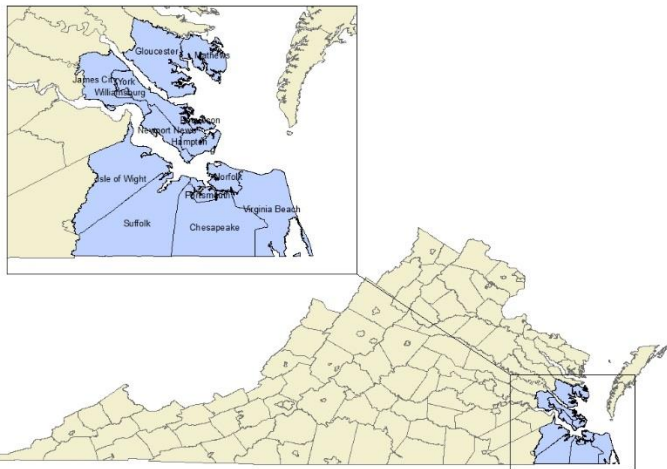


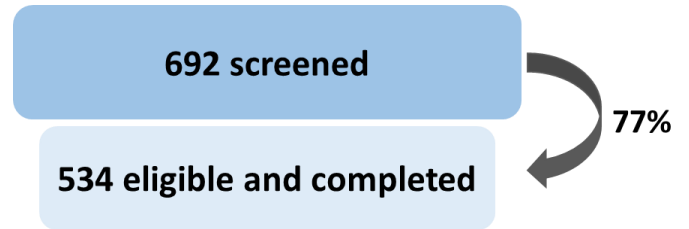
National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS) is a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) project that collects behavioral data and conducts anonymous HIV testing among persons at increased risk for HIV¹. NHBS collects data in 19 project areas with high prevalence of HIV. Each site rotates data collection among three key populations: men who have sex with men (MSM), persons who inject drugs (PWID), and heterosexual persons at increased risk of HIV infection (HET). Virginia conducts NHBS activities in the Hampton Roads Metropolitan Statistical Area (Hampton Roads MSA)— Figure 1. NHBS participants answer sociodemographic, behavioral, and health-related questions during an interview, and are offered a test. Those who agree to HIV testing, receive an HIV test. This fact sheet presents data for PWID in Virginia who completed the 2022 NHBS interview.

Figure 1. Hampton Roads Metropolitan Statistical Area (Hampton Roads MSA)



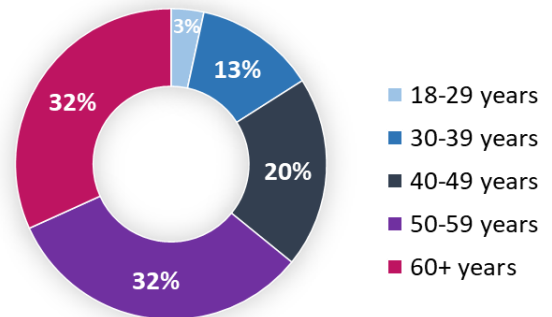
In 2022, NHBS participants were recruited through a process called respondent driven sampling, in which participants recruit other people they know to take part. All interviews were conducted remotely, by videoconference, from July–December 2022. Individuals were eligible to complete the NHBS survey and receive HIV testing if they lived in the Hampton Roads MSA, were aged 18 years or older, had not previously participated in NHBS during the current survey cycle, reported injection drug use in the past 12 months, and could provide informed consent and complete the survey². Virginia NHBS screened 692 persons for participation, of whom 534 were eligible and completed the survey (77%) — Figure 2. The remainder of this fact sheet will focus on the 543 PWID participants who completed the survey.

Figure 2. NHBS Eligibility, Hampton Roads MSA, 2022



SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS
Among the 543 participants, the majority lived in either Norfolk (60%) or Newport News (26%). Sixty-nine percent of participants identified as male and 31% identified as female. The majority of participants were black (79%); 15% were white, 2% were Hispanic, and 4% reported some other race. Participants ranged in age from 19 to 76 years, and the median age was 54 years. Persons aged 50 to 59 years represented 32% of the sample — Figure 3. Nearly half of participants had completed high school or received a GED (43%) and an additional 38% reported less than a high school education. At the time of the NHBS survey, 32% of participants reported being unemployed, 30% reported being unable to work for health reasons, and 22% reported being employed (11% full time, 11% part time). Forty-nine percent of participants reported homelessness in the past 12 months and 22% of participants who have ever been incarcerated reported incarceration at some point in the past 12 months.

Figure 3. Age Among PWID Sample, Hampton Roads MSA, 2022



HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE AND HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION
Fifteen percent of participants reported that they did not have health insurance at the time of the survey. Among the 85% of participants who reported having insurance, 80% had Medicaid, 23% had Medicare, 4% had Veterans Administration, 2% had private insurance, 2% had some other government plan, less than 1% had TRICARE/CHAMPUS, and less than 1% reported other insurance. The majority of participants (93%) reported having a usual place where they can go when sick or in need of health-related advice: a hospital emergency room (41%), doctor’s office or HMO (29%), clinic or health center (24%), or some other location (7%). Most participants (78%) reported visiting a health care provider in the 12 months before the NHBS interview.

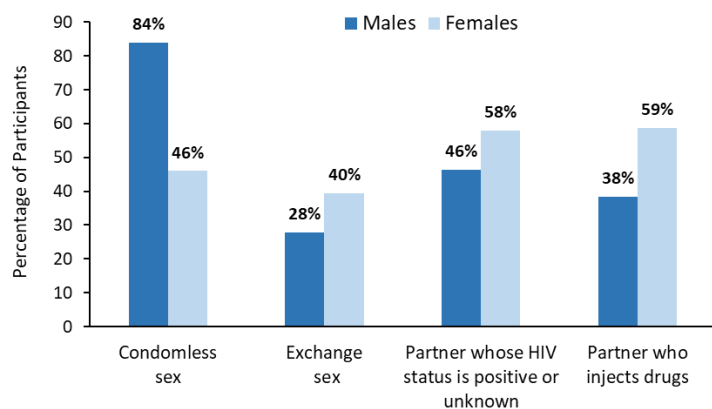
SUBSTANCE USE

Seventy-five percent of participants reported having had at least one alcoholic drink in the past 30 days. Of those with recent alcohol use (within the past 30 days), 25% of participants reported binge drinking (≥ 4 drinks for females and ≥ 5 drinks for males in about 2 hours). Eighty-three percent of participants reported non-injection drug use in the 12 months before their interview, with heroin being reported most frequently. Heroin was also the most frequently reported injection drug (97%).

SEXUAL BEHAVIORS

Among participants who reported being sexually active in the past 12 months, the median number of sexual partners reported by both males and females was two. Among males, 52% reported only main partnerships, 32% reported main and casual partnerships, and 15% reported only casual partnerships. Among females, 48% reported main and casual partnerships, 37% reported only main partnerships, and 15% reported only casual partnerships. More male participants reported having condomless sex compared to female participants (84% and 46%, respectively); however, fewer male participants reported exchanging sex for drugs or money in the past 12 months than female participants (28% and 40%, respectively) – Figure 4. Sex with a partner whose HIV status is positive or unknown was reported by 46% of males and 58% of females, while 38% of males and 59% of females reported having sex with a partner who injects drugs in the past 12 months.

Figure 4. Sex Behaviors Among PWID During the Past 12 Months, Hampton Roads MSA, 2022

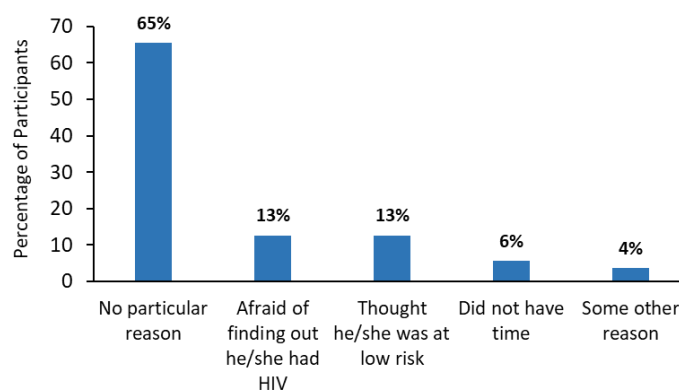


HIV/STI TESTING

Ninety-one percent of participants reported having ever had an HIV test in their lifetime. Among participants ever tested, 29% reported recent HIV testing (in the past 12 months). Twenty-four percent of participants reported gonorrhea, chlamydia, and/or syphilis testing in the past 12 months.

For participants with recent HIV testing, the most frequently reported location for testing was a public health clinic or community health center (24%); 22% reported testing at a hospital and 13% reported testing at a private doctor’s office. For participants who have never tested positive for HIV and did not report recent HIV testing, the majority reported “no particular reason” for not testing (65%) – Figure 5.

Figure 5. Reason for Not Receiving HIV Test Among PWID During the Past 12 Months, Hampton Roads MSA, 2022



HIV PREVALENCE

Among the participants who have been tested for HIV, 4% reported testing positive for HIV. One hundred percent of these participants were told where to get HIV care within 30 days of their first positive HIV test and all visited a health care provider for their HIV infection. Among participants who saw a provider, 78% reported currently taking antiretroviral medication at the time of the interview. Among participants who ever received a viral load test, 86% reported that their most recent viral load test was undetectable.

HIV PREVENTION

Forty-two percent of participants reported receiving free condoms in the past 12 months; the most frequently reported location for receiving free condoms was a “doctor’s office, health center, clinic, or hospital” (32%). Nineteen percent of participants had a one-on-one conversation or group session with an outreach worker about HIV prevention. Among participants who have never tested positive for HIV, 30% had heard of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) before the interview; 5% of these participants reported discussing taking PrEP with a health care provider and 0% reported taking PrEP in the past 12 months.

REFERENCES

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). National HIV Behavioral Surveillance (NHBS). <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/systems/nhbs/index.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System Round 6: Model Surveillance Protocol. December 2021. Available from: www.cdc.gov/hiv/statistics/systems/nhbs/operations.html