

# HIV, STI and Hepatitis Among People Who Inject Drugs 2012 to 2022

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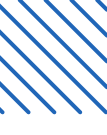
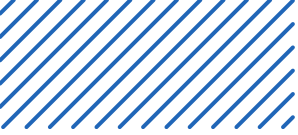


**MSHC**


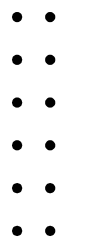
MELBOURNE SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE

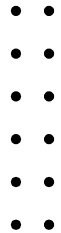
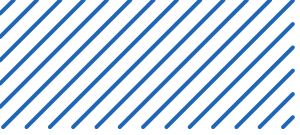


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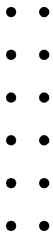


***I'd like to begin by acknowledging  
the Traditional Owners of the land  
on which we meet today. I would  
also like to pay my respects to  
Elders past and present***

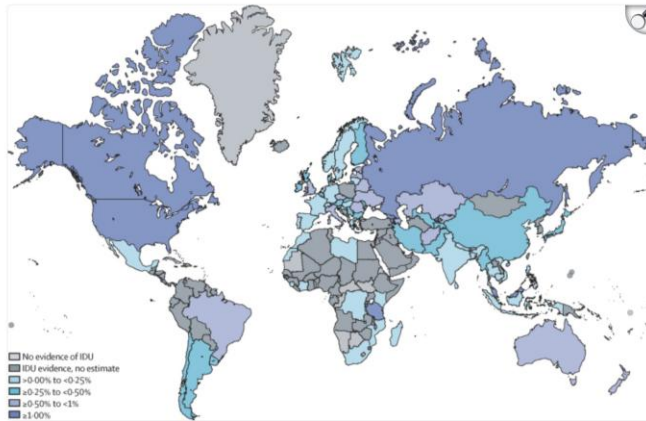




# Background



# Background



Estimated prevalence of injecting drug use by country

Source: Degenhardt L, Peacock A, Colledge S, et al. Global prevalence of injecting drug use and sociodemographic characteristics and prevalence of HIV, HBV, and HCV in people who inject drugs: a multistage systematic review. *Lancet Glob Health* 2017; **5**(12): e1192-e207.  
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5683738/>

# Background



Estimated prevalence of injecting drug use by country



Estimated HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs by country

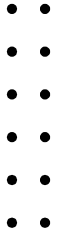
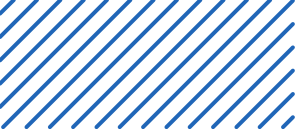
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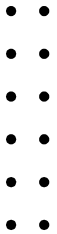
# Aims

**Examine the sexual practices and  
positivity of HIV, STIs, and viral  
hepatitis among PWID**





# Methods



## Inclusion

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- ✓ First-time client
- ✓ Aged 18+
- ✓ Had a sexual partner in last 12 months
- ✓ Reported IV drug use in last 12 months
- ✓ Identified as male or female



Total clients from 2011 to 2022  
N=124,763

Excluded (n=123,534)

Total included (N=1,229)

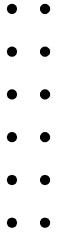
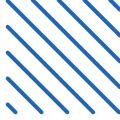
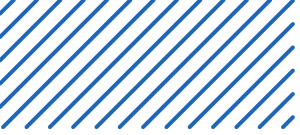
Did not report injecting drug use  
in last 12 months (n=120,047)  
Duplicate (n=3,381)  
Did not specify partner gender  
or did not have sexual partner in  
previous 12 months (n=96)  
Transgender (n=10)

MSWO (n=395)

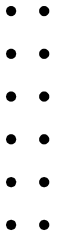
gbMSM (n=457)

Women (n=377)

MSWO=men who have sex  
with women only



# Results



**Table 1. Number of New Presentations of PWID to MSHC Each Year, Stratified by Subgroup**

Year	MSWO, No. (%)	gbMSM, No. (%)	Women, No. (%)	Total
2012	40 (35.7)	36 (32.1)	36 (32.1)	112
2013	43 (37.0)	33 (28.4)	40 (34.5)	116
2014	36 (31.0)	43 (37.1)	37 (31.9)	116
2015	42 (37.2)	40 (35.4)	31 (27.4)	113
2016	36 (32.7)	44 (40.0)	30 (27.3)	110
2017	30 (28.3)	45 (42.5)	31 (29.2)	106
2018	36 (24.8)	57 (39.3)	52 (35.9)	145
2019	42 (30.2)	49 (35.3)	48 (34.5)	139
2020	30 (35.3)	33 (38.8)	22 (25.9)	85
2021	28 (29.8)	35 (37.2)	31 (33.0)	94
2022	32 (34.4)	42 (45.2)	19 (20.4)	93
Total	395 (32.1)	457 (37.2)	377 (30.6)	1229
<i>P</i> <sub>trend</sub>	.069	.372	.385	

Abbreviations: gbMSM, gay or bisexual men who have sex with men; MSHC, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre; MSWO, men who have sex with women only; PWID, people who inject drugs.

**Table 2. Comparison of Demographic Characteristics Among MSWO, gbMSM, and Women who Inject Drugs Attending the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre From 2012 to 2021**

	MSWO (n = 395)	gbMSM (n = 457)	Women (n = 377)	Total (n = 1229)	P Value (MSWO, gbMSM, and Women)	P Value (MSWO and gbMSM)	P Value (MSWO and Women)	P Value (gbMSM and Women)
Median age (IQR), y	30 (25–35)	33 (27–41)	26 (22–34)	30 (25–38)	<.001	<.001	.003	<.001
Country of birth, No. (%)					.052 <sup>a</sup>			
Australia	221 (56.0)	286 (62.6)	189 (50.1)	696 (56.6)				
Overseas	149 (37.7)	156 (34.1)	147 (39.0)	452 (36.8)				
No information given	25 (6.3)	15 (3.3)	41 (10.9)	81 (6.6)				
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander					.001	.516	.003	.015
No	337 (85.3)	401 (87.8)	294 (78.0)	1032 (84.0)				
Yes	8 (2.0)	13 (2.8)	23 (6.1)	44 (3.6)				
No information given	50 (12.7)	43 (9.4)	60 (15.9)	153 (12.5)				
Current sex worker, No. (%)								
No	387 (98.0)	429 (93.9)	272 (72.2)	1088 (88.5)				
Yes	6 (1.5)	19 (4.2)	97 (25.7)	122 (9.9)	<.001	.024	<.001	<.001
No information given	2 (0.5)	9 (2.0)	8 (2.1)	19 (1.6)				
Median No. of female sexual partners in the previous 12 mo (IQR)	5 (2–9)	3 (1–8)	1 (1–2)	3 (1–7)	<.001	.047	<.001	<.001
Median No. of male sexual partners in the previous 12 mo (IQR)	NA	10 (3–21)	3 (2–6)	5 (2–12)	<.001	-	-	<.001
Median No. of total sexual partners in the previous 12 mo (IQR)	5 (2–9)	11 (5–25)	4 (2–6)	5 (2–11)	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
Condom use with female partners in the last 12 mo, No. (%)					.246			
Always	25 (6.3)	9 (9.9)	NA					
Not always	354 (89.6)	76 (83.5)	NA					
No information given	16 (4.1)	6 (6.6)	NA					
Condom use with male partners in the last 12 mo, No. (%)					.897			
Always	NA	37 (8.1)	29 (7.9)					
Not always	NA	386 (84.5)	321 (87.5)					
No information given	NA	34 (7.4)	17 (4.6)					
Previous STI diagnosis, No. (%)					<.001	<.001	.466	<.001
No	217 (54.9)	131 (28.7)	185 (49.1)					
Yes	125 (31.7)	271 (59.3)	120 (31.8)					
No information given	53 (13.4)	55 (12.0)	72 (19.1)					

Abbreviations: gbMSM, gay or bisexual men who have sex with men; IQR, interquartile range; MSWO, men who have sex with women only; STI, sexually transmitted infection.

<sup>a</sup>No subgroup comparisons were made if the overall P value was insignificant.

**Table 3. Comparison of HIV, STIs, HBV, and HCV Among MSWO, gbMSM, and Women who Inject Drugs Presenting to the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre From 2012 to 2022**

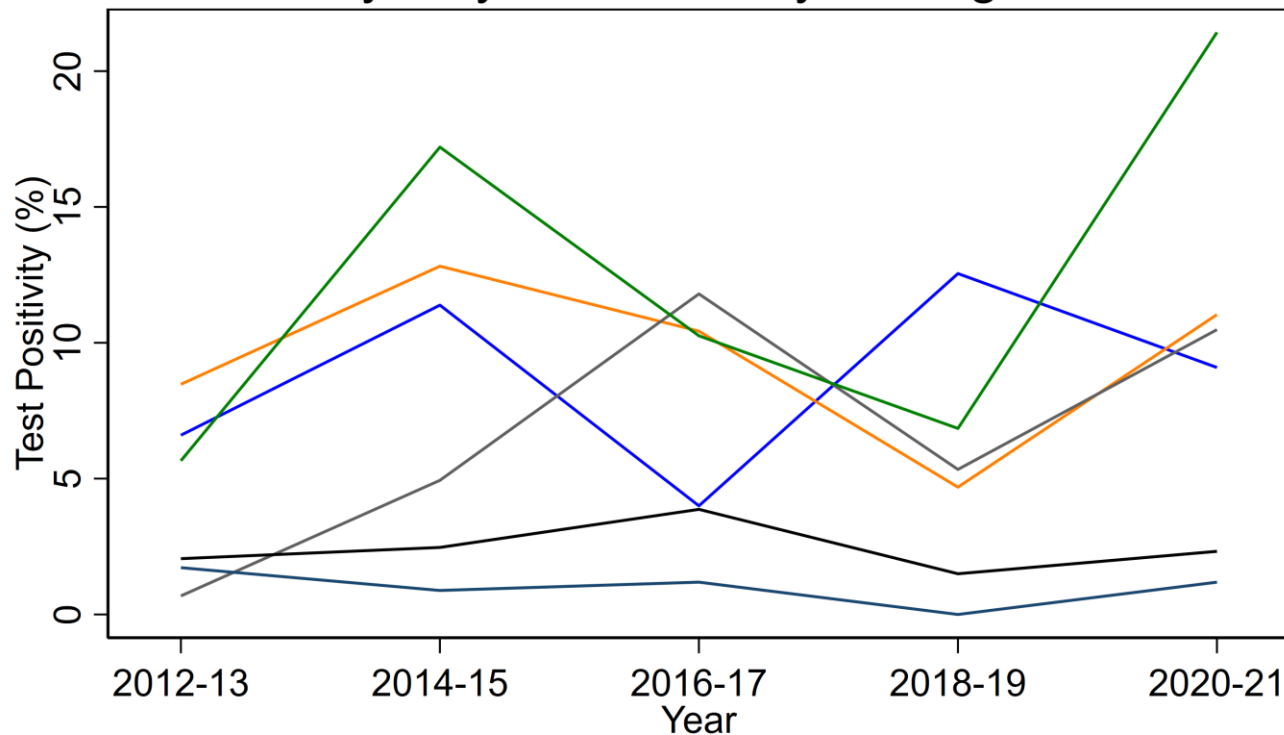
	MSWO (n = 395)			gbMSM (n = 457)			Women (n = 377)						
	Total Tests, No.	Positive Tests, No.	% Positive Cases (95% CI)	Total Tests, No.	Positive Tests, No.	% Positive Cases (95% CI)	Total Tests, No.	Positive Tests, No.	% Positive Cases (95% CI)	<i>P</i> Value (MSWO, gbMSM, and Women)	<i>P</i> Value (MSWO and gbMSM)	<i>P</i> Value (MSWO and Women)	<i>P</i> Value (gbMSM and Women)
Chlamydia	352	33	9.4 (6.5–12.9)	404	30	7.4 (5.0–10.4)	337	32	9.5 (6.5–13.1)	.513	-	-	-
Gonorrhea	194	19	9.8 (6.0–14.9)	401	47	11.7 (8.7–15.3)	297	11	3.7 (1.8–6.5)	.001	.290	.006	<.001
Syphilis	273	9	3.3 (1.5–6.2)	328	38	11.6 (8.3–15.5)	265	12	4.5 (2.3–7.7)	<.001	<.001	.510	.003
HBV <sup>a</sup>	147	2	1.4 (0.2–4.8)	257	1	0.4 (0.0–2.1)	141	0	0.0 (0.0–0.0)	.344	-	-	-
HCV	147	19	12.9 (8.0–19.4)	201	19	9.5 (5.8–14.4–11.2)	114	19	16.7 (12.5–29.5)	.168	-	-	-
HIV <sup>b</sup>	275	4	1.5 (0.4–3.7)	317	18	5.7 (3.3–8.8)	269	0	0.0 (0.0–0.0)	<.001	.008	.124	<.001
Any infection	-	78		-	133		-	64		<.001	<.002	.353	<.001

Abbreviations: CASI, computer-assisted self-interview; gbMSM, gay or bisexual men who have sex with men; HBV, hepatitis B virus; HCV, hepatitis C virus; MSWO, men who have sex with women only; STI, sexually transmitted infection.

<sup>a</sup>Excluding those with previous HBV infection.

<sup>b</sup>Excludes 9 participants who indicated on CASI that they had previously been diagnosed with HIV.

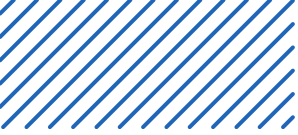
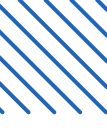
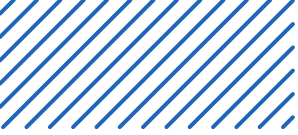
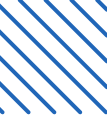
## Two-yearly STI Positivity Among PWID



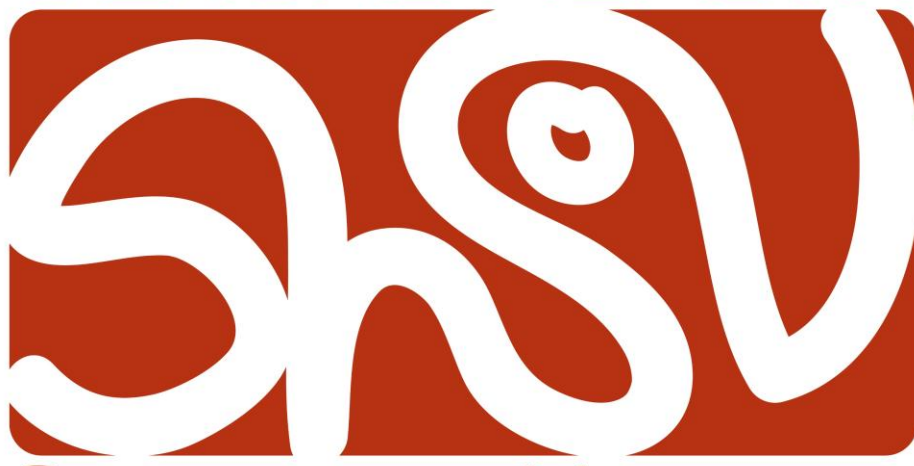
Chlamydia ptrend=0.2568      Gonorrhoea ptrend=0.4775  
Syphilis ptrend=0.0040      HBV ptrend=0.8683  
HIV ptrend=0.8514      HCV ptrend=0.0572



# Conclusion

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- 
- ✓ No change in HIV positivity
  - ✓ Increasing positivity of syphilis
  - ✓ gbMSM at greater risk than others in terms of sexual risk
  - ✓ Low HCV testing rate
- 
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SEXUAL HEALTH



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