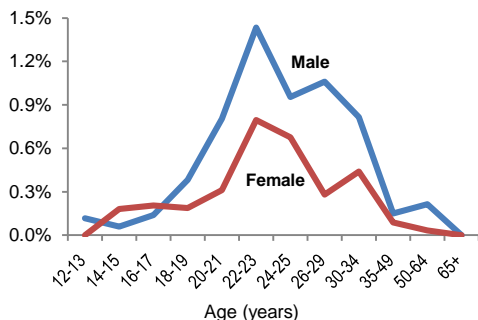


Prevalence

Heroin use (past year), by age and gender, US, 2013¹



Heroin use was highest among males and individuals aged 22-23 years

Injection Drug Use (IDU)

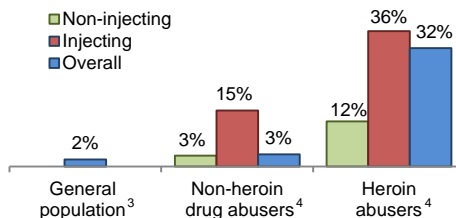


74% of all injection drug users inject heroin²



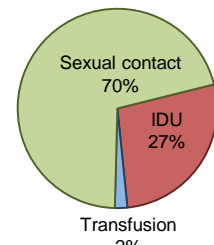
Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection rate, Los Angeles County (LAC), 2014

IDU is the most common risk factor for HCV infection⁵



HCV infection rates are high among heroin abusers, especially those who inject

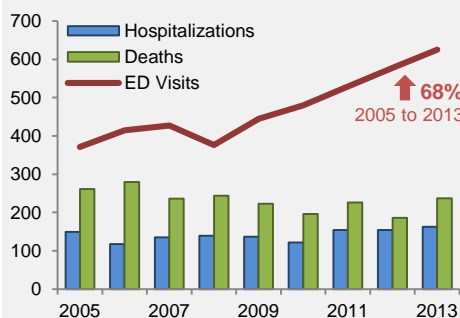
Mode of HIV transmission among women, LAC, 1982-2013⁶



Over 1 in 4 women with HIV were infected by IDU

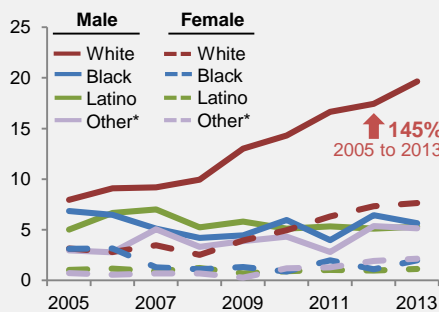
Health Outcomes and Healthcare Utilization

Heroin-related hospitalizations^{7a}, emergency department (ED) visits^{7a}, and deaths^{8b}, LAC, 2005-2013



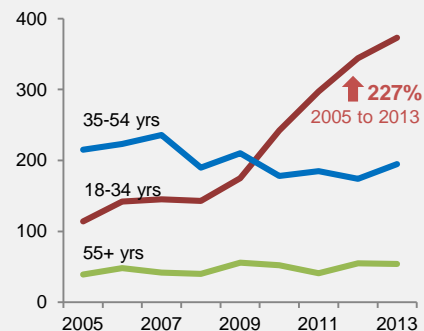
Heroin-related ED visits increased by 68%

Rate per 100,000 population of heroin-related^a ED visits by sex and race/ethnicity, LAC, 2005-2013⁷



Heroin-related ED visits increased 145% among white men

Heroin-related^a ED visits by age group, LAC, 2005-2013⁷

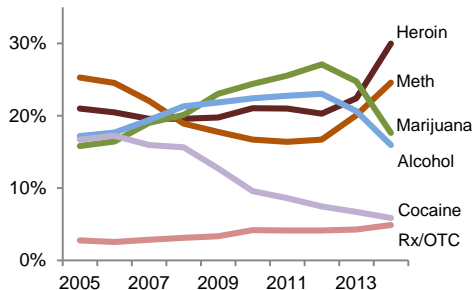


Heroin-related ED visits increased 227% among individuals aged 18-34

^aAny heroin-related diagnosis or external cause of injury. ^bAny mention of heroin or morphine in coroner's report. ^{*}Includes Asians, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other or unknown races.

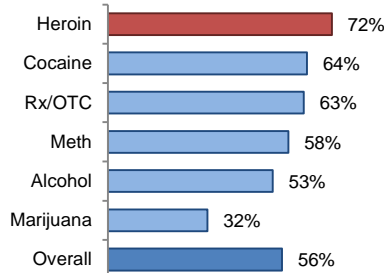
Treatment

Primary drug of choice at treatment admission, LAC, 2005-2014⁴



Heroin has become the most commonly reported drug of choice among individuals using publicly funded SUD treatment services

Relapse rate for SUD treatment, by drug of choice, LAC, 2014⁴



72% of individuals who reported heroin as their drug of choice at treatment admission reported prior SUD treatment episodes

Distribution of naloxone to heroin users for overdose reversal, US

85% of injection drug users have witnessed an overdose⁹

10,171 overdose reversals using naloxone were reported from 1996-2010¹⁰

1 death could be prevented for every 227 naloxone kits distributed⁹

6% of heroin overdose deaths could be prevented with naloxone distribution⁹

For treatment in LAC, call (888)742-7900 during normal business hours, or call 211.

For information on needle exchange programs in LAC, visit <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/php/SEP/>.

For more information on medication-assisted treatment (MAT), visit <http://www.dpt.samhsa.gov/medications/medsindex.aspx>.

For more information regarding this brief, please contact Tina Kim, Ph.D. at tkim@ph.lacounty.gov

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Medical Director's Brief

Heroin Misuse/Abuse and Consequences

May 2015 No. 3

Prevalence

- According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health¹, which is an ongoing annual population-based survey administered in households, heroin use in the past year in the US was generally higher for males than for females.
- Heroin use in the past year peaked at ages 22-23 for both men and women.

- Heroin is the most common injected drug, with nearly 74% of all injection drug users injecting heroin, followed by methamphetamine (11%) and cocaine (2%)².
- Among heroin users, 71%² prefer to use heroin by injection.
- Injection drug use increases the risk of transmitting blood-borne pathogens, including hepatitis C virus (HCV) and HIV, through sharing contaminated syringes and other injection equipment.

Injection Drug Use (IDU)

- According to the Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System (LACPRS)⁴, overall chronic HCV infection rates were higher among those who reported heroin (31.5%) than those who reported other drugs (3.3%) as their primary drug of choice at admission to publicly funded substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs in 2014.
- Chronic HCV infection rates were higher for those who reported heroin than those who reported other drugs as their primary drug of choice at admission for both injection drug users (36.0% vs. 14.9%) and non-injection drug users (12.0% vs. 2.9%).
- Chronic HCV infection is rare in the general Los Angeles County (LAC) population (1.9%)³.

- According to HIV surveillance data up to 2013 in LAC⁶, 27% of HIV transmission among women occurred by injection drug use while sexual contact accounted for 70%.

Health Outcomes and Healthcare Utilization

- According to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) data⁷, the number of emergency department (ED) visits with any heroin-related diagnosis or external cause of injury in LAC increased by 68% from 2005-2013.

- The rate of heroin-related ED visits was highest for white men compared to other race/ethnicity and gender groups in LAC.

- The rate of heroin-related ED visits increased by 145% among white men, and increased by 142% among white women from 2005-2013 in LAC.

- In LAC, from 2005 to 2013, the number of heroin-related ED visits among individuals aged 18-34 increased by 227%. The numbers increased more rapidly since 2009, and surpassed those of individuals aged 35-54 in 2010.

Treatment

- According to LACPRS data⁴, since 2012, heroin was increasingly being reported as the primary drug of choice at admission to publicly funded SUD treatment programs in LAC.

- In 2014, nearly 72% of individuals who reported heroin as their primary drug of choice at admission to publicly funded treatment programs in LAC reported prior SUD treatment episodes.

- According to Coffin et al⁹ 2013, 85% of injection drug users reported ever witnessing an overdose.

- In 2014, surpassing marijuana and methamphetamine, heroin became the most common reported drug of choice, with nearly 9,500 treatment admissions for heroin use disorder.

- The overall rate of relapse to publicly funded SUD treatment was 56%. The relapse rate for heroin (72%) was higher than that of cocaine (64%), prescription (Rx) drugs (63%), methamphetamine (58%), alcohol (53%), and marijuana (32%).

- Community-based opioid overdose prevention programs in the US distributed naloxone to 53,032 participants (injection drug users), who reported 10,171 opioid overdose reversals with naloxone during 1996-2010¹⁰.

- Effective April 2015, California pharmacists can furnish naloxone without a prescription to individuals who use or have a history of using opioids, or who are in contact with such individuals¹¹.

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. National Surveys on Drug Use and Health 2013.

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/cgi-bin/SDA/SAMHDA/hsda?samhda+35509-0001>

2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Treatment Episode Data Set: 2002-2012. National admissions to substance abuse treatment services. 2013.

http://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/TEDS2012N_Web.pdf

3. California Department of Public Health. Chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C infections in California: Cases newly reported through 2011. 2013.

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Documents/ChronicHepBandHepCinCalifornia,2011.final.pdf>

4. Los Angeles County Participant Reporting System data. Substance Abuse Prevention and Control, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

5. Surveillance for Viral Hepatitis – United States, 2013. Division of Viral Hepatitis, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/Statistics/2013Surveillance/Commentary.htm#hepC>

6. Annual HIV Surveillance Report 2013. Division of HIV and STD Programs, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/dhsp/Reports/HIV/2013AnnualHIVSurveillanceReport.pdf>

7. Emergency Department and Inpatient Discharge Data Set 2005-2013. Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD).

California Department of Public Health.

8. Los Angeles County Coroner Data, Drug Related Death Surveillance System. Injury and Violence Prevention Program, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

9. Coffin PO, Sullivan SD. Cost-effectiveness of distributing naloxone to heroin users for lay overdose reversal. *Ann Intern Med* 2013; 158:1-9.

10. CDC. Community-based opioid overdose prevention programs providing naloxone – United States, 2010. *MMWR* 2012; 61(6):101-105.

11. California State Board of Pharmacy. News release: Overdose rescue drug now available without prescription.

http://www.pharmacy.ca.gov/publications/naloxone_media_release.pdf

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