

## BACKGROUND & AIMS

- Coinfection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) is common due to shared risk factors
- Although injection drug use is a known risk factor for both HIV and HCV, little is known about the prevalence of these infections among non-injecting drug users
- The majority of published literature on the prevalence of HIV and HCV infection in non-injection drug users have focused on men
- The aims of this study were
  - To determine the prevalence of HIV, HCV, and HIV-HCV coinfection among women substance abusers admitted to a residential substance abuse treatment facility in New York City
  - To compare the prevalence rates of HIV, HCV, and coinfection among these women to those of men in the same treatment facility
  - To evaluate whether intranasal use of cocaine is associated with higher prevalence rates of these infections among the subgroup of women who have never injected drugs

## METHODS

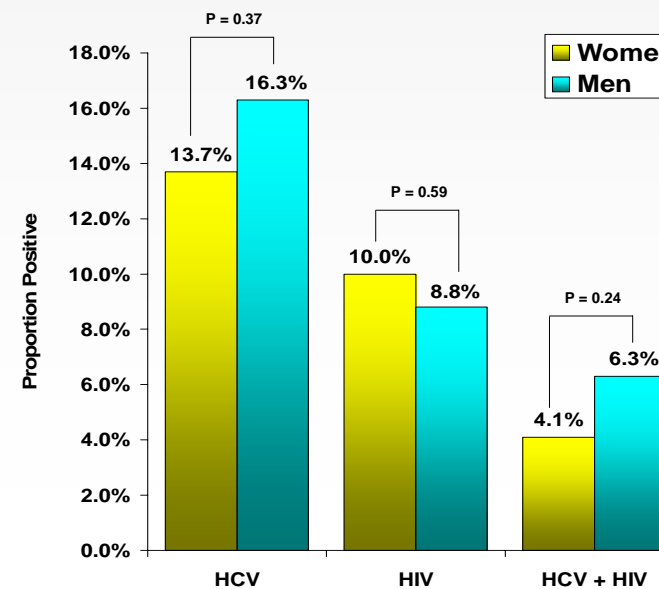
- We reviewed the medical records of 709 men and women admitted over a one-year period to Odyssey House, a residential substance abuse treatment facility in New York City
- All residents who were admitted over the year were eligible and no patients were excluded from this study
- As part of their routine admission evaluation, all subjects admitted to Odyssey House underwent a detailed standardized medical, psychiatric, and substance abuse evaluation
- HCV and HIV testing was performed at the time of admission
- Persons were considered HCV or HIV positive if they had a positive antibody test and had virus detected by PCR

## RESULTS

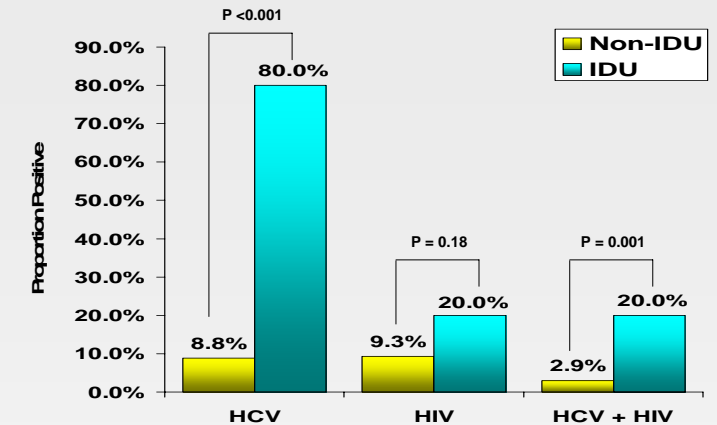
### Baseline Characteristics of the 709 Study Subjects

	Women (n = 219)	Men (n = 490)	P-Value
Age, years*	31.8 ± 9.7	33.0 ± 13.3	0.16
Race/ethnicity			0.008
Non-Hispanic white	19 (8.7%)	39 (8.0%)	
Non-Hispanic black	140 (63.9%)	258 (52.7%)	
Hispanic or Latino	52 (23.7%)	180 (36.7%)	
Other	8 (3.7%)	13 (2.7%)	
Referred from the Criminal Justice System	112 (51.1%)	299 (61.0%)	0.01
Incarcerated within the last 30 days	59 (26.9%)	197 (40.2%)	0.001
Years of education completed†	11.0 (10.0 – 12.0)	11.0 (10.0 – 12.0)	0.16
Major substance abused			<0.001
Cocaine	104 (47.5%)	143 (29.2%)	
Marijuana	35 (16.0%)	114 (23.3%)	
Polysubstance	37 (16.9%)	109 (22.2%)	
Heroin	29 (13.2%)	82 (16.7%)	
Alcohol	11 (5.0%)	32 (6.5%)	
Other	3 (1.4%)	10 (2.0%)	
Ever injected drugs	15 (6.8%)	50 (10.2%)	0.15

### Prevalence of HCV and HIV Among the 709 Subjects



### Prevalence of HCV and HIV Among Women Stratified by History of Injection Drug Use (IDU)



- Of the 219 women
  - HCV infection was highest among Hispanics (17.3%) and lowest among blacks (12.1%)
  - HIV infection was highest in “other” racial groups (12.5%) and lowest among Hispanics (7.7%)
- Among the 204 women who have never injected drugs, 76 (37.2%) reported current or prior intranasal use of cocaine and/or heroin
- In women non-injecting drug users, the prevalence of HCV infection was significantly higher in individuals that have used intranasal cocaine or heroin compared with those that have never used these substances (15.8% vs. 4.7%, p = 0.007)
- In contrast, the prevalence of HIV infection among women non-injection drug users did not differ between those who did and those that did not use intranasal cocaine and/or heroin (11.7% vs. 5.3%, p = 0.12)

## CONCLUSIONS

- The prevalence of HIV, HCV, and HIV-HCV coinfection among women substance abusers is high and is similar to that of men
- Both men and women substance abusers should be routinely offered HIV and HCV testing, even if they have never injected drugs