Correlations between injecting frequency and housing stability trajectories evolving concomitantly over one year: results from a cohort study of PWID in Montréal, Canada

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Background / objectives

- Compared to stably housed PWID, unstably housed PWID are at higher risks of negative outcomes, including unsafe injecting and HCV.
- Unstable housing favours drug injecting initiation/relapse, while injecting hampers attainment of stable housing. The correlation between injecting frequency and housing stability over time remains poorly understood.
- Objectives: (1) to identify trajectories of injecting frequency and housing stability over 12 months among HCV-uninfected PWID; (2) to determine population estimates for all trajectories; (3) to evaluate how injecting frequency and housing stability trajectories correlate over time.

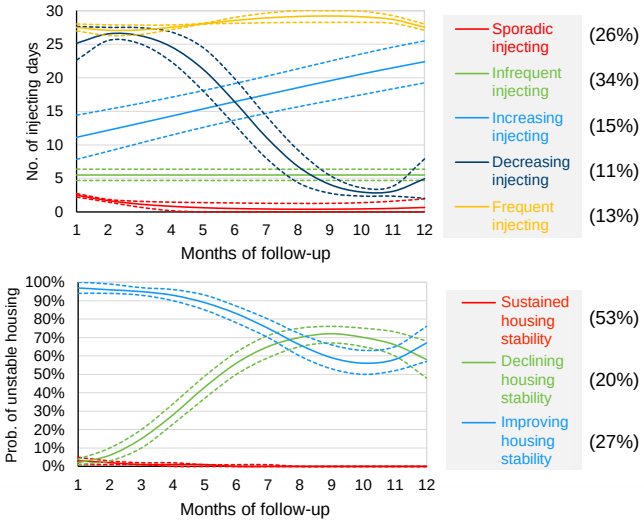
Neaigus et al. AIDS Behav 2014. Wagner et al. AIDS Behav 2013. Topp at al. J Urban Health 2013. Bruneau et al. Am J Epi 2012. Kim et al. BMC Pub Health 2009. Roy et al. J Urban Health 2003. Abelson et al. Addiction 2006. Neaigus et al. J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr 2006. Feng et al. J Adolesc Health 2013. Shah et al. Drug Alcohol Depend 2006. Mehta et al. Addiction 2012. Linton et al. Drug Alcohol Depend 2013. Havinga Harm Reduct J 2014. Roy et al. BMC Pub Health 2016.

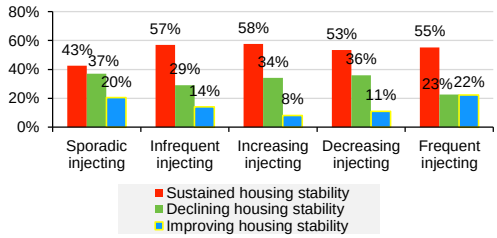
Methods

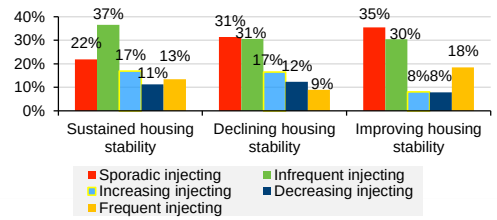
- Study design and participants:
  - HEPCO cohort: active PWID, follow-up ×3 months
  - Inclusion criteria: enrolled from 2011-2016, HCV RNA– at ≥1 visit, observations gathered for ≥6 out of 12 months
- Variables of interest:
  - Injecting frequency: number of injecting days in each of the past 3 months (0-30 injecting days per month)
  - Housing stability: type of accommodation lived in the longest in each of the past 3 months (unstable / stable)
- Statistical analysis: group-based *dual* trajectory modelling (PROC TRAJ in SAS, developed by Nagin, Jones, et al.)

Nagin D. Group-based modeling of development. 2005: Harvard University Press.
Jones et al. Sociological Methods & Research 2001 & 2007.

Results (trajectories / conditional probabilities)







Conclusions / implications

- PWID with stable injecting frequencies (*sporadic, infrequent, frequent injecting*) were more likely to improve housing stability compared to those with varying injecting frequencies (*increasing, decreasing injecting*).
- The association between frequent injecting and improving housing is novel, yet a better understanding of underlying mechanisms is needed.
- Findings are consistent with the evidence of a protective effect of stable housing on drug injecting frequency, and support interventions to improve housing stability among drug using populations.

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