

Overdose, Infectious Disease, and Harm Reduction in Southern Illinois

Southern Illinois Drug Awareness Conference

March 14, 2024

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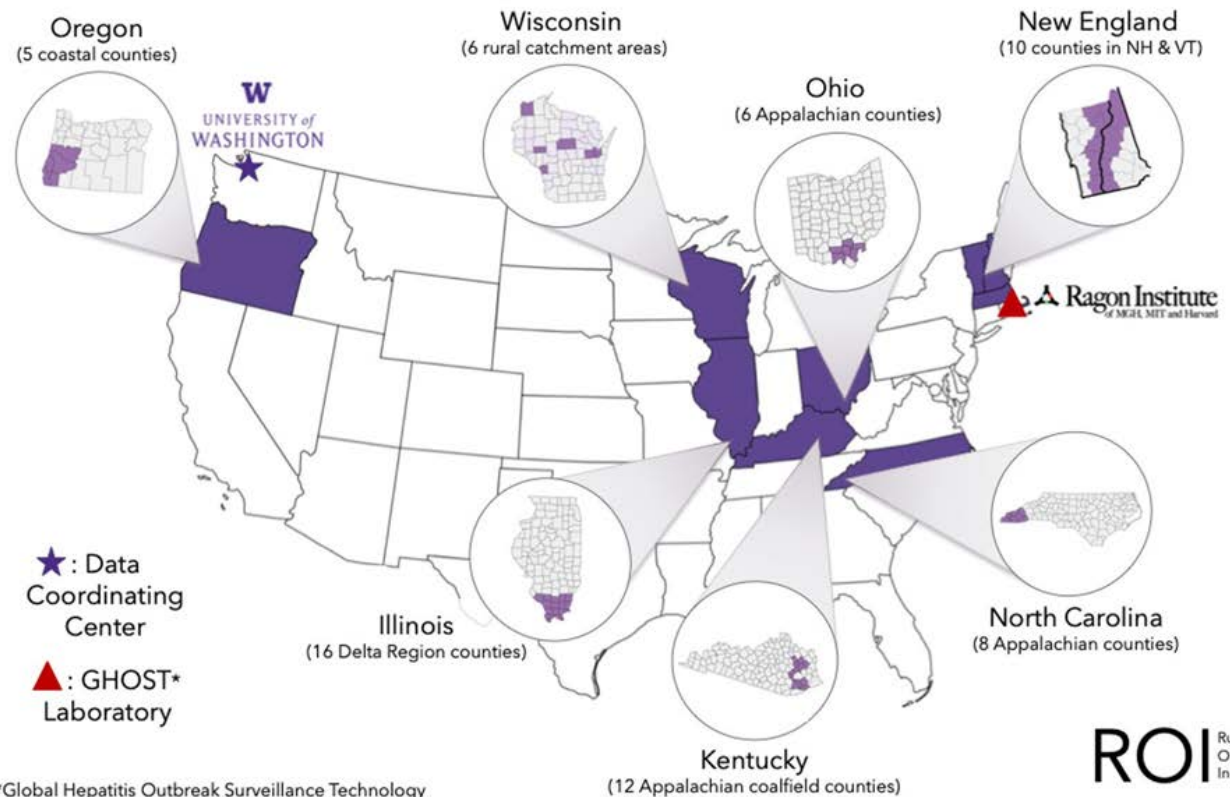
BACKGROUND

- Rural communities experience high rates of drug use and overdose
- In response to Scott County HIV outbreak, CDC analysis in 2016 identified 220 counties as vulnerable to HIV/HCV outbreaks, 65% of these were rural¹
- Driven by rural social determinants of health which pose barriers to access
 - >60% housing insecurity, 30% without phones, 50% without transportation²
- Harm reduction services (HRS) play a vital role in risk reduction and health promotion among rural people who use drugs
- Compared to urban counterparts, rural HRS is face significant limits to funding, marginalization, and vulnerabilities exacerbated by COVID-19³

¹Van Handel et al, J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2016, ²Bolinski et al, IJERPH 2022, Walters S et al, Addict Sci Clin Pract 2022, ³Allen et al. Harm Reduct J 2019, Glick et al. AIDS Behav 2020

OVERVIEW OF THE RURAL OPIOID INITIATIVE (ROI)

- The UG3/UH3 grants: Biphasic awards (Go – No Go)
 - UG3: Exploratory-Developmental phase to assess community needs and strengths – first 2 years
 - UH3: Propose, implement and test evidence-based practices to address opioid use and related comorbidities – 3 years
- UH3 interventions to reflect local concerns and needs
 - 7 UG3 sites proceeded to UH3 phase
- NIDA administers; CDC, SAMHSA, & Appalachian Regional Commission co-fund oversight



ILLINOIS ROI SITE: ETHIC STUDY

Phase One (2018-2019, UG3): Geospatial / Epidemiological Analysis (N=173)

- Goal to identify risk of HIV / HCV outbreak related in injection drug use in rural jurisdictions
- Used findings to inform the community response project

Phase Two (2019-July 2023, UH3): Community Response Project (N=309)

- Expand harm reduction services through direct study referral
- Expand treatment capacity for HCV, MOUD treatment through ECHO Model

STUDY TEAM

University of Chicago & Southern Illinois
University School of Medicine

- Study leadership
- Study administration
- Data collection, analysis and dissemination

The Community Action Place, LLC (tCAP)

- Community collaborator lead
- Community Advisory Board
- Study participant referral, screening and referral to services

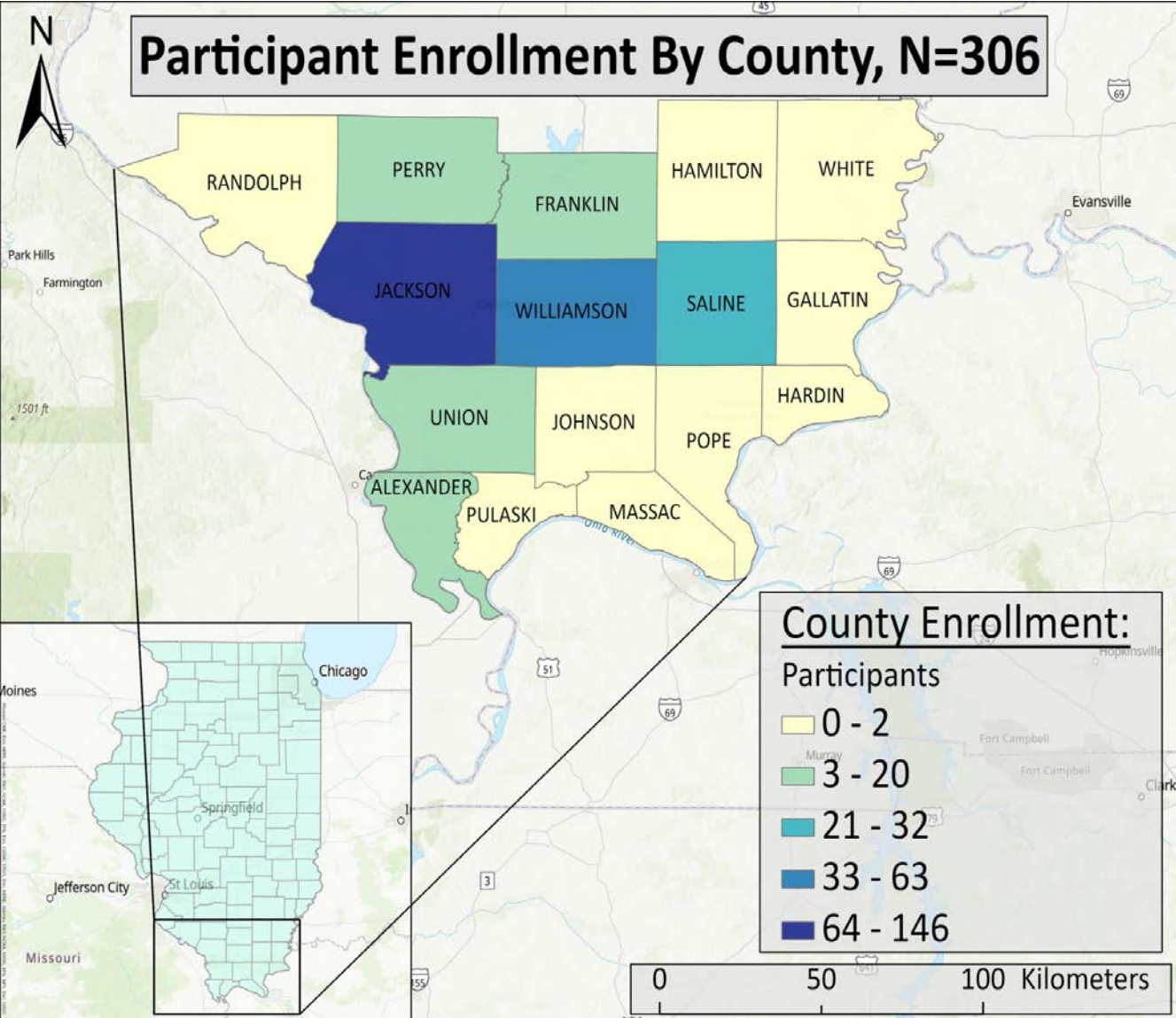
Illinois Department of Public Health

- Public health dataset analysis, data dissemination

RECRUITMENT AND DATA COLLECTION

- Recruitment: TCAP referral, community events, incentivized peer referral
- Eligibility
 - ≥ 15 yo, injected any drug or used opioids per any route in past 30 days, English speaking, residing in study area
- Baseline survey: Drug use, risk behavior, HIV/HCV/STI, criminal legal, mental health, healthcare, stigma, social network inventory
- POC screening HIV, HCV, syphilis; urine GC/CT, confirmatory testing
- Qualitative interviews of PWUD and community stakeholders

UH3 ENROLLMENT BY COUNTY



UH3 ENROLLMENT: DEMOGRAPHICS, N=305

		N (%)
Gender	Male	197 (64.6%)
	Female	107 (35.1%)
	Transgender/Gender-NC	1 (0.3%)
Age	Mean, SD	42.1 (SD 11.2)
	Median [IQR]	41 [16.5]
	Minimum	18
	Maximum	69
Sexual Orientation	Straight or Heterosexual	263 (86.8%)
	Lesbian or Gay	8 (2.6%)
	Bisexual/Pansexual/Other	30 (9.8%)
	Don't know/not sure	4 (1.3%)

UH3 ENROLLMENT: DEMOGRAPHICS, N=305

Characteristics		N (%)
Ethnicity	Hispanic or Latino	9 (3.0%)
	Not Hispanic or Latino	295 (96.7%)
Race	American Indian/Alaska Native	7 (2.3%)
	Asian	1 (0.3%)
	Black or African American	56 (18.4%)
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1 (0.3%)
	White	231 (75.7%)
	Other	9 (3.0%)

UH3 DRUG CHARACTERISTICS, N=305

Characteristics		N (%)
Drug of Choice (self-report), in the last 30 days	Methamphetamine	209 (68.5%)
	Cocaine/Crack	71 (23.4%)
	Heroin	58 (19.0%)
	Opioid Painkillers	42 (13.8%)
	Street Fentanyl	40 (13.1%) ←
	Other	38 (12.5%)
	Prescription Anxiety Drugs	34 (11.2%)
	Buprenorphine	16 (5.3%)
	Gabapentin	12 (4.0%)
	Clonidine	7 (2.3%)
	Methadone	7 (2.3%)
	Synthetics	2 (0.7%)

UH3 INJECTION DATA

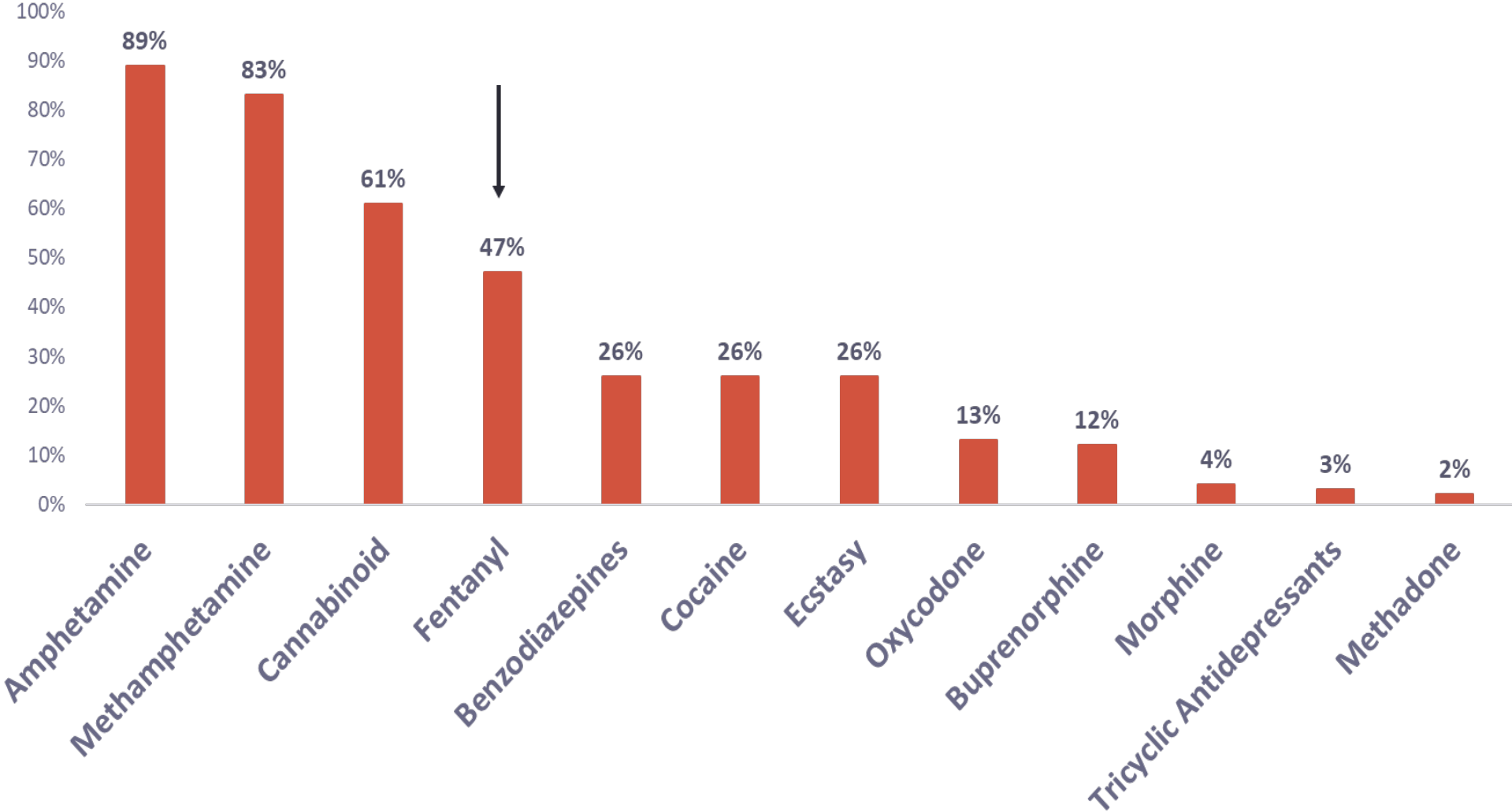
Past 30-day reported behavior

- Injected alone = 81%
- Injected with others = 85%
- Multiple single-sitting = 72%
- Shared equipment = 66%

Drugs injected

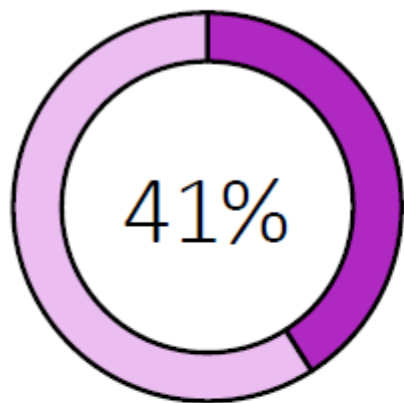
- Meth = 90%
- Fentanyl/carfentanil = 56%
- Heroin = 53%
- Drug combination = 52%

UH3 URINE TOXICOLOGY



FINDINGS: OVERDOSE

Overdose



of participants
have ever
overdosed

On average, participants experienced

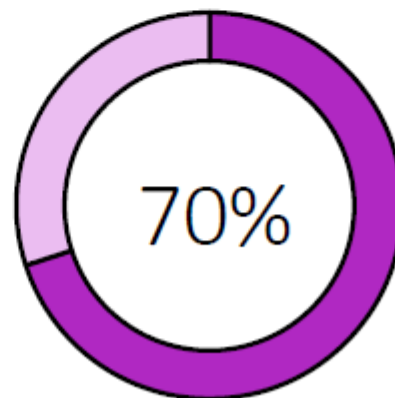


overdoses in their lifetime

On average, participants knew

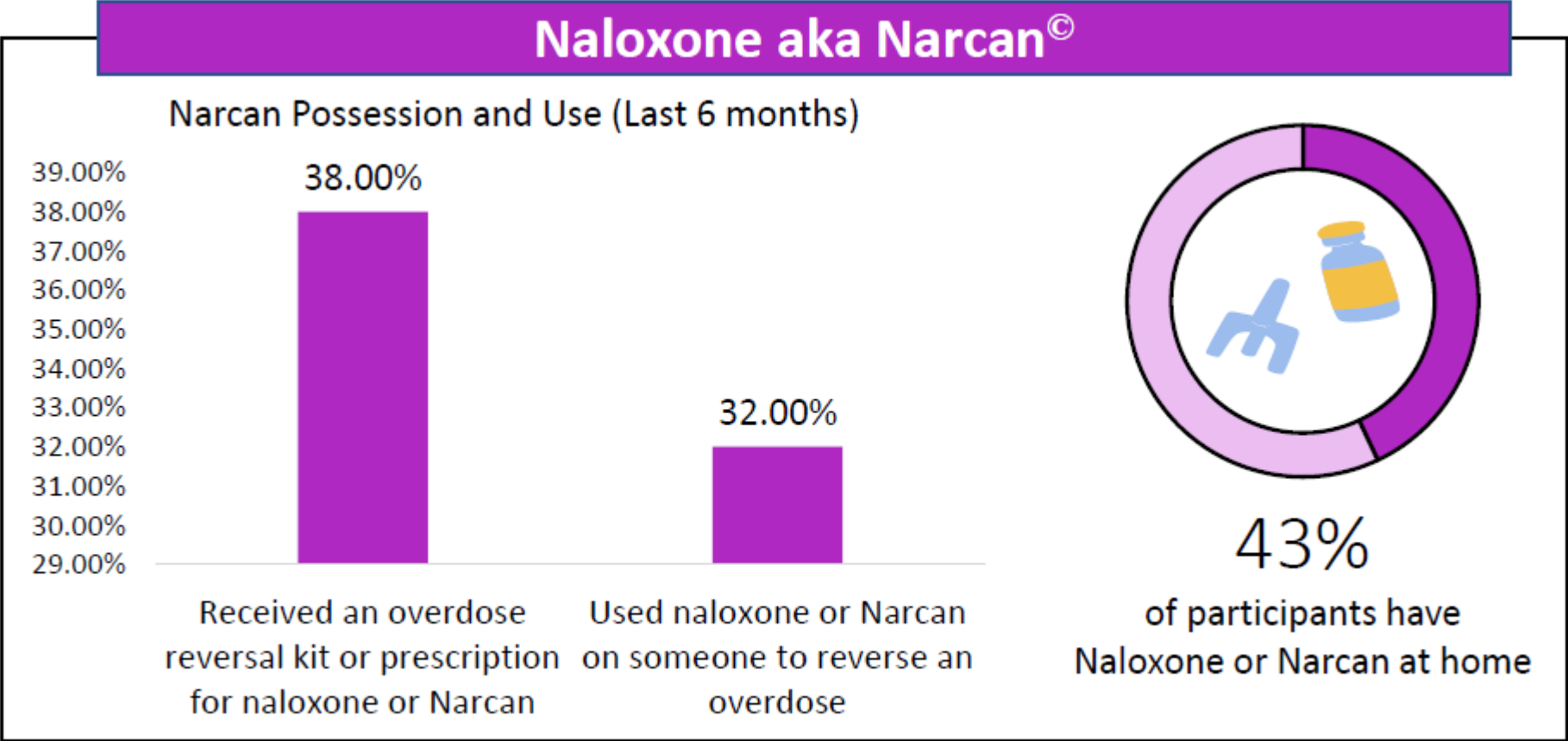


people who have died from an
overdose in the last 6 months



Of people have
witnessed an
overdose

FINDINGS: NALOXONE



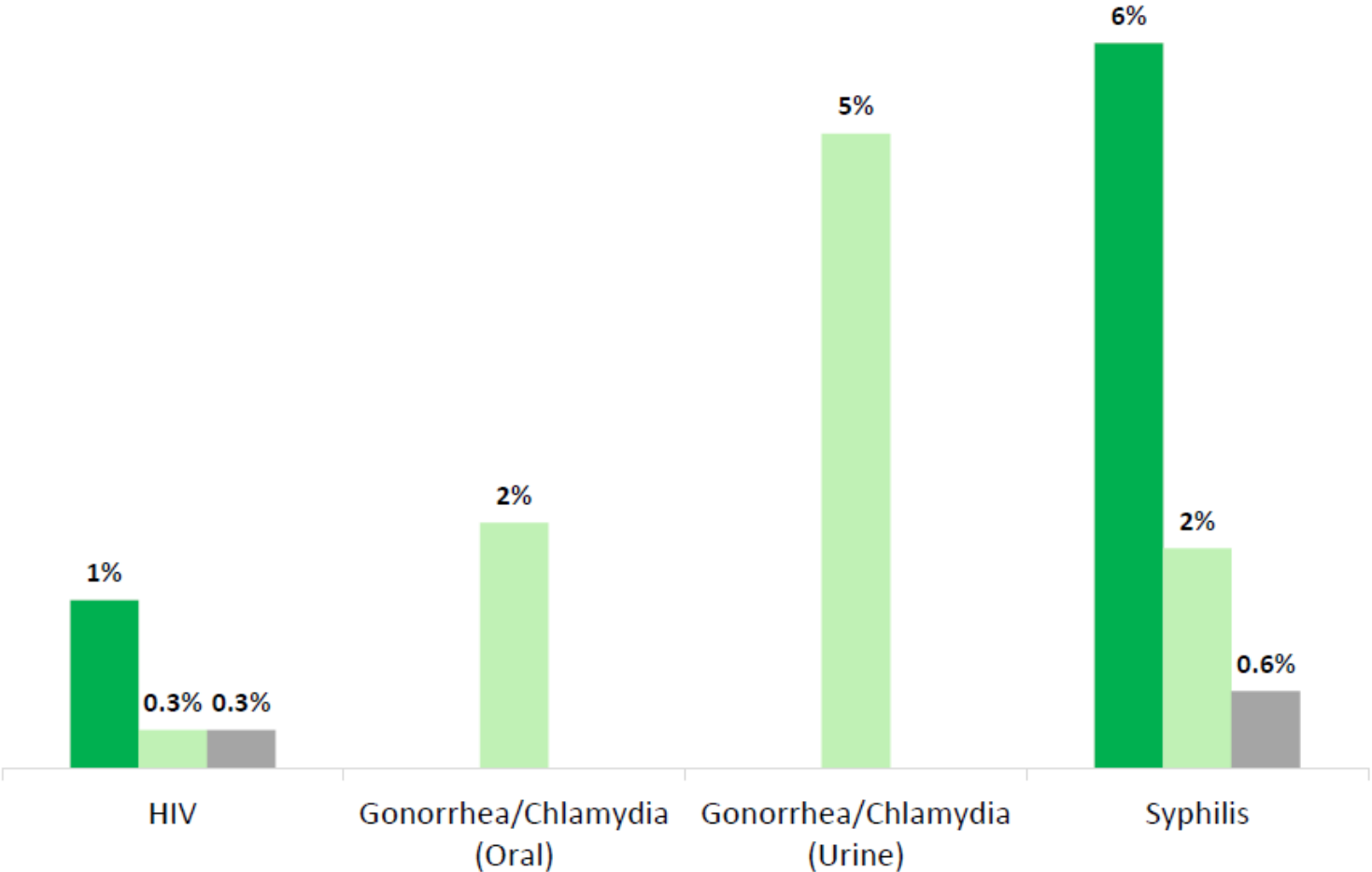
FINDINGS: RACIAL DISPARITIES IN OVERDOSE AND NALOXONE

	Race (n=302)		
	White	Non-white	p-value
Have ever used harm reduction services	38%	14%	0.000
Ever overdosed	48%	25%	0.000
Ever seen someone overdose?	71%	67%	0.531
Ever gotten an overdose reversal kit	42%	29%	0.048
Ever used Narcan to reverse an overdose	36%	20%	0.008
Have Narcan at your house now	48%	29%	0.003

FINDINGS: INFECTIOUS DISEASE

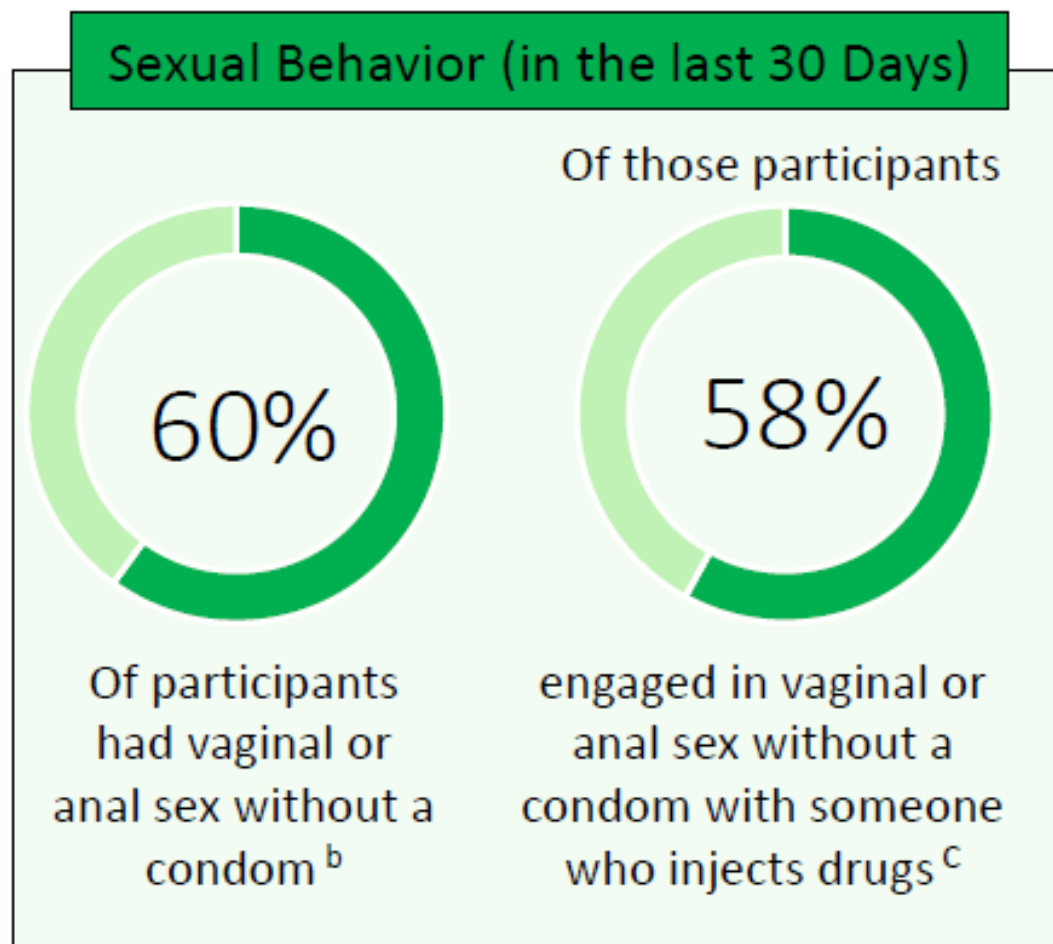
STI Self Report and Test Results^a

■ Self Report ■ Positive Rapid STI Test Results ■ Positive Confirmatory Test Results



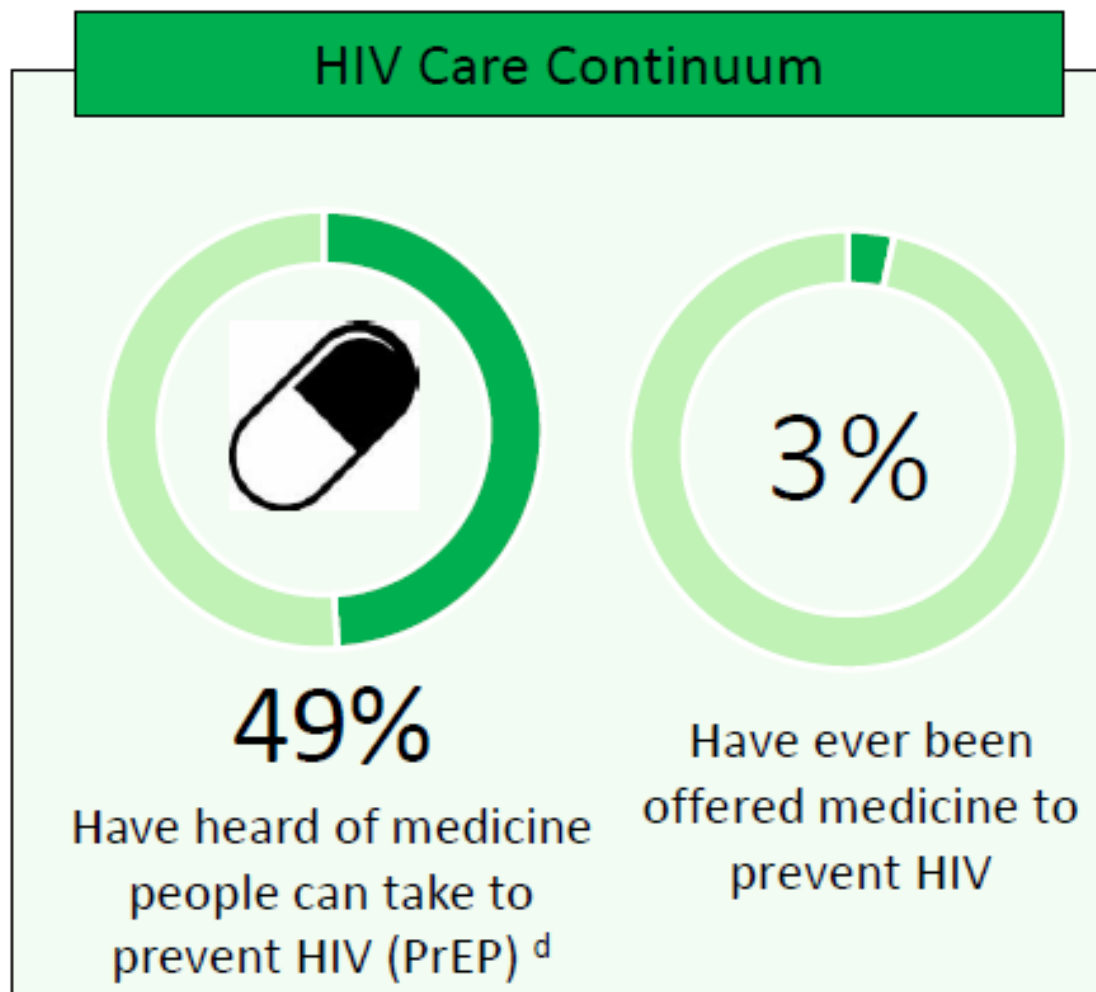
^a Total Responses: 291

FINDINGS: INFECTIOUS DISEASE



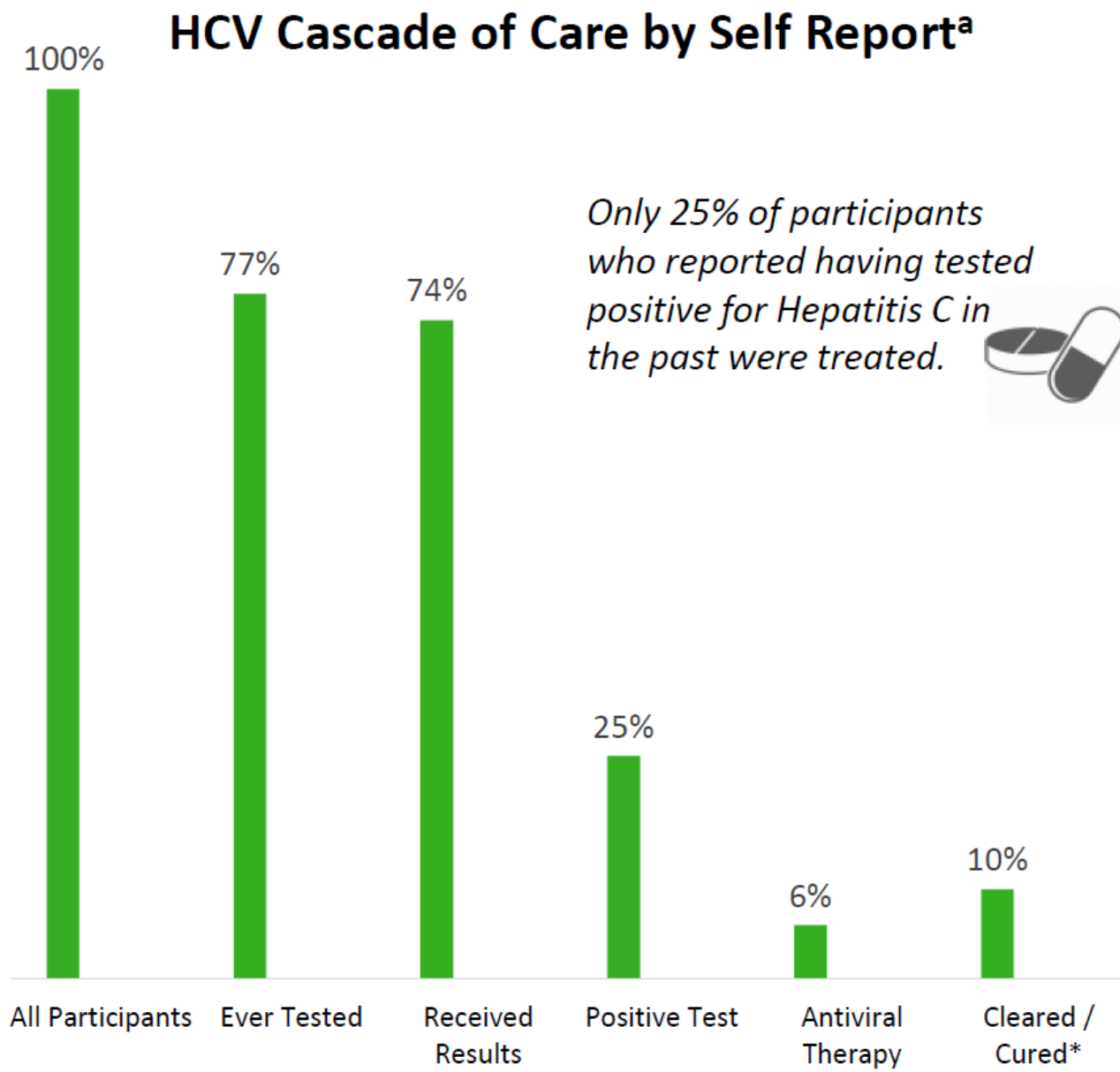
^b Total responses: 296, ^c Total Responses: 171

FINDINGS: INFECTIOUS DISEASE



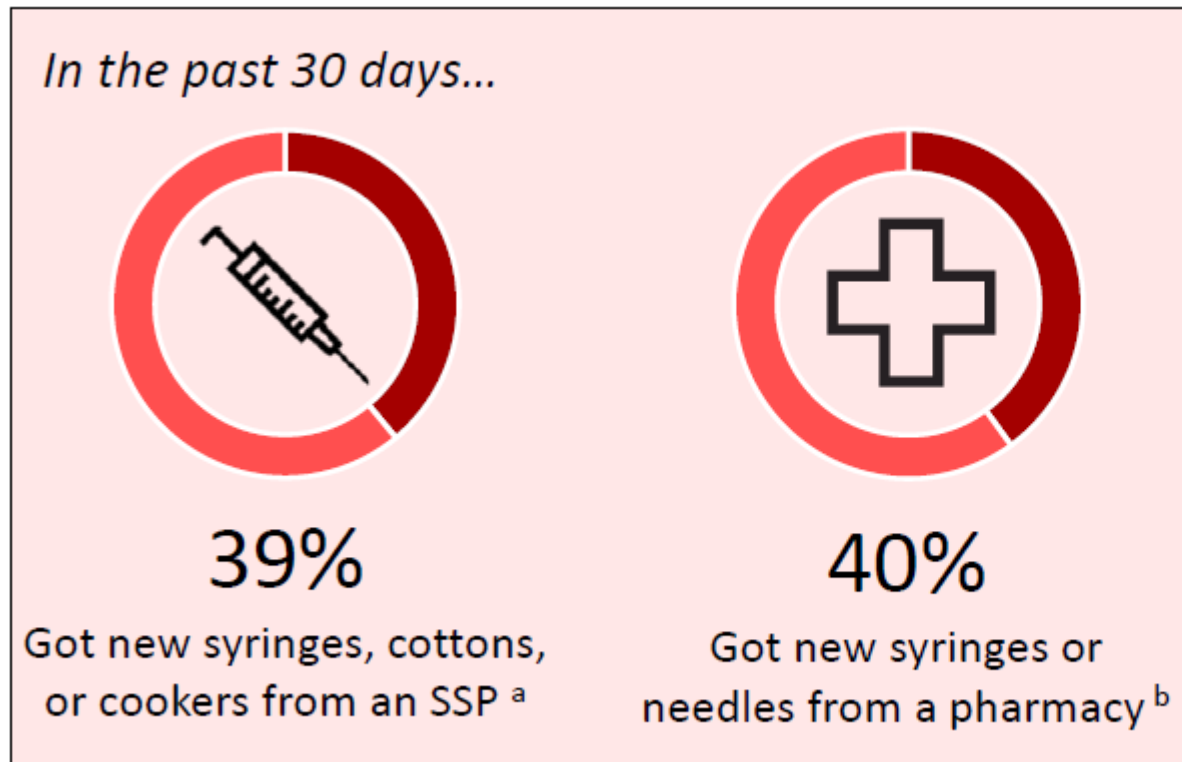
^d Total Responses: 303

FINDINGS: INFECTIOUS DISEASE



^a Total responses: 306

FINDINGS: HARM REDUCTION ACCESS



^a Total Responses: 251, ^b Total responses: 292, ^c Total responses: 299

“And as far as the Narcan and whatnot, I don't know -- I know you can get a prescription for it, but like me, I can't get a prescription because I'm not an opioid user. So for me to get -- I wouldn't know where I would get Narcan. But like I told you, a year and a half ago, roughly, if it wasn't for you guys [tCAP], I wouldn't have had the Narcan that literally saved my fiancé's life, literally.”

FINDINGS: HARM REDUCTION ACCESS

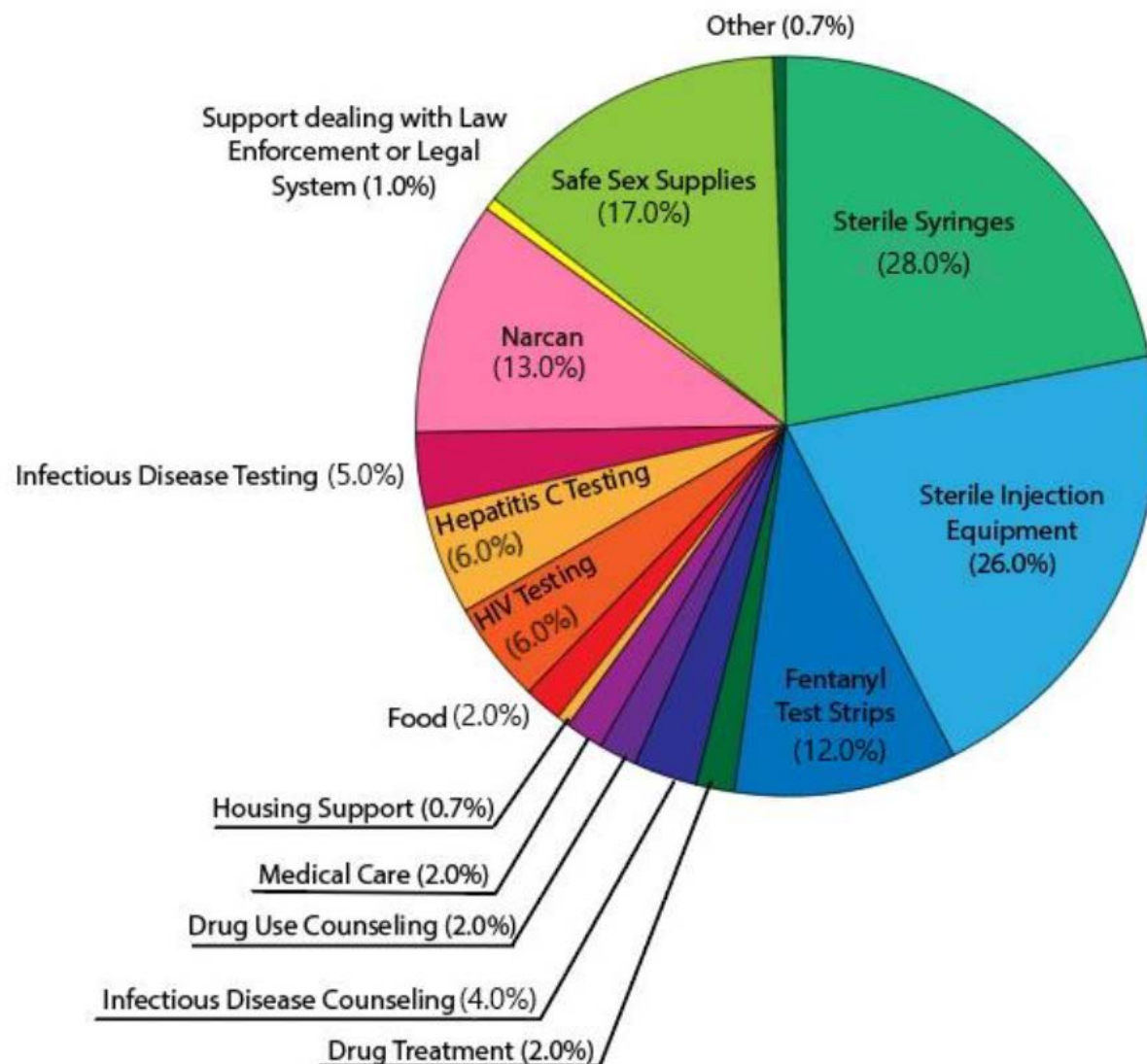
Over the course of the study tCAP experienced a **5-fold** expansion in their participant base and a **3.5-fold** expansion in their zip-codes served



48% of those surveyed who were not previously receiving harm reduction services became newly engaged in tCAP services after their study participation

FINDINGS: THE COMMUNITY ACTION PLACE

In the past 6 months, 31% of participants received services from tCAP.



FINDINGS: THE COMMUNITY ACTION PLACE – PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

“I would still have hepatitis B [sic] if it weren't for you guys the staff helped me really well. They took me to all my appointments and everything. Not many people would be willing to do that.”

“He cares about the community, cares about people being healthy and feeling a place for us, you know? Worthy. And he'll take the time to visit and make sure everybody's doing well. It's not just needles, you know, it's about making a connection”

“When [Participant's partner] overdosed and we didn't have Narcan, I was scared to death. I had no idea. I had never been there during the overdose...I didn't know what to do. First thing I did was pick up the phone and called [tCAP Staff] and he was there to talk to me and kind of like, just kind of tell me what to expect and what to watch for and it -- he was a lifesaver for me”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all of
our study participants!

Funding

NIDA, CDC, SAMHSA
UG3DA044829
NIDA, CDC, SAMHSA
UH3DA044829
NIDA, CDC, SAMHSA
UH3DA044829-05S1
NIDA R01DA057665

The University of Chicago

Mai Tuyet Pho (Study PI)
John Schneider
Quincy Moore
Ellen Almirol
Erin Augustine
Brandon Corpus
Alex Rains
Bradford Jefferson

The Community Action Place

Scott Fletcher
William Nicholson
Garret Rowden
Cody Swagger

University of Illinois Chicago

Larry Ouellet

Washington University

Beth Prusaczyk

New York University

Samuel Friedman
Suzan Walters

Cornell University

Jerel Ezell

Southern Illinois University

Wiley Jenkins (Study PI)
Allison Spenner
Rebecca Bolinski
Trevor Thompson
Kyle Miller
Brent Van Ham

University of WI Madison

Elizabeth Salisbury-Afshar

Austin Peay State University

Heather Tillewein

IDPH

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Community Partners

Rainbow Café – Carrie Vine,
Cy Chamberlain, Alex Socorro
Hopewell Baptist Church
NAACP, Carbondale Chapter

The Community Advisory Board

In memorium

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