HIV, HCV and Overdose in California: A Data Snapshot

Alessandra Ross, MPH
Chief, Harm Reduction Unit
California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS
In 2018, 8.1% of new HIV cases were among people with injection drug use (3.8)% or male-to-male sexual contact + IDU transmission risks (4.3%)
Syringe Services Programs (SSPs)

Keys to success:

▸ Provide sterile injection equipment
▸ Work with people while they are continuing to use drugs, with love & respect

Photo Credit: HEPPAC
New Programs Respond to the Overdose Crisis
Amphetamine overdose deaths have increased 212% from 777 in 2012 to 2,427 in 2018 and surpassed heroin overdose deaths.

Source: Mother Jones Magazine 9-06-2017, CDC Data
Drug-related deaths have risen in 2020 in states across the country.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>+60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>+35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>+32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>+30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>+27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>+26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>+24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>+24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>+23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>+22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>+18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>+17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>+13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>+10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All data is provisional. Definitions of what counts as a drug-related death vary by state. Data for Arizona, California, Florida, Minnesota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin includes only a subset of counties within each state.

Source: State and local health departments, coroners and medical examiners.

Overdoses and HCV rose together – especially among young people

117% increase from 2012

159% increase from 2012

Source: CDPH Office of Viral Hepatitis Prevention
Chronic Hepatitis C – Age Distribution of Newly Reported Cases, California 2007 and 2017

2007*

N = 41,037; excludes 547 cases with missing age or sex information.

2015†

N = 33,454; excludes 294 cases with missing age or sex information.

Source: CDPH Office of Viral Hepatitis Prevention
92% of people infected with HIV were co-infected with HCV

HCV increases in 20-29 year-olds preceded HIV outbreak in Scott County
HIV outbreaks have been occurring across the United States among people who inject drugs.

Data adapted from Volkow et al., 2019, publications, presentations, and health alerts.
Gaps & Opportunities
Intertwined Epidemics Require Integrated Response

- Expand syringe access
- Examine funding streams – who is left out?
- Expand access to MOUD (medication for opiate use disorder)
- Improve viral suppression for PWID
- Root out stigma, misinformation and mistreatment in medical, public health and social services
- “Nothing about us without us”
Alessandra Ross
Injection Drug Use Specialist
California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS
Alessandra.ross@cdph.ca.gov
916-719-6330