

# Maintaining the momentum: Hepatitis C and HIV in the context of harm reduction

---

September 28, 2022

# Today's Panelists

---

- **Doug Belanger**  
Community Support Worker, South Riverdale Community Health Centre
- **Bernadette Lettner**  
Nurse, South Riverdale Community Health Centre
- **Chris Fraser**  
Medical Director, Victoria Cool Aid Society
- **Kayla DeMong**  
Executive Director, Prairie Harm Reduction
- **Kate Harland**  
Vice-President, Harm Reduction Nurses Association
- **Camille Arkell**  
Manager, HIV and Harm Reduction, CATIE

# Today's Agenda

## **1. Overview: HIV and hepatitis C among people who use drugs**

Camille Arkell, CATIE

## **2. Panel discussion: Maintaining the momentum**

## **3. Questions**

# Today's discussion...

---

1. **Social and structural factors:** Linking data and practice
2. **Prevention:** A wholistic health approach
3. **Testing and linkage-to-care:** Reaching the undiagnosed
4. **Treatment:** Improving access to care



# 1. Social and structural factors: Linking data and practice



## 2. Prevention: A wholistic health approach





### 3. Testing and linkage-to-care: Reaching the undiagnosed



## 4. Treatment: Improving access to care





Presented by: Camille Arkell

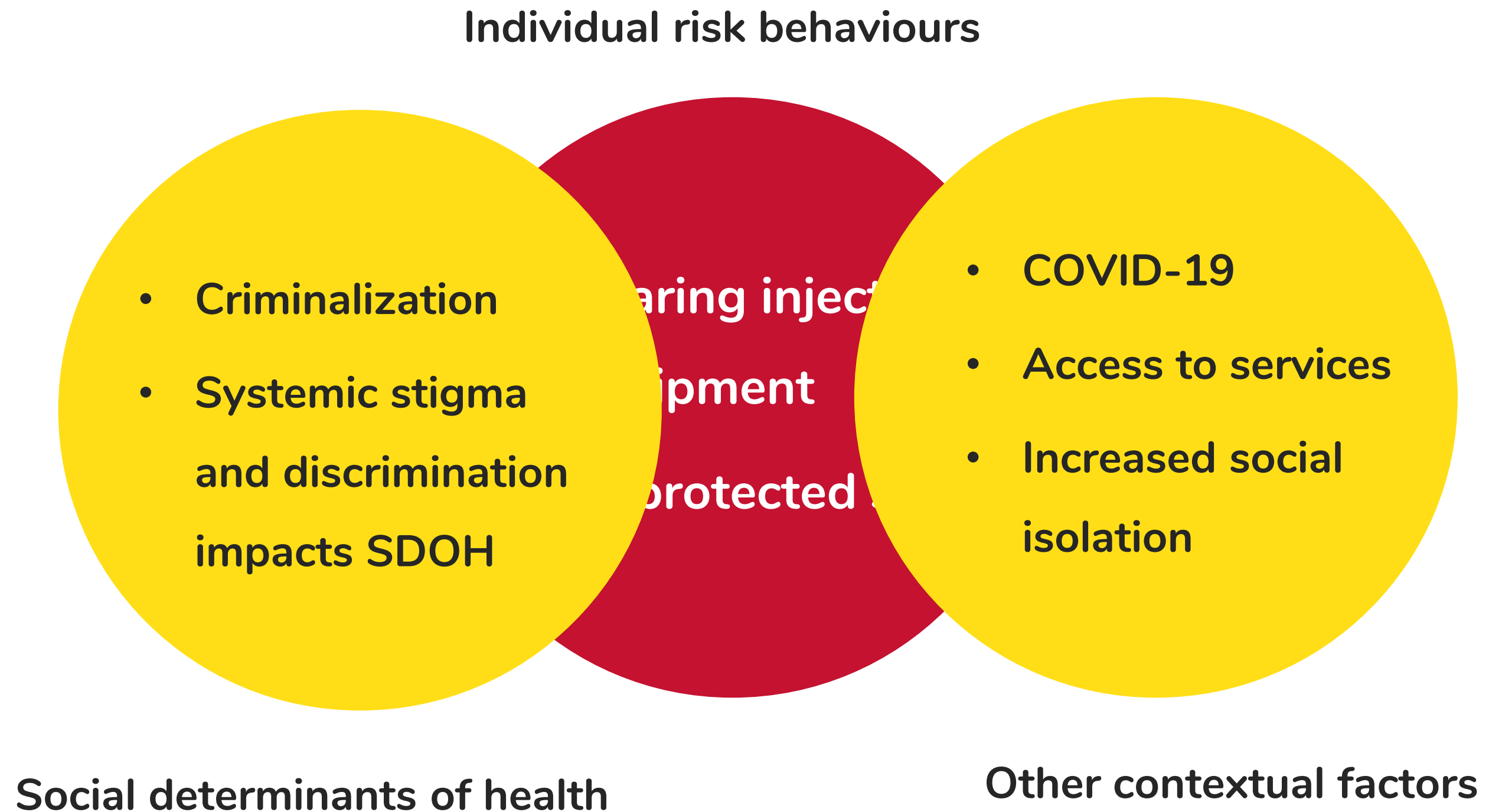
# HIV and hepatitis C among people who use drugs

—— *Maintaining the momentum: Hepatitis C and HIV in the context of harm reduction*

Why are people who use drugs  
disproportionately affected by  
**hepatitis C and HIV?**

Two infections that are preventable and  
treatable (or curable in the case of  
hepatitis C)

Why are people who use drugs disproportionately affected by hepatitis C and HIV?



# Changing drug use patterns impact risk

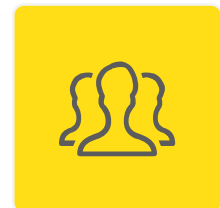
---



Increase in injection drug use<sup>1,2</sup>



Increase in methamphetamine and prescription opioid injection<sup>2</sup>



Increase in injection drug use equipment sharing<sup>2</sup>

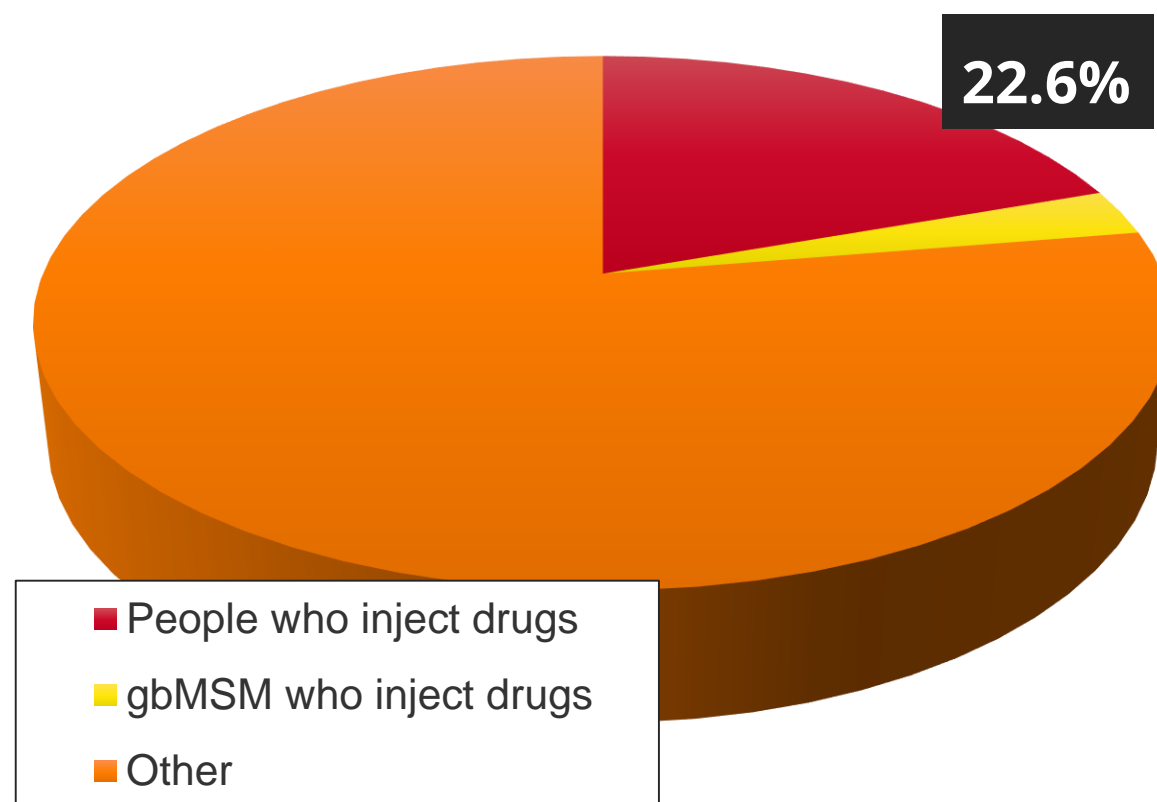
# Hepatitis C and HIV among people who inject drugs



# HIV and hepatitis C among people who inject drugs

## HIV

- Out of an estimated **1,520** new HIV infections in Canada in 2020, **22.6%** were in people who inject drugs



6 >

- An estimated **1 in 10 people who inject drugs** was living with HIV (2017-2019)

## Hepatitis C

- There were **9,500** new infections in 2019
- An estimated **45%** of people who inject drugs in Canada have ever had hepatitis C
- An estimated **1 in 4 people who inject drugs** was living with hepatitis C in 2019

Hepatitis C disproportionately affects certain populations and communities.

In 2019, **1 in 4 people who inject drugs** was living with chronic hepatitis C.



# Regional variation in HIV and hepatitis C

Province/region	Estimated proportion
British Columbia	21.3%
Alberta	20.1%
Saskatchewan	62.6%
Manitoba	60.0%
Ontario	8.3%
Québec	3.4%
Atlantic	13.3%
Territories	Number not reported
Overall (Canada)	19.8%



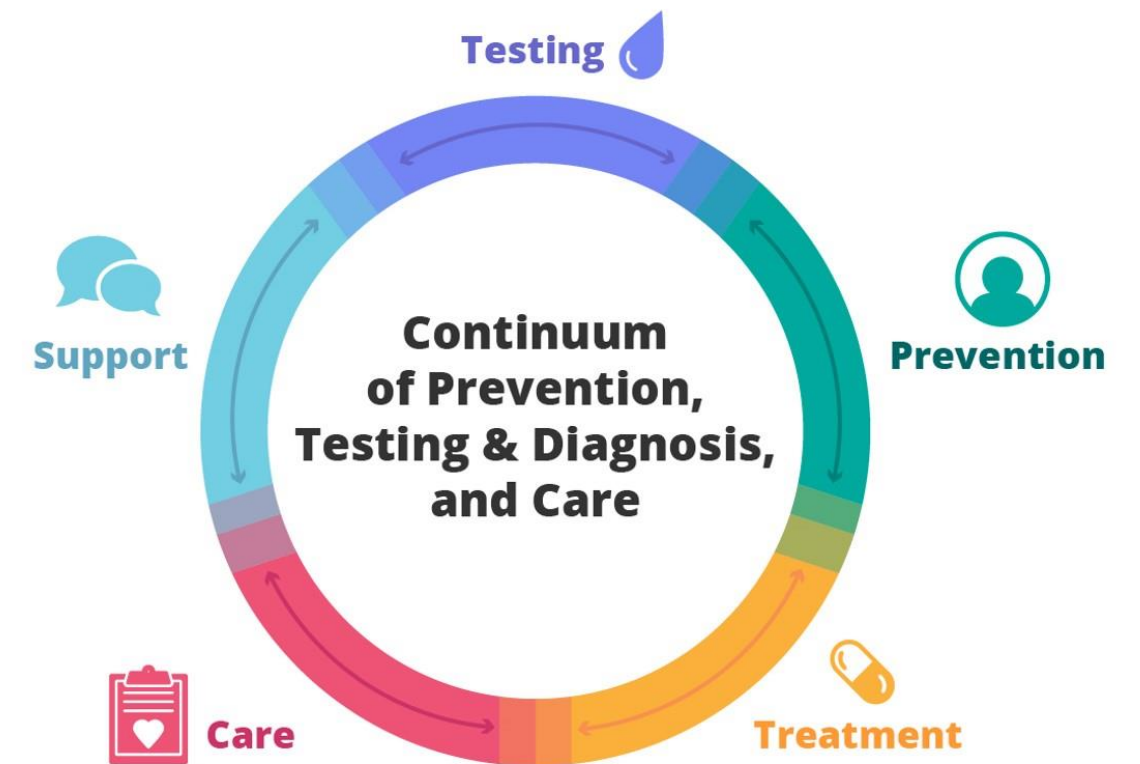
*Example:* Estimated proportion of new HIV infections by province or region (2020)

# Continuum of care

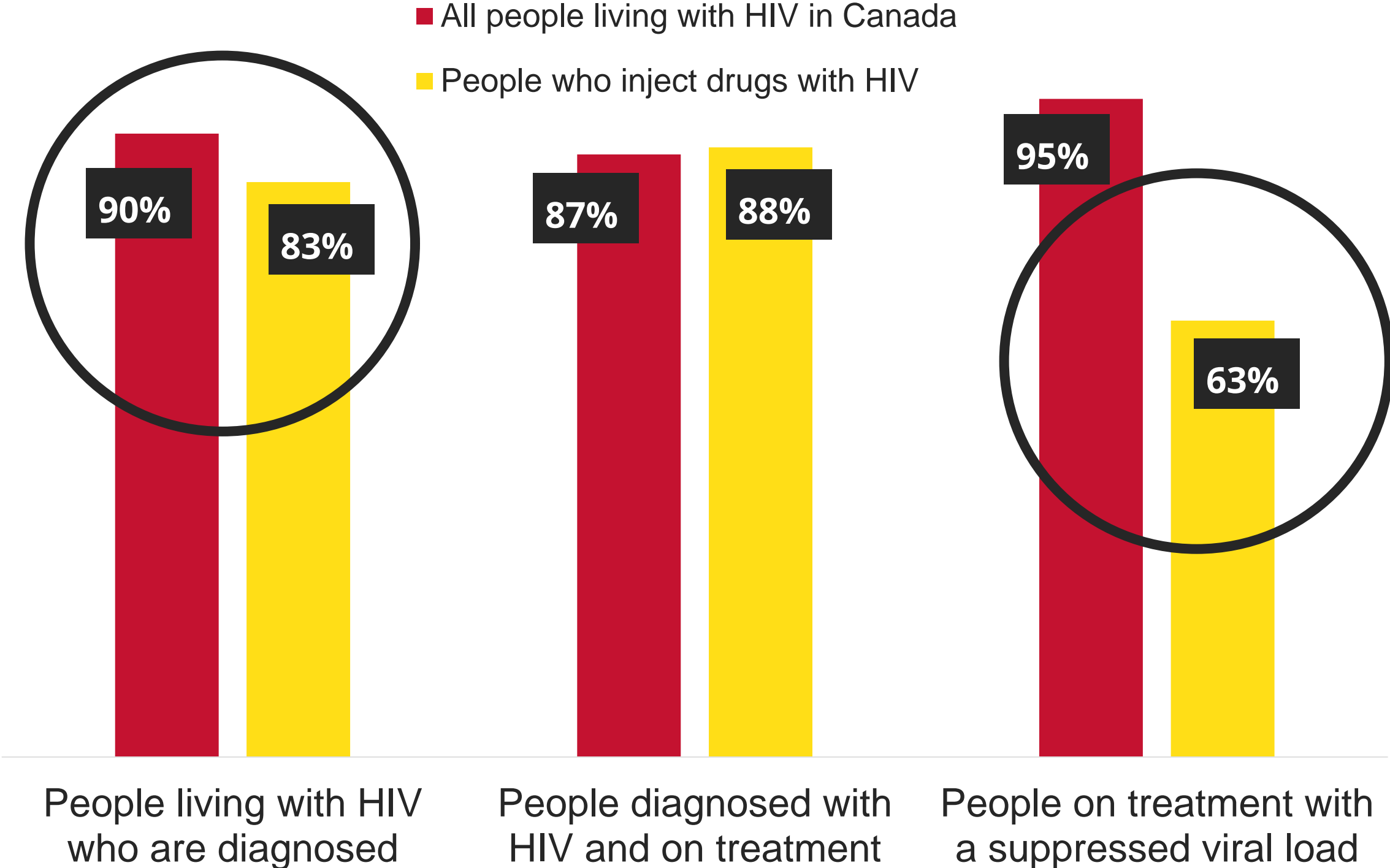
Diagnosis

Linkage to  
care

Successful  
treatment



# HIV continuum of care



# Hepatitis C continuum of care

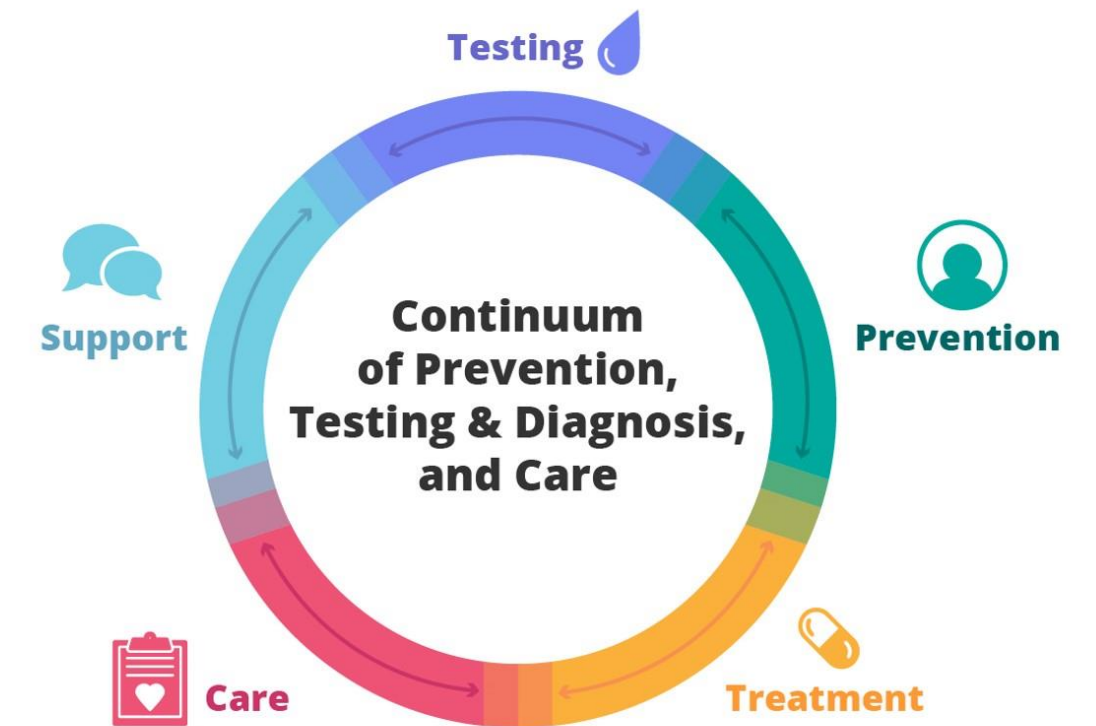
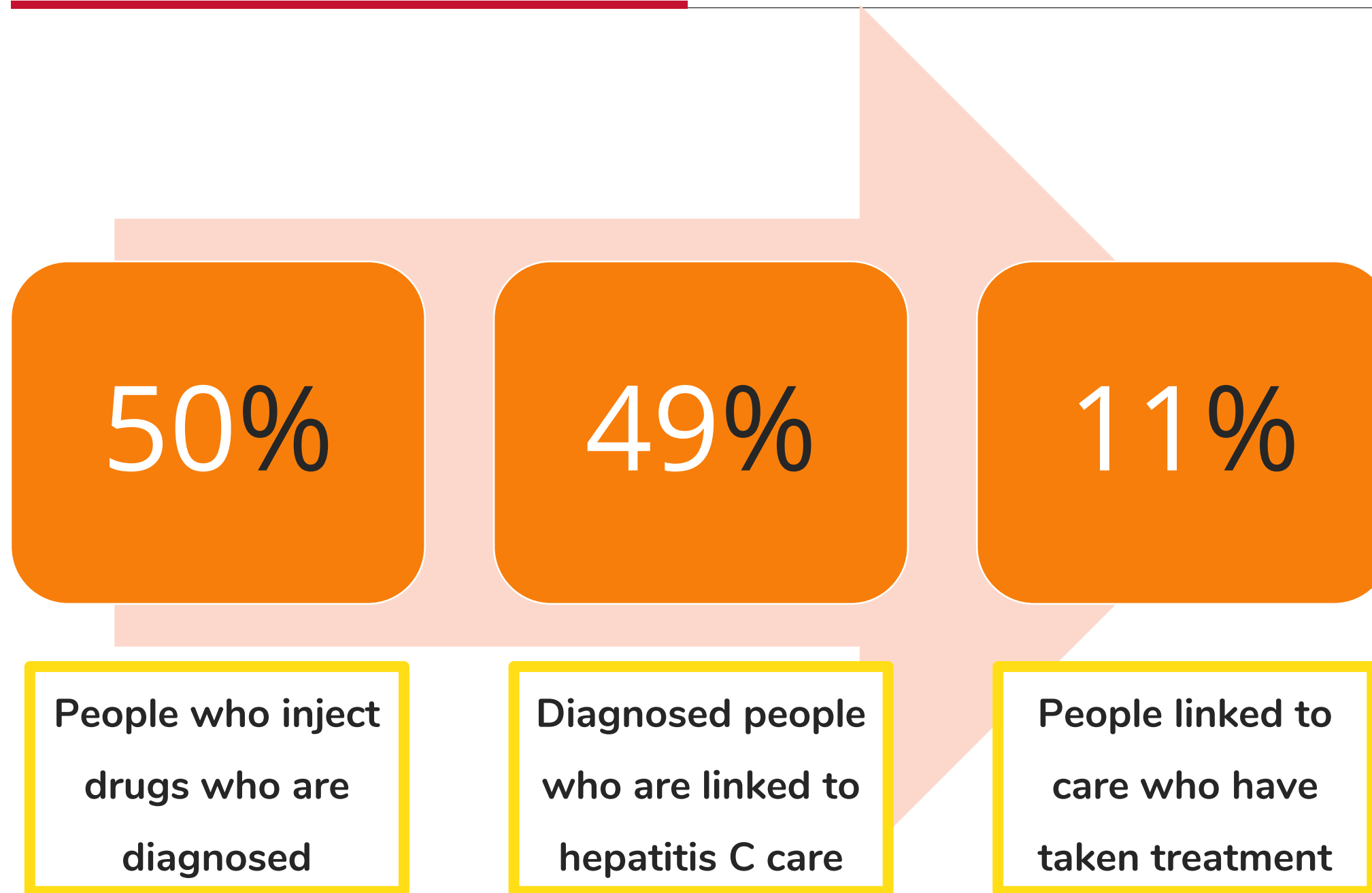






Photo by [Jon Tyson](#) on [Unsplash](#)



# References

---

- Jacka B, Larney S, Degenhardt L, Janjua N, Høj S, Kraiden M, Grebely J, Bruneau J. Prevalence of injecting drug use and coverage of interventions to prevent HIV and hepatitis C virus infection among people who inject drugs in Canada. *Am J Public Health* 2020;110(1):45–50. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305379>
- Lourenço L, Kelly M, Tarasuk J et al. The hepatitis C epidemic in Canada: An overview of recent trends in surveillance, injection drug use, harm reduction and treatment. *Canada Communicable Disease Report*. 2021;47(12):505-14.
- Public Health Agency of Canada. 2022. People living with hepatitis C (HCV) in Canada, 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/infographic-people-living-with-hepatitis-c.html>
- Public Health Agency of Canada. 2022. Estimates of HIV incidence, prevalence and Canada's progress on meeting the 90-90-90 HIV targets, 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/estimates-hiv-incidence-prevalence-canada-meeting-90-90-90-targets-2020.html>
- Tarasuk J, Zhang J, Lemyre A et al. National findings from the Tracks survey of people who inject drugs in Canada, Phase 4, 2017-2019. *Canada Communicable Disease Report*. 2020;46(5):138-148. <https://doi.org/10.14745/ccdr.v46i05a07>