



# Awareness of HCV antiviral effectiveness among people who actively inject drugs in the direct-acting antiviral era

Heather Valerio, Dr Andy McAuley, Hamish Innes,  
Dr Norah Palmateer, Prof David Goldberg,  
Dr Alison Munro, Prof Avril Taylor,  
Prof Sharon Hutchinson



Glasgow Caledonian University School of Health and Life Sciences;  
BBV & STI Section, Health Protection Scotland



*Disclosures: none*

## Background/Aims

- People who inject drugs are at greatest risk of HCV infection
- Direct-acting antiviral therapies for chronic HCV infection have caused rapid rise in treatment effectiveness (above 80%)
- Research Question: Are PWID aware of the effectiveness of new direct-acting antivirals? What factors are associated with this awareness?

## Methods

- Needle Exchange Surveillance Initiative (NESI) 2015/16
  - Cross-sectional survey
  - Recruitment at injecting equipment provision and opiate assisted therapy sites throughout Scotland
  - Unlinked anonymous DBS test for HCV Ab, RNA via PCR
- Eligible population
  - HCV PCR+ at DBS
- Specific Question:
  - “What are the chances of hepatitis C being cured with current treatment?”

**Very High (81-100%); High (61-80%);**

Reasonable (41-60%);

Low (21-40%);

Very Low (0-20%);

Don't Know



## Results: Characteristics

879 participants were chronically infected with HCV  
(PCR + result at DBS)

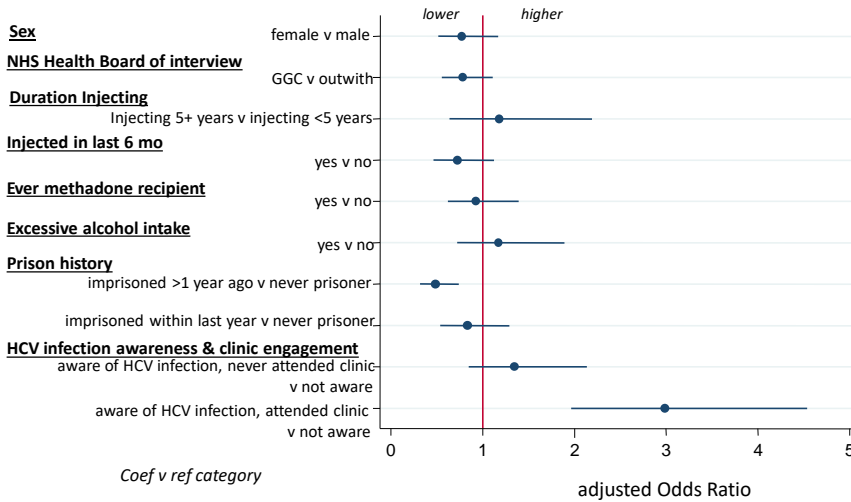
- Median age 39; 74% male
- 16 year average duration injecting; 84% injected in last 6 mo
- 44% interviewed within Greater Glasgow & Clyde (GGC)
- 77% had ever received prescription for methadone
- 14% drank 50+ units of alcohol/week
- 71% had ever been imprisoned
- 36% unaware of HCV infection
- 34% had ever attended a specialist clinic

## Results: Awareness of HCV therapy effectiveness

N	Perceived effectiveness of current HCV antiviral therapy n (%N)			
	Very High 81-100%	High 61-80%	Reasonable 41-60%	Low/ DK <40%
879	183 (21%)	127 (14%)	39 (4%)	530 (60%)

## Results: Factors associated with awareness of HCV treatment effectiveness:

multivariate logistic regression



## Conclusions / Implications

- Chronically HCV infected PWID are not cognisant of the effectiveness of current HCV treatment
- Increased efforts to raise awareness of new HCV therapies among high risk populations are required

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Questions?  
[heather.valerio@nhs.net](mailto:heather.valerio@nhs.net)



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