

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



2022 HIV Prevention Needs Assessment Results

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CT DPH HIV/HCV Prevention Program





2022 HIV Prevention Needs Assessment Method

Study Design:

Cross-sectional survey

Participants:

- Total participants: 2,038
- Recruitment method: Social media and traditional outreach
- Inclusion criteria: Connecticut residents who may have received HIV Prevention Services
- Demographic characteristics: 43% (878) of HIV Prevention Needs Assessment participants reported being white, 24% (503) were Black/AA, and 19% (399) were Hispanic/Latino.

Data Collection:

- Survey instrument: 2022 CT HIV Prevention Needs Assessment Survey [RDE Systems]
- Administration method: Online and in-person
- Data collection period: From October 31, 2022, to December 31, 2022

Variables:

- Demographic variables: age, race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, income,
- HIV-related variables: HIV testing history, awareness of PrEP and PEP, condom usage, STI and Hep C testing and treatment
- Mental health variables: stress levels, suicidal thoughts, Substance Use Disorder

Data Analysis:

MS Excel and Power BI

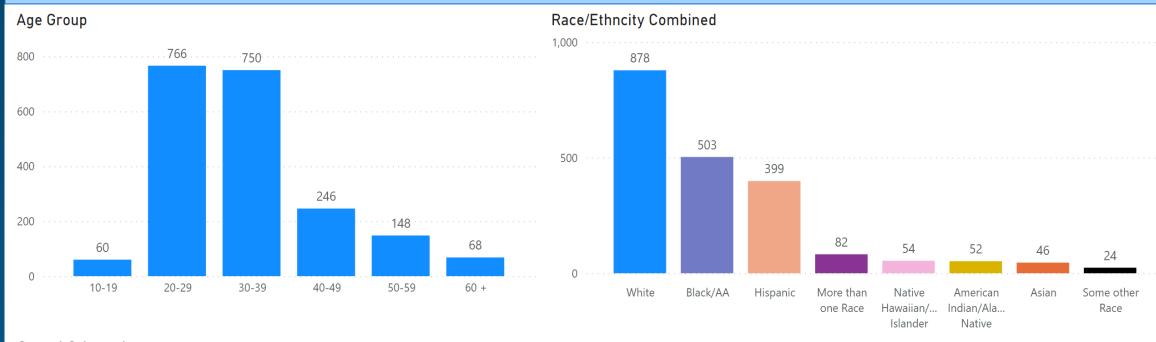
HIV PNA Participant Demographics



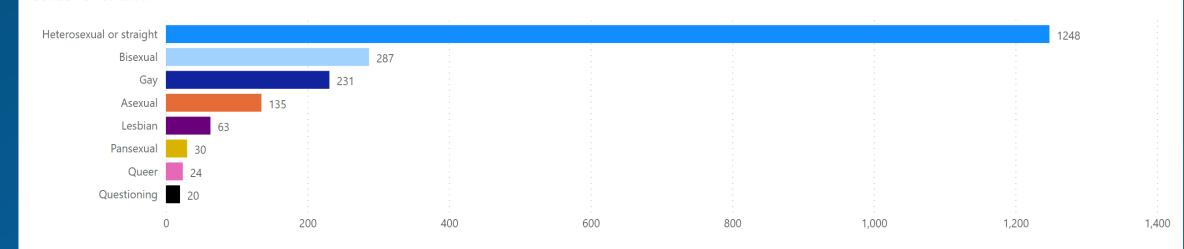
2022 Prevention Needs Assessment (PNA) Participants' Demographics

2,038

Surveys



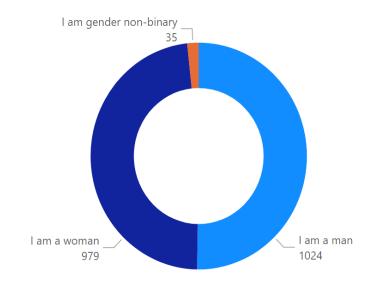
Sexual Orientation



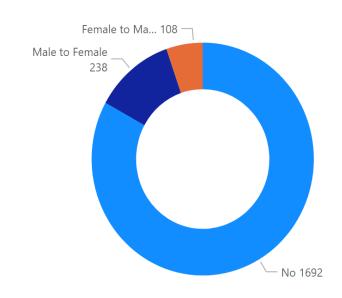
2,038

Surveys

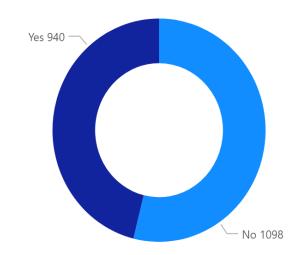
Current Gender Identity



Transgender



Received money in exchange for sex



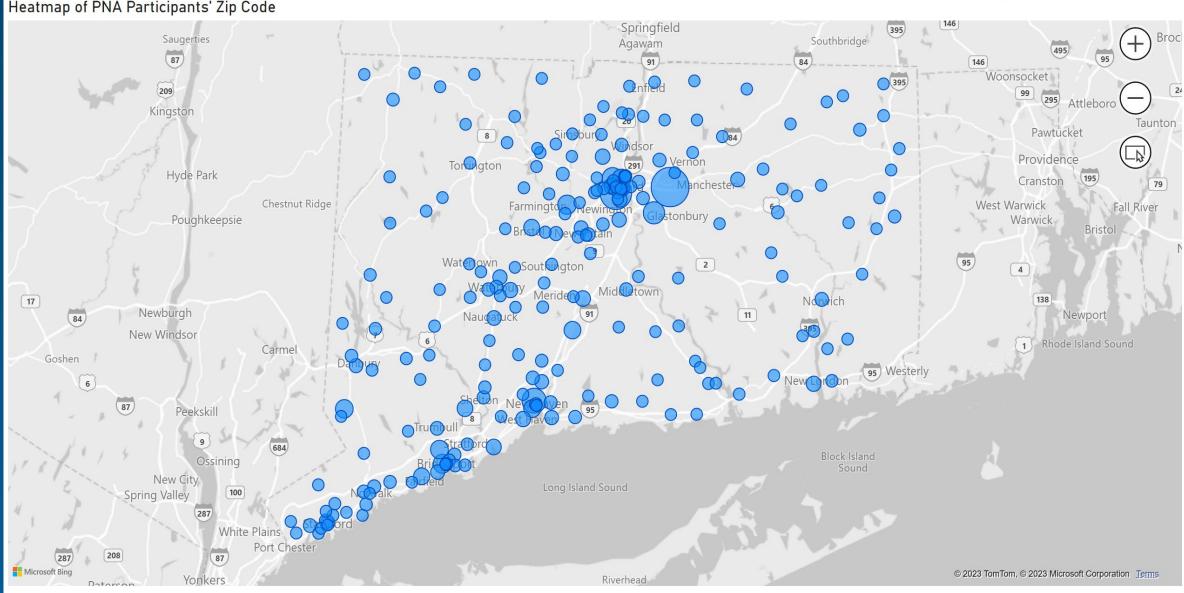
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~

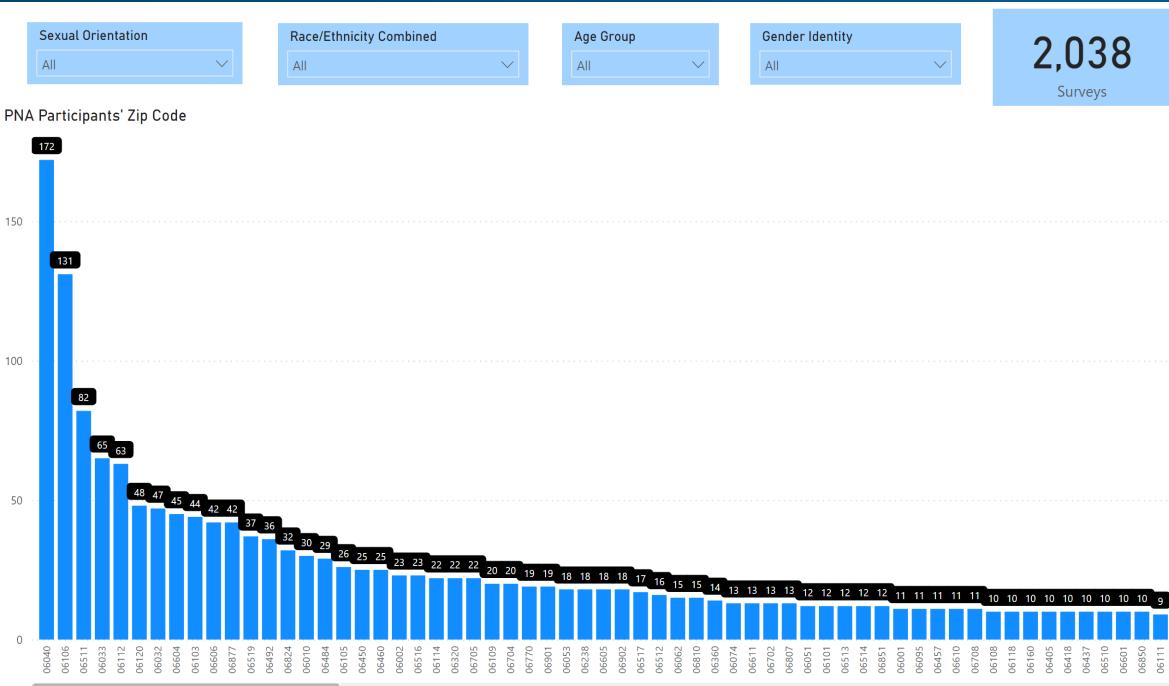
Age Group	
All	~



Heatmap of PNA Participants' Zip Code

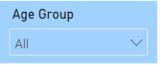






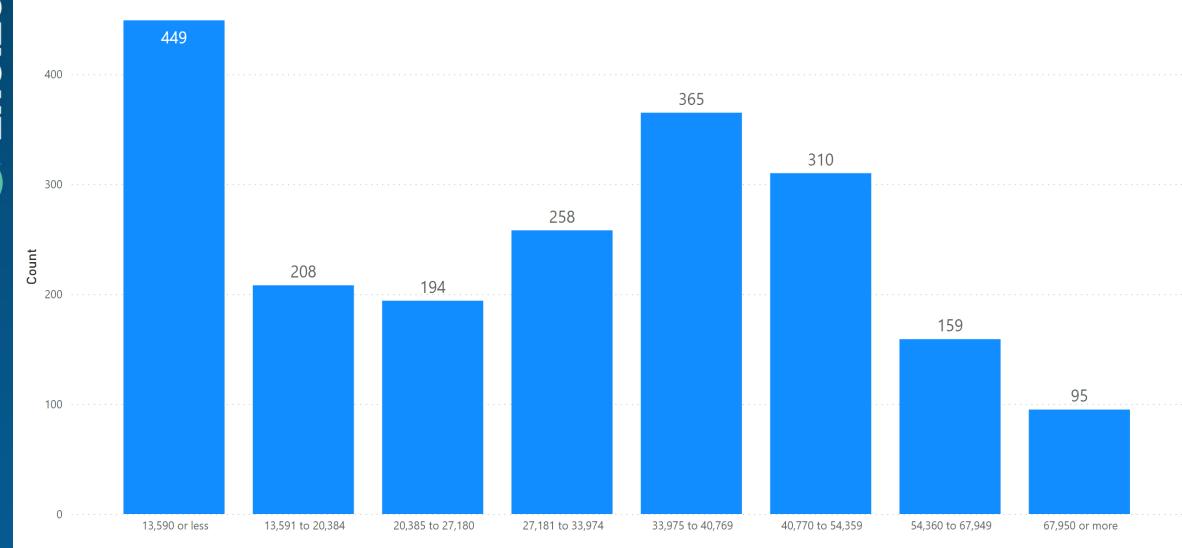
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~





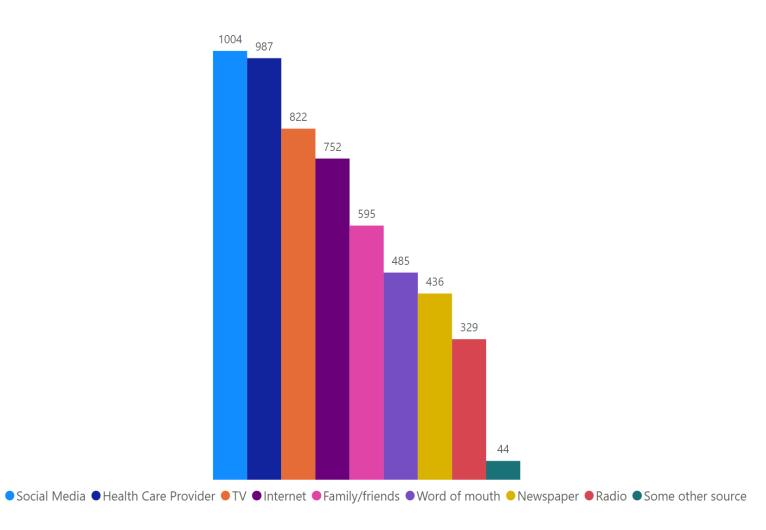
9. How much <u>income</u> did you earn in the past 12 months, not including benefits? (select one best answer)



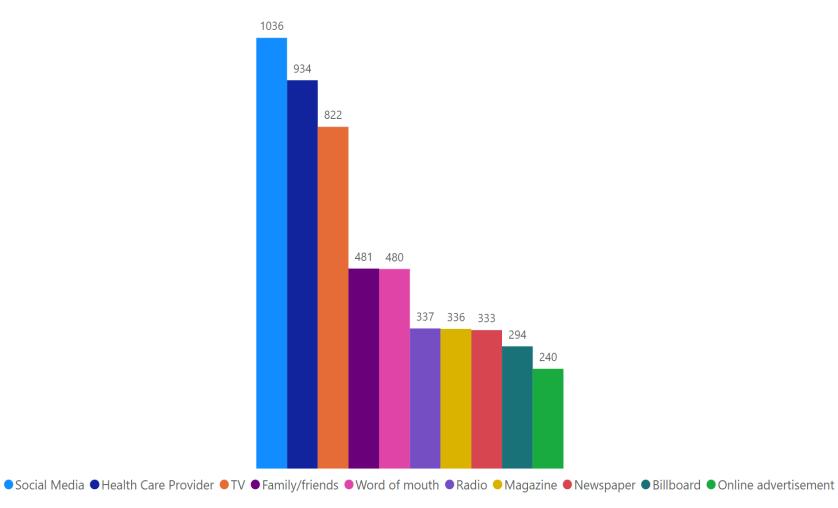
Access to Information About HIV Prevention



10. Where do you **currently** access information about HIV, STIs, hepatitis C (HCV) and substance use disorder (SUD)? **[Check all that apply]**



11. What are the best types of media for you to get information about HIV, STIs, hepatitis C (HCV) or substance use disorder (SUD)? [Check all that apply]

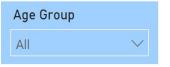


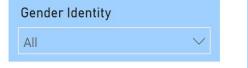
Barriers to Testing for HIV



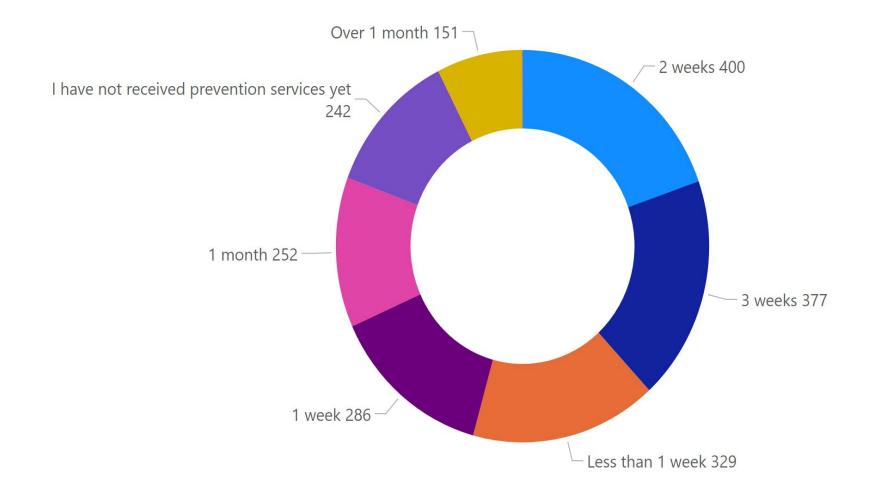
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~



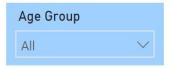


12. <u>In the last 12 months</u>, what is <u>the longest you've had to wait</u> to receive prevention services (i.e., PrEP, HIV, STI, HCV testing; Syringe Service Program; Partner services) in your community? (select one best answer)



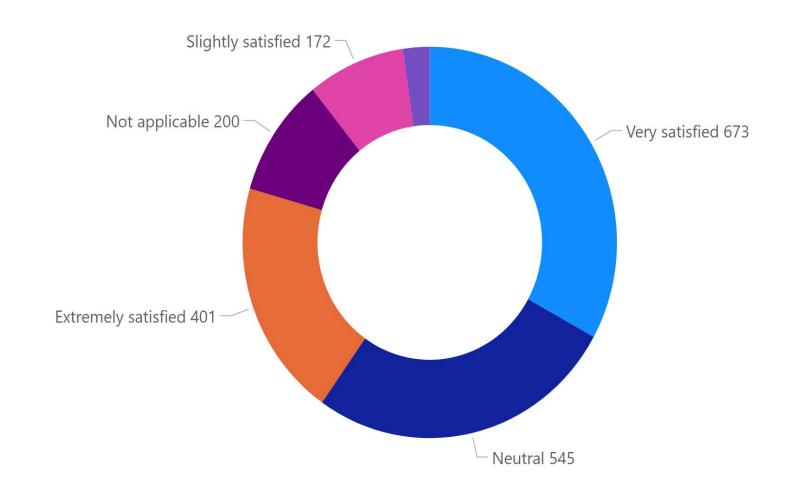
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~



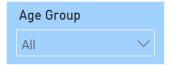


13. <u>In the last 12 months</u>, <u>how was your last experience</u> with a prevention services provider (i.e., PrEP, HIV, STI, HCV testing; Syringe Service Program; Partner Services)?



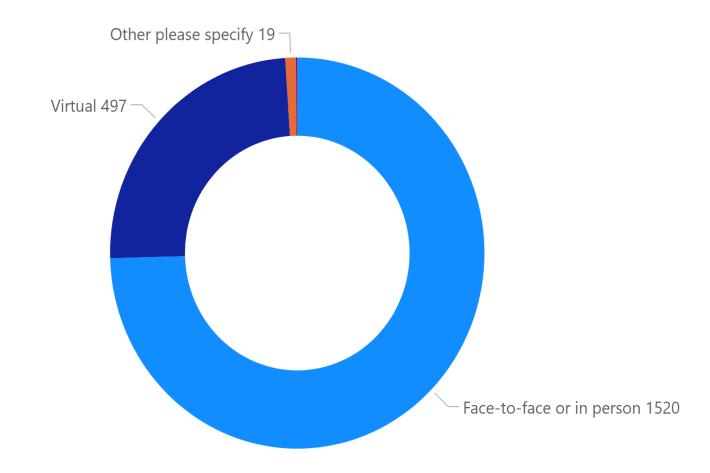
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

Race/Ethnicity Combin	ed
All	~





14. How do you prefer to receive prevention services? (select one best answer)

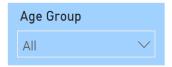


HIV Testing



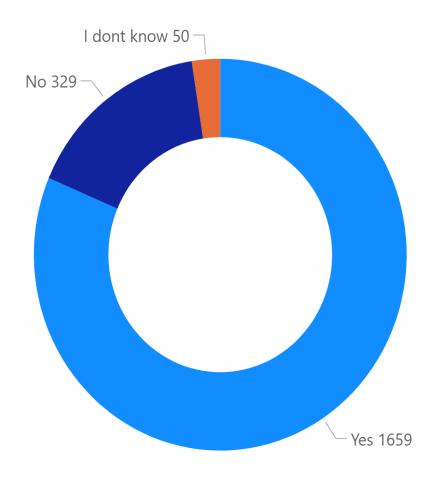
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~



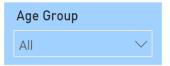


15. Have you ever been tested for HIV? (Select one best answer)



Sexual Orientation	
All	~

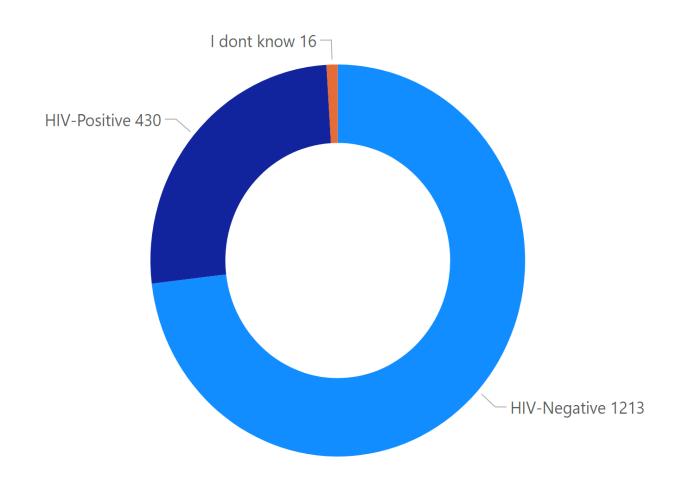
Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~





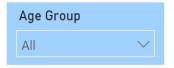
1,659Surveys

15.->16. What were your HIV test results?



Sexual Orientation	
All	~

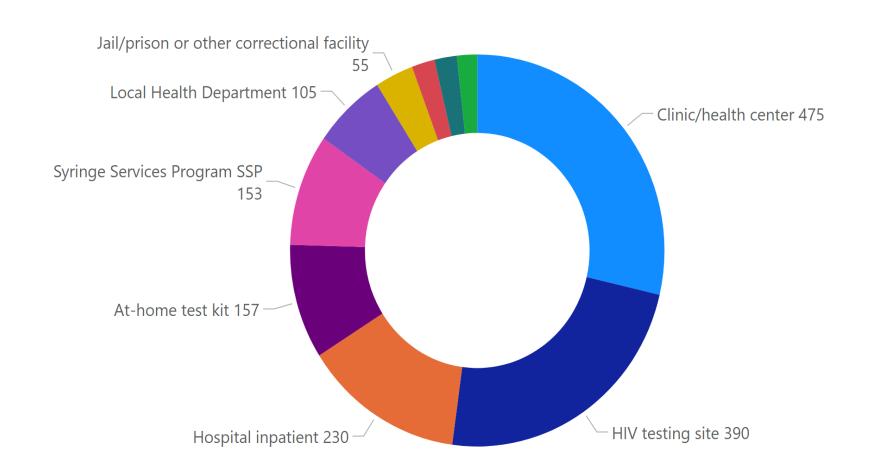
Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~





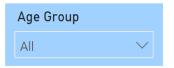
1,659
Surveys

15.->17. Where did you have your last HIV test? (Select one best answer)



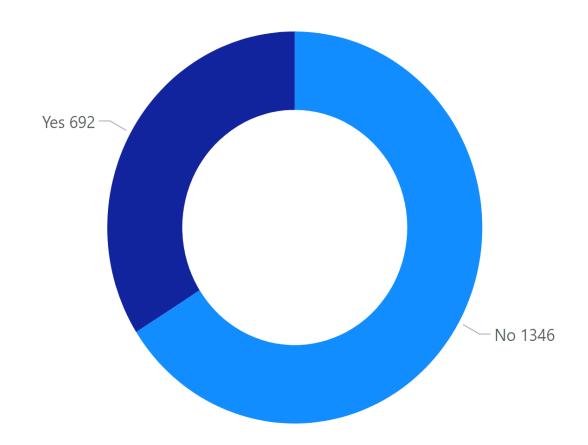
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

Race/Ethnicity Combined		
All	~	





18. Were you ever denied an HIV test? (Select the best answer)

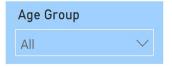


PrEP Awareness and Uptake



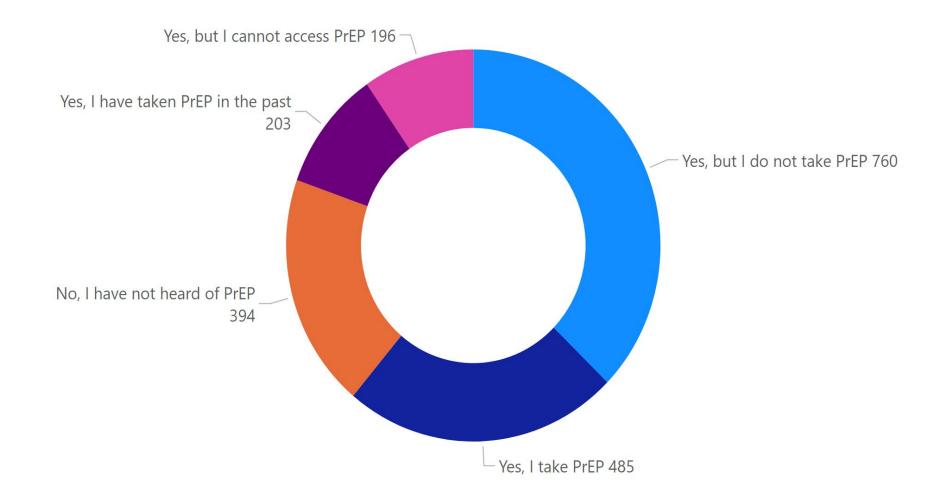
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~

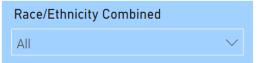


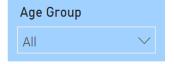


19. Have you ever heard of a medication that can keep you from getting HIV (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis - PrEP, for example Truvada or Descovy)? **(Select one best answer)**







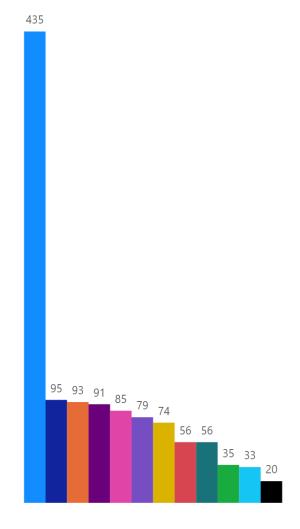




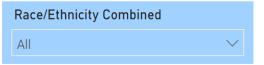
760Surveys

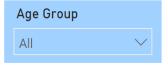
19.->20. Why do you **not take** PrEP? (Check all that apply)

- I dont think I need PrEP
- In a monogamous relationship
- Afraid partner would find out
- My doctor said I dont need it
- Afraid of side effects
- Afraid to talk to my doctor about it
- I dont know how to start PrEP
- ●I cannot afford PrEP
- Afraid my parents would find out
- ●I am HIV-positive
- People will think I sleep around
- Other reasons







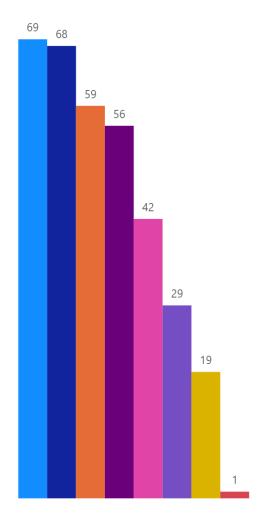


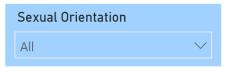


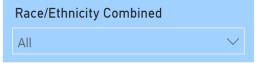
196 Surveys

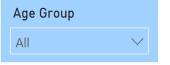
21. What has kept you from accessing PrEP? (Select all that apply)

- I can't use my insurance because of privacy concerns
- Im afraid to talk to my doctor about needing this medication
- I dont have insurance
- Im afraid my partner would find out
- I cannot find a provider to prescribe it
- I cannot afford it
- Too many labs and/or doctor visits
- Some other reason









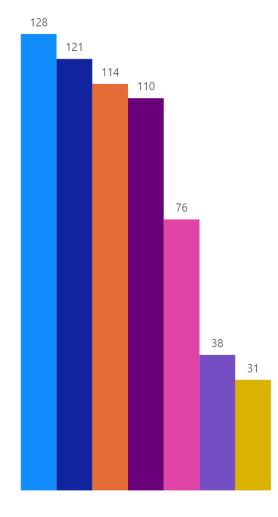


203

Surveys

19.->22. Why do you no longer take PrEP? (Select all that apply)

- Too many labs and/or doctor visits
- ●I could no longer afford PrEP
- I no longer need PrEP
- I could no longer afford labs or doctor visits
- It was hard to take a pill every day
- I no longer have insurance
- I am HIV-positive

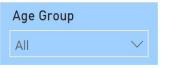


PEP Awareness and Uptake



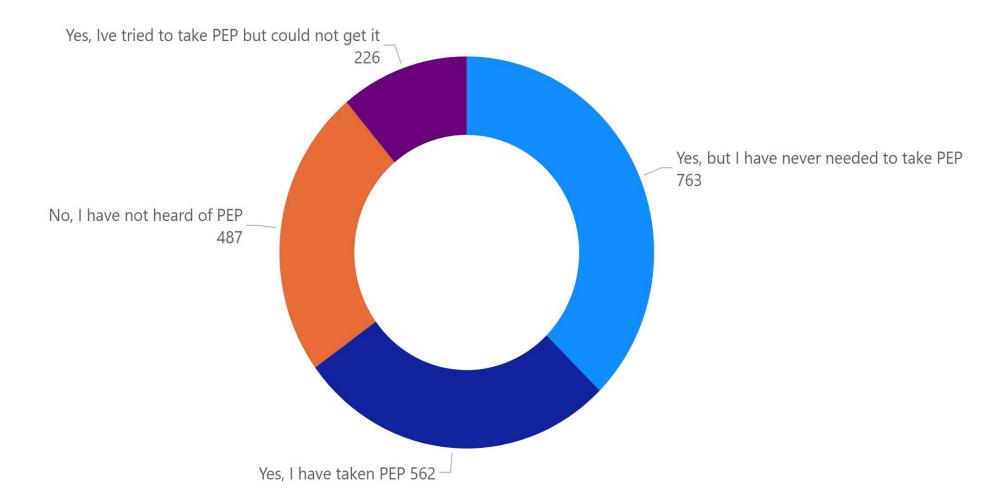
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~

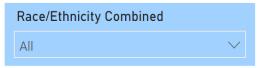


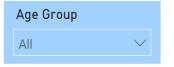


23. Have you ever heard of a medication (<u>Post-Exposure Prophylaxis or PEP</u>) that can reduce your risk of getting HIV within 72 hours of a possible exposure like sex? (**Select one best answer**)



Sexual Orientation	
All	~

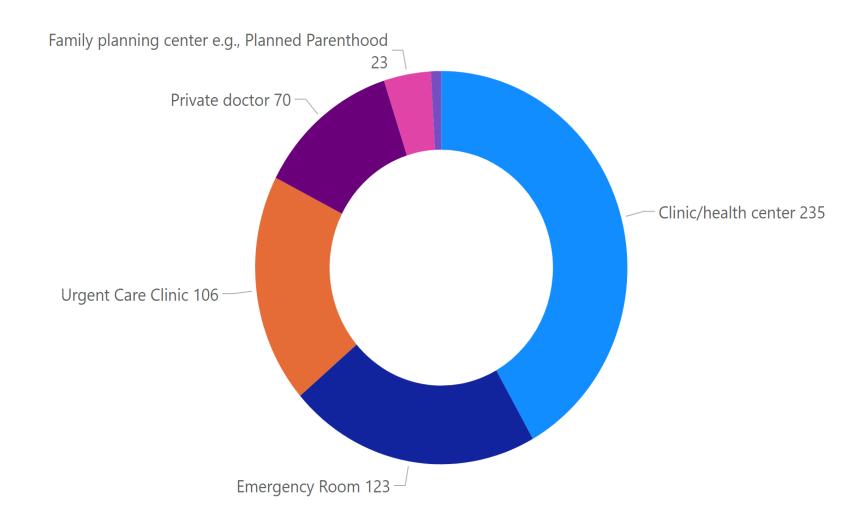






562
Surveys

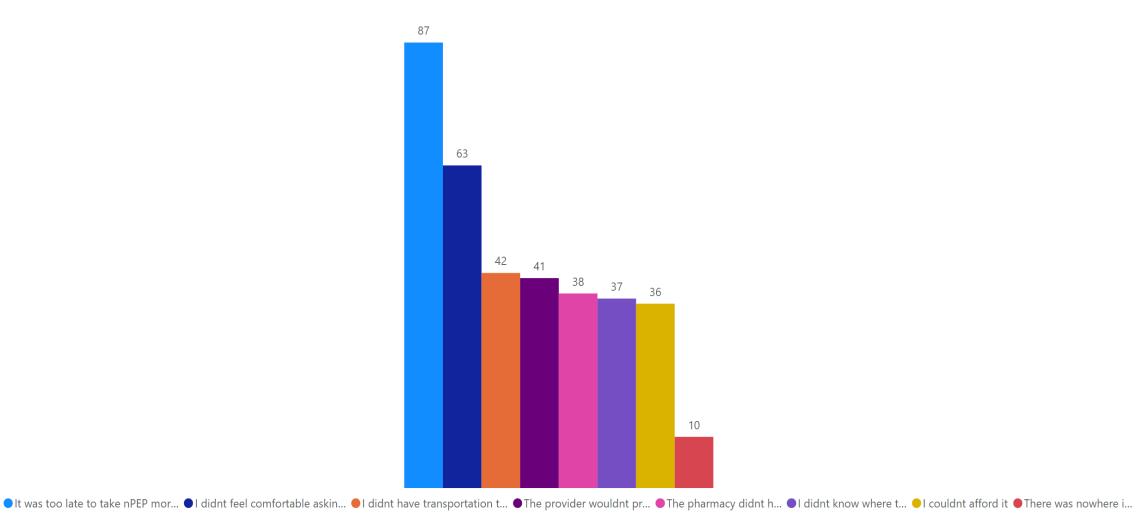
23. -> 24. Where did you access **PEP** when you took it? (Select one best answer)



226

Surveys

23. ->25. What prevented you from taking PEP when you wanted to take it, but could not? (Select all that apply)

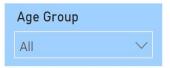


Condom Usage



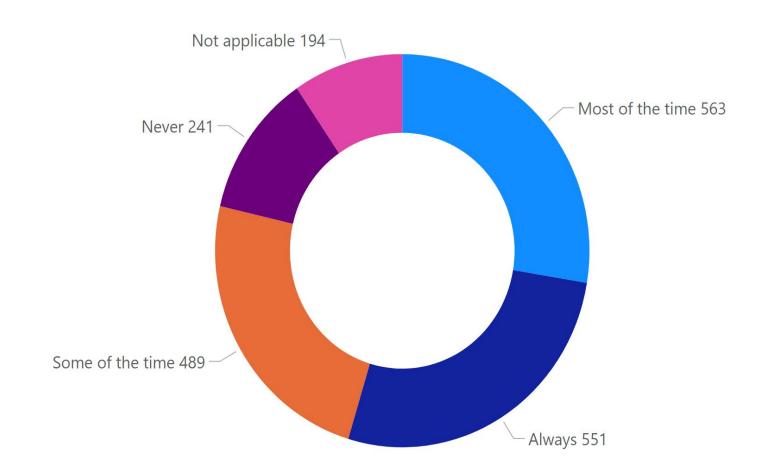
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~

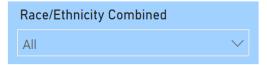


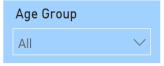


26. In the past 12 months, how often did you <u>use condoms</u> when having penetrative or insertive sex? (Select one best answer)









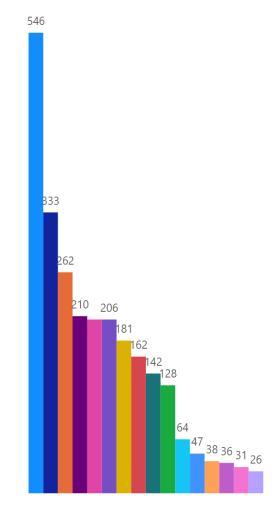


1,293Surveys

27. At least once in the past 12 months while having consensual sex, I did NOT use condoms for sex because: (Select top 3)



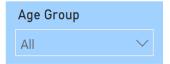
I was bottomingI was topping





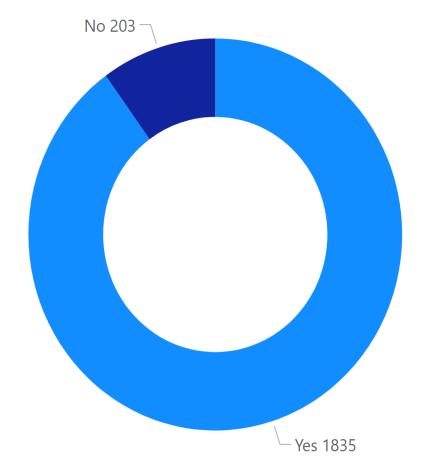








28. Do you know <u>where to get free or affordable condoms</u> and other safer sex supplies (i.e., external condoms, internal condoms (fc2), personal lubricant, oral dams, and educational materials)? <u>(Select one best answer)</u>



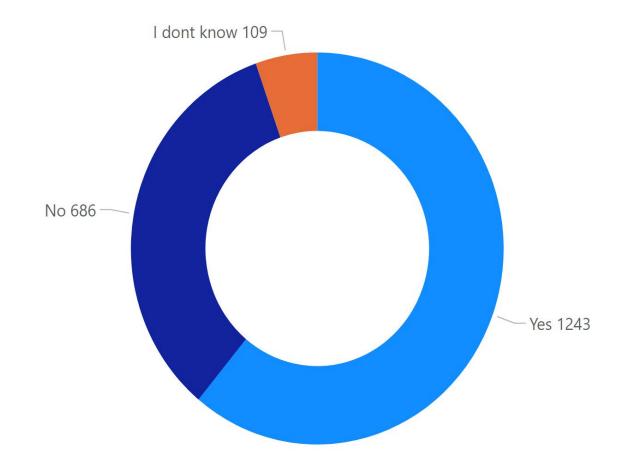
STI Testing



2,038

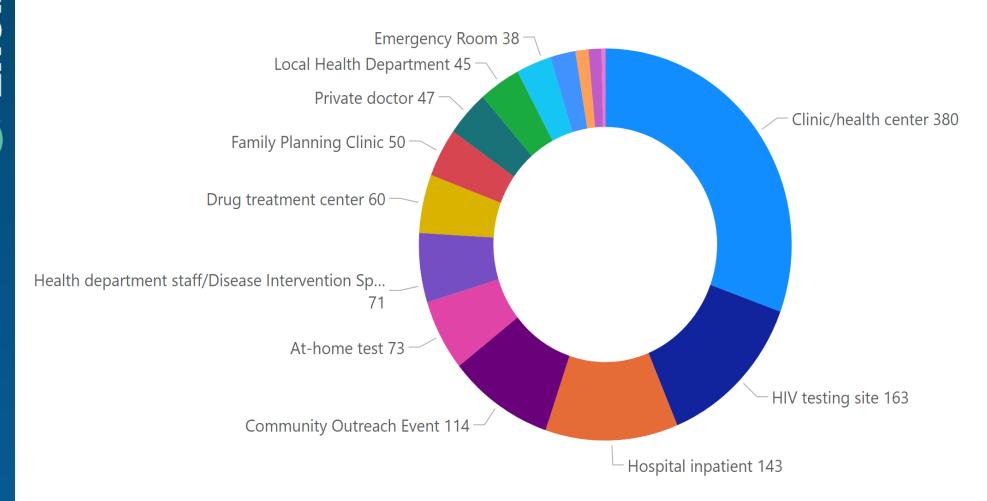
Surveys

29. In the past 12 months, were you tested for any sexually transmitted disease (e.g., chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes, genital warts (HPV), Hepatitis B)? (Select one best answer)



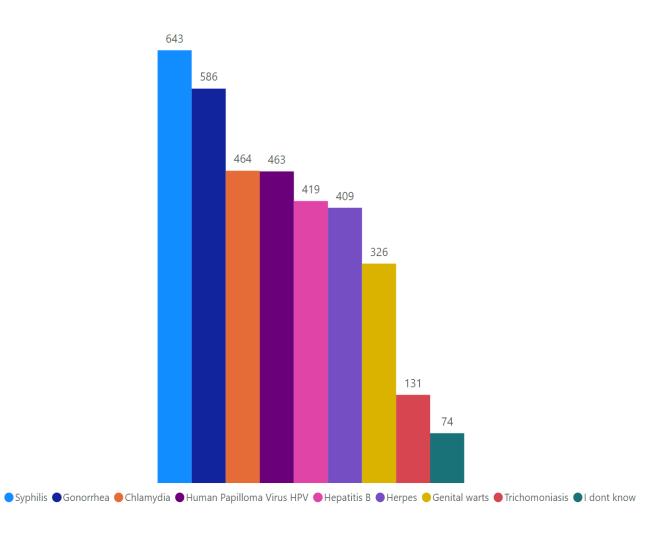
1,243
Surveys

29. -> 30. Where did you get tested? (Select one best answer)



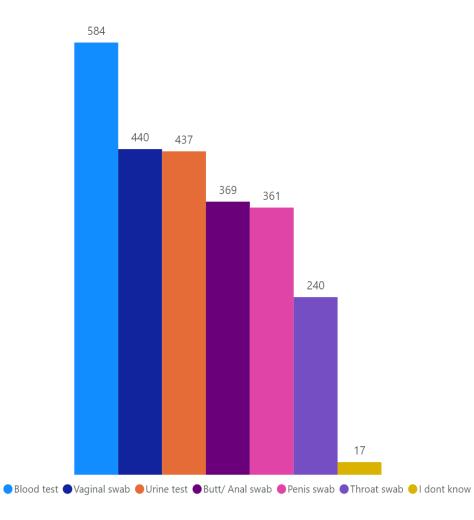
1,243Surveys

29. -> 31. In the past 12 months, which of the following were you tested for? (Check all that apply)



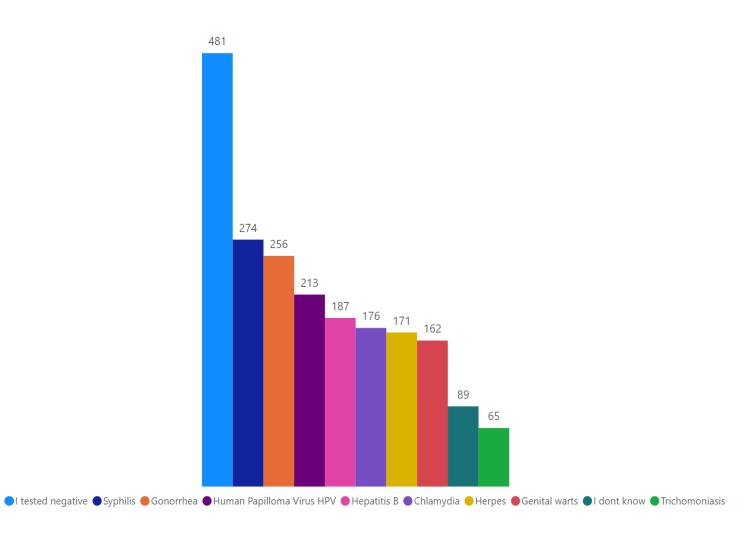
1,243Surveys

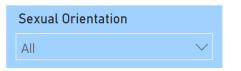
29. -> 32. How were you tested? (Check all that apply)

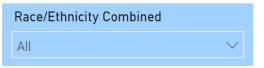


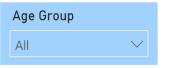
1,243Surveys

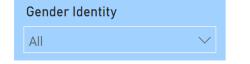
29. -> 33. In the past 12 months, did you test positive for any of the following? (Check all that apply)



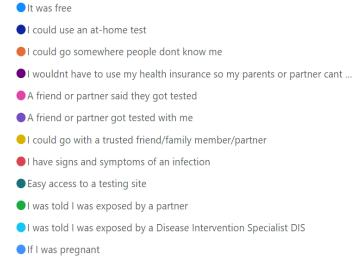


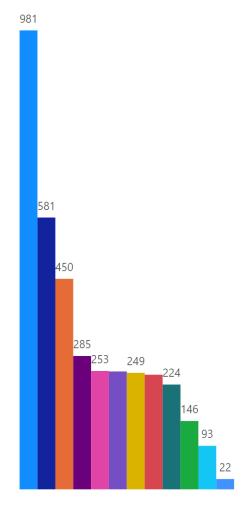






34. What would make it more likely for you to get an STI test? (Select Top 3)

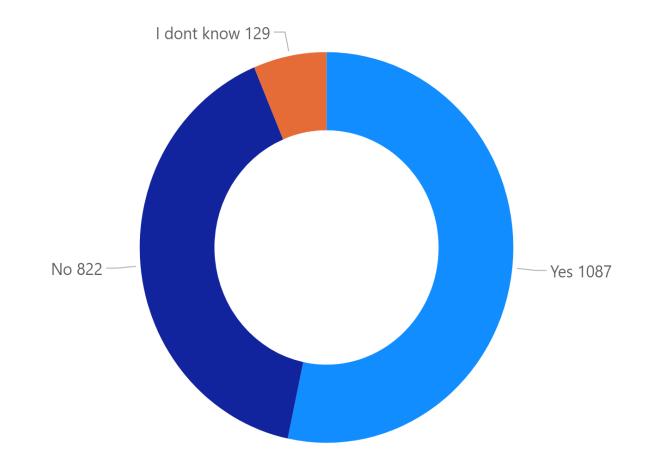




Hepatitis C

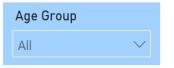


35. In the past 12 months, have you been tested for hepatitis C? (Select one best answer)



Sexual Orientation	
All	~

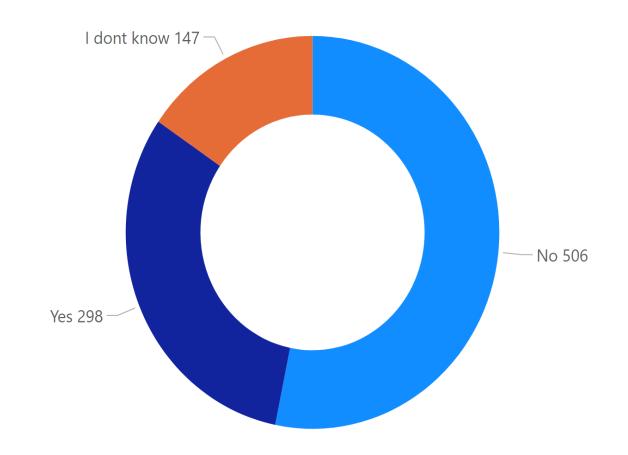
Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~





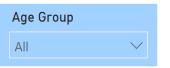
951Surveys

35. -> 36. Have you **ever been tested** for hepatitis C? **(Select one best answer)**



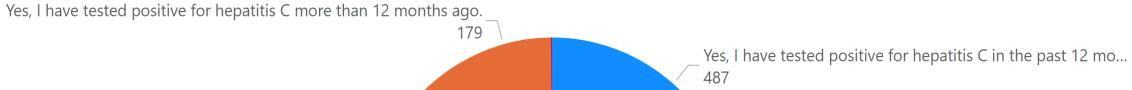
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

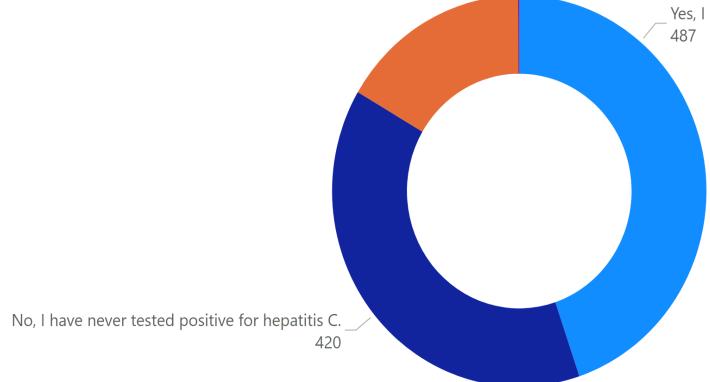
Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~





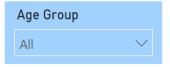
35. -> 37. Have you ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that you tested positive for hepatitis C? **(Select one best answer)**





Sexual Orientation	
All	~



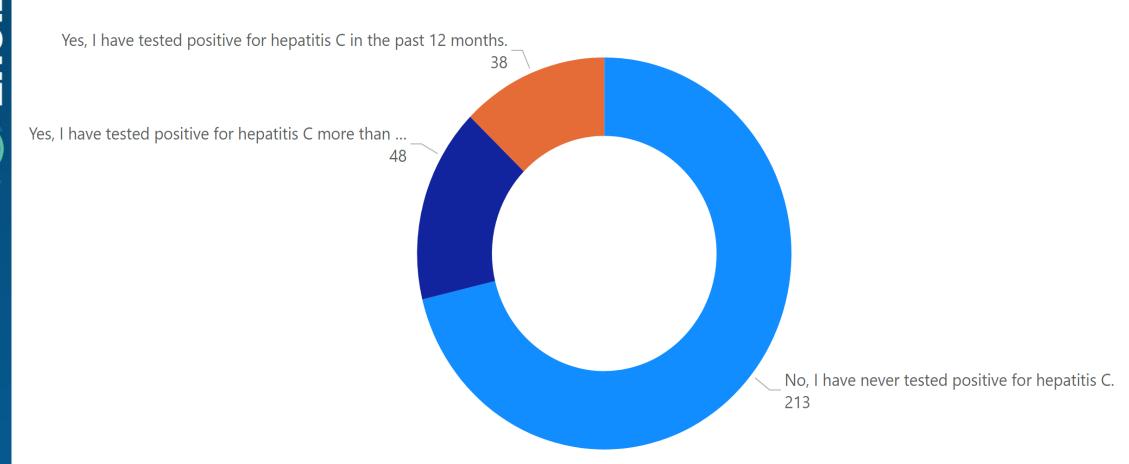




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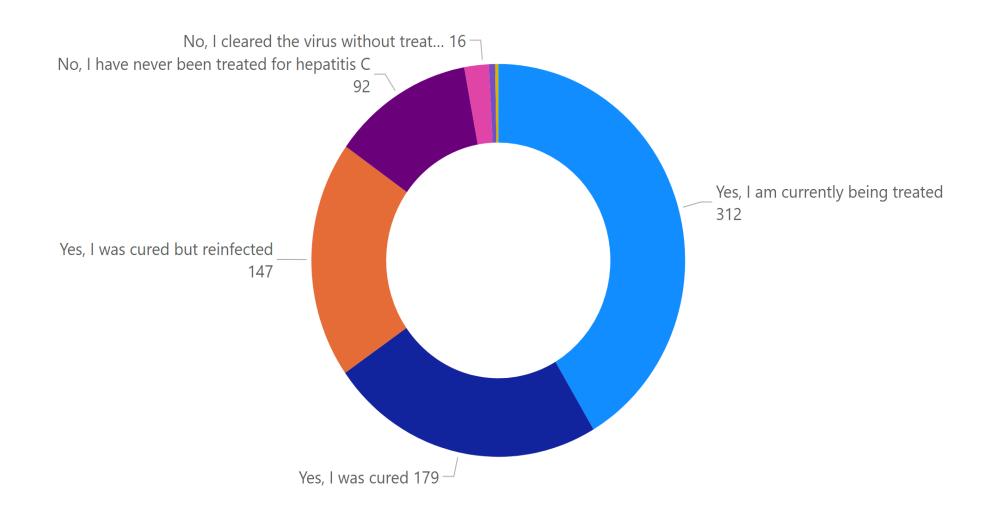
Surveys

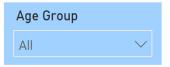
36. -> 37. Have you ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that you tested positive for hepatitis C? **(Select one best answer)**



752Surveys

37.->38. Have you ever been treated for hepatitis C? (Select one best answer)

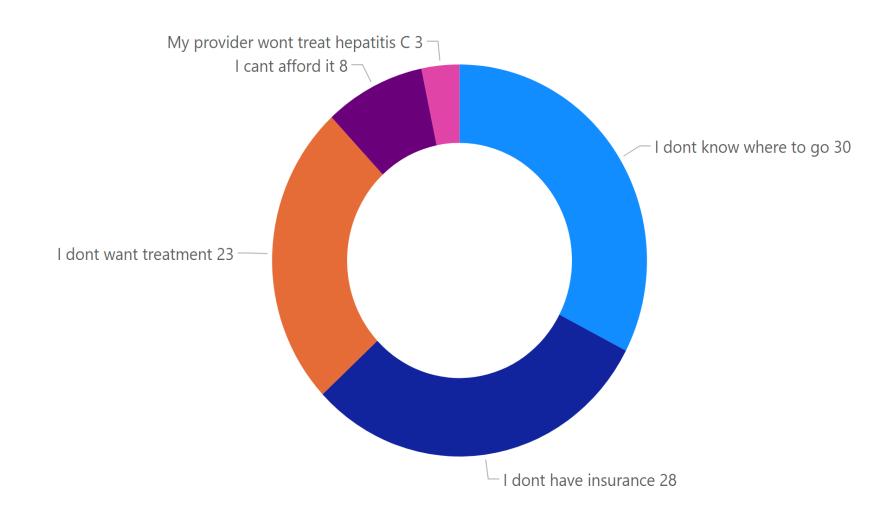






92 Surveys

38.->39. Why haven't you been treated for hepatitis C? (Select one best answer)

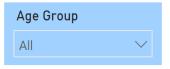


Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder



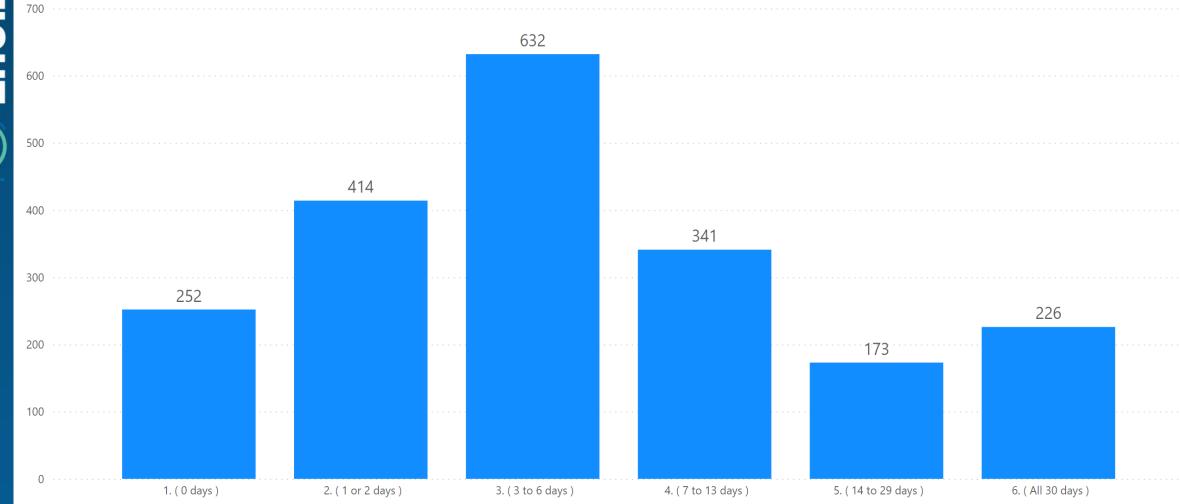
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	V





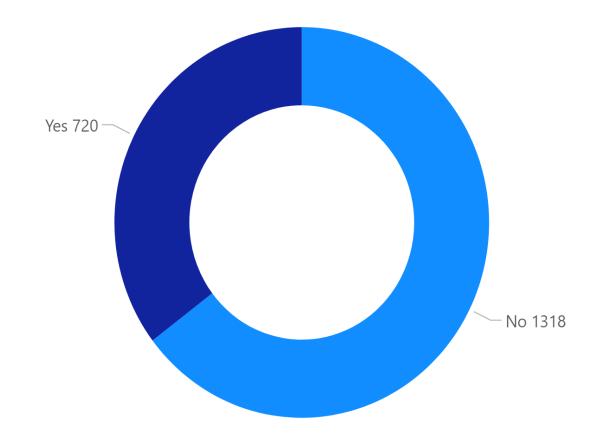
40. <u>During the past 30 days, how many days</u> did you feel stressed, depressed, hopeless, isolated, anxious, or have other emotional problems? (select one best answer)



2,038

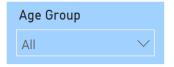
Surveys

41. **During the last 12 months**, have you had thoughts about **suicide**? **(select one best answer)**



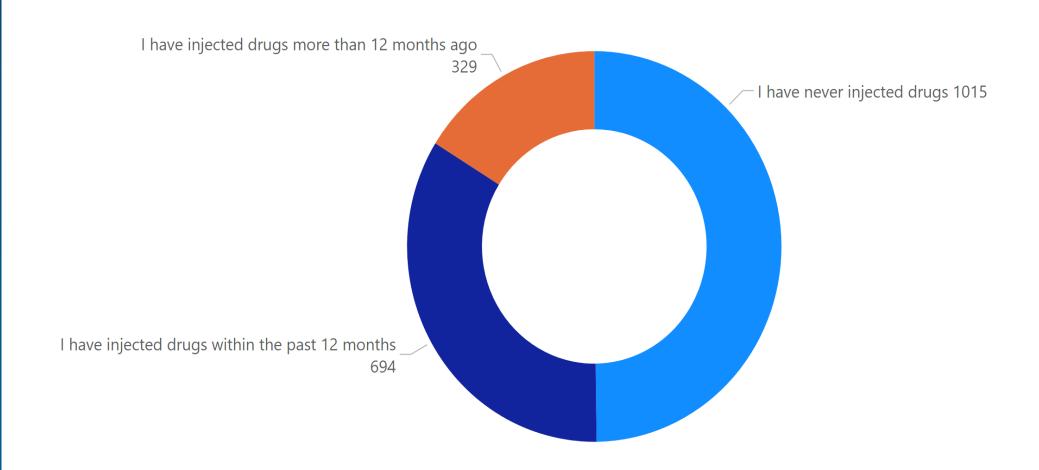
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

All	



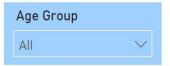


42. Which best describes you? (Select one best answer)



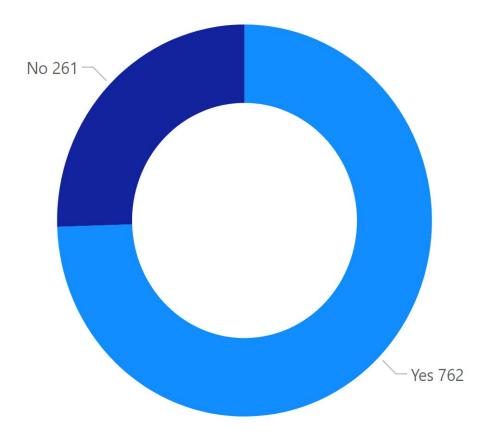
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~



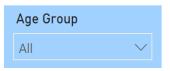


42.->43. Have you shared needles, or drug using equipment (i.e.,cookers, cotton, pipettes, straws, etc.)? (Select one best answer)



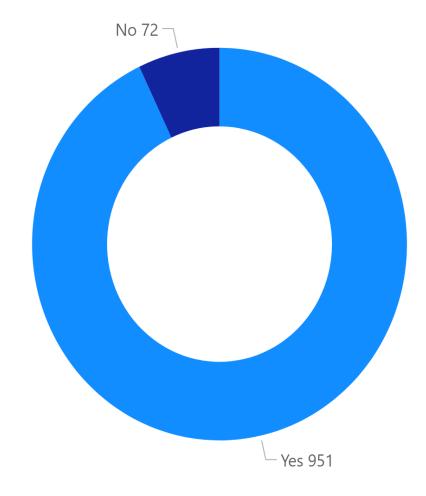
Sexual Orientation	
All	V

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~



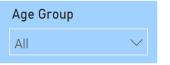


42.->44. Do you know where to access new needles/syringes? (Select one best answer)



All	~

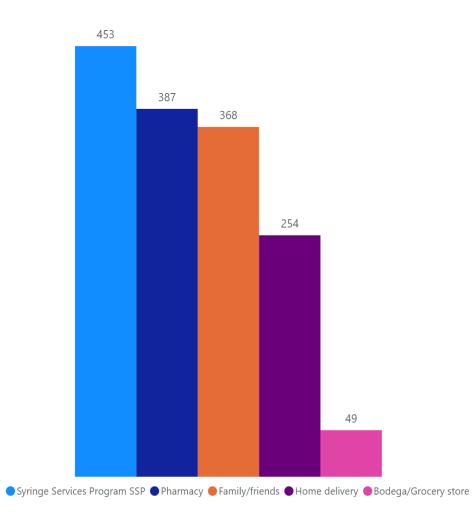
Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~





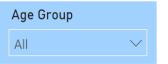
951Surveys

44.->45. Where do you access new needles/syringes? (Check all that apply)



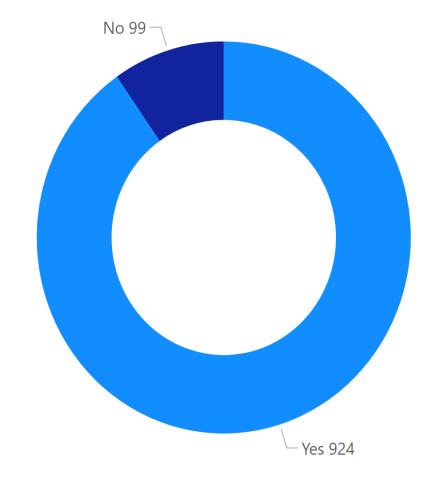
Sexual Orientation		
All	~	

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~

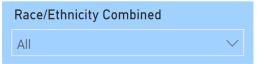


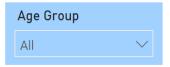


42.->46. Do you know where to **properly dispose** of used needles?





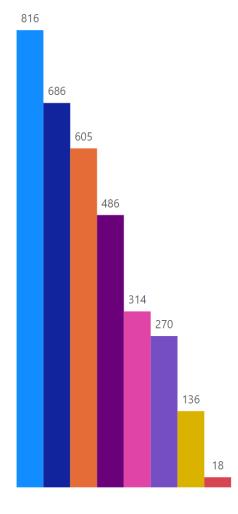






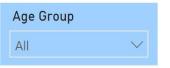
47. In the past 12 months, have you used any of these drugs? (Check all that apply)

- I have not used any of these drugs in the past 12 months
- Cannabis Marijuana, K2/spice
- Stimulants cocaine, crack, crystal meth, Adderall, Ecstasy/Molly
- Opioids Heroin, Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Morphine, Methadone, Fenta...
- Benzos Klonopin, Ativan, Valium, Xanax
- CBD over the counter or from the internet
- Steroids
- Some other drug



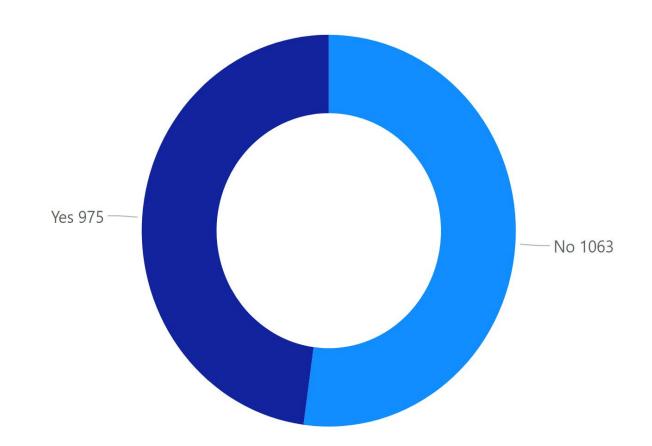
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~





48. Have you ever <u>wanted to stop using drugs</u> or has <u>someone close to you asked you to stop using drugs</u>? (Select one best answer)

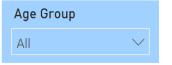


HIV Prevention Services Need



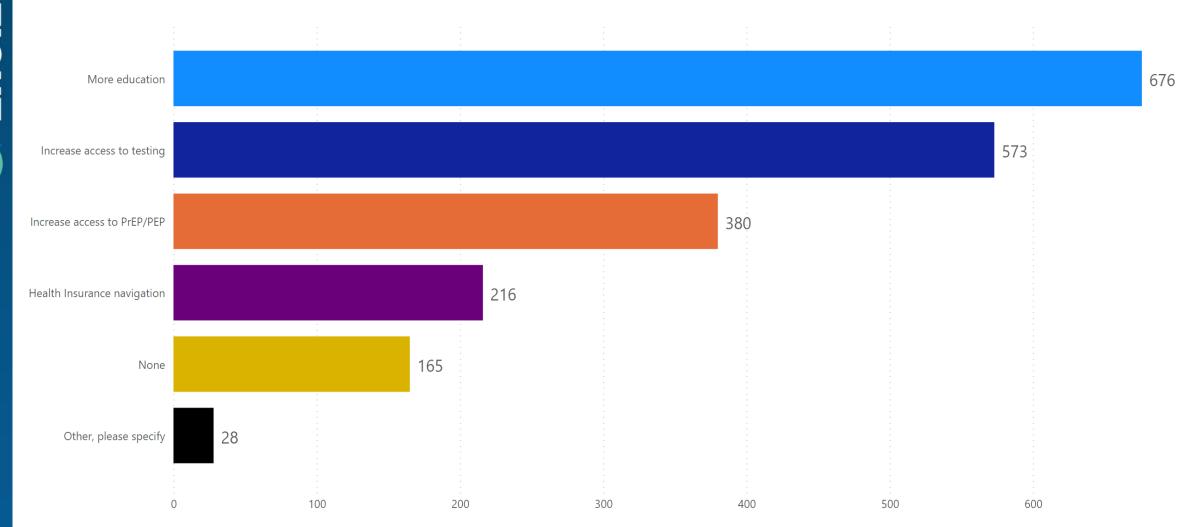
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~



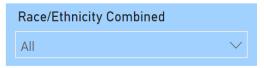


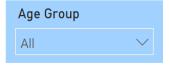
49.1 Regarding HIV prevention services needed





Sexual Orientation	
All	V



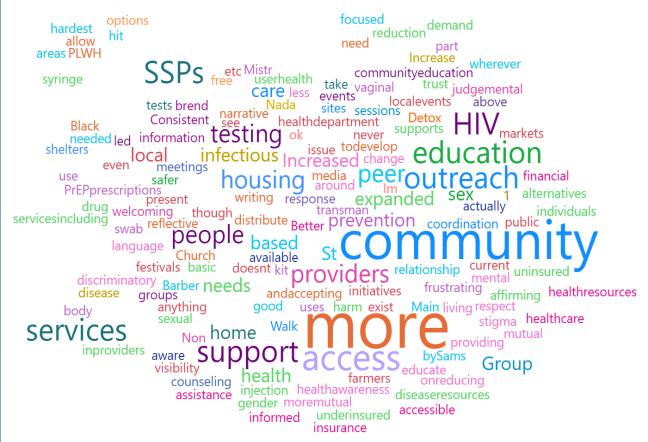




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Surveys

49.1 Regarding HIV prevention services needed (Other)



Other, please specify:

.

All of the above

Better informed healthcare providers, more accessible community healthresources, more health insurance and financial assistance

Consistent brend information to the people

Detox

Group meetings, counseling on prevention with SSPs

Group sessions, community outreach on education

Housing and basic needs supports, expanded harm reduction services including injection alternatives, gender-affirming care access, trust inproviders, NEEDS-BASED, on-demand syringe access and other drug userhealth services, expanded access to sexual health and infectious diseaseresources for uninsured and underinsured individuals

Housing, outreach

Im ok

Increase access to infectious disease providers

Increased access to testing, education

Increased community support with people living with HIV, educate onreducing stigma and providing mutual support, peer-to-peer mental healthawareness, change language around HIV to be less discriminatory, moremutual respect

Local HIV prevention services use Mistr for at-home testing and PrEPprescriptions. However, the kit does not have a vaginal swab. As a transman who uses that part of my body for sex, it was frustrating.

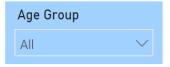
More education and more free options

More shelters and housing

More SSPs that are peer-based and have good relationship with community, focused on

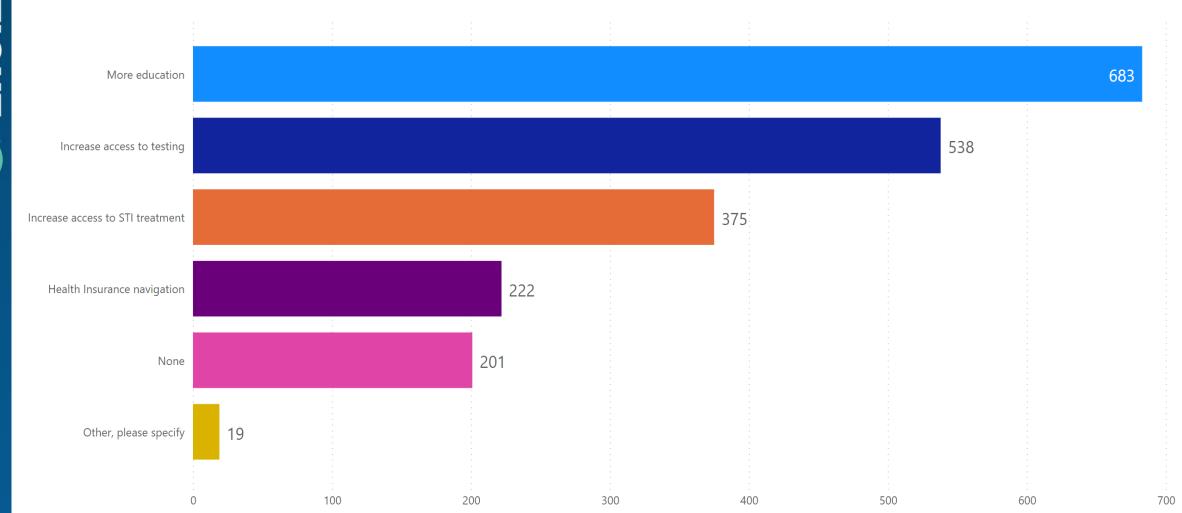
Sexual Orientation	
All	~

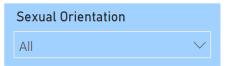
Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~

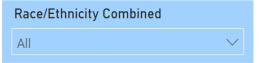


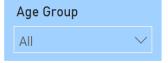


49.2 Regarding STI prevention services needed







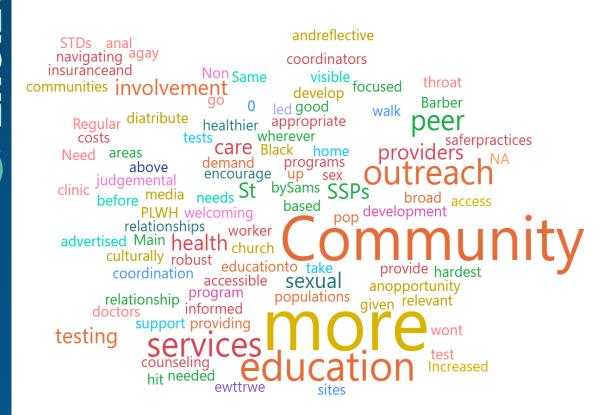




2,038

Surveys

49.2 Regarding STI prevention services needed (Other)



Other, please specify:

Same as before, just needs to be more visible and advertised.

Regular doctors wont test for throat and anal STDs. Need to go to agay clinic.

PLWH from the Black community with the church should be given anopportunity to develop and diatribute media culturally relevant andreflective of their communities

Peer-to-peer or community-to-community led education

Non-judgemental and welcoming providers

no

NA

More walk in care coordination services at community sites, outreach

More take home tests SSPs with more support services

More SSPs that are peer-based and have good relationship with community, focused on areas where services are most needed - Barber St, Main St bySams, wherever is hit hardest

More sexual health education, encourage healthier sexual relationships

More informed providers who can provide appropriate counseling on saferpractices, more accessible care coordinators for navigating insuranceand costs, more robust sex worker health services and programs

Increased access to testing, more education

ewttrwe

Community outreach and involvement in program development

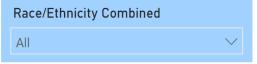
Community outreach and education

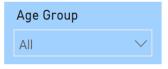
Community involvement in outreach/education, providing broad education to all populations, pop-up on-demand testing

All of the above

0

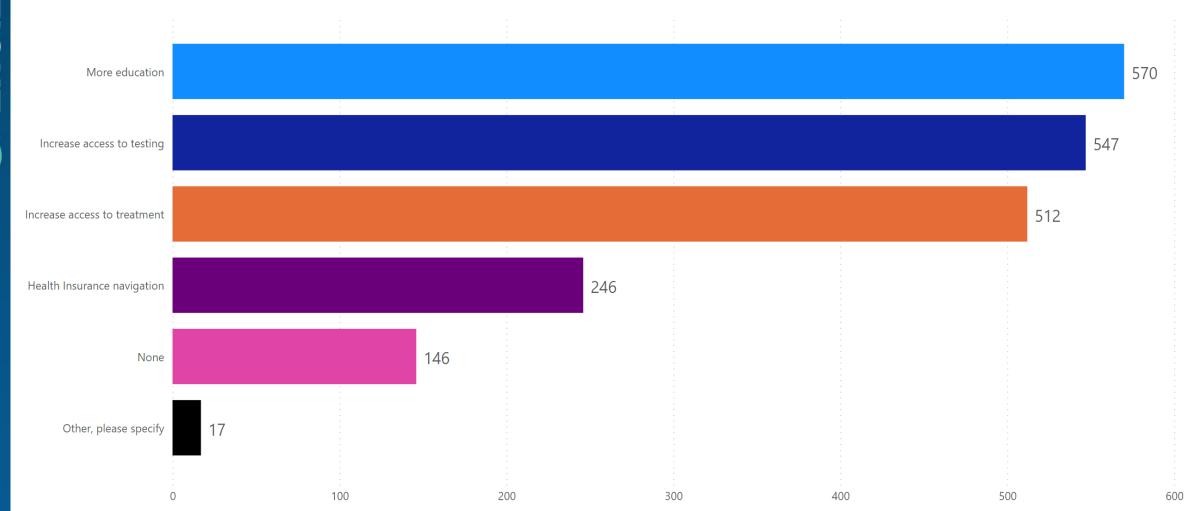
Sexual Orientation	
All	~





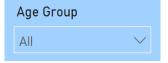


49.3 Regarding Hepatitis C prevention services needed





Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~





2,038

Surveys

49.3 Regarding Hepatitis C prevention services needed (Other)



Other, please specify

0

Again they eed to allow the Black community and the church to debelopand distribute information for their communities

All of the above

Free condos

Hope

Increased testing, education

More SSPs that are peer-based and have good relationship with community, focused on areas where services are most needed - Barber St, Main St by Sams, wherever is hit hardest

More take home tests SSPs with more support services

More walk in care coordination services at community sites, outreach

Na

Nothing

SSP and injection alternative needs-based services and education, options for viral testing and treatment following free antibodyscreening that are free, accessible, and low-barrier. Reduce need foroff-site referrals to infectious disease providers

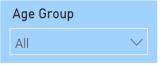
STIGMA REDUCTION

Talk to everyone - provide broad outreach and education, resource lists

The Syringe program I go to in New London, CT is terrific. Sincehaving access to their injection supplies I havent gotten anyinfections and abscesses. Theyre also the reason that when I got Hep Cthe 2nd time it went away on its own- because I had access to cleanneedles and was no longer sharing needles. I used to avoid going topharmacies to purchase needles because of the socialanxiety/embarrassment/shame I felt. The people at Alliance For Livingmake me feel comfortable asking them anything and theyre all so niceand helpful. I feel accepted there as I am. I never feel judged. Theyve showed me that there are SOME people/organizations out therethat care

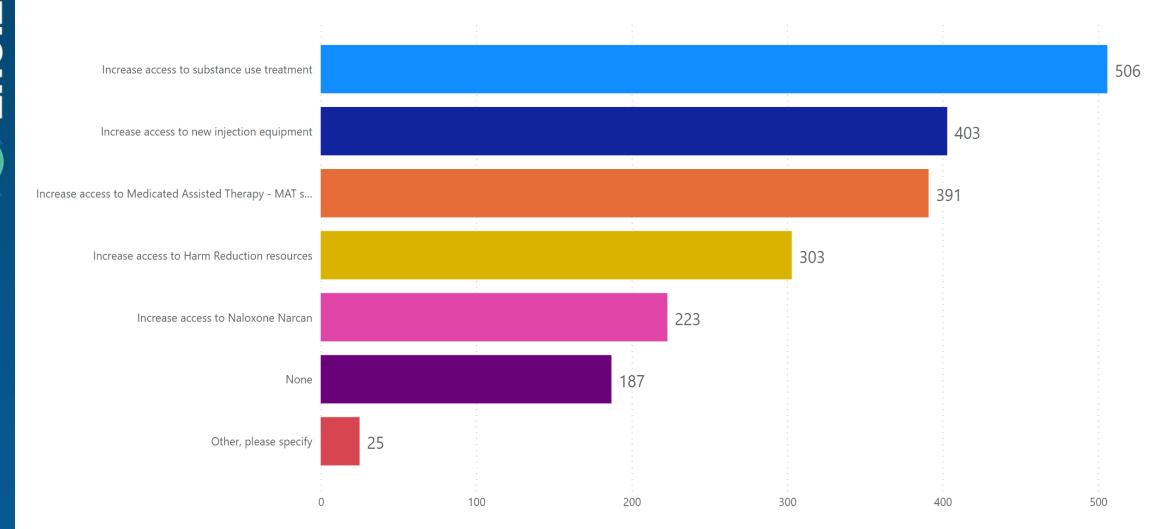
Sexual Orientation	
All	V

Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~



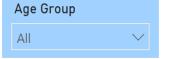


49.4 Regarding substance use disorder services needed





Race/Ethnicity Combined	
All	~





2,038

Surveys

49.3 Regarding substance use disorder services needed (Other)



Other, please specify:

0

Accessible methadone, less waiting

All of the above

All of the above - education

All of the aboved

Dont enable

Education

Expanded harm reduction services including basic needs services,injection alternatives as well as education, training and accountability with shelter and housing providers. Drug user unions and meaningfulpeer work certifications and opportunities to educate healthcare and social service providers and inform policy. Deregulation and expanded availability of methadone.

Housing supports, SROs, more supportive transitional housing options, better counseling resources to help with transition

I personally have a very hard time getting help when I want to due tonot being considered a priority with my addiction being tocrack. I am constantly told there is no need for detox so have to be puton a waiting list for the 28 day inpatient programs that are usuallymonths long that are hard to focus in being my priority

im not sure

Improved access to treatment for people who are on the street, havelimited resources

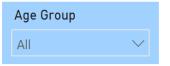
Increase access to mental health and other service

Increased drug checking abilities eg. FTIR at little to no cost.Offering low threshold MAT especially in prisons. Working with SSPs toget safer smoking supplies.

Mejorar IA salud

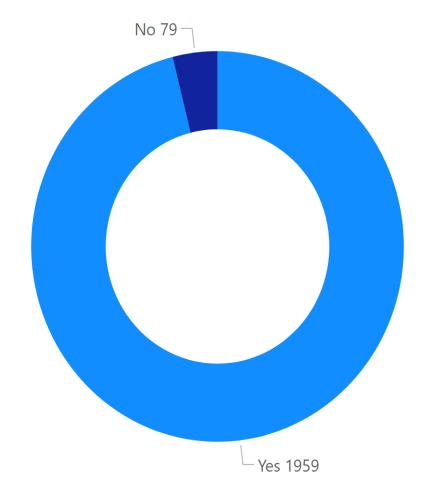
More education

More promotional material





50. <u>If you would like to receive this gift card</u>, please select <u>'Yes.'</u>



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PPH Connected Operations of Public Health

Conclusion

HIV Testing:

- •A high percentage of participants (81%) reported having received an HIV test in their lifetime, with 73% testing HIV-negative.
- •Clinic/health centers (28%) and HIV testing sites (23%) were the most common locations for HIV testing.
- •Approximately one-third of participants (33%) reported being denied an HIV test at some point.

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP):

- •While majority of participants (80%) had heard of PrEP, only 23% were currently taking it.
- •The main reasons for not taking PrEP were not perceiving the need for it (57%) and concerns about privacy and insurance (35%).

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP):

- •Most participants (76%) had heard of PEP, with 27% reporting previous use.
- •Difficulties in accessing PEP were reported by 11% of participants, including being outside the 72-hour window period (38%) and discomfort discussing it with healthcare providers (27%).

STI Testing:

- •Sixty percent of participants reported being tested for any STI within the last 12 months.
- •A considerable proportion (20%) of participants tested positive for gonorrhea or syphilis in the last year.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Conclusion Continued

Hepatitis C Testing:

- •53% of participants (1,087) reported being tested for Hepatitis C.
- •40% (822) reported not being tested, and 6% (129) were unsure of their testing status.

Previous Hepatitis C Testing:

•Among those not tested in the past 12 months and those unsure, 31% (298) reported being tested more than 12 months ago, and 53% (506) reported never being tested.

Hepatitis C Testing Results:

•Of those tested in the past 12 months, 44% (487) tested positive, 16% (179) tested positive more than 12 months ago, and 38% (420) never tested positive.

Previous Hepatitis C Testing Results:

•Among those tested more than 12 months ago, 71% (213) never tested positive, 16% (48) tested positive more than 12 months ago, and 12% (38) tested positive in the past 12 months.

Hepatitis C Treatment:

•Among those testing positive for Hepatitis C, 41% (312) are currently receiving treatment, 23% (179) reported being cured, 19% (147) reported being cured but reinfected, 2% (16) reported clearing the virus on their own, and 12% (92) reported never receiving treatment.

Reasons for Not Receiving Hepatitis C Treatment:

•Among those who never received treatment, reasons include not knowing where to go (32%, 30), not having insurance (30%, 28), and not wanting treatment (25%, 23).

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Conclusion Continued

Mental Health:

- •31% (632) reported feeling stressed, depressed, hopeless, isolated, or anxious for 3 to 6 days out of 30.
- •35% (720) reported having suicidal thoughts in the last 12 months, while 65% (1,318) did not report having such thoughts.

Substance Use Disorder:

- •49% (1,015) reported never injecting drugs, while 34% (694) reported injecting drugs in the past 12 months, and 16% (329) reported injecting drugs more than 12 months ago.
- •Among those who injected drugs, 74% (762) indicated sharing drug-using equipment, with 92% (951) knowing where to access new needles and syringes.
- •90% (924) of participants who injected drugs reported knowing how to dispose of used needles properly.

Drug Use:

- •40% (816) reported never using drugs, 33% (686) reported using cannabis or K2, and 29% (605) reported using stimulants.
- •When asked if they wanted to stop using drugs, 52% (1,063) said No, and 47% (975) said Yes.

Next Steps

Review the **entire** slide deck for a more in-depth look at the Prevention Needs
Assessment Survey

Recommend that the next meeting include a presentation on the strategies that CHPC will implement into the Integrated Plan based on these results and agreed-upon recommendations.

Share feedback and additional recommendations that DPH and partners can implement as part of the statusneutral care model in Connecticut.







The End

Contact Luis Diaz for any questions regarding the 2022 HIV Prevention Needs Assessment Survey by email at luis.diaz@ct.gov or by phone at 860-509-7418

Additional **crosstabulations**can be made for anyone looking
to dive deeper into the data.
Please reach out to Luis Diaz for
additional information.

