

2010 Profile of HIV/AIDS in The Detroit Metro Area

Ranked Behavioral Group: IDU

Data from HIV/AIDS Reporting System (eHARS), Supplement to HIV/AIDS Surveillance Project II (SHAS) & Medical Monitoring Project (MMP)

Overview:

Injecting drug users (IDUs) are the number three ranked behavioral group in the Detroit Metro Area and account for 16 percent (1,605 cases) of reported infected persons (including MSM/IDU). MDCH estimates there are 1,990 IDUs living with HIV in the Detroit Metro Area. This estimate includes 480 HIV-infected men whose risk is a combination of having sex with other men and injecting drugs (MSM/IDU).

Race/Ethnicity and Sex:

Of the 1,605 IDU and MSM/IDU persons living with HIV, 812 are black men (51 percent), 432 are black women (27 percent), 206 are white men (13 percent), 73 are white women (5 percent), 40 are Hispanic men (2 percent) and 16 are Hispanic women (1 percent). In total, over three-quarters (1,244 cases, 78 percent) of the IDU cases occur in black persons. Over two-thirds of the cases are among men (67 percent) and 33 percent are among women. See Table 5, page 4-42.

Additional behavioral data on HIV-infected IDUs and other drug users in southeast Michigan is known from the SHAS interview project. Of the 1,174 persons interviewed in SHAS between 2000 and 2004, 15 percent (178) injected drugs at some time during their lives. This 15 percent (178) was mostly comprised of males (63 percent). Of all injection drug users, 51 percent (90) reported ever being told by a doctor or health care provider that they had hepatitis C; this was 59 percent of males (53) and 71 percent of females (37).

Non-injection drug use:

Among SHAS participants, 174 (98 percent) were injection drug users who had ever used some kind of non-injection drugs in the past. When injection drug users were asked about ever being in a drug or alcohol treatment program, 135 persons (76 percent) responded in the affirmative. Forty-two percent (74 persons) of injection drug users are also potential alcoholics—17 percent of males (44 persons) and 28 percent of females (30 persons). A 'potential alcoholic' is defined as a person who answered 'Yes' to two or more of the following questions on the SHAS II questionnaire: 1) Have you ever felt you ought to cut down on your drinking?, 2) Have people ever annoyed you by criticizing your drinking?, 3) Have you ever felt bad or guilty about your drinking?, and 4) Have you ever had a drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or rid yourself of a hangover?

Asking these screening questions of all respondents revealed that 32 percent (371) are potential alcoholics—31 percent of males (263) and 32 percent of females (108). Other drug use information shows that 772 (66 percent) of all respondents (1,174) have ever used some kind of non-injection drugs in the past. Among non-injection drug users, the primary non-injected drug for men and women was marijuana, followed by crack cocaine for both men and women. Further SHAS data describing the drug use behaviors of participants in this project are available online at www.michigan.gov/hivstd.

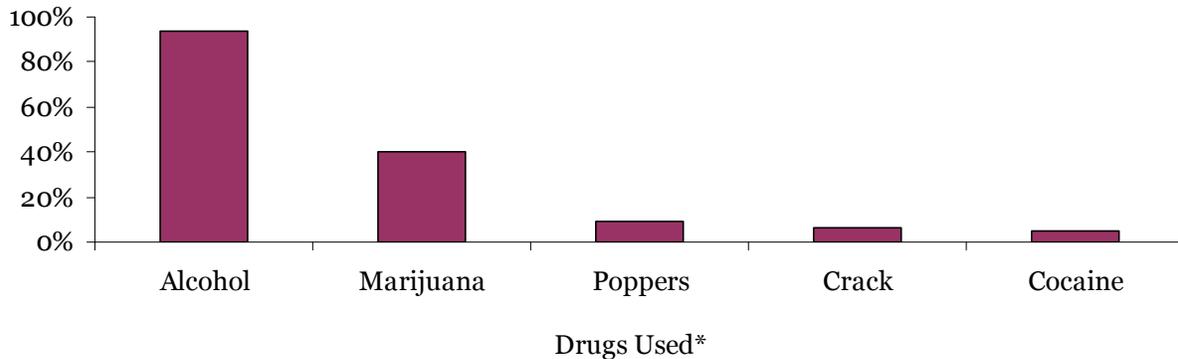
Injection drug use:

Figure 16 (next page) shows the most frequently reported drug use among the persons living with HIV who were in care and interviewed for MMP in 2007. Ninety-nine percent reported having not injected drugs in the 12 months prior to the interview. However, about two-thirds admitted to using non-injection drugs and alcohol in the 12 months prior to the interview. While injection drug use was reportedly used the least, alcohol was used the most.

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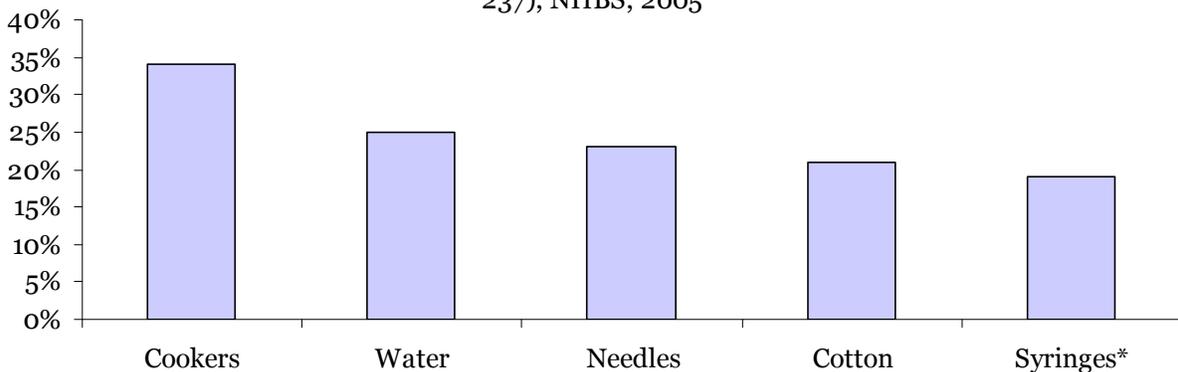
Figure 16: Most Frequently Used Non-Injection Drugs (MMP, 2007)



*Drug use is not mutually exclusive (one case can be represented in multiple categories)

Forty-six percent (237 persons) of injection drug users interviewed during the IDU1 cycle of the NHBS Project (2005) in Wayne County shared some form of drug equipment and 35 percent (178 people) reported using a sterile needle for all injections. There was no consistent pattern among which equipment was or was not shared: 34 percent shared cookers, 25 percent shared water, 23 percent shared needles, 21 percent shared cotton, and 19 percent shared syringes for dividing drugs (Figure 17). However, 77 percent (399 persons) responded that they never share needles, suggesting that many reuse their own needles. Six percent (32 persons) reported sharing all pieces of equipment.

Figure 17: Equipment Sharing Among IDUs who share drug equipment (N = 237), NHBS, 2005



*Syringes were shared to divide drugs, not for injecting

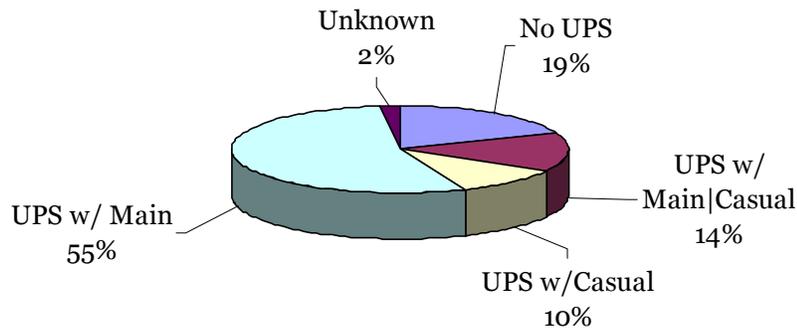
Condom Use:

Additionally, data was collected on condom use from the IDU1 cycle of NHBS (Figure 18 next page). Nearly 80 percent (346 persons) of injecting drug users reported having unprotected sex 12 months prior to the interview. Fifty-five percent (239 persons) reported unprotected sex with main partners only and 24 percent (107 persons) with casual only or casual and main partners. Forty-four percent (194 persons) of this mainly HIV negative sample never discussed their HIV status or their partners' HIV status before having sex the first time.

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Figure 18: Unprotected Vaginal Sex (UPS) among IDUs by Type of Sexual Partner (NHBS, 2005)



Age at HIV Diagnosis:

Among men in their forties at the time of HIV diagnosis, IDU (when combined with MSM/IDU) behavior is the second most common mode of transmission. For men in their thirties, IDU makes up the same proportion as those with an unknown risk. Seventy-three percent of male IDU cases are among men who were in their thirties and forties at the time of HIV diagnosis (37 and 36 percent, respectively).

IDU is the second most common mode of transmission for women who were in their thirties and forties at the time of HIV diagnosis. This pattern is similar to what is seen among males. Seventy-three percent of female IDU cases are among women in these age groups.

There are very few cases of HIV/AIDS attributed to IDU among teenagers (four percent); however the proportion of IDU among female teenagers (seven percent) is about twice the proportion of IDU (including MSM/IDU) among male teenagers (four percent).

Concurrent Diagnoses:

Of the 9,765 persons living with HIV in the Detroit Metro Area, 55 percent (5,411 cases) have progressed to AIDS. Of these, 2,376 (44 percent) had concurrent HIV and AIDS diagnoses. IDU make up 19 percent (N = 1,012) of persons living with AIDS, of which 34 percent (N = 345) had concurrent HIV and AIDS diagnoses. Overall, persons reporting IDU behavior are less likely than either heterosexuals and MSM to get tested late in the progression of HIV disease. See Table 4, page 4-41.

Geographic Distribution:

In the high and low prevalence areas of the Detroit Metro Area (Figure 2 on page 3-15), persons living with HIV/AIDS who acquired HIV through IDU behavior comprise 16 percent and 14 percent, respectively, of reported cases in these areas.

Trends and Conclusions:

The number of newly diagnosed persons who were injection drug users (IDU) decreased by an average of 16 percent per year. The analysis performed on data from 2004 through 2008 was the fifth 5-year analysis to show these downward trends for IDU. Data from Michigan's HIV Behavioral Surveillance (collected in 2005), which focused on IDU living in Detroit, suggest the trend among IDU can be partly attributed to the success of harm reduction programs like needle exchange. For more information