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# Utilization of HIV testing and prevention services among persons who inject drugs–Indiana, 2016

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## Background

- During January 2015, a large HIV outbreak among persons who inject drugs (PWID) was detected in rural Indiana
- The public health response included establishment of a syringe services program (SSP), increased HIV testing, and improved access to HIV prevention and care services
- Objective: to assess uptake of HIV testing and HIV prevention services among PWID one year after outbreak identification

## Methods

- During January–February 2016 we used respondent-driven sampling to recruit 200 persons who resided in Scott County, Indiana, were aged ≥18 years, and reported injecting during the prior 12 months
- We conducted structured interviews which included demographic characteristics, self-reported HIV status, use of SSP, and uptake of HIV testing and prevention services one year after outbreak identification
- We reported demographic characteristics, HIV testing information, and knowledge and use of PrEP and PEP
  - We used percentages and medians, with interquartile ranges, to describe categorical and continuous variables, respectively
- We used Fisher's exact test to assess differences in pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) knowledge by last HIV test location

## Limitations

- All information, including HIV status, was self-reported via in-person interviews and may be subject to bias
- Participants may have learned about PrEP or PEP somewhere other than their last HIV test location
- These results may not be generalizable to non-sampled PWID in the outbreak area or other communities

## Results

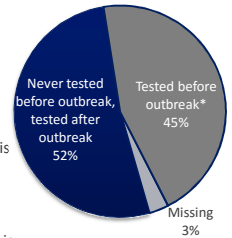
**Characteristics of 200 PWID—Scott County, Indiana, 2016**

| Characteristic | n (%) |
|---|---|
| Age, in years (median, interquartile range) | 35 (28,43) |
| Non-Hispanic white | 184 (92%) |
| Male | 115 (58%) |
| Heterosexual | 181 (92%) |
| Self-reported HIV status | |
| HIV-positive | 59 (30%) |
| HIV-positive, diagnosed in last 12 months | 48 (82%) |
| HIV-negative | 124 (62%) |
| Unknown HIV status | 17 (9%) |

**Ever tested for HIV?**

Yes (185, 93%) | No (15, 7%)

**Timing of HIV testing**




* 89% of those who tested before the outbreak were also tested after the outbreak was identified

**Reasons for never testing for HIV**

| Reason | n (%)* |
|---|---|
| Low risk | 4 (27%) |
| Afraid of diagnosis | 2 (13%) |
| No time | 1 (7%) |
| Didn't know where to go | 1 (7%) |
| Afraid of stigma | 0 |
| Afraid of drug cessation counseling | 0 |
| Some other reason | 5 (33%) |
| No reason | 5 (33%) |

* Participants could select ≥1 option, so % do not add to 100%

**Heard of PrEP?**

Yes (66, 33%) | No (132, 66%) | Missing 2

**Heard of PEP?**

Yes (21, 11%) | No (177, 89%) | Missing 2

**Reported location of last HIV test (n=182)***

| Location | n (%) |
|---|---|
| Community Outreach Center/SSP | 38 (21%) |
| Jail/prison | 28 (15%) |
| Tested by a professional at home | 27 (15%) |
| Other | 24 (13%) |
| Doctor's office | 22 (12%) |
| Street outreach | 20 (11%) |
| Health department | 9 (5%) |
| Drug treatment program | 7 (4%) |
| Emergency room | 5 (3%) |
| Hospital | 2 (1%) |

* Table total 182 due to 3 missing values

**PrEP Knowledge, by test site (n=66)**

| n (%) |
|---|
| 20 (30%) |
| 11 (17%) |
| 10 (15%) |
| 7 (11%) |
| 6 (9%) |
| 4 (6%) |
| 3 (4%) |
| 2 (3%) |
| 2 (3%) |
| 1 (2%) |

**PrEP and PEP knowledge among those reporting location of last HIV test**

| | Knowledge of PrEP n (%) | No knowledge of PrEP n (%) |
|---|---|---|
| **Last HIV test at SSP (n=38)** | **20 (53%)** | **18 (47%)** |
| **Last HIV test not at SSP (n=144)** | **46 (32%)** | **98 (68%)** |

**Knowledge of PrEP**: SSP versus not SSP last HIV testing site, p=0.023

| | Knowledge of PEP n (%) | No knowledge of PEP n (%) |
|---|---|---|
| **Last HIV test at SSP (n=37)*** | **5 (14%)** | **32 (86%)** |
| **Last HIV test not at SSP (n=143)*** | **15 (10%)** | **128 (90%)** |

* Table total 180 due to 2 missing values

**Knowledge of PEP**: SSP versus not SSP last HIV testing site, p=0.57

## Results Summary

- The majority of study participants were non-Hispanic white, male, and heterosexual
- Most participants had been tested for HIV; more than half had not tested before the outbreak but were tested after the outbreak was identified
- Among those not tested for HIV, no one reported stigma as a reason for not testing
- SSP was the most common HIV testing location, but many different testing locations were used
- 33% of participants had heard of PrEP; 3 persons were taking PrEP; 11% of participants had heard of PEP; no one had ever taken PEP
- Participants who tested for HIV at the SSP were significantly more likely to report knowledge of PrEP, compared with persons who tested elsewhere

## Conclusions

- Uptake of HIV testing services increased after an HIV outbreak and scale-up of services
- Overall awareness of PrEP and PEP were low among this population at high risk of HIV transmission
- PrEP awareness was significantly higher among persons using the SSP
- SSPs may be a useful forum for communication of HIV prevention services

## Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge our partners at the Indiana State Department of Health and Indiana University, as well as the community partners and study participants who made this work possible

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