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Preventive healthcare services receipt and primary care provider utilization among people who inject drugs

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Introduction:

- People who inject drugs (PWID) face barriers to accessing primary care providers (PCPs) and preventive services, but are at increased risk for preventable infections
- Preventive services can be accessed through PCPs, or while hospitalized or at community organizations like syringe service programs (SSPs)

Research Objectives:

1. Describe PCP and preventive care engagement among people who use drug who were hospitalized for infections
2. Evaluate whether PWID in this study with PCPs are more likely to have received hepatitis B vaccinations than those without PCPs

Methods

- Participants: PWID who were hospitalized with infections between 1/2019 and 3/2020, N=101
- Data: “Rural Harm Reduction Access and Regional Trends (Rural HeART)” study, collected from patient surveys and EMR abstraction

Preventive Services:*

- Hepatitis A (HAV) and Hepatitis B (HBV) vaccinations
- HIV Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Hepatitis C (HCV) and HIV screening

*Not included: STI screening, Tdap, HPV, and influenza vaccinations, naloxone prescriptions, etc.

Table 1: Participant Baseline Characteristics (N=101)

	Total, n (% of N)	With PCP, n (%)	Without PCP, n (%)
All (% total)	101	68 (67%)	33 (33%)
Age <40 ¹	72 (71%)	49 (72 %)	23 (69%)
Gender Male	45 (45%)	26 (38%)	19 (58%)
No insurance	25 (25%)	8 (12%)	17 (52%)
Rural	18 (18%)	14 (21%)	4 (12%)

¹age rounded up based on variable: year of birth

Table 2: Descriptive Analysis of Outcomes of Interest

	With PCP, N=68	Without PCP, N = 33	<i>P-value</i>
Reason for no PCP:^{1,2}			
Cost/insurance		17 (52%)	
Location		5 (15%)	
Felt judged in past		9 (27%)	
Ever used an SSP:	49 (72%)	18 (55%)	0.081
For HAV or HBV vax ³	18 (26%)	4 (12%)	0.210
Ever had an HCV test	63 (93%)	31 (94%)	0.545
HCV exposed or infected	49 (72%)	27 (82%)	0.286
HBV exposed or infected	4 (6%)	4 (12%)	0.433
Received HBV vax ⁴	42 (62%)	11 (33%)	<i>0.006</i>
At PCP office	21 (31%)	2 (6%)	<i>0.035</i>
At hospital	7 (10%)	6 (18%)	<i>0.022</i>
Received HAV vax	42 (62%)	16 (48%)	0.231
HIV screened	59 (87%)	27 (82%)	0.972
Ever discussed PrEP?	6 (9%)	2 (6%)	---
Willing to take PrEP?	16 (24%)	8 (24%)	---

¹some patients reported more than 1 reason

²Other reasons included: had old PCP, being afraid, don't need PCP, don't know any

³vax = vaccination

⁴Other sites reported were SSP (n=3) and other (n=6) and unknown

Key Findings:

- **62% of patients with a PCP had a Hepatitis B vaccine**, significantly higher than the 33% vaccinated among those without a PCP
- In a multivariable analysis including PCP status, hepatitis B vaccination, age, SSP use, and gender: there were **3 times higher odds of having Hepatitis B vaccine among participants with a PCP**, showing that patients who have a PCP are engaging in preventive care
- Most patients had HIV and hepatitis C screening, and more than half received Hepatitis B and A vaccinations. **Vaccinations and HIV PrEP prescription rates were suboptimal**, suggesting an opportunity to address these in primary care and potentially other settings