5	100	0	0.0	5
White	20	2.5	756	94.9	21	2.6	797
Multiple races	3	2.4	118	94.4	4	3.2	125
<b>Injection drug use<sup>d</sup></b>							
Never injected drugs	6	3.0	194	96.5	1	0.5	201
Ever injected drugs, but not past 6 months	8	5.2	141	91.0	6	3.9	155
Injected drugs, past 6 months	36	3.0	1,139	94.8	27	2.3	1,202

Abbreviations: HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; IDU-SP, Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project [footnotes only].

Note. "Past 6 months" refers to the 6 months before interview. No transgender men participated in the survey.

<sup>a</sup> Persons who did not have a valid IDU-SP HIV test result or did not consent to the HIV test.

<sup>b</sup> To maintain anonymity, those reporting genderqueer/nonbinary, transgender woman, other gender not listed, and multiple genders were grouped under "Transgender and gender diverse persons."

<sup>c</sup> Hispanic/Latino persons can be of any race.

<sup>d</sup> Persons who never injected drugs or who did not inject drugs in the past 6 months had used drugs via noninjection routes in the past 6 months.

**Table 5. Prevalence of HCV infection among persons who use drugs—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**

	HCV RNA test result						Total No.
	Detected <sup>a</sup>		Not detected <sup>b</sup>		No test result <sup>c</sup>		
	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	
<b>Total</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>68.9</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>1,559</b>
<b>Gender</b>							
Man	187	19.4	646	67.2	76	7.9	962
Woman	120	20.9	410	71.6	21	3.7	573
Transgender and gender diverse persons <sup>d</sup>	6	25.0	18	75.0	0	0.0	24
<b>Age at interview (yr)</b>							
18–24	4	8.3	40	83.3	1	2.1	48
25–29	25	19.5	84	65.6	13	10.2	128
30–39	106	23.9	290	65.5	27	6.1	443
40–49	95	20.9	306	67.3	28	6.2	455
≥50	83	17.1	354	73.0	28	5.8	485
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>							
Hispanic/Latino <sup>e</sup>	34	15.8	162	75.4	7	3.3	215
American Indian/Alaska Native	23	23.0	68	68.0	8	8.0	100
Asian	1	16.7	5	83.3	0	0.0	6
Black/African American	27	9.1	237	79.5	19	6.4	298
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0	0.0	3	60.0	2	40.0	5
White	199	25.0	507	63.6	53	6.7	797
Multiple races	27	21.6	83	66.4	8	6.4	125
<b>Injection drug use<sup>f</sup></b>							
Never injected drugs	1	0.5	174	86.6	14	7.0	201
Ever injected drugs, but not past 6 months	18	11.6	122	78.7	9	5.8	155
Injected drugs, past 6 months	294	24.5	777	64.6	74	6.2	1,202

Abbreviations: HCV, hepatitis C virus; RNA, ribonucleic acid.

Note. "Past 6 months" refers to the 6 months before interview. No transgender men participated in the survey.

<sup>a</sup> Persons receiving a laboratory nucleic acid test who had HCV-RNA detected.

<sup>b</sup> Persons receiving a laboratory nucleic acid test who had no HCV-RNA detected.

<sup>c</sup> Persons who did not have a valid nucleic acid test for HCV-RNA test result or did not consent to the test.

<sup>d</sup> To maintain anonymity, those reporting genderqueer/nonbinary, transgender woman, other gender not listed, and multiple genders were grouped under "Transgender and gender diverse persons."

<sup>e</sup> Hispanic/Latino persons can be of any race.

<sup>f</sup> Persons who never injected drugs or who did not inject drugs in the past 6 months had used drugs via noninjection routes in the past 6 months.

**Table 6. Injection drug use in the 6 months before interview by selected drugs among persons who inject drugs—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**

	Heroin <sup>a</sup>				Fentanyl, alone/mixed <sup>b</sup>				Powder/crack cocaine <sup>a</sup>				Methamphetamine <sup>a</sup>				Total PWID No.
	Injected, past 6 months		Injected daily		Injected, past 6 months		Injected daily		Injected, past 6 months		Injected daily		Injected, past 6 months		Injected daily		
	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	
<b>Total PWID</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>67.1</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>1,202</b>
<b>Gender</b>																	
Man	541	73.0	373	50.3	407	54.9	225	30.4	372	50.2	117	15.8	479	64.6	251	33.9	741
Woman	294	66.7	192	43.5	204	46.3	109	24.7	166	37.6	48	10.9	316	71.7	189	42.9	441
Transgender and gender diverse persons <sup>c</sup>	16	80.0	8	40.0	9	45.0	6	30.0	12	60.0	5	25.0	12	60.0	4	20.0	20
<b>Age at interview (yr)</b>																	
18–24	26	74.3	17	48.6	18	51.4	10	28.6	16	45.7	5	14.3	30	85.7	23	65.7	35
25–29	78	78.0	58	58.0	65	65.0	46	46.0	41	41.0	5	5.0	74	74.0	47	47.0	100
30–39	256	69.8	172	46.9	208	56.7	120	32.7	152	41.4	37	10.1	254	69.2	145	39.5	367
40–49	267	70.3	175	46.1	198	52.1	101	26.6	184	48.4	59	15.5	267	70.3	137	36.1	380
≥50	224	70.0	151	47.2	131	40.9	63	19.7	157	49.1	64	20.0	182	56.9	92	28.8	320
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>																	
Hispanic/Latino <sup>d</sup>	119	72.1	82	49.7	88	53.3	51	30.9	83	50.3	40	24.2	93	56.4	50	30.3	165
American Indian/Alaska Native	28	38.4	20	27.4	20	27.4	10	13.7	15	20.6	4	5.5	70	95.9	50	68.5	73
Asian	2	50.0	2	50.0	1	25.0	0	0.0	3	75.0	0	0.0	2	50.0	0	0.0	4
Black/African American	149	83.2	107	59.8	83	46.4	40	22.4	103	57.5	46	25.7	85	47.5	43	24.0	179
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	3	60.0	3	60.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	4	80.0	3	60.0	5
White	482	71.8	318	47.4	375	55.9	210	31.3	301	44.9	61	9.1	475	70.8	253	37.7	671
Multiple races	60	63.2	37	39.0	46	48.4	25	26.3	38	40.0	16	16.8	70	73.7	42	44.2	95

Abbreviation: PWID, persons who inject drugs.

Note. Among persons who reported injecting drugs in the past 6 months. "Past 6 months" refers to the 6 months before interview. No transgender men participated in the survey.

<sup>a</sup> Drug was injected by itself (not in combination with other drugs).

<sup>b</sup> Hispanic/Latino persons can be of any race.

<sup>c</sup> To maintain anonymity, those reporting genderqueer/nonbinary, transgender woman, other gender not listed, and multiple genders were grouped under "Transgender and gender diverse persons."

<sup>d</sup> Hispanic/Latino persons can be of any race.

**Table 7. Sharing of injection equipment in the past 6 months among persons who inject drugs—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**

	Receptive sharing								Distributive sharing		Total PWID No.
	Syringes <sup>a</sup>		Injection equipment <sup>b</sup>		Syringes to divide drugs <sup>c</sup>		Any <sup>d</sup>		Syringes <sup>e</sup>		
	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	
<b>Total PWID</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>1,202</b>
<b>Gender</b>											
Man	146	19.7	211	28.5	135	18.2	273	36.8	183	24.7	741
Woman	99	22.5	130	29.5	88	20.0	172	39.0	117	26.5	441
Transgender and gender diverse persons <sup>f</sup>	10	50.0	10	50.0	7	35.0	11	55.0	5	25.0	20
<b>Age at interview (yr)</b>											
18–24	13	37.1	10	28.6	8	22.9	16	45.7	9	25.7	35
25–29	23	23.0	35	35.0	25	25.0	43	43.0	30	30.0	100
30–39	86	23.4	108	29.4	72	19.6	152	41.4	97	26.4	367
40–49	80	21.1	114	30.0	79	20.8	149	39.2	104	27.4	380
≥50	53	16.6	84	26.3	46	14.4	96	30.0	65	20.3	320
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>											
Hispanic/Latino <sup>g</sup>	34	20.6	50	30.3	37	22.4	64	38.8	45	27.3	165
American Indian/Alaska Native	19	26.0	14	19.2	18	24.7	26	35.6	17	23.3	73
Asian	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	4
Black/African American	28	15.6	44	24.6	28	15.6	61	34.1	34	19.0	179
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	1	20.0	1	20.0	0	0.0	2	40.0	1	20.0	5
White	151	22.5	218	32.5	131	19.5	270	40.2	187	27.9	671
Multiple races	18	19.0	19	20.0	14	14.7	27	28.4	18	19.0	95

Abbreviation: PWID, persons who inject drugs.

Note. Among persons who reported injecting drugs in the past 6 months. "Past 6 months" refers to the 6 months before interview. No transgender men participated in the survey.

<sup>a</sup> Used a syringe or needle that had already been used by someone else for injection.

<sup>b</sup> Used a cooker (e.g., spoon, bottle cap), cotton or other filter (to filter particles from drug solution), or water that had already been used by someone else.

<sup>c</sup> Divided a drug solution by using a syringe that had already been used by someone else for injection.

<sup>d</sup> Used a syringe or needle that had already been used by someone else for injection, used a cooker, cotton or other filter, or water that had already been used by someone else, or divided a drug solution by using a syringe that had already been used by someone else for injection.

<sup>e</sup> Gave a syringe or needle to someone else to use after they had already used it for injection.

<sup>f</sup> To maintain anonymity, those reporting genderqueer/nonbinary, transgender woman, other gender not listed, and multiple genders were grouped under "Transgender and gender diverse persons."

<sup>g</sup> Hispanic/Latino persons can be of any race.

**Table 8. Drug use via noninjecting routes in the 6 months before interview by injection drug use status—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**

	Injection drug use status							
	Never injected drugs		Ever injected drugs, but not past 6 months		Injected drugs, past 6 months		Total PWUD	
	No.	Col %	No.	Col %	No.	Col %	No.	Col %
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,443</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Fentanyl, alone/mixed<sup>a</sup></b>								
No	152	75.6	100	64.5	506	42.1	759	52.6
Yes	39	19.4	43	27.7	523	43.5	605	41.9
<b>Methamphetamine</b>								
No	88	43.8	47	30.3	349	29.0	484	33.5
Yes	113	56.2	108	69.7	736	61.2	958	66.4
<b>Crack cocaine</b>								
No	111	55.2	97	62.6	523	43.5	731	50.7
Yes	90	44.8	58	37.4	561	46.7	710	49.2
<b>Powder cocaine</b>								
No	130	64.7	102	65.8	561	46.7	794	55.0
Yes	71	35.3	52	33.6	525	43.7	648	44.9
<b>Benzodiazepines or other downers<sup>b</sup></b>								
No	157	78.1	114	73.6	550	45.8	822	57.0
Yes	43	21.4	40	25.8	531	44.2	614	42.6
<b>Painkillers (e.g., Oxycontin)<sup>c</sup></b>								
No	144	71.6	95	61.3	586	48.8	826	57.2
Yes	56	27.9	59	38.1	497	41.4	612	42.4
<b>Ecstasy</b>								
No	173	86.1	134	86.5	825	68.6	1,133	78.5
Yes	27	13.4	21	13.6	257	21.4	305	21.1
<b>Heroin</b>								
No	156	77.6	103	0.7	415	34.5	675	46.8
Yes	45	22.4	51	32.9	668	55.6	764	53.0
<b>Prescription stimulants (e.g., Adderall)<sup>d</sup></b>								
No	167	83.1	122	78.7	752	62.6	1,042	72.2
Yes	34	16.9	33	21.3	333	27.7	400	27.7

Disclaimer: The use of trade names is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the Department of Health and Human Services or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Abbreviations: PWUD, persons who used drugs via noninjecting routes; col, column.

Note. "Past 6 months" refers to the 6 months before interview.

<sup>a</sup> Fentanyl was used by itself or in combination with other drugs.

<sup>b</sup> Benzodiazepines, such as Valium, Xanax, or Klonopin.

<sup>c</sup> Painkillers, such as Oxycontin, Dilaudid, or Percocet.

<sup>d</sup> Stimulants, such as Adderall or Ritalin.

Table 9. Opioid overdose and stimulant overuse in the 6 months before interview—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022

	Opioids			Methamphetamine			Cocaine or crack cocaine		
	Nonfatal opioid overdose, past 6 months <sup>a</sup>		Total opioid use, past 6 months <sup>b</sup>	Overuse of methamphetamine, past 6 months <sup>c</sup>		Total methamphetamine use, past 6 months <sup>d</sup>	Overuse of cocaine/crack, past 6 months <sup>e</sup>		Total cocaine/crack use, past 6 months <sup>f</sup>
	No.	Row %	No.	No.	Row %	No.	No.	Row %	No.
<b>Total</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>868</b>
<b>Gender</b>									
Man	232	31.0	748	49	10.2	479	54	9.6	565
Woman	129	30.5	423	31	10.0	310	19	6.6	288
Transgender and gender diverse persons <sup>g</sup>	7	33.3	21	2	15.4	13	4	26.7	15
<b>Age at interview (yr)</b>									
18–24	20	48.8	41	6	18.2	33	5	17.9	28
25–29	38	36.9	103	9	10.8	83	4	6.0	67
30–39	108	30.1	359	17	6.6	259	14	5.9	236
40–49	98	27.5	356	25	9.8	256	22	7.9	280
≥50	104	31.2	333	25	14.6	171	32	12.5	257
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>									
Hispanic/Latino <sup>h</sup>	47	29.2	161	18	19.0	95	19	15.3	124
American Indian/Alaska Native	20	32.8	61	6	10.3	58	3	10.7	28
Asian	0	0.0	3	0	0.0	1	0	0.0	3
Black/African American	73	32.0	228	19	18.8	101	30	15.5	193
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0	0.0	4	0	0.0	3	0	0.0	2
White	193	30.6	631	27	5.8	462	17	3.8	444
Multiple races	30	32.6	92	9	12.5	72	7	11.3	62
<b>Injection drug use<sup>i</sup></b>									
Never injected drugs	13	14.9	87	1	2.6	38	2	3.3	61
Ever injected drugs, but not past 6 months	17	19.1	89	5	9.1	55	7	13.5	52
Injected drugs, past 6 months	338	33.3	1,016	76	10.7	709	68	9.0	755

Note. "Past 6 months" refers to the 6 months before interview. No transgender men participated in the survey.

<sup>a</sup> Passed out, turned blue, or stopped breathing from using heroin or painkillers at least once in the past 6 months.

<sup>b</sup> Total number of persons who used any opioids in the past 6 months.

<sup>c</sup> Needed immediate care or called 911 because took too much methamphetamine at least once in the past 6 months.

<sup>d</sup> Total number of persons who used methamphetamine in the past 6 months.

<sup>e</sup> Needed immediate care or called 911 because took too much cocaine or crack at least once in the past 6 months.

<sup>f</sup> Total number of persons who used either powder or crack cocaine in the past 6 months.

<sup>g</sup> To maintain anonymity, those reporting genderqueer/nonbinary, transgender woman, other gender not listed, and multiple genders were grouped under "Transgender and gender diverse persons."

<sup>h</sup> Hispanic/Latino persons can be of any race.

<sup>i</sup> Persons who never injected drugs or who did not inject drugs in the past 6 months had used drugs via noninjection routes in the past 6 months.



**Table 10. Met and unmet need for medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) among persons who used opioids in the past 6 months—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**

	Used MOUD, past 6 months <sup>a</sup>		Tried to get MOUD but unable to, past 6 months		Total persons who used opioids
	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.
<b>Total</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>1,192</b>
<b>Gender</b>					
Man	259	34.6	177	23.7	748
Woman	141	33.3	108	25.5	423
Transgender and gender diverse persons <sup>b</sup>	4	19.1	5	23.8	21
<b>Age at interview (yr)</b>					
18–24	7	17.1	10	24.4	41
25–29	36	35.0	32	31.1	103
30–39	145	40.4	82	22.8	359
40–49	117	32.9	90	25.3	356
≥50	99	29.7	76	22.8	333
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>					
Hispanic/Latino <sup>c</sup>	60	37.3	44	27.3	161
American Indian/Alaska Native	10	16.4	16	26.2	61
Asian	2	66.7	0	0.0	3
Black/African American	46	20.2	58	25.4	228
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0	0.0	0	0.0	4
White	255	40.4	140	22.2	631
Multiple races	26	28.3	29	31.5	92

Abbreviation: MOUD, medications for opioid use disorder.

Note. "Past 6 months" refers to the 6 months before interview. No transgender men participated in the survey.

<sup>a</sup> Used medicines, such as methadone or buprenorphine, to treat opioid use.

<sup>b</sup> To maintain anonymity, those reporting genderqueer/nonbinary, transgender woman, other gender not listed, and multiple genders were grouped under "Transgender and gender diverse persons."

<sup>c</sup> Hispanic/Latino persons can be of any race.

**Table 11. Sexual behaviors among persons who use drugs—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**

	Had sex, past 6 months <sup>a</sup>		Had condomless sex, past 6 months <sup>a</sup>		Received money or other payment for sex, past 6 months <sup>b</sup>		Gave money or other payment for sex, past 6 months <sup>c</sup>		Total No.
	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>69.5</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>1,559</b>
<b>Gender</b>									
Man	756	78.6	639	66.4	99	10.3	135	14.0	962
Woman	484	84.5	430	75.0	114	19.9	17	3.0	573
Transgender and gender diverse persons <sup>d</sup>	15	62.5	14	58.3	6	25.0	2	8.3	24
<b>Age at interview (yr)</b>									
18–24	41	85.4	35	72.9	7	14.6	4	8.3	48
25–29	104	81.3	94	73.4	25	19.5	4	3.1	128
30–39	389	87.8	346	78.1	64	14.5	28	6.3	443
40–49	370	81.3	330	72.5	67	14.7	53	11.7	455
≥50	351	72.4	278	57.3	56	11.6	65	13.4	485
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>									
Hispanic/Latino <sup>e</sup>	168	78.1	144	67.0	41	19.1	30	14.0	215
American Indian/Alaska Native	78	78.0	73	73.0	9	9.0	3	3.0	100
Asian	6	100	5	83.3	0	0.0	2	33.3	6
Black/African American	237	79.5	178	59.7	49	16.4	58	19.5	298
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	4	80.0	3	60.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5
White	652	81.8	583	73.2	96	12.1	51	6.4	797
Multiple races	98	78.4	87	69.6	22	17.6	7	5.6	125
<b>Injection drug use<sup>f</sup></b>									
Never injected drugs	149	74.1	122	60.7	14	7.0	12	6.0	201
Ever injected drugs, but not past 6 months	111	71.6	91	58.7	18	11.6	13	8.4	155
Injected drugs, past 6 months	995	82.8	870	72.4	187	15.6	129	10.7	1,202

Note. "Past 6 months" refers to the 6 months before interview. No transgender men participated in the survey.

<sup>a</sup> Cannot distinguish vaginal or anal sex due to the design of the question. Anatomy of participants and sex partners unknown.

<sup>b</sup> Received money, drugs, or any other type of payment for having vaginal or anal sex.

<sup>c</sup> Gave money, drugs, or any other type of payment for having vaginal or anal sex.

<sup>d</sup> To maintain anonymity, those reporting genderqueer/nonbinary, transgender woman, other gender not listed, and multiple genders were grouped under "Transgender and gender diverse persons."

<sup>e</sup> Hispanic/Latino persons can be of any race.

<sup>f</sup> Persons who never injected drugs or who did not inject drugs in the past 6 months had used drugs via noninjection routes in the past 6 months.

**Table 12. Awareness and use of preexposure prophylaxis among persons who use drugs—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**

	Aware of PrEP <sup>a</sup>		Total No.	Took PrEP, past 6 months		Total No.
	No.	Row %		No.	Row %	
<b>Total</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>36.6</b>	<b>1,559</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>1,191</b>
<b>Gender</b>						
Man	356	37.0	962	19	2.7	718
Woman	200	34.9	573	13	2.9	455
Transgender and gender diverse persons <sup>b</sup>	15	62.5	24	0	0.0	18
<b>Age at interview (yr)</b>						
18–24	17	35.4	48	0	0.0	26
25–29	45	35.2	128	1	1.2	83
30–39	186	42.0	443	7	2.1	339
40–49	188	41.3	455	11	3.0	369
≥50	135	27.8	485	13	3.5	374
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>						
Hispanic/Latino <sup>c</sup>	78	36.3	215	6	3.8	11
American Indian/Alaska Native	18	18.0	100	0	0.0	158
Asian	2	33.3	6	0	0.0	60
Black/African American	103	34.6	298	5	2.1	6
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	1	20.0	5	0	0.0	242
White	318	39.9	797	21	3.4	2
Multiple races	46	36.8	125	0	0.0	94
<b>Injection drug use<sup>d</sup></b>						
Never injected drugs	51	25.4	201	2	1.5	137
Ever injected drugs, but not past 6 months	46	29.7	155	1	0.8	123
Injected drugs, past 6 months	474	39.4	1,202	29	3.1	931

Abbreviation: PrEP, preexposure prophylaxis.

Note. "Past 6 months" refers to the 6 months before interview. No transgender men participated in the survey.

<sup>a</sup> Ever heard of PrEP, a medicine taken for months or years by a person who is HIV-negative to reduce the risk of getting HIV.

<sup>b</sup> To maintain anonymity, those reporting genderqueer/nonbinary, transgender woman, other gender not listed, and multiple genders were grouped under "Transgender and gender diverse persons."

<sup>c</sup> Hispanic/Latino persons can be of any race.

<sup>d</sup> Persons who never injected drugs or who did not inject drugs in the past 6 months had used drugs via noninjection routes in the past 6 months.

Table 13. Awareness and use of naloxone among persons who use drugs—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022

	Aware of naloxone <sup>a</sup>		Acquired naloxone, past 6 months <sup>b</sup>		Naloxone needed but unavailable, past 6 months <sup>c</sup>		Saw someone overdose, past 6 months <sup>d</sup>		Total No.	Used naloxone to help reverse overdose, past 6 months <sup>e</sup>		Total witnessed overdose No.
	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %		No.	Row %	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,454</b>	<b>93.3</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>64.5</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>58.1</b>	<b>1,559</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>59.7</b>	<b>905</b>
<b>Gender</b>												
Man	900	93.6	588	61.1	307	31.9	564	58.6	962	323	57.3	564
Woman	530	92.5	400	69.8	187	32.6	326	56.9	573	208	63.8	326
Transgender and gender diverse persons <sup>f</sup>	24	100	18	75.0	9	37.5	15	62.5	24	9	60.0	15
<b>Age at interview (yr)</b>												
18–24	46	95.8	32	66.7	19	39.6	31	64.6	48	18	58.1	31
25–29	121	94.5	89	69.5	41	32.0	73	57.0	128	50	68.5	73
30–39	427	96.4	323	72.9	133	30.0	257	58.0	443	175	68.1	257
40–49	428	94.1	301	66.2	158	34.7	280	61.5	455	164	58.6	280
≥50	432	89.1	261	53.8	152	31.3	264	54.4	485	133	50.4	264
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>												
Hispanic/Latino <sup>g</sup>	192	89.3	118	54.9	88	40.9	131	60.9	215	68	51.9	131
American Indian/Alaska Native	94	94.0	70	70.0	42	42.0	60	60.0	100	38	63.3	60
Asian	6	100	5	83.3	1	16.7	3	50.0	6	1	33.3	3
Black/African American	254	85.2	143	48.0	94	31.5	164	55.0	298	73	44.5	164
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	3	60.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	2	40.0	5	1	50.0	2
White	776	97.4	581	72.9	232	29.1	463	58.1	797	311	67.2	463
Multiple races	117	93.6	80	64.0	40	32.0	73	58.4	125	45	61.6	73
<b>Injection drug use<sup>h</sup></b>												
Never injected drugs	165	82.1	73	36.3	36	17.9	75	37.3	201	23	30.7	75
Ever injected drugs, but not past 6 months	137	88.4	64	41.3	42	27.1	82	52.9	155	31	37.8	82
Injected drugs, past 6 months	1,152	95.8	869	72.3	425	35.4	748	62.2	1,202	486	65.0	748

Disclaimer: The use of trade names is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the Department of Health and Human Services or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Note. "Past 6 months" refers to the 6 months before interview. No transgender men participated in the survey.

<sup>a</sup> Ever heard of naloxone, also called Narcan, a drug that can be used to reverse an overdose due to use of opioids.

<sup>b</sup> Had bought or otherwise obtained take-home naloxone or Narcan.

<sup>c</sup> Been in a situation when naloxone or Narcan was needed and it was not available.

<sup>d</sup> Saw someone pass out, turn blue, or stop breathing from using heroin or painkillers at least once in the past 6 months.

<sup>e</sup> Used naloxone to help someone overdosing among those who had witnessed an overdose in the past 6 months.

<sup>f</sup> To maintain anonymity, those reporting genderqueer/nonbinary, transgender woman, other gender not listed, and multiple genders were grouped under "Transgender and gender diverse persons."

<sup>g</sup> Hispanic/Latino persons can be of any race.

<sup>h</sup> Persons who never injected drugs or who did not inject drugs in the past 6 months had used drugs via noninjection routes in the past 6 months.

**Table 14. Sources of sterile syringes in 6 months prior to interview among persons who inject drugs—Injection Drug Use Surveillance Project, 6 U.S. syringe services programs, 2021–2022**

	Received syringes from SSPs		Received syringes from secondary exchange <sup>a</sup>		Received syringes from pharmacy		Total PWID <sup>b</sup>
	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.	Row %	No.
<b>Total PWID</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>39.2</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>36.3</b>	<b>1,202</b>
<b>Gender</b>							
Man	527	71.1	293	39.5	277	37.4	741
Woman	312	70.8	168	38.1	151	34.2	441
Transgender and gender diverse persons <sup>c</sup>	16	80.0	10	50.0	8	40.0	20
<b>Age at interview (yr)</b>							
18–24	21	60.0	17	48.6	14	40.0	35
25–29	74	74.0	42	42.0	42	42.0	100
30–39	270	73.6	148	40.3	157	42.8	367
40–49	280	73.7	158	41.6	131	34.5	380
≥50	210	65.6	106	33.1	92	28.8	320
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>							
Hispanic/Latino <sup>d</sup>	110	66.7	50	30.3	45	27.3	165
American Indian/Alaska Native	57	78.1	33	45.2	25	34.3	73
Asian	2	50.0	2	50.0	2	50.0	4
Black/African American	109	60.9	60	33.5	44	24.6	179
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	3	60.0	2	40.0	2	40.0	5
White	503	75.0	280	41.7	276	41.1	671
Multiple races	65	68.4	40	42.1	39	41.1	95

Abbreviations: SSP, syringe services program; PWID, persons who inject drugs.

Note. Among persons who reported injecting drugs in the past 6 months. "Past 6 months" refers to the 6 months before interview. No transgender men participated in the survey.

<sup>a</sup> Received syringes from someone who got them from a syringe exchange.

<sup>b</sup> All participants (n=1,202) who injected drugs in the past 6 months reporting accessing a sterile needle in the past 6 months.

<sup>c</sup> To maintain anonymity, those reporting genderqueer/nonbinary, transgender woman, other gender not listed, and multiple genders were grouped under "Transgender and gender diverse persons."

<sup>d</sup> Hispanic/Latino persons can be of any race.

# Technical Notes

## OVERVIEW

IDU-SP is a cross-sectional survey among persons who use drugs recruited through select SSPs during 2021 to 2022.

## SAMPLING METHOD

IDU-SP employed a two-stage sampling framework. In the first stage, SSPs were selected based on the following criteria: 1) setting (urban, suburban, and rural), 2) U.S. Census region (East, South, Midwest, and West), 3) length in operation (<5 years, 5 years or longer), 4) syringe distribution model (needs-based vs. all others), and 5) health department affiliation. Applying these criteria, 33 SSPs were approached and 4 SSPs agreed to participate in IDU-SP. Due to the low response rate (12%), a request for proposal was issued and 2 additional SSPs were selected. A total of 6 SSPs participated in IDU-SP from the following areas: Sacramento–Arden-Arcade–Roseville, California; New Haven–Milford, Connecticut; Montana; Eastern North Carolina; Central Washington; and South Central Wisconsin. These geographic areas describe large enough regions to maintain the anonymity of participants; SSP catchment area may be larger or smaller than the described area. Although attempts were made to select SSPs representing the predetermined criteria, only SSPs using a needs-based syringe distribution model and those operating for 5 or more years agreed to participate in IDU-SP (Table 1). In the second stage of sampling, SSP clients and their peers who use drugs were recruited through a combination of direct recruitment from the SSP and peer-driven recruitment. At each of the selected SSPs, recruitment began by inviting SSP clients to participate in IDU-SP. Persons who met the IDU-SP eligibility criteria and completed the survey were then asked to recruit others they know who use drugs via injecting or noninjecting routes. Each participating SSP had a goal of recruiting 300 persons who reported using drugs via injecting or noninjecting routes.

## DATA COLLECTION

The eligibility criteria for IDU-SP included those who were aged 18 years or older, injected drugs in the past 6 months or used injectable drugs via noninjecting routes (i.e., methamphetamine, powder/crack cocaine, benzodiazepines, painkillers, ecstasy, heroin, fentanyl, and prescribed stimulants) in the past 6 months, could complete the survey in English, and had not previously participated in the IDU-SP survey.

Participants who met eligibility criteria and provided verbal informed consent completed a standardized questionnaire lasting approximately 30 minutes. A trained interviewer conducted the interview online from a remote location using REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture) [42, 43]. The interview included questions on sociodemographic characteristics, drug use and sexual behaviors, history of drug use, adverse health outcomes related to drug use, experiences with violence and stigma, and access to treatment for drug use and other health care services. The period referenced for estimates is the 6 months prior to the interview, unless otherwise noted.

All participants were offered anonymous HIV and HCV testing, and test results were linked to the survey data through a unique survey identifier. Rapid HIV and HCV testing was conducted by SSP staff. Dried blood spots were collected for additional HCV RNA testing. Those who provided consent to HIV or HCV testing were asked to allow anonymous storage of remaining blood specimens for additional future testing.

## ETHICAL REVIEW

Activities for IDU-SP were approved by CDC and by the institutional review board of the implementing partners.

## DATA ANALYSIS

This report presents descriptive unweighted data; no additional statistical tests were conducted. Additionally, these data are cross-sectional; no inferences or causal relationships were made.

In total, 1,695 persons were recruited to participate in IDU-SP from June 2021 to July 2022. Of these, 136 (8%) were excluded because they did not meet the eligibility criteria or did not provide consent. The full analysis sample for this report includes 1,559 participants who provided verbal consent to the interview and provided a complete and valid interview. Approximately 26% of participants were directly recruited from participating SSPs, while 74% were recruited through referral or word of mouth. Additional analysis inclusion criteria can be found in the footnotes of each table.



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