

# Skin and soft tissue Infections

## BURDEN OF SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTIONS AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

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### BACKGROUND

- Skin and soft tissue infections (SSTIs) are an important cause of morbidity and mortality among people who inject drugs.
- Despite high societal and individual burden and severe complications there is a paucity of data on prevalence in Norway.

### AIM

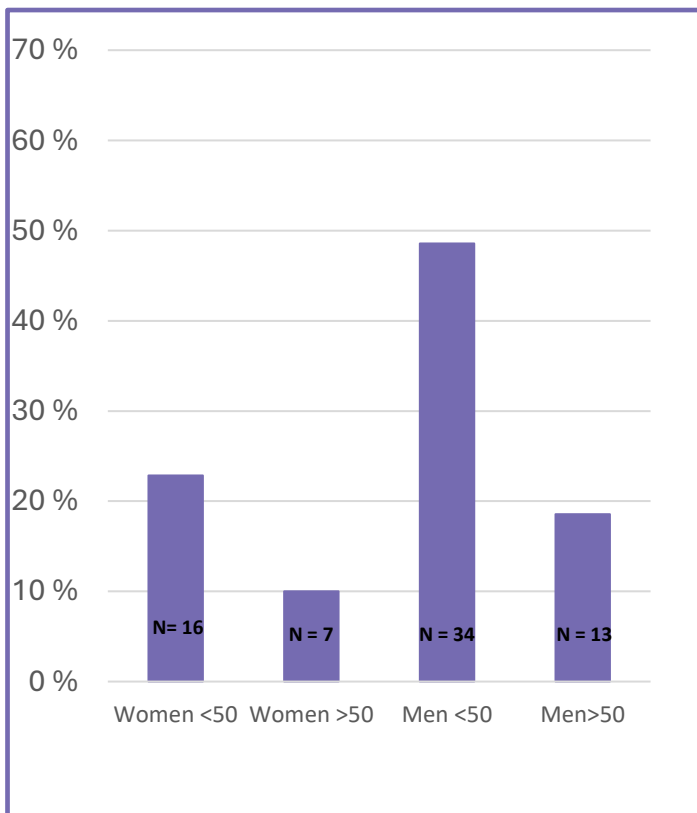
- Assess burden of SSTIs in people who inject drugs.

### METHODS

- Cross-sectional design: burden of SSTI assessed through a structured interview.
- Conducted at Gatehospitalet (Street Hospital) in Oslo.
- Gatehospitalet Oslo provides in-patient care to people who inject drugs and have somatic disease.
- Primary outcome: Lifetime experience with hospitalizations due to SSTIs.
- Secondary outcome: risk factors for hospitalisation.

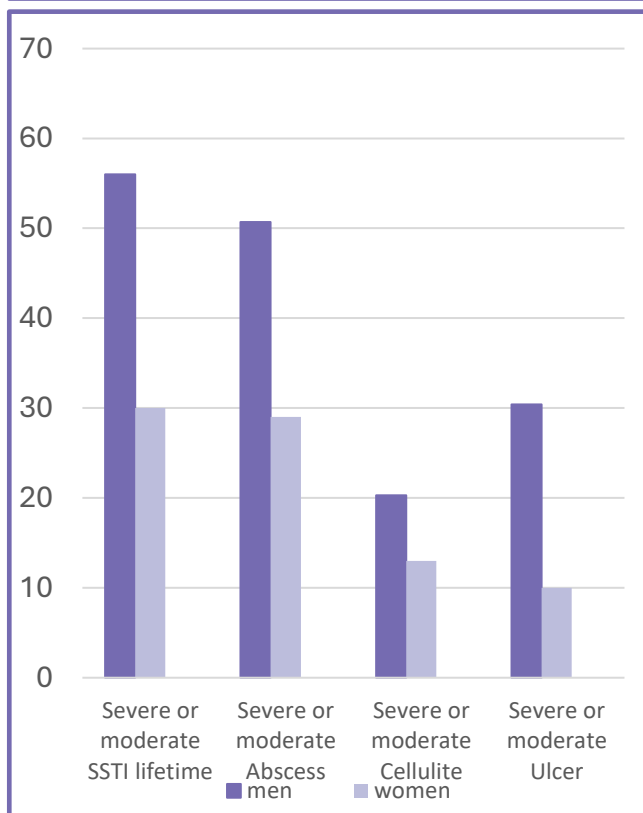
### RESULTS

- A total of 70 patients were included. Mean age was 55 years, 67% were male, 80% reported receiving Opioid antagonist treatment. Recent injecting drug use was reported by 70%. 27% reported having a fistula in groin at time of inclusion.



**Figure1.** Proportion of PWID that were ever hospitalised due to a SSTI according to age and gender (n=70)

Among 70 People who inject drugs  
52 (74%) reported having been  
hospitalised for an SSTI



**Figure2.** Proportion of PWID that reported ever having had a moderate or severe SSTI (n=68)

### CONCLUSION

- Three out of four had ever been hospitalised due to an SSTI.
- Almost nine out of ten reported having had a moderate or severe SSTI.

In multivariate analyses, we found that SSTIs was as common in men as in women, was independent of age and venous or non-venous drug injection.