# Not Getting to Zero HIV For People Who Inject Drugs, San Francisco, 2022

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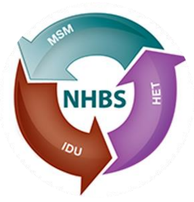
**Objective:** We examined data from the recently completed National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) survey of PWID to characterize the status of the HIV epidemic for this population and progress toward the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets in San Francisco.

## BACKGROUND

- National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) monitors HIV infection and HIV-associated behaviors among key populations at highest risk of acquiring HIV
- Despite decreases in new HIV infections overall, from 2019 to 2021, new diagnoses among people who inject drugs (PWID) rose by 48%. PWID now account for 27% of new HIV diagnoses in San Francisco

| NHBS-PWID 2022 | |
|---|---|
| **Characteristics** | **N=527** |
| Average age | 47.6 (11.0) |
| Race / ethnicity | |
| White | 246 (47.1) |
| Black, African American | 166 (31.8) |
| Hispanic | 63 (12.1) |
| Multiracial | 32 (6.1) |
| Other | 15 (2.9) |
| Gender | |
| Male | 357 (67.7) |
| Female | 157 (29.8) |
| Non-binary | 13 (2.5) |
| Sexual orientation | |
| Heterosexual | 380 (73.1) |
| Homosexual | 34 (6.5) |
| Bisexual | 106 (20.4) |
| Homelessness, past 12 months | 410 (77.8) |
| Delayed health care due to injection drug use stigma | 286 (54.6) |
| Experienced discrimination when accessing health care | 281 (53.6) |







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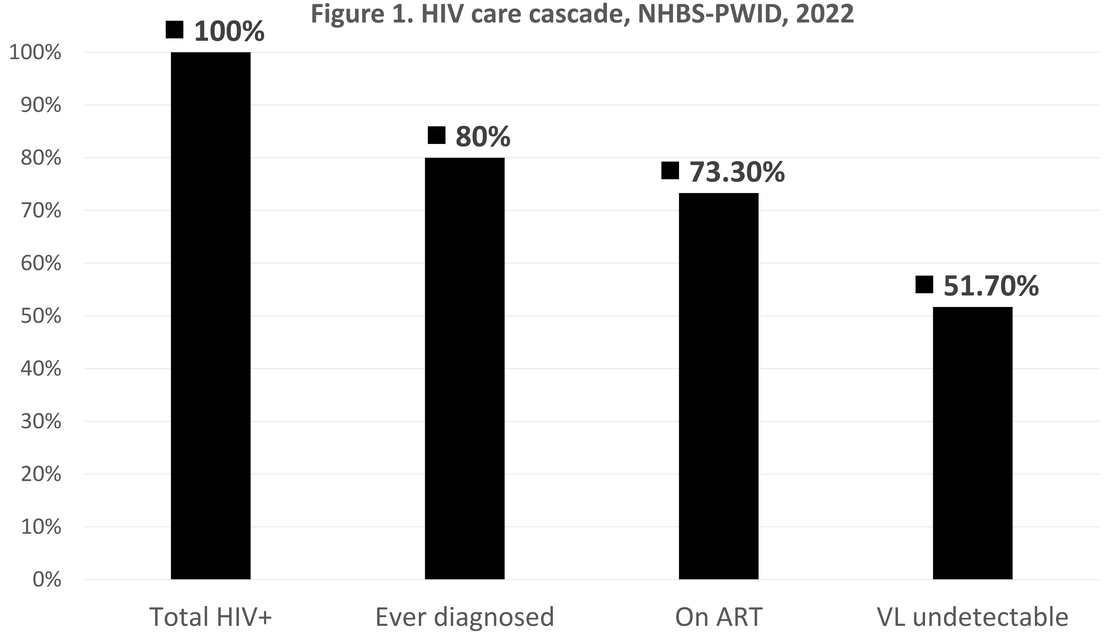
## Newly diagnosed HIV infections among PWID sampled increased 33% from 2018 to 2022

## METHODS

- **Study Design:** PWID sampled w/respondent-driven sampling.
- **NHBS Study Setting:** San Francisco's Department of Public Health, located in the Civic Center.
- **NHBS Study Population:** Eligibility criteria were age over 18 years, injected non-prescribed drugs in the last 12 months, San Francisco resident, and referral by another participant.
- **NHBS Study Procedures: (1)** 1-hour health survey on demographics, substance use, HIV and prevention and care; (2) HIV rapid resting using INSTI . (3) HCV rapid testing using OraQuick
- **Statistical Analyses:** Demographics, HIV-related behavior, and HIV test results collected from June to December 2022 were compared to these same indicators collected in 2018

**Figure 1. HIV care cascade, NHBS-PWID, 2022**



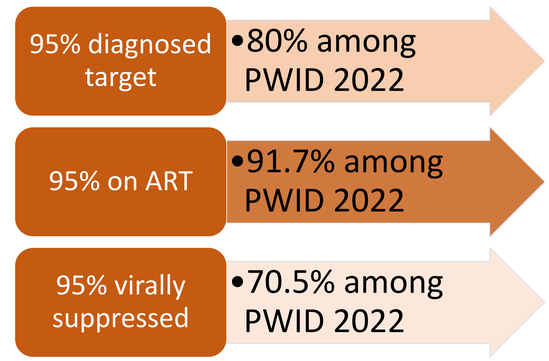

**Acknowledgements**

This work was supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A special thanks to SFDPH CHEP Department for providing HCV testing and NHBS participants for providing this information.

**References**

1.SFDPH. (2021). *HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY Annual Report 2021 San Francisco*. S. F. D. o. P. Health.

**2030 UNAIDS Targets**




## RESULTS

- 80% of PWID living with HIV were previously diagnosed, of whom 92% were on antiretroviral treatment, of whom 71% were virally suppressed
- Current HIV prevalence was identical to 2018 (11%), but new HIV positive test results increased by 33%
- 75% of PWID with a new HIV positive test result had a healthcare visit in the last 12 months- only 22% of them were offered an HIV test during a visit
- Participants with new HIV positive test results in 2022 tended to be Black/African American (42%), male (50%), heterosexual (83%), and over age 50 (50%)

## CONCLUSIONS

- San Francisco is *not* on course to get to zero HIV infections among PWID, progress toward 95-95-95 targets is slow, and stigma towards drugs users in healthcare remains high.
- Citywide HIV case reporting suggesting recent increases in new HIV infections among PWID despite decreases in the epidemic overall.
- There is an increased need for HIV testing of PWID in healthcare to avoid missed opportunities for early diagnosis.
- Challenges also remain for retention in care and for sustaining viral suppression.
- PWID-sensitive and focused programs are needed to increase HIV testing overall, sustain retention in care, and address stigma if San Francisco is to end the epidemic for all