

BACKGROUND

- Nationally, ~ 33% of patients treated for opioid use disorder (OUD) at community health centers receive on-site HIV testing.
- 1.2 million people are infected with HIV in the U.S.
- 3.2 million people are infected with HCV in the U.S.
- Co-infection rates of HIV & HCV are estimated at 25%.
- 20% of people who are opioid dependent escalate to injection drug use.

OBJECTIVES

- Determine barriers to HCV and HIV screening at North Shore Community Health (NSCH) among adult patients with OUD on agonist therapy.
- Estimate current HIV/HCV screening rates.

METHODOLOGY

Design: Needs assessment / Environmental scan

Sample: Adult patients (≥ 18 yrs.) at NSCH with OUD on agonist therapy (i.e., Suboxone)

Assessment Method

- Structured 2– 4 question telephone survey

Assessment Topic

- Self-reported HCV/HIV screening status, testing location, and barriers to screening

RESULTS

- 27% received HCV/HIV testing services at NSCH.
- 63% didn't receive screening or were unsure of status.
- Of those not tested or screening status unknown, 42% would have been tested if offered.

Table. Self-Reported HCV & HIV Screening at NSCH in the Past 12 months

Answer	(N = 30)	Percent (%)	Estimated Total of Patients
Yes	11	37%	154
Both HCV and HIV	6	20%	84
HIV only	1	3%	14
HCV only	3	10%	42
Unknown	1	3%	14
Testing location			
NSCH	8	27%	112
Outside organization	3	10%	42
No	15	50%	210
Testing not offered	11	37%	154
Education not offered	12	40%	168
Accept if offered	4	13%	56
Low perceived risk	6	20%	84
Previous (+) result	1	3%	14
Declined by healthcare proxy	1	3%	14
Unsatisfied with care	1	3%	14
Unknown	4	13%	56
Would accept if offered?			
Yes	4	13%	56
No	0	0%	0

CONCLUSION

The majority of patients reported not being tested for HCV/HIV or were unaware of their testing status.

The most common barriers to HCV/HIV testing:

- Education about tests not offered
- Screening not offered
- Low perceived risk of infection

RECOMMENDATIONS

Dual-routine HCV/HIV testing:

- Evidence-based
- Resource efficient
- Improves screening rates
- Enhances seropositive diagnosis
- Improves linkage to care

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