

HIV Infection Risk, Prevention, and Testing Behaviors Among Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWID)



National HIV Behavioral Surveillance • 2018

Newark • NJ

523 PWID were interviewed | **10%** were **HIV-positive**

Sharing syringes puts PWID at high risk for HIV and other infections.

22% used a syringe **after someone else used it.**



Access to sterile syringes is critical for preventing HIV and other infections.

Syringe services programs (SSPs) are community-based prevention programs that can provide a range of services, including linkage to substance use disorder treatment; access to and disposal of sterile syringes and injection equipment; and vaccination, testing, and linkage to care and treatment for infectious diseases.

Some pharmacies sell or provide syringes without a prescription and are an additional prevention partner in increasing access to sterile syringes.

Percentage of people who obtained a sterile syringe from:



SSPs:
32%



Pharmacies:
24%

Exchanging sex for money or drugs may increase the risk for HIV.



51% **women** received money or drugs in exchange for sex



18% **men** received or gave money or drugs in exchange for sex

PWID should get tested for HIV at least once a year.

53% tested for HIV in the past 12 months.



1 in 4
PWID overdosed
in the past 12 months.

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) combines medications (such as buprenorphine and methadone) and behavioral therapy to **treat substance use disorders** and **prevent overdose.**

31% of PWID tried but were **unable to obtain MAT** for opioid use treatment.

NHBS collects data to guide HIV prevention efforts at local and national levels by characterizing and monitoring HIV risk behaviors and use of testing and other prevention services among people at highest risk for HIV infection.

Read full report: <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/pdf/library/reports/surveillance/cdc-hiv-surveillance-special-report-number-24.pdf>