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# No Improvement in Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Use among PWID, San Francisco. 2018-2022

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## BACKGROUND

- The Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative aims to reduce new HIV infections by 90% by 2030.
- San Francisco is achieving progress toward this goal among men who have sex with men (MSM), but not among people who inject drugs (PWID).
- This may be in part due to high levels of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) use among MSM (1).
- However, PrEP use among PWID was only **2.9%** in 2018 (2).
- Correspondingly, reported new HIV infections among PWID rose by 48% between 2019 and 2021, now accounting for 27% of new HIV diagnoses in San Francisco (1).

## OBJECTIVE

- The current analysis was conducted to determine if progress was made in PrEP awareness, discussion, and use among PWID in San Francisco from 2018 to 2022.

## METHODS

- **Data Source**: the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance surveys for PWID
- **Study Time Frame:** June to December of 2018 and 2022
- **Study Location:** San Francisco, CA
- **Study Design:** Cross-sectional surveys
- **Recruitment Method:** Respondent-driven Sampling
- **Study Population**: People who Inject Drugs (PWID)
- **Analysis:** Comparison of PrEP cascade indicators between NHBS-PWID 2018 and 2022 among PWID who self-identified as HIV negative or unknown.
- **Sub Analysis:** Determine factors associated with lack of PrEP awareness among PWID.
- **Statistical Tests:** Chi-squared tests and logistic regression

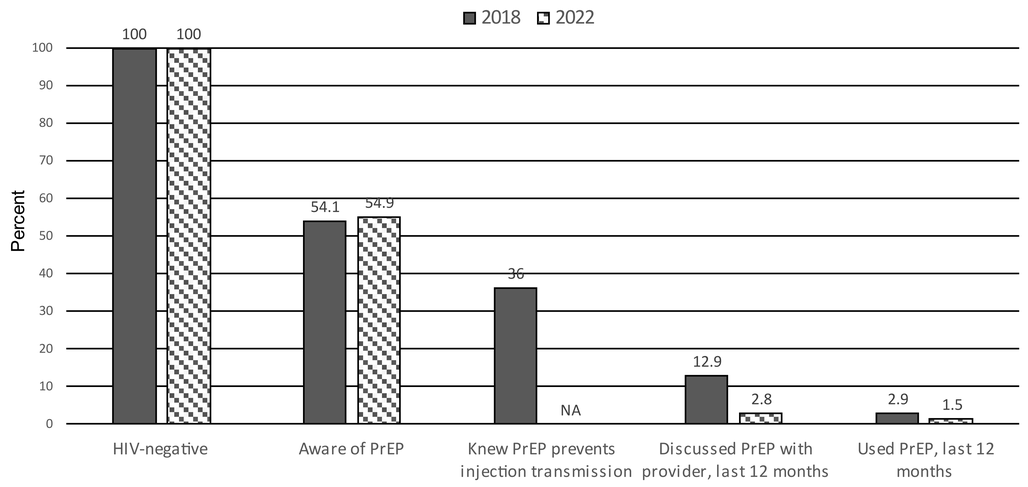
## STUDY POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

| | N=479 (%) |
|---|---|
| Average age, years | 47.5 (SD=11.2) |
| Homelessness, past 12 months | 387 (80.8) |
| Had usual source of health care | 367 (76.6) |
| Had health care visits, past 12 months | 360 (75.3) |

**PrEP indicator estimates were comparable to or significantly worse in 2022 than those of 2018:**

Aware of PrEP 54.9% vs. 54.1% (p=0.796),
Discussed PrEP with HCP 5.9% vs. 12.9% (p<0.001),
and Used PrEP 1.5% vs. 2.9% (p=0.147).

**Figure 1.** Continuum of engagement with pre -exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among people who inject drugs (PWID), San Francisco, 2018 and 2022




## CONCLUSIONS

- Public health interventions to increase HIV testing and PrEP discussions from health care providers for PWID may have the greatest potential to improve PrEP uptake among PWID at highest risk, particularly for Black/African Americans and those with low income.

**References**

1. SFDPH. (2021). *HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY Annual Report 2021 San Francisco*. S. F. D. o. P. Health.
2. McFarland, W., Lin, J., Santos, G.-M., Arayasirikul, S., Raymond, H. F., & Wilson, E. (2020). Low PrEP Awareness and Use Among People Who Inject Drugs, San Francisco, 2018. *AIDS and behavior*, *24*(5), 1290-1293. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-019-02682-7

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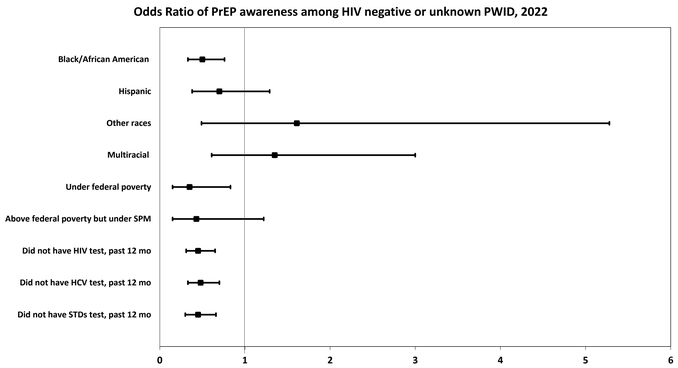
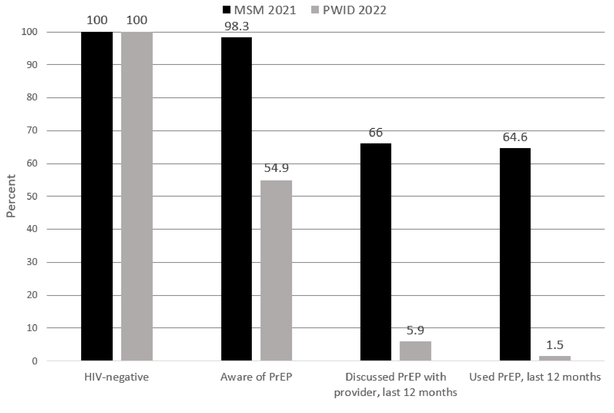



## RESULTS

- Factors associated with low PrEP awareness among PWID in 2022 were
  - Black/African American race/ethnicity (OR 0.50 vs. Whites, p=0.001, 95% CI 0.33-0.76),
  - Household income below the federal poverty level (OR 0.35 vs. above, p=0.017, 95% CI 0.15-0.83),
  - Not testing for HIV (OR 0.43 vs. testing, p<0.001, 95% CI 0.30-0.63),
  - Not testing for HCV (OR 0.48 vs. testing, p<0.001, 95% CI 0.33-0.70) or
  - Not testing for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) (OR 0.44 vs. testing, p<0.001, 95% CI 0.30-0.66) in the past 12 months.

**Figure 2.** Continuum of engagement with pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), men who have sex with men (MSM) vs. people who inject drugs (PWID), San Francisco, 2021 and 2022




- Most MSM who discussed PrEP with HCP in the past 12 months used PrEP.