

# Impact and wider social and healthcare system implications of hepatitis C virus (HCV) treatment and cure



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## Introduction

- ◆ There is a gap in the knowledge on the factors that encourage people who inject drugs (PWID) to start direct-acting antiviral (DAA) treatment and on the impact treatment has on **drug-user health, practices and well-being**

## Objectives

- ◆ Gain deep insights from PWID on:
  1. The non-clinical impact that HCV treatment has on their life and on wider society
  2. The motivations and reasons for accessing and completing HCV treatment
  3. Their opinions on the factors that would encourage more PWID to engage in HCV care

## Methods

### PART 1: qualitative approach

(completed July 2018)

- ◆ 60–90-minute face-to-face interviews with current or former PWID diagnosed with HCV across Europe (N=64)
  - 48 had completed or were currently on DAA treatment and 16 had not received HCV treatment
- ◆ Interviews were transcribed verbatim and the main themes and trends were identified from the interview transcript; the pyramiding principle was used to synthesise the themes into implications

### PART 2: quantitative approach

(completed May 2019)

- ◆ 30-minute online surveys administered face-to-face with PWID across Europe (N=124)
- ◆ All respondents had injected opioids or stimulants (currently or in the past) and had completed DAA treatment

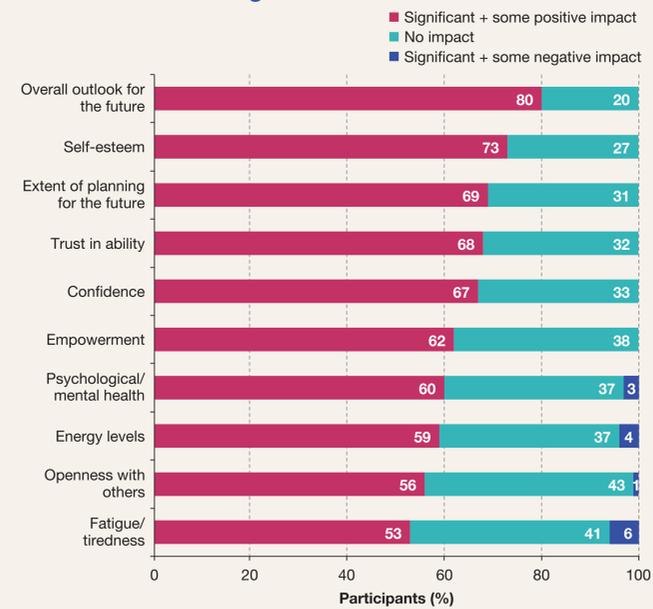
## Results

This poster focuses on the results from 124 participants involved in the quantitative approach

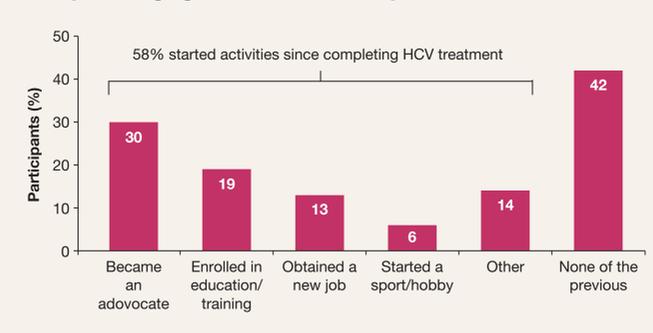
**Table 1. Baseline characteristics for participants in the quantitative analysis**

Characteristics	%
Age, years	
18–29	2
30–44	30
45–60	64
>60	5
Sex	
Male	75
Female	25
Currently injecting drugs?	
≥once a week	17
<once a week	17
No longer injecting	66
Use of opioids/stimulants at start of treatment?	
Users	65
Non-users	34
Did not remember	1
Country	
UK	16
Germany	16
France	16
Italy	16
Spain	16
Portugal	12
Switzerland	7

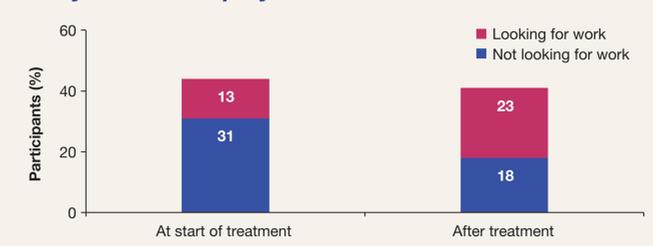
**Figure 1. The impact of HCV treatment on participants' health and well-being**



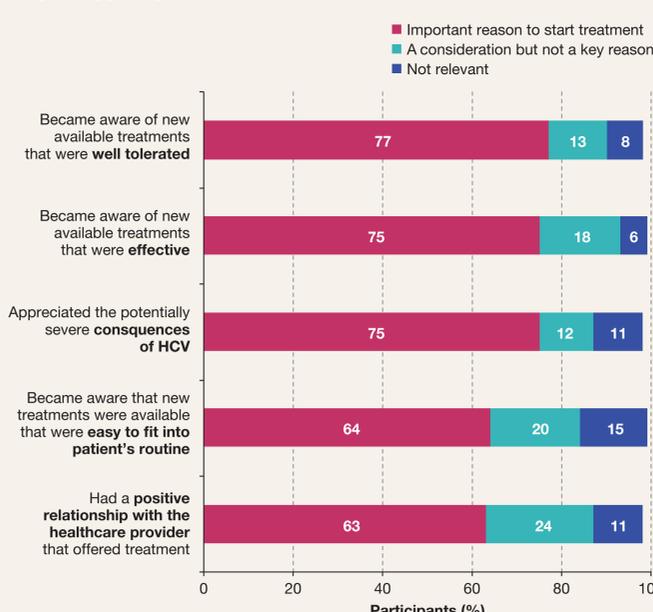
**Figure 2. Effect of HCV treatment on participants' ability to engage in wider society**



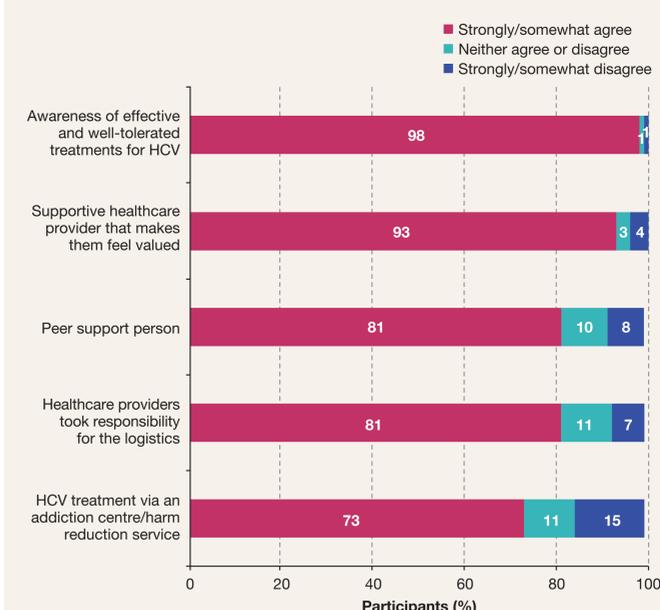
**Figure 3. Effect of HCV treatment on participants' ability to seek employment**



**Figure 4. The main reasons participants started HCV treatment**



**Figure 5. Potential initiatives participants believed would encourage others to begin/complete HCV treatment**



## Conclusions

- ◆ The benefits of HCV treatment and cure go beyond clinical outcomes and are linked to **improved drug-user health**
- ◆ **Sharing information** about well-tolerated and effective HCV treatments and enabling more meaningful healthcare provider–patient engagement are key considerations for future models of care to improve the health of this population
- ◆ The research identified opportunities for social policy and healthcare systems to better engage and support PWID by leveraging HCV treatment to **improve drug users' overall health, emotional well-being and engagement in wider society**

## Acknowledgements

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## Disclosures

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