



Choose
health!

ML MIDDLESEX-LONDON
HEALTH UNIT

A Profile of People Who Inject Drugs in London, Ontario

**Report on the Public Health Agency of Canada
I-Track Survey, Phase 3**

**Board of Health Meeting
Report No. 119-13; November 21, 2013**

Authors:

Hilary Caldarelli (Presenter)

Alison Locker

Bryna Warshawsky

Presentation Overview

- What is the I-Track survey?
- Why is this information important?
- What are the results of the survey?
- What is the summary and next steps?

BACKGROUND

What is the I-Track Survey?

- Survey of people who inject drugs developed by Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
- Occurs regularly at selected sites
- MLHU participated for first time in 2012
- Partnered with Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (RHAC)
- RHAC recruited and interviewed participants from their needle exchange program in Jan-Feb 2012
- Goal: Provide information on injection and sexual risk behaviours and HIV and hepatitis C infection rates based on blood test from finger

Why is I-Track Important?

- Injection drug use is an important risk factor in acquiring hepatitis C and HIV
- Associated high risk behaviours such as sharing needles can transmit these infections
- Middlesex-London had a significantly higher incidence of hepatitis C compared to Ontario
 - 53.4 per 100,000 population vs. 33.1 per 100,000 in ON
- People who use injection drugs are a vulnerable population in which social determinants of health play a big role

I-TRACK SURVEY RESULTS

Demographics

- Looked at London sample compared to overall national sample

Sex and Age	London	National
Participants	204	2,687
Male	73.5%	68.2%
Female	26.5%	31.8%
Age	36	39

Demographics (cont'd)

Characteristic	London	National
< \$1,000 / month income	43.8%	54.1%
Unstable housing	56.9%	38.7%
Jail recently	20.1%	11.5%

- Unstable housing and jail recently higher than national sample

Selected Drugs Injected in Past 6 Months

Drug	London Percent (rank)	National Percent (rank)
Non-prescribed morphine	75.5% (1)	47.0% (3)
Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)	75.5% (1)	47.2% (2)
Oxycontin / Oxycodone	69.1% (3)	37.7% (4)
Methamphetamine	68.1% (4)	Not available
Ritalin	66.2% (5)	Not available
Cocaine	58.3% (6)	64.3% (1)
Crack	49.0% (7)	24.8% (6)
Heroin	17.2% (8)	26.7% (5)

Injection Risk Behaviours

Behaviour in past six months	London	National
Borrowed needles	19.6%	15.5%
Borrowed any other injection equipment (e.g. water, cookers)	42.9%	34.5%
Lent needles to others	26.6%	15.5%
Lent any other injection equipment	43.6%	33.1%

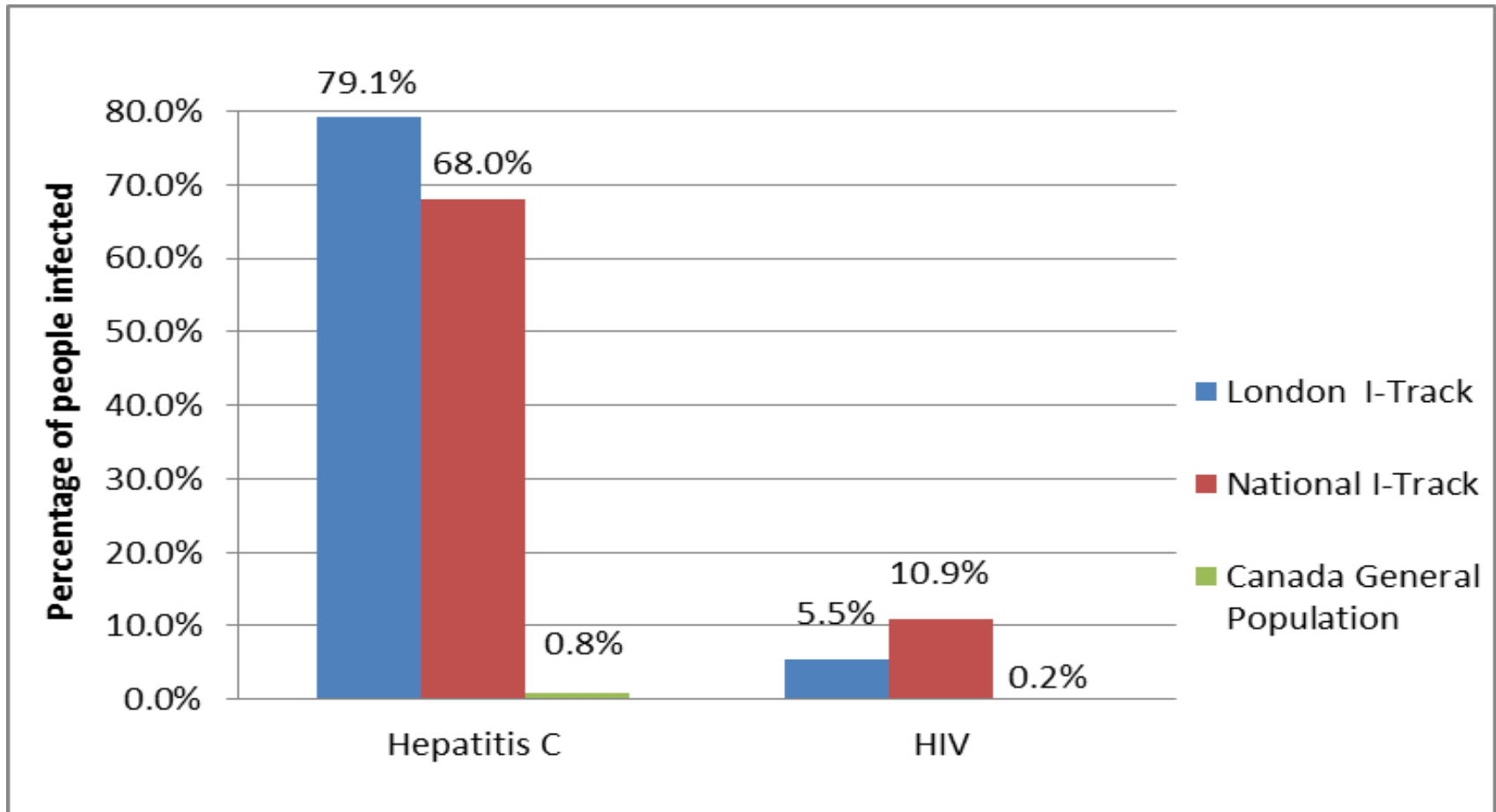
- Higher proportion of the London sample reported borrowing and lending needles and other injection equipment

Hepatitis C and HIV Prevalence

	London	National
Hepatitis C	79.1%	68.0%
HIV	5.5%	10.9%
Unaware HIV positive	60% (6/10)	21.4%

- London has higher hepatitis C prevalence rates, but lower HIV prevalence rates compared to the national sample

Hepatitis C and HIV Prevalence Rates in I-Track vs. General Canadian Population



SUMMARY

Summary

- Active local population of people who inject drugs with a high prevalence of hepatitis C and HIV
- Inject opioid drugs most
- Higher prevalence of injection risk behaviours compared to national sample
- Should continue to offer harm reduction programs and services to this vulnerable population

NEXT STEPS

Next Steps

- Other reports coming to the Board as requested on September 19, 2013:
 - Withdrawal management services
 - Needle disposal and recovery
- Assessing needle exchange services in the County and overdose prevention strategies
- Working on Injection Drug Use Health Status Report which will include other types of data
- Will contribute to a comprehensive community drug strategy

Acknowledgements

- Regional HIV/AIDs Connection (RHAC)
- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
- Survey participants
- Dr. Christopher Mackie
- MLHU Research Advisory Committee

Thank you!

We welcome your questions