Fast Facts: People who inject drugs

How many people use drugs in Canada?

4,100,000 – The approximate number of Canadians in 2004 who had injected drugs at some point in their life.¹

269,000 – The approximate number of Canadians who reported injecting drugs in 2004.¹

Do injection drug users participate in behaviours that can pass HIV and/or hepatitis C?

16% – The proportion of people who inject drugs who, in the previous six months, reported injecting with a used needle or syringe.²

35% – The proportion of people who inject drugs who, in the previous six months, reported injecting with other used injection equipment.²

16% – The proportion of people who inject drugs who, in the previous six months, reported lending their used needle or syringe.²

33% – The proportion of people who inject drugs who, in the previous six months, reported lending other used injection equipment.²

63% – The proportion of people who inject drugs who, at last sexual encounter, reported not using a condom.²

How many people who inject drugs are living with HIV and hepatitis C?

14,200 – The estimated number of people living with HIV for whom injection drug use may have been a risk factor for HIV transmission (up to the end of 2011).³

24% – The estimated percentage of people who inject drugs who were unaware they had HIV in 2011.³

515 – The estimated number of people who inject drugs who were newly diagnosed with HIV in Canada in 2011.³

11% – The proportion of people who inject drugs who are living with HIV.²

68% – The proportion of people who inject drugs who have evidence of a current or past infection with hepatitis C.²

Are HIV-positive injection drug users receiving care and treatment?

² From the 2011 Canadian HIV, Viral Hepatitis and STB Study
³ From the 2011 Canadian AIDS Research Network's Study of HIV Infection Among People Who Inject Drugs
¹ From Statistics Canada
95% – The proportion of HIV positive people who inject drugs who are receiving care from a doctor for their HIV.

66% – The proportion of people who inject drugs who are aware of their HIV status and are currently on HIV treatment.

References


Disclaimer

Decisions about particular medical treatments should always be made in consultation with a qualified medical practitioner knowledgeable about HIV- and hepatitis C-related illness and the treatments in question.

CATIE provides information resources to help people living with HIV and/or hepatitis C who wish to manage their own health care in partnership with their care providers. Information accessed through or published or provided by CATIE, however, is not to be considered medical advice. We do not recommend or advocate particular treatments and we urge users to consult as broad a range of sources as possible. We strongly urge users to consult with a qualified medical practitioner prior to undertaking any decision, use or action of a medical nature.

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