

Dual HIV risk and vulnerabilities among men who inject drugs in Iran: Findings from a nationwide study in 2020

Mehmandoust S¹, Khezri M¹, Aghaali N¹, Mirzazadeh A^{2,1}, Shokoohi M¹, Haghdoust AA¹,
Tavakoli F¹, Ghalekhani N¹, Sharifi H¹, Karamouzian M^{3,4,1}
E-mail: mohammad.karamouzian@unityhealth.to

¹HIV/STI Surveillance Research Center, and WHO Collaborating Center for HIV Surveillance (Iran), ²University of California San Francisco (USA), ³Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation (Canada), ⁴University of Toronto (Canada)

Background & Objectives

242,651

Estimated **Population**
Size of PWID in Iran



Primary **Driver of HIV**
Epidemic in Iran

3.5%

HIV prevalence
among **PWID** in Iran

Question 1: Did you share
needle/syringes or injecting
equipment in the last 3
months? (Yes vs. No)



Question 2: Did you have
unprotected sex with any
paying/casual partner in the
last 3 months? (Yes vs. No)

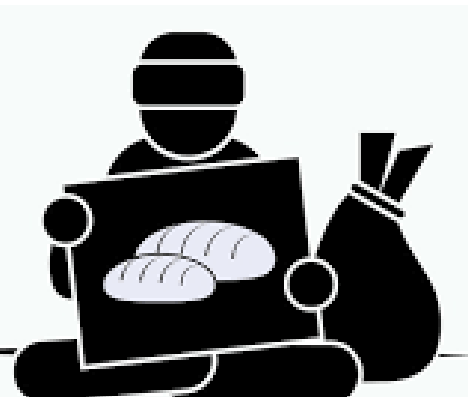
Data Collection



Bio-behavioral **Respondent**
Driven Sampling
Surveillance Survey



11 Harm Reduction
Sites & Outreach



Eligibility Criteria



Injection Drug Use
(Last year)



Consenting **Adults**



Valid **Referral**
RDS Coupon

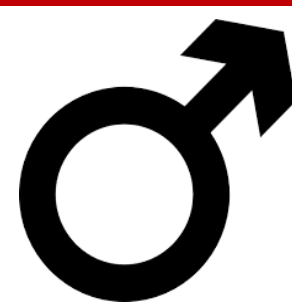
What did we find?



2562



Mean (SD): 41.1 (9.3)



100% Men



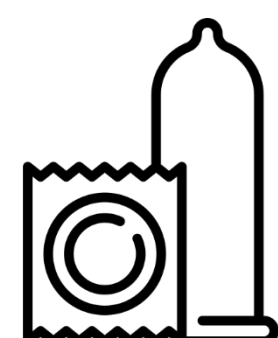
26% Married



67% <High School



49% injected
daily



68% received
condom



73% received
needle/syringe

Participants' Characteristics

RDS-Weighted Prevalence

Dual HIV Risk

1.3%: 0.8 to 1.9



Multiple Sexual Partners
Relative risk ratio (RRR): 15.06

Adjusted Correlates of Dual HIV Risk

RDS-Weighted Prevalence

Only Unsafe Injection

4.5%: 3.1 to 5.9



Homelessness
RRR: 3.02

Adjusted Correlates of Only Unsafe Injection



Multiple Sexual
Partners
RRR: 6.66

RDS-Weighted Prevalence

Only Unsafe Sex

11.8%: 9.7 to 13.9



Received Free
Condom
RRR: 1.71



Received Free
Needle/Syringe
RRR: 2.18



High Self-
Perceived HIV Risk
RRR: 2.51

Adjusted Correlates of Only Unsafe Sex

HIV-Related High Risk Behaviours and HIV-Testing

(Adjusted for age, sex, daily injection, and
multiple sexual partnerships)

Dual HIV Risk: aOR: 1.20 (95% CI: 0.51, 2.82)

Only Unsafe Injection: aOR: **2.71** (95% CI: 1.84, 3.80)

Only Unsafe Sex: aOR: 1.01 (95% CI: 0.69, 1.48)

Acknowledgements