

Increase in HCV prevalence among People Who Inject Drugs in Ukraine.

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Disclosures

- Research team has nothing to disclose .

Background/aims

- ⦿ Considerable burden of HCV and HIV infections among PWID worldwide and in Ukraine
- ⦿ Expansion of HIV treatment and prevention programs have resulted in slowing of HIV epidemic among PWID
- ⦿ Despite higher contagiousness of HCV in comparison with HIV, HCV programs were implemented only as a part of HIV prevention efforts
- ⦿ No robust monitoring and evaluation system reflecting and measuring the response to HCV burden is established in Ukraine
- ⦿ Integrated bio-behavioural surveillance (IBBS)
 - ⦿ series of bi-annual surveys conducted in Ukraine since 2007
 - ⦿ uses respondent-driven sampling
 - ⦿ measures HCV prevalence and treatment uptake among PWIDs

Methods

- ⦿ Secondary analysis of data from IBBS among PWID in 2013, 2015, and 2017.
- ⦿ Annual sample about 10,000 PWID and included all regions of Ukraine.
- ⦿ RDS-A weights were used to compile the aggregate estimates
- ⦿ HCV prevalence measured using single rapid test algorithms.
- ⦿ Point HCV and HCV/HIV prevalence calculated
- ⦿ Mantel-Haenszel test was used to assess significance of the trend over years.

Results: HCV and HCV/HIV prevalence trend in sub-populations

	HCV prevalence				HIV/HCV co-infection prevalence			
	2013	2015	2017	p-value for trend	2013	2015	2017	p-value for trend
Total	56,6	54,3	63,8	<0,001	14,8	16,5	18,5	<0,001
Age <25 years	32,7	23,8	27,2	<0,001	3,1	2,7	2,8	0,726
Age >25 years	60,6	57,7	66,3	<0,001	16,8	18	19,6	<0,001
Male	56,5	54,9	64,5	<0,001	13,9	15,5	17	<0,001
Female	56,9	52,1	60,5	0,044	17,8	20,7	25,3	<0,001
IDU duration <3 years	23,5	22,1	26,7	0,152	2,3	1,6	2,5	0,511
IDU duration >3 years	59	57,1	66,6	<0,001	14,8	17,8	19,8	<0,001
Prevention program client	66,7	66	75,4	<0,001	20,9	27	27,4	<0,001
Prevention program non-client	50,2	50,1	57,8	<0,001	10,9	12,7	14	<0,001

Conclusions/implications

- ⊙ Significant increase in HCV and HCV/HIV co-infection prevalence over last five years in Ukraine
- ⊙ Increase in prevalence among all subgroups of PWID, except young and recent injectors groups, whereas overall trend either declining or not significant
- ⊙ Harm reduction programs attract more vulnerable and higher risk PWIDs
- ⊙ Increase in co-infection among female drug users is mainly due to the higher overall HIV prevalence among women.
- ⊙ Decrease in HCV prevalence among PWIDs younger than 25 may suggest that HCV incidence is decreasing
- ⊙ Significant increase in prevalence of particularly HCV/HIV co-infection occurred between 2015 and 2017. (Du to overall increase in HIV treatment uptake among PWIDs?)
- ⊙ NGO and community organisations providing harm reduction services to PWIDs could be a crucial entry points for HCV treatment programs.

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