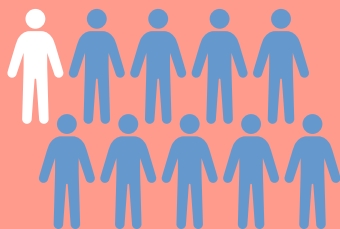




HIV Among People Who Inject Drugs (PWID)



1 of 10 people living with HIV in Illinois identifies as PWID



During 2013-2017, 160 PWID were newly diagnosed with HIV in Illinois. The majority were:

40 years or older:

65%

Women:

61%

Black or Hispanic:

60%

Compared to other people living with HIV, PWID had lower rates of receiving HIV medical care (56%) and being virally suppressed (39%) in 2017



Apart from HIV, PWID may be vulnerable to other health conditions:

Hepatitis C:

Hepatitis C is an infection caused by the Hepatitis C virus (HCV). **HCV** is spread by exposure to an infected person's blood. HCV can attack the liver and lead to cirrhosis or liver cancer

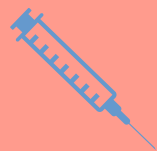
.....
Sharing needles or other drug use equipment increases risk of HCV transmission. PWID account for an estimated **60%** of new HCV cases.

Drug Overdoses:

PWID are at risk of drug overdoses and overdose deaths.

.....
The number of opioid overdose deaths in Illinois **more than doubled** from 2013-2017 (from 1,070 to 2,202 deaths)

Syringe exchange programs have been legal in Illinois since 2009. Most offer clean needles and drug use equipment, HIV/HCV testing, and naloxone (an opioid overdose reversal drug)



HIV and HCV among PWID are **not** influenced by behavioral factors alone.

Social factors such as:

Racism

Provider Bias

Economic Status

Limited Access to Medical Services

Stigma

can impact the way that **HIV** and **HCV** affect a community

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health. "Persons Who Inject Drugs" (http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/Publications_OHP_Persons%20who%20Inject%20Drugs_12_04_18.pdf); and "Opioid Overdose Semiannual Report—December 2018" (<http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/010219oppsopioid-semiannual-report.pdf>)