What do we know about young people in California with hepatitis C?

Of people 15-29 years of age with hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in 8 California counties in 2018:

- Females and males were similarly likely to have ever injected drugs (73% vs. 69% of drug users) ...but males were 37% more likely to have ever shared injection equipment.
- 27% had a history of incarceration for more than 24 hours.
- Only 2% received antiviral treatment for their HCV.
- Just one in three thought they were at risk for HCV prior to diagnosis.

Injection drug use was the most commonly reported risk factor.

- 44% reported meth as their drug of choice.

Among those who ever injected drugs...

- 83% witnessed an overdose.
- 63% ever had access to naloxone while injecting.
- 44% needed naloxone during an overdose but did not have it.

How can we help people at risk for HCV?

- Sterile syringes at local pharmacies or syringe programs: bit.ly/findsyringes
- HCV testing and referrals to care: calhep.org/referral-guide
- Naloxone and overdose prevention training: bit.ly/HRCoalition

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