




National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS): PWID 2024



City of
Philadelphia



Overview

- What is NHBS?
 - PWID in Philadelphia
 - Formative Assessment
 - Sample Characteristics
 - Changes since 2022
 - Programmatic Implications
 - Comments from field staff
- 

NHBS Team

- **Principal Investigators:** Kathleen Brady, Tanner Nassau
- **HIV Surveillance Manager:** Erika Solomon
- **NHBS Project Coordinator:** Lyric Kleber
- **Field Coordinators:** Andrea Harrington, Antonio McFadden
- **Interviewers/testers:** Dana Brown, Hunter Schreiner, Tiffany Nakajima, Dolicia Dobbs, Shannon Driggins, Tulie Reddick
- **Support Staff:** Ralph Nixon, Bianca Black, Action Wellness, TB Clinic



NHBS Overview

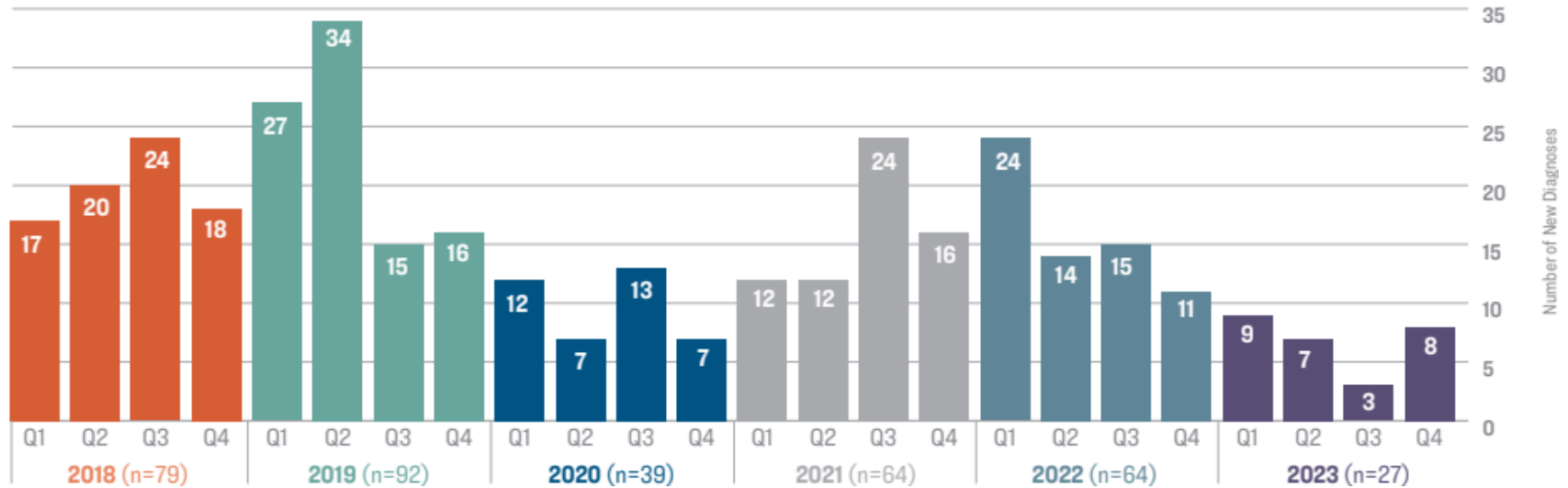
National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS)

- Rotating annual survey in 3 populations at increased risk for HIV acquisition: MSM, PWID, heterosexually active persons at increased risk for HIV infection
- Sex and drug using behaviors that increase risk for exposure to HIV, HIV testing, access to prevention and other services



HIV Outbreak Among PWID, 2018-2023

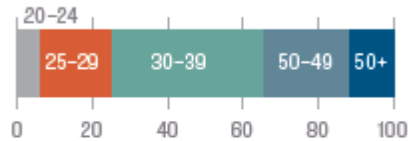
- During 2023, there were 27 new HIV diagnoses among PWID
- In total, there have been 365 cases of HIV among PWID since identifying an outbreak in 2018.



HIV Outbreak Among PWID, 2018-2023

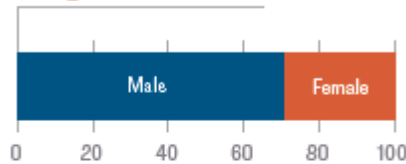
- Among outbreak-related cases, the majority are between the ages of 30-49 at diagnosis (63.0%), assigned male at birth (70.4%), and NH White (52.3%).

Age at Diagnosis



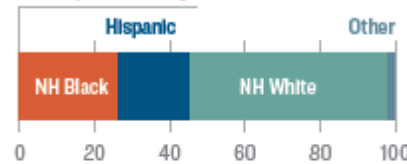
20-24	5.5%
25-29	19.4%
30-39	40.3%
40-49	22.7%
50+	12.1%

Assigned Sex at Birth



Male	70.4%
Female	29.6%

Race/Ethnicity



NH Black	26.0%
Hispanic	18.9%
NH White	52.3%
Mixed Race/Other	2.7%

Transmission Risk



People Who Inject Drugs (PWID)	77.3%
MSM & PWID	22.7%

Newly Diagnosed HIV - 2023



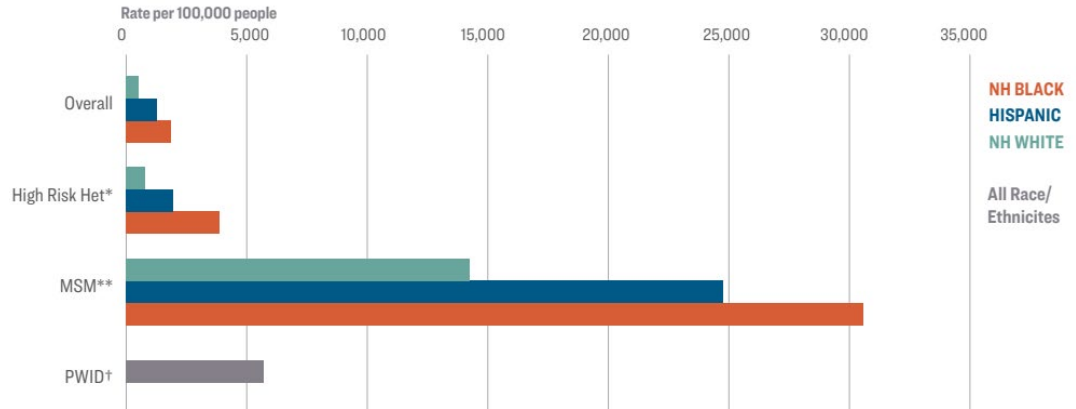
Highest **rates** of new diagnoses:

- MSM (1,673.8 per 100,000), followed by PWID (100.7), and at-risk heterosexuals (30.2)
- NH Black (38.7 per 100,000) and Hispanic/Latinx (25.9) people compared to NH White (11.3) people

HIV Prevalence Rates

- Overall HIV prevalence rate of 1,133.4 per 100,000
- HIV prevalence among PWID is nearly **5 times** that of the overall population

Figure 15 | Prevalence by Race/Ethnicity and Transmission Category | 2023






Trends in overdoses

Philadelphia sees a decline in drug overdose deaths among residents for the first time in 5 years, data show

Drug overdose deaths among Philadelphians have risen every year since 2018, but preliminary numbers for 2023 show a drop.

By [Nicole Leonard](#) · October 2, 2024

Data from the Philadelphia Department of Public Health show that an estimated 1,122 residents died from drug overdoses in 2023. It's a small drop from the 1,207 confirmed deaths that occurred the previous year.





Formative Assessment

- Community and professional key informant interviews, focus groups, and field observations





Formative Assessment

- Network findings: large, geographically bound networks with connections across race/ethnicity and gender
 - Youth (<30) tend to interact with other youth
 - Preferences for other using similar types of drugs

Implications: Seeds need to be geographically diverse, younger, and inject different types of drugs





Formative Assessment

- Barrier findings
 - Length of interview
 - Respect for participants
 - Policing/police presence
 - Disruption of networks (RDS)
 - Unstable phone access

Implications: Protocols, trainings, and field sites need to focus on ways to minimize barriers





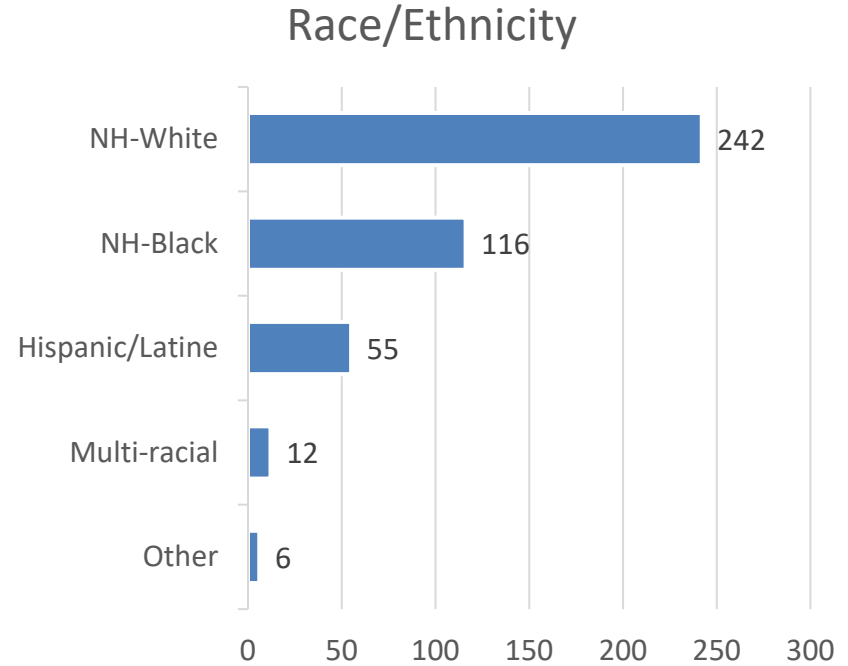
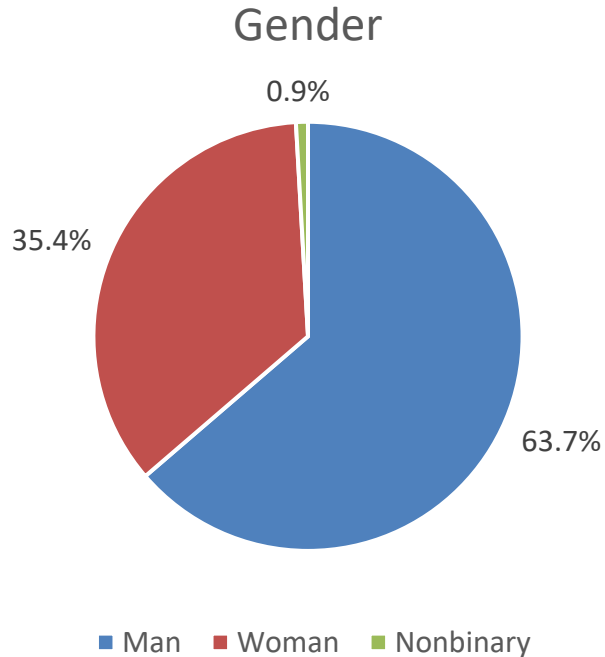
Formative Assessment

- Drug use patterns
 - Xylazine (“tranq dope”) predominant → leads to stimulant use to counteract sedative effects
 - Possibly unintentional polysubstance use
 - Injection wounds, multiple injection sites
 - Increased smoking/snorting
 - Possibly more reuse/sharing of injection equipment due to distribution changes

Implications: While syringe distribution may be decreasing, frequency of injection may also be decreasing




Sample Characteristics





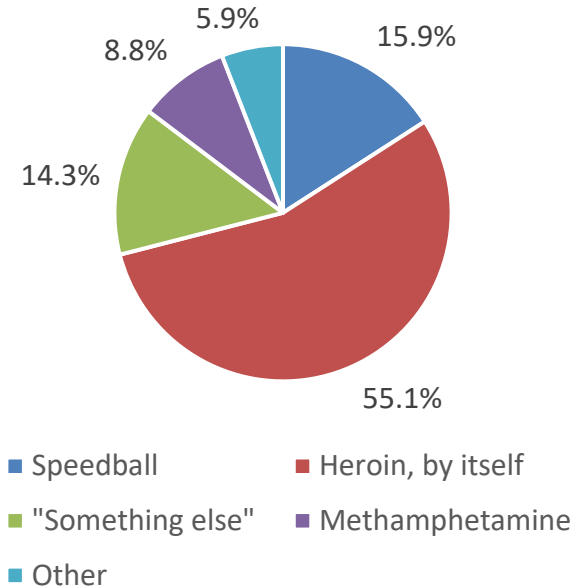
Socioeconomic Indicators

	N (%)
Household Income < \$10,000	277 (64.3)
Unemployed	299 (68.7)
< High School education	109 (25.3)
Recent housing instability	319 (74.0)
<i>Currently unhoused</i>	224 (52.0)
Recent incarceration	110 (25.5)

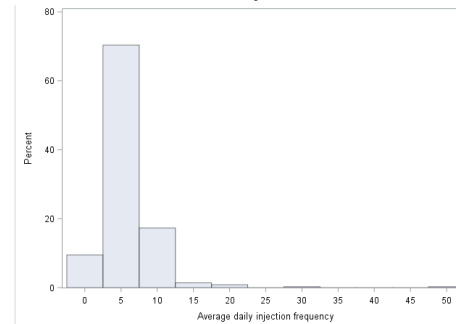
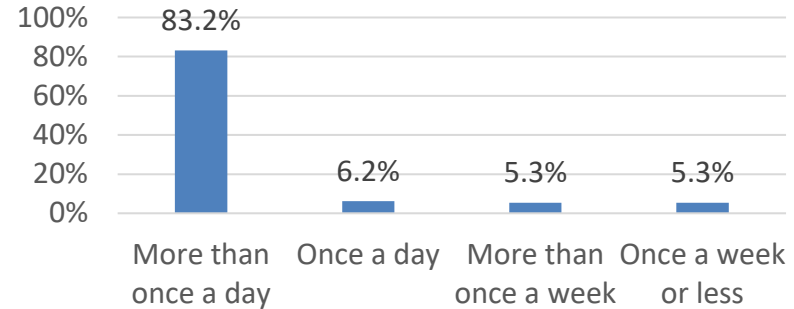


Drug Use Characteristics

Primary drug injected



Frequency of Injection



Median daily injections: 4
Majority reporting 3-7



Drug Use Characteristics

Recent Fentanyl Use: 86.3%

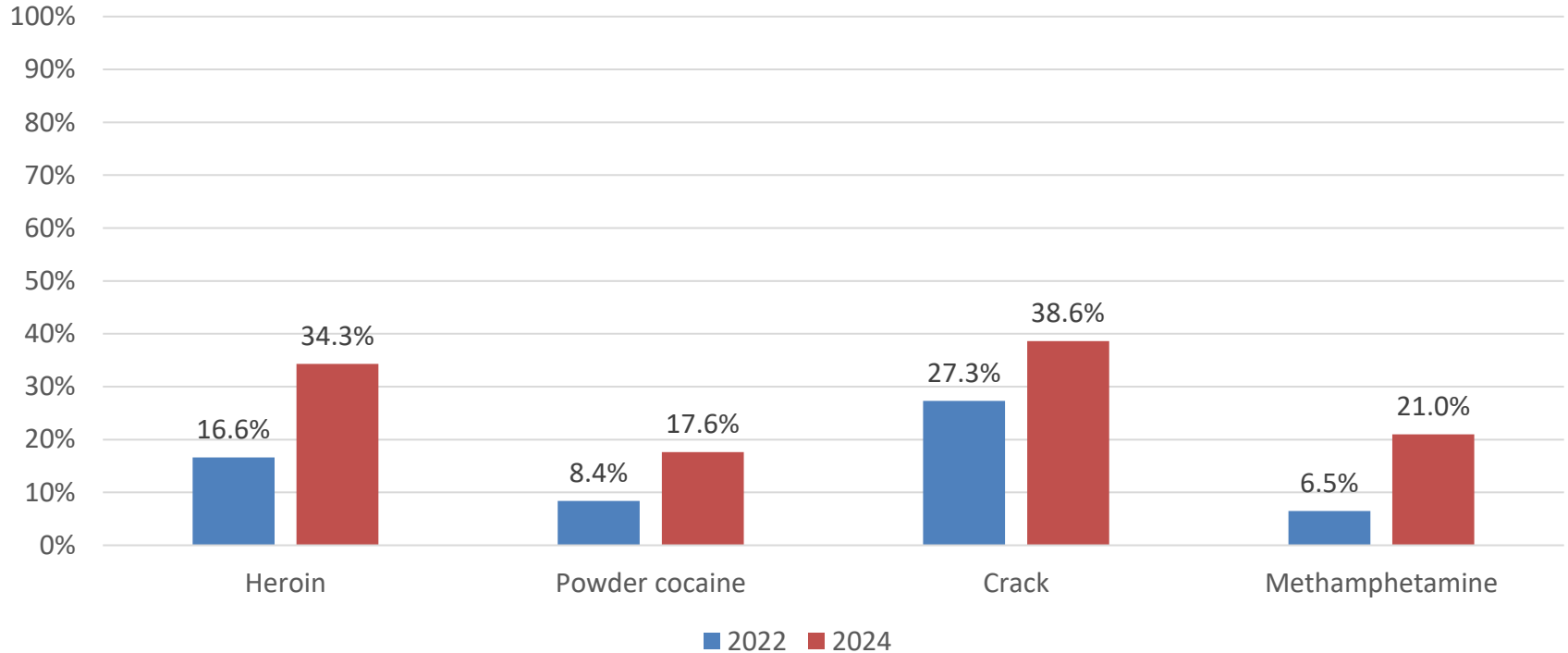
Frequency of fentanyl use:

- More than once a day: 83.1%
- Once a day: 6.4%
- More than once a week: 5.0%
- Once a week or less: 5.3%

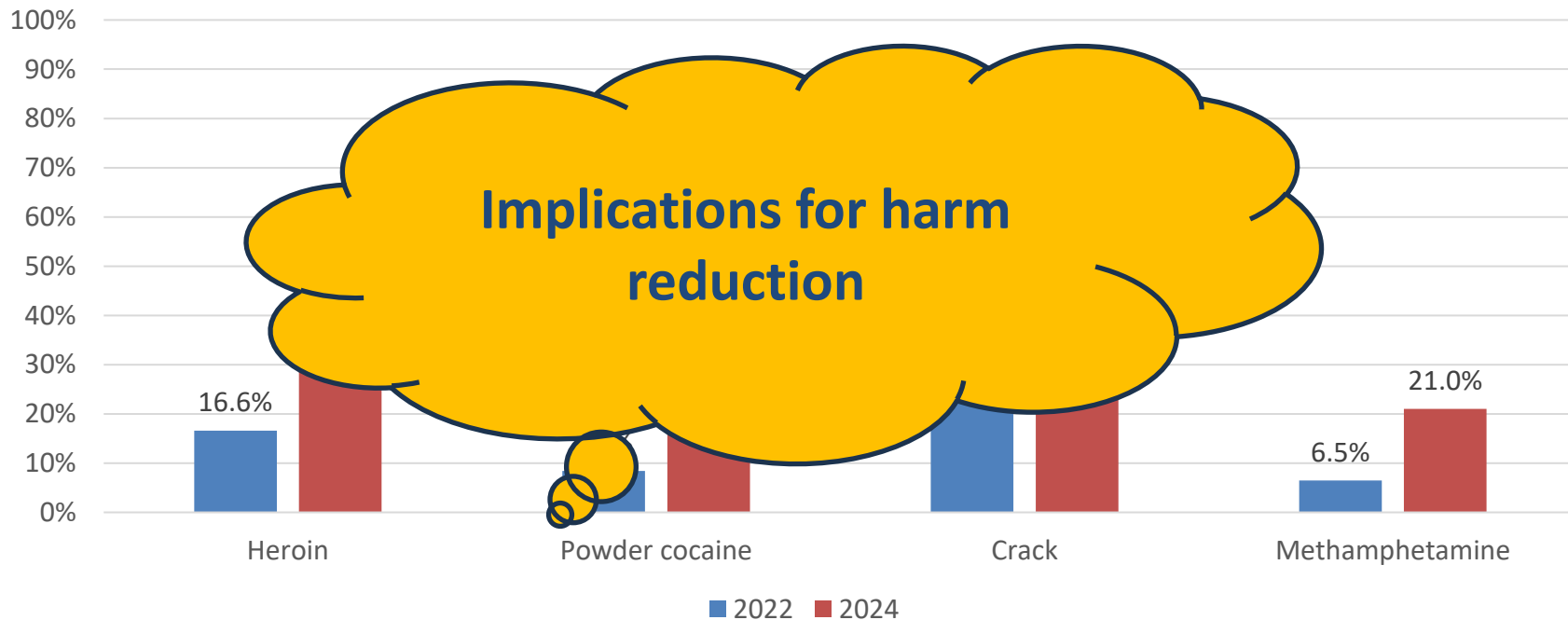
*Formative: Fentanyl test strips may not be widely used because they cannot **quantify** the amount of fentanyl*



Daily/more than daily non-injection drug use by year




Daily/more than daily non-injection drug use by year



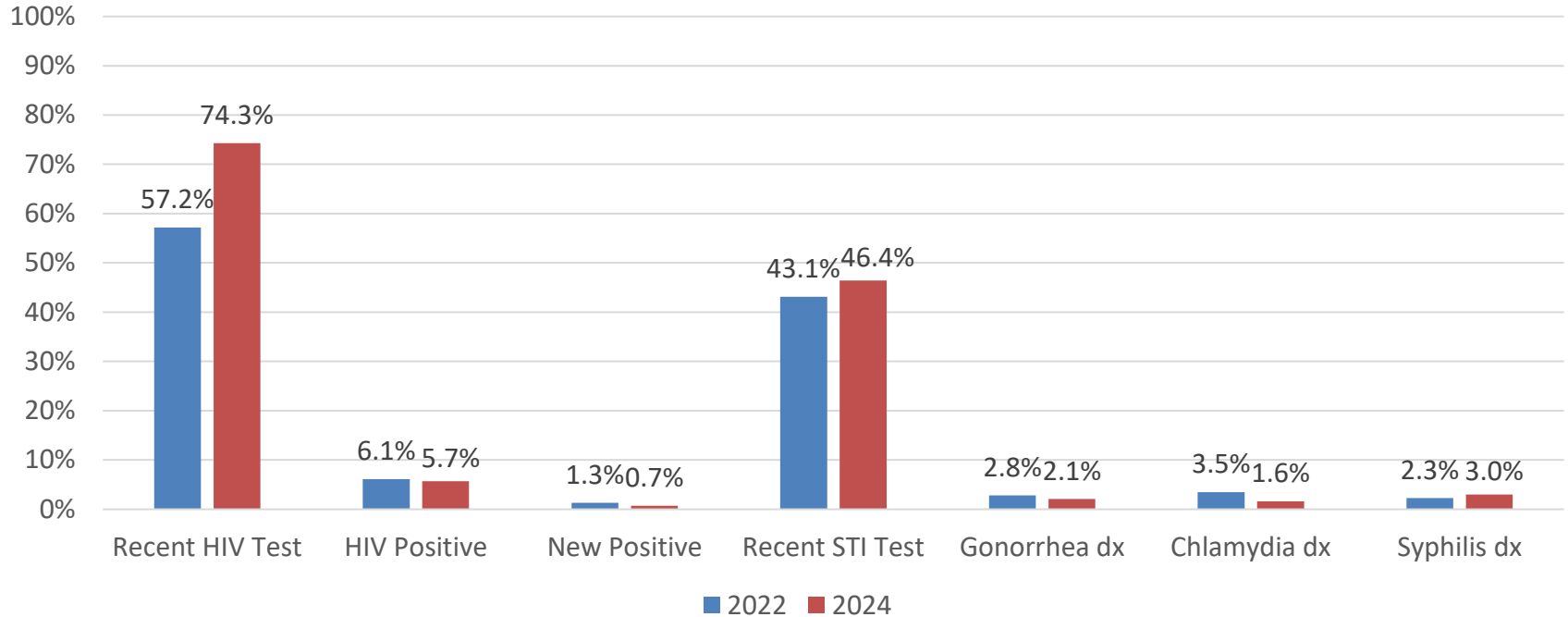


Healthcare Access

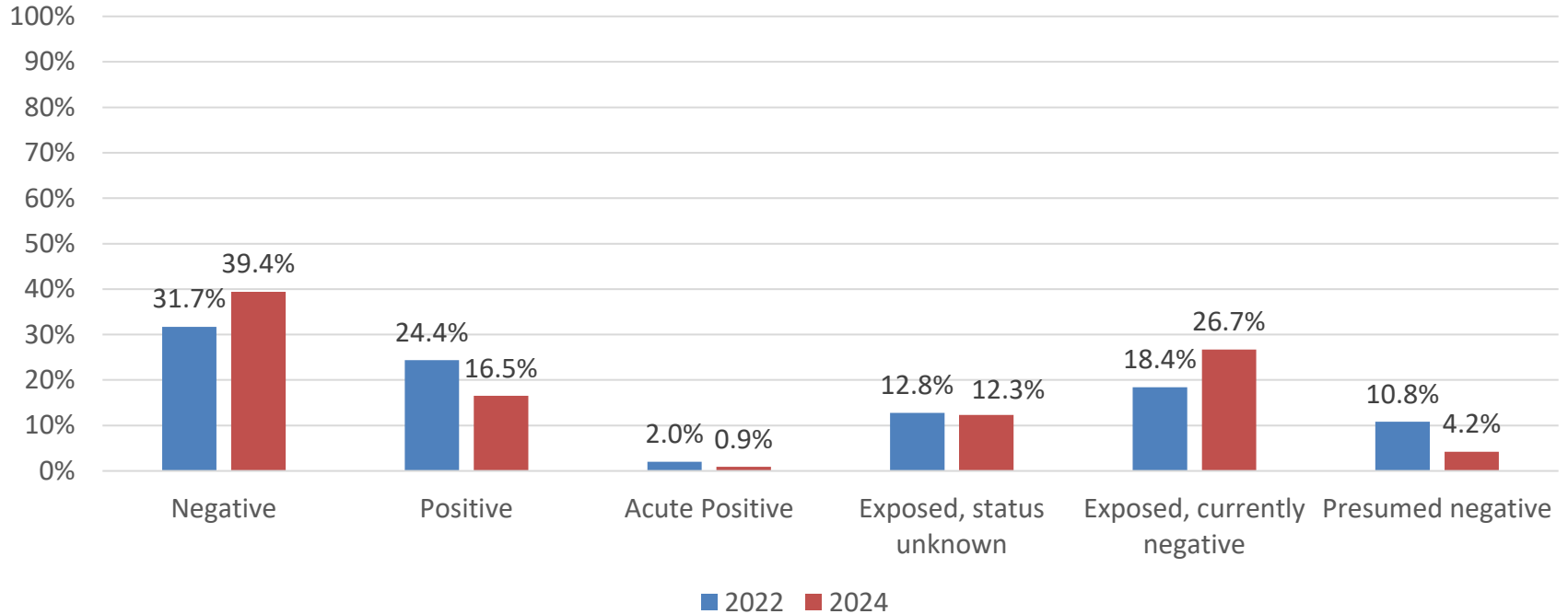
Insured	412 (94.7%)
<i>Medicaid</i>	380 (92.2%)
Seen a healthcare provider in the previous year	367 (84.6%)
<i>Offered an HIV test</i>	216 (62.4%)
Usual Source of Care	
Clinic/Health Center	120 (31.5%)
Doctor's Office	122 (32.0%)
Hospital Emergency room	124 (32.6%)
Lacked Healthcare due to cost	62 (14.3%)



HIV and STI Testing



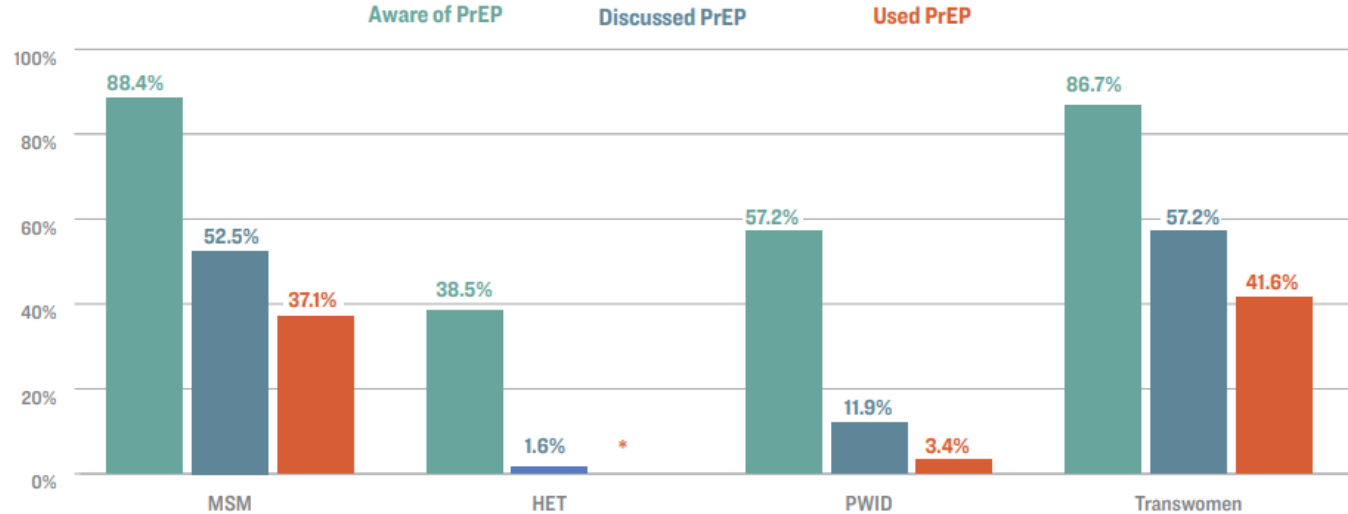
Hepatitis C Testing



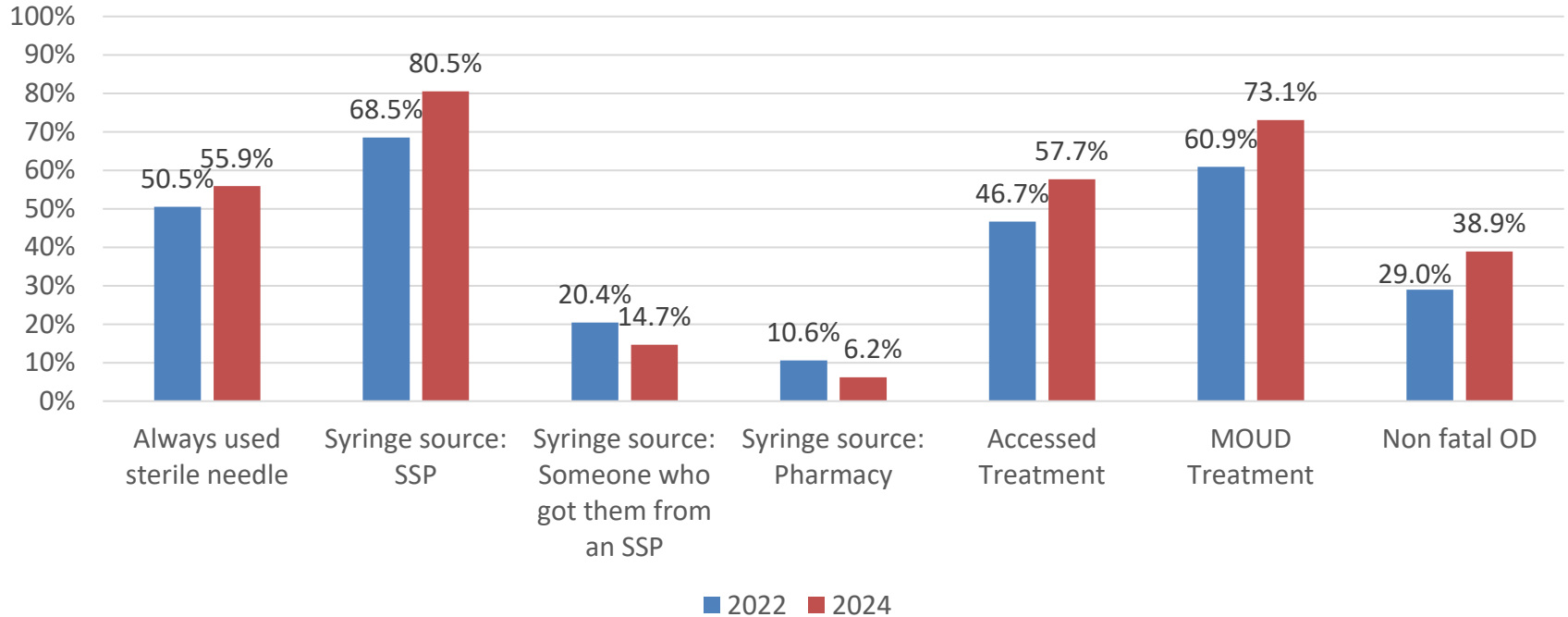
Prevention Access

PrEP Continuum

- PrEP awareness, discussions about PrEP, and PrEP usage were highest MSM
- At-risk heterosexuals & PWID reported the lowest levels of awareness, discussions about, and usage of PrEP.
- **Discussions about PrEP with a medical provider in the last year were critically low across all groups.**




Prevention Access: Changes





Implications 1


Housing instability, unemployment, and poverty are highly prevalent

- Structural barriers to HIV prevention/care and other services
 - Increasing quality of life indicators in this population would increase access to prevention
- 



Implications 2


Increased contamination of dope with xylazine may be driving a shift toward smoking/snorting and injecting less frequently due to wound concern

- Harm reduction for infectious diseases
 - May partly explain increases in syringe coverage
 - Continued concern for overdose
- 



Implications 3

In the previous year, 1 in 4 HIV negative PWID had not been tested for HIV, and 9 in 10 had not discussed PrEP with a provider

- Recognize progress!
 - Missed opportunity during an ongoing outbreak of HIV among PWID
 - Missed opportunity around new PrEP options
- 



Medical Monitoring Project (MMP): 2018- 2022 combined data



City of
Philadelphia

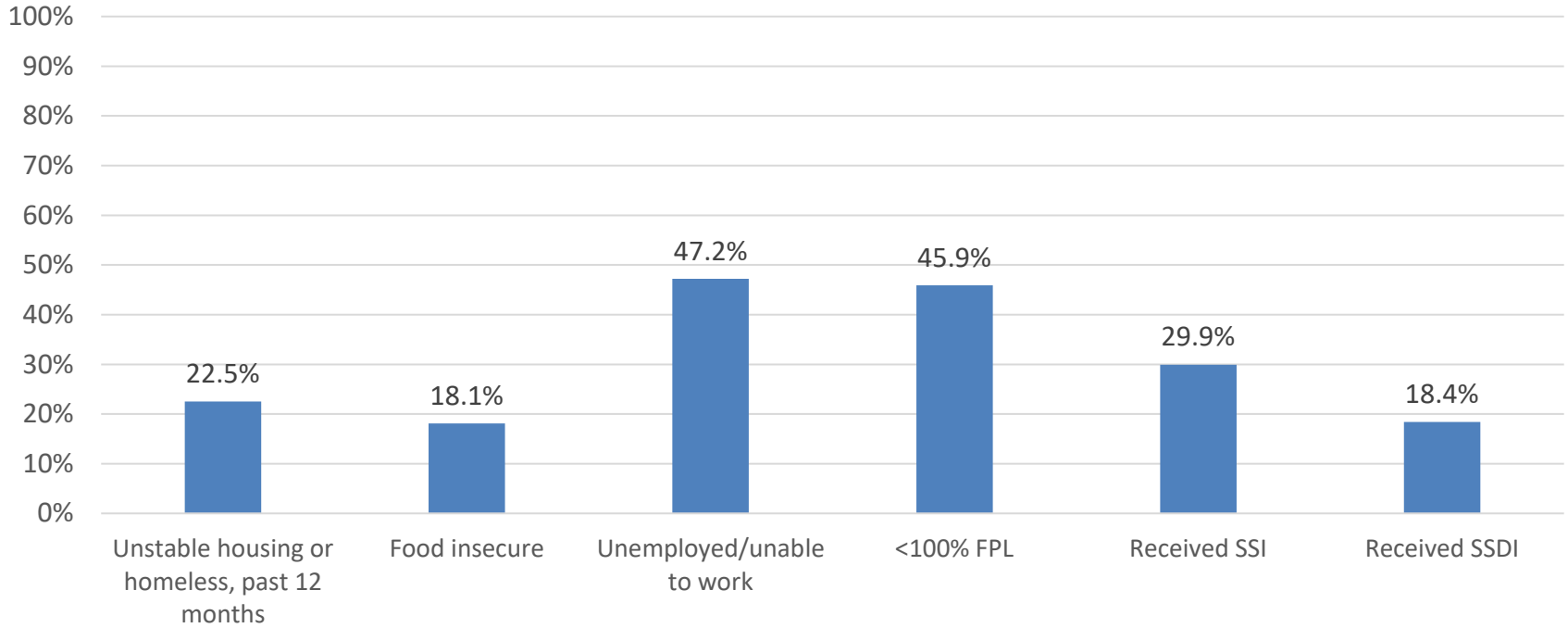


MMP Overview

- Population-based surveillance system for information not always included in traditional HIV surveillance
 - Behaviors
 - Socioeconomic factors
 - Comorbidities
 - Quality of care
 - Barriers to care and viral suppression
 - Unmet needs



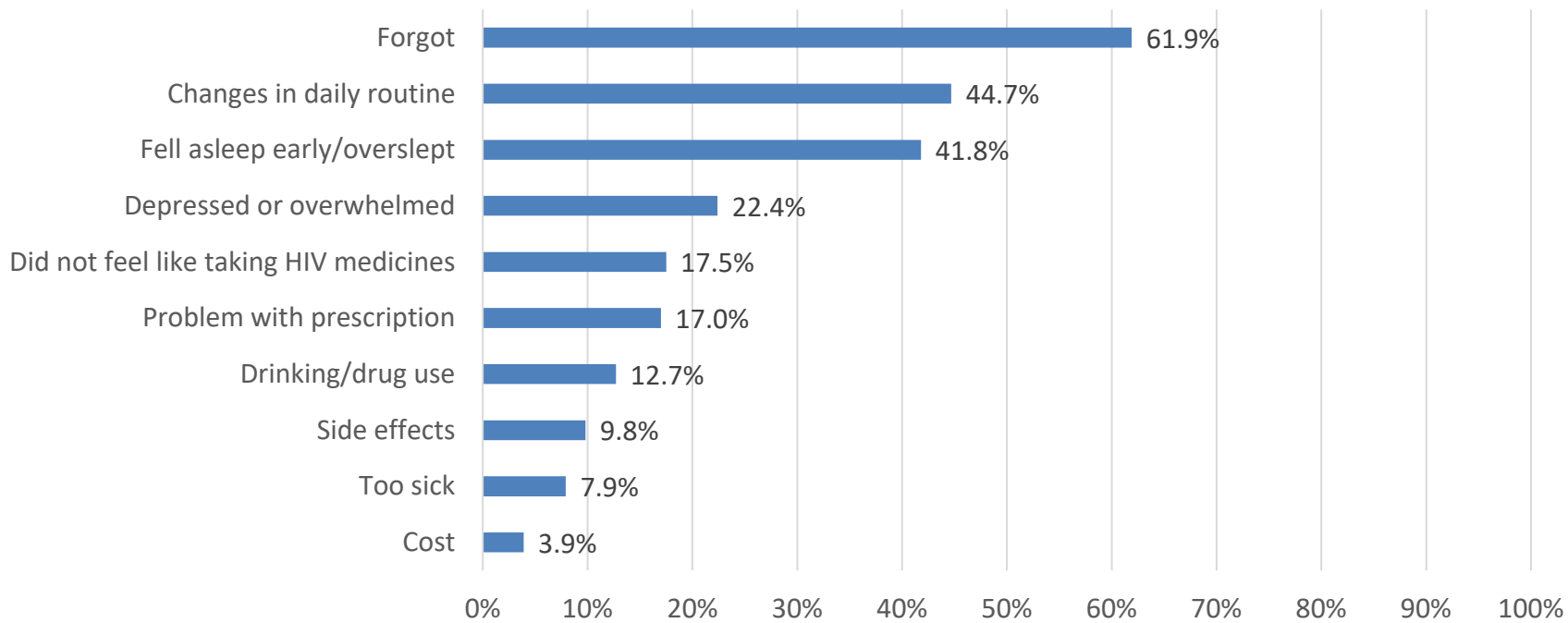
Socioeconomic status of PWH in Philadelphia



	Prescription of ART	Fully Adherent to ART	Sustained Viral Suppression
Total	75.5%	58.9%	54.5%
Gender			
Cisgender Male	76.4%	58.7%	57.5%
Cisgender Female	71.5%	60.1%	47.4%
Transgender	86.5%	*	*
Sexual Orientation			
Lesbian or gay	79.3%	56.2%	67.8%
Heterosexual	76.2%	63.1%	48.4%
Race/Ethnicity			
NH-Black	73.6%	55.8%	49.6%
NH-White	87.0%	70.3%	75.9%
Hispanic/Latine	72.0%	58.7%	53.8%




Reasons for missing ART doses






Mental health and substance use

- **44.1%** of PWH in Philadelphia reported a mental, physical, or emotional disability
 - **15%** of PWH in Philadelphia have symptoms of moderate or severe depression
 - **Nearly 1 in 5** PWH in Philadelphia have symptoms of generalized anxiety disorder
 - **43.3%** of PWH in Philadelphia reported non-injection drug use, most of whom reported marijuana use (**37.3%**)
- 




Unmet needs

- **15.2%** of PWH who needed HIV case management did not get it
 - **30.2%** of PWH who needed dental care did not get it
 - **26.9%** of PWH who needed mental health services did not get them
 - **25.0%** of PWH who needed drug or alcohol counseling/treatment did not get it
- 



Unmet needs

- **26.5%** of PWH who needed transportation assistance did not get it
 - **30.5%** of PWH who needed meal or food services did not get them
 - **48.0%** of PWH who needed shelter or housing services did not get them
- 



Thank you!

