



**BACKGROUND**

People who inject drugs (PWID), are over-represented among HIV-infected adults co-infected with HCV. Recent data suggest that HCV treatment regimens are equally effective in the setting of HIV co-infection. However, the feasibility (and success rates) of therapy have not been clearly established in co-infected PWID populations. The aim of this study was to evaluate the success of HCV treatment in this population.

**METHODS**

We have established a multi-disciplinary program to recruit and retain HCV-infected PWID in care. The program includes facilitated access to specialty medical care, access to support services. We have conducted a retrospective analysis of all HIV co-infected patients treated for HCV infection. This analysis correlates the likelihood of achieving SVR with a range of baseline demographic, clinical, and behavioural variables, including housing and active drug use.

**RESULTS**

Of 513 HIV-infected individuals enrolled in our program, 246 (47.9%) were co-infected with HCV. Among the latter, 172 (70.2%) were PWID. In total, 77 (31.4%) have completed HCV treatment (72 interferon-based, 5 all-oral regimens), and 46 (59.7%) of them with genotype 1 infection. The mean age of treated patients was 52, 70 (90.9%) were male, 25 (32.5%) were on opiate substitution, 73 (94.8%) were on HIV treatment, 61/73 with full virologic suppression; 21(27.3%) were homeless, and 33 (42.8%) attended weekly HCV support groups. The overall SVR rate was 42.9% (33/77), 41.3% (19/46) with genotype 1 infection. Success rates were higher in subjects on methadone 14/25 (56%), and no lower in those who were homeless 9/21 (42.9%).

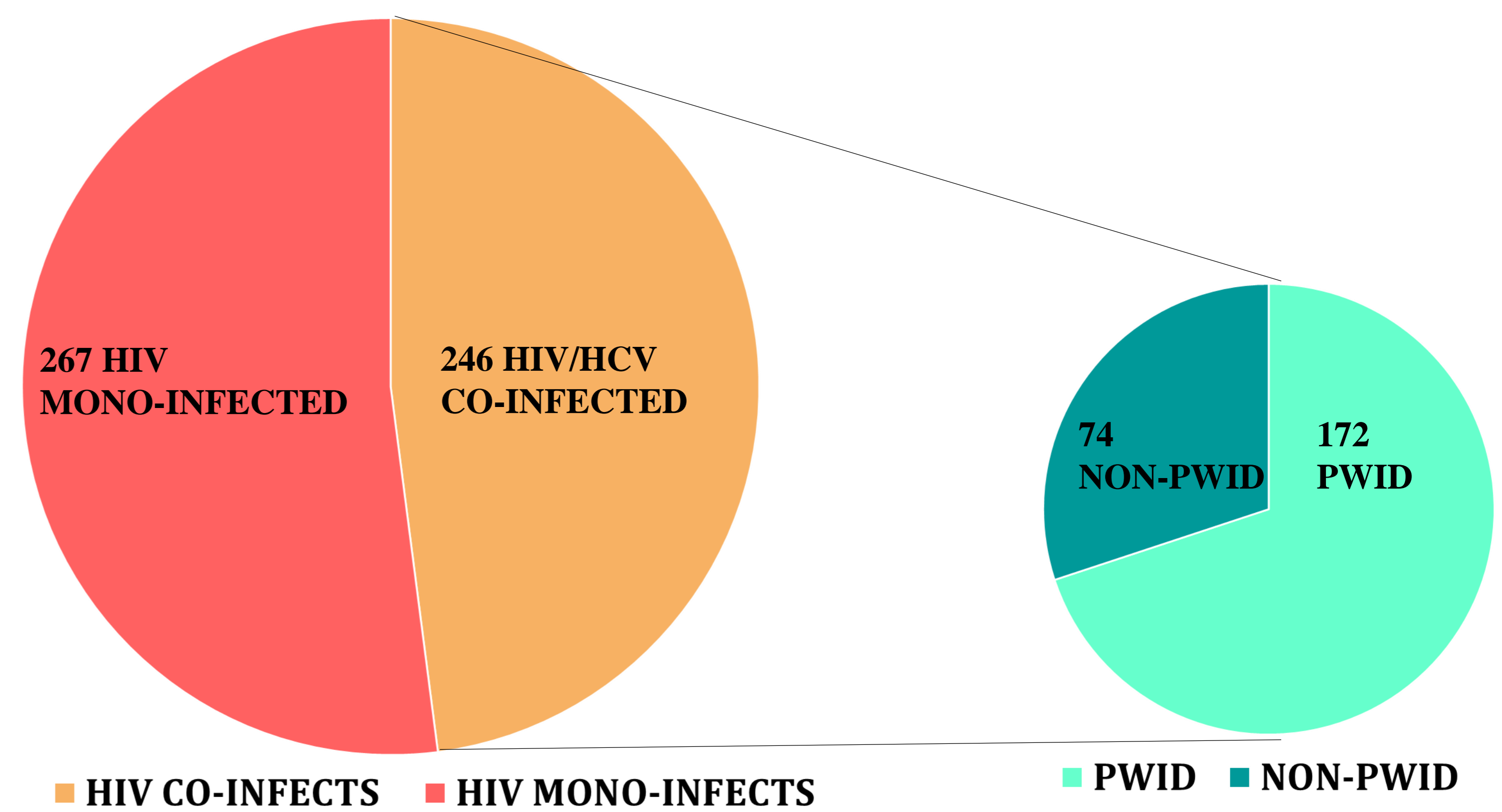
**CONCLUSIONS**

PWID with HIV co-infection can be successfully treated for HCV infection within multi-disciplinary programs. Our program will serve as an important tool to address the HCV epidemics in vulnerable populations often considered as “core transmitters” of HCV and HIV infections, with SVR rates >90% expected as all-oral regimens become the standard of care.

**TABLE 1: CHARACTERISTICS OF HIV INFECTED PATIENTS IN AN INNER CITY CLINIC**

HIV INFECTED PATIENTS (n)	513
HIV/HCV CO-INFECTED PATIENTS, n (%)	246 (47.9%)
HIV/HCV CO-INFECTED PWID, n (%)	172 (70.2%)
PATIENTS COMPLETING HCV TREATMENT, n(%)	77 (31.4%)
MEAN AGE OF TREATED PATIENTS (YEARS)	52
MALE, n (%)	70 (90.9%)
NUMBER OF OPIOID SUBSTITUTION, n (%)	25 (32.5%)
HOMELESS, n (%)	21 (27.3%)
ATTENDED WEEKLY HCV SUPPORT GROUP, n (%)	33 (42.8%)
PATIENTS ON IFN-BASED TREATMENT, n (%)	72 (93.5%)
PATIENTS ON ALL-ORAL TREATMENTS, n (%)	5 (6.5%)
TREATED PATIENTS WHO WERE GENOTYPE 1, n (%)	46 (59.7%)

**FIGURE 1: CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDY POPULATION**



**FIGURE 2: CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS ACHIEVING SVR**

