
Prevalence of Health Complications of Injection Drug Use in San Francisco

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**“Community Safety and Drug User Health:
Exploring Safer Injection Facilities in San Francisco” 10/18/07**

Objective

- Describe prevalence and risk factors of health complications among injection drug users in San Francisco.
 - HIV
 - Hepatitis C virus
 - Hepatitis B virus
 - Opiate overdose
 - Soft-tissue infections (abscesses)

Study Methods

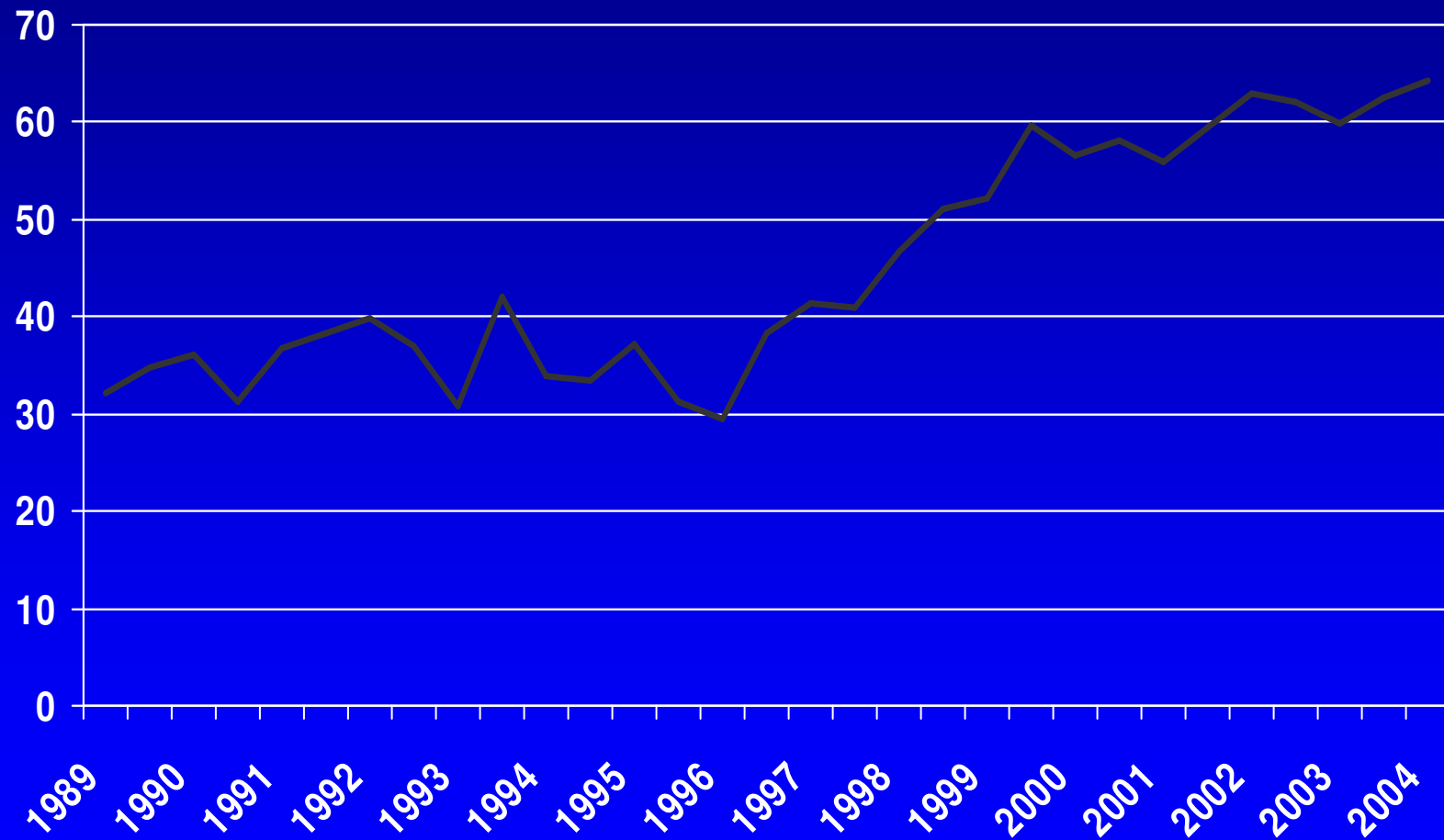
Epidemiological study of street-recruited IDUs (N=18,500) in San Francisco from 1986 to 2005

- Community-based quantitative surveys
- Community-based screening for infections
- Qualitative interviews and focus groups
- Ethnography

Demographic Characteristics of IDUs

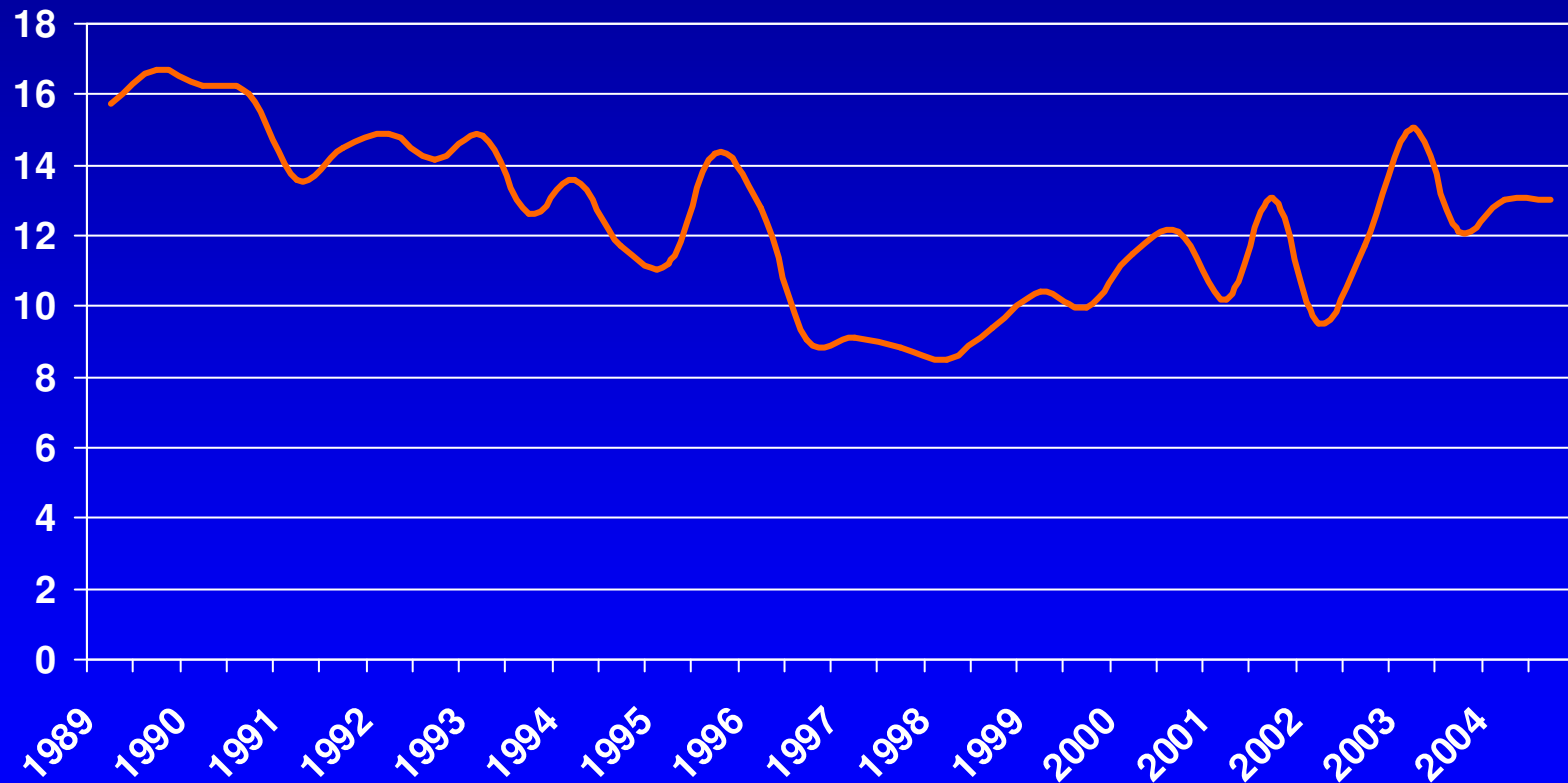
<u>Characteristic</u>	<u>Percent (N=8,065)</u>
Female	33%
Male	67%
Age	
under 30 years	11%
30 to 49 years	76%
50 or older	13%
Race	
African American	55%
White	31%
Latino/a	10%

Among IDUs in San Francisco, Percent Who Consider Themselves Homeless



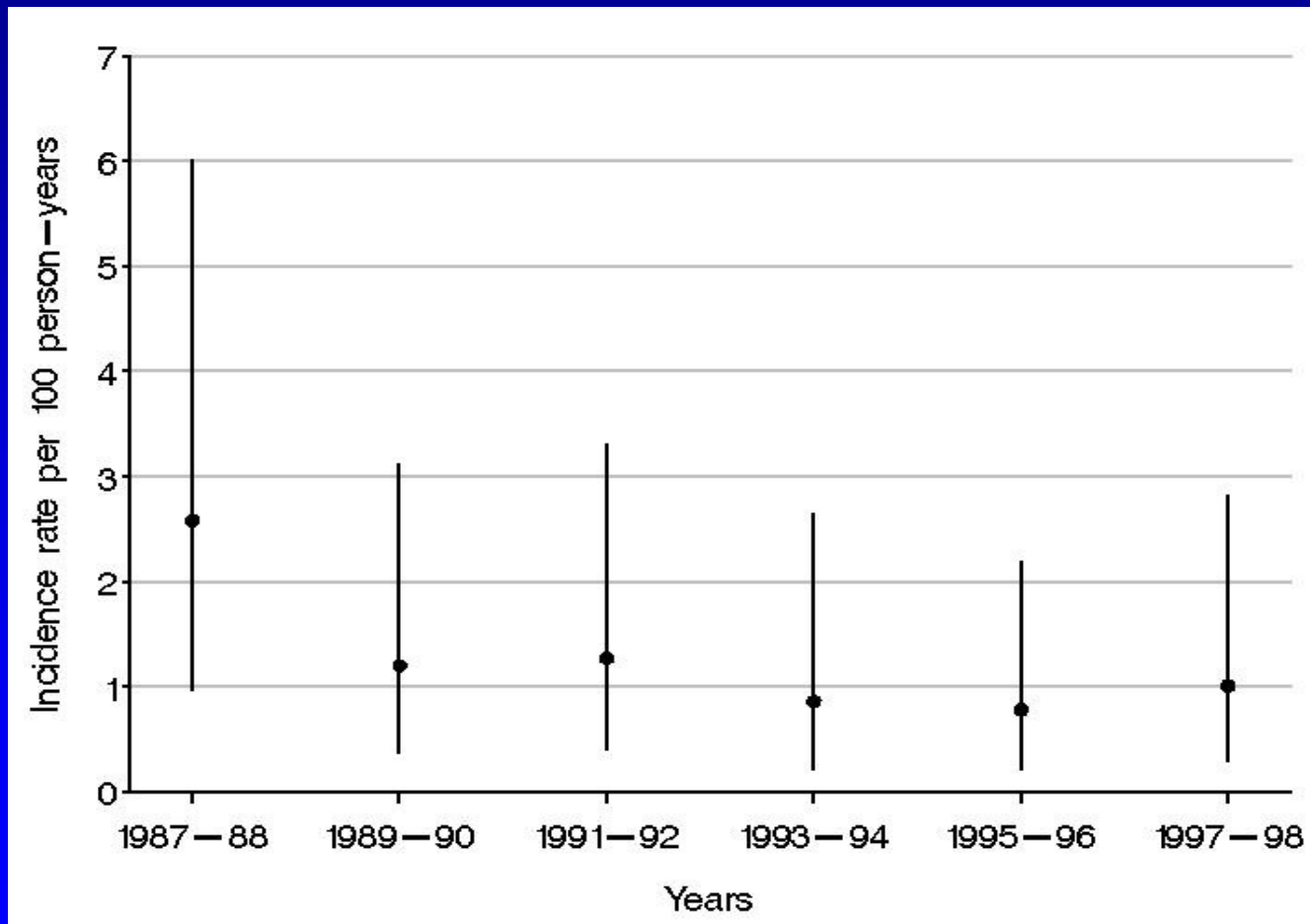
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HIV prevalence among street-recruited IDUs in SF, 1989 - 2005



Urban Health Program/RTI-SF

Trends in HIV Incidence Using Detuned EIA, IDUs in SF, 1987 to 1998 (N=8,065) (Kral, Am J Epi, 2003)



Urban Health Program/RTI-SF

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)

- HCV prevalence among IDUs in San Francisco already exceeded 90% in 1987 (Lorvick, Am J Public Health 2002)
- HCV prevalence among IDUs was 91.1% in 1998 to 2000. (Tseng, Hepatology 2007)

HCV Prevalence (N=2,296) (Tseng, Hepatology, 2007)

Characteristic		Percent HCV positive
Age	18-29 years	61%
	30-39 years	87%
	40 years or older	96%
Injection drug use	0-9 years	66%
	10-19 years	88%
	20 years or more	98%

Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)

- HCV is a blood-borne virus which affects the liver; it can be transmitted through both injection and sexual contact. There is a vaccine which can protect people from getting HBV.
- HBV prevalence among IDUs was 80.5% in 1998 to 2000. (Tseng, Hepatology 2007)

Opiate Overdose among IDUs in San Francisco

- Among 1,427 heroin injectors,
 - 48% reported ever overdosing,
 - 33% reported two or more overdoses, and
 - 13% reported an overdose in the past year.

(Seal, Am J Public Health 2001)

- These constitute non-fatal overdoses.

San Francisco

DEATHS DUE TO HEROIN* BY FISCAL YEAR DRUG ALONE OR IN COMBINATION

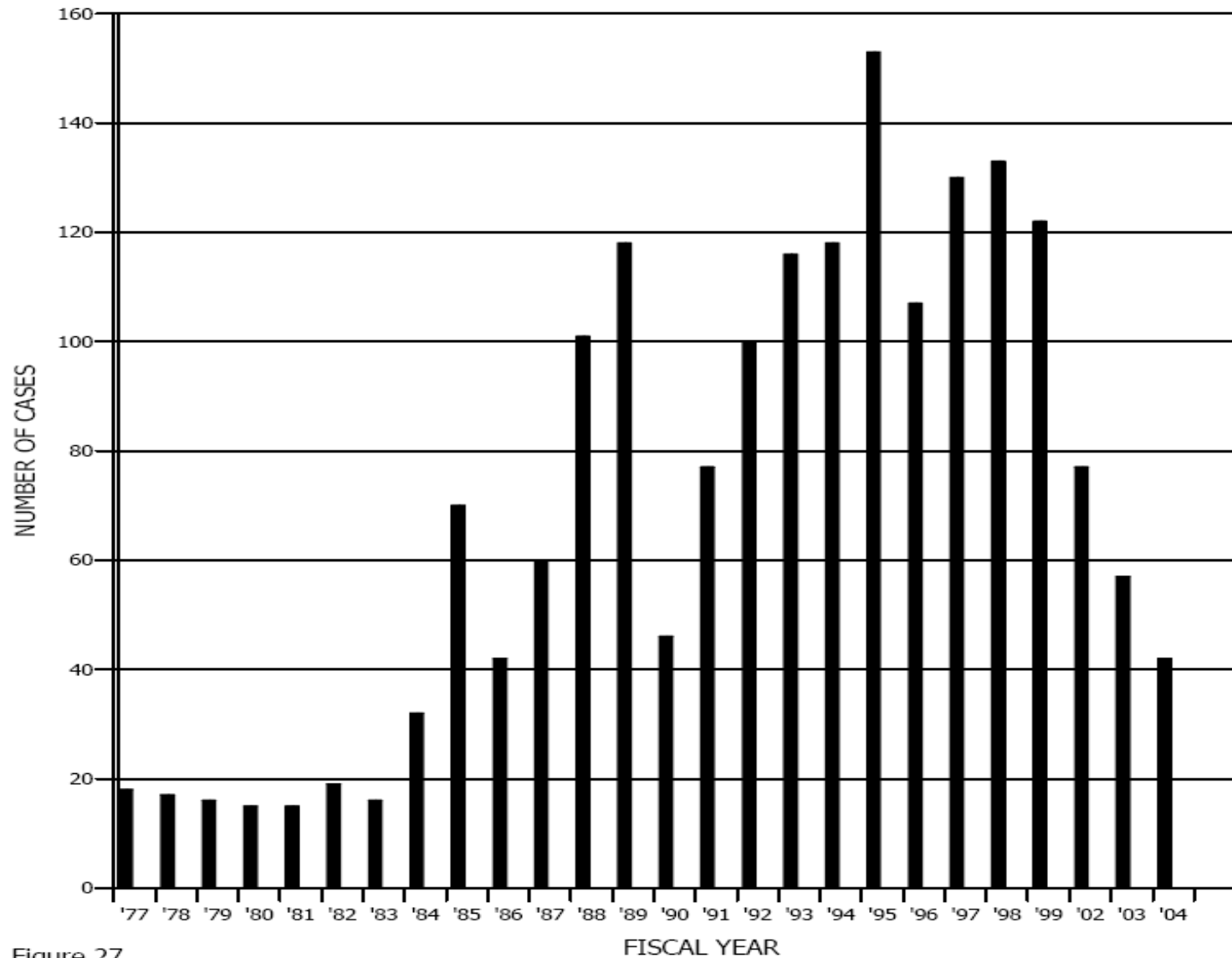
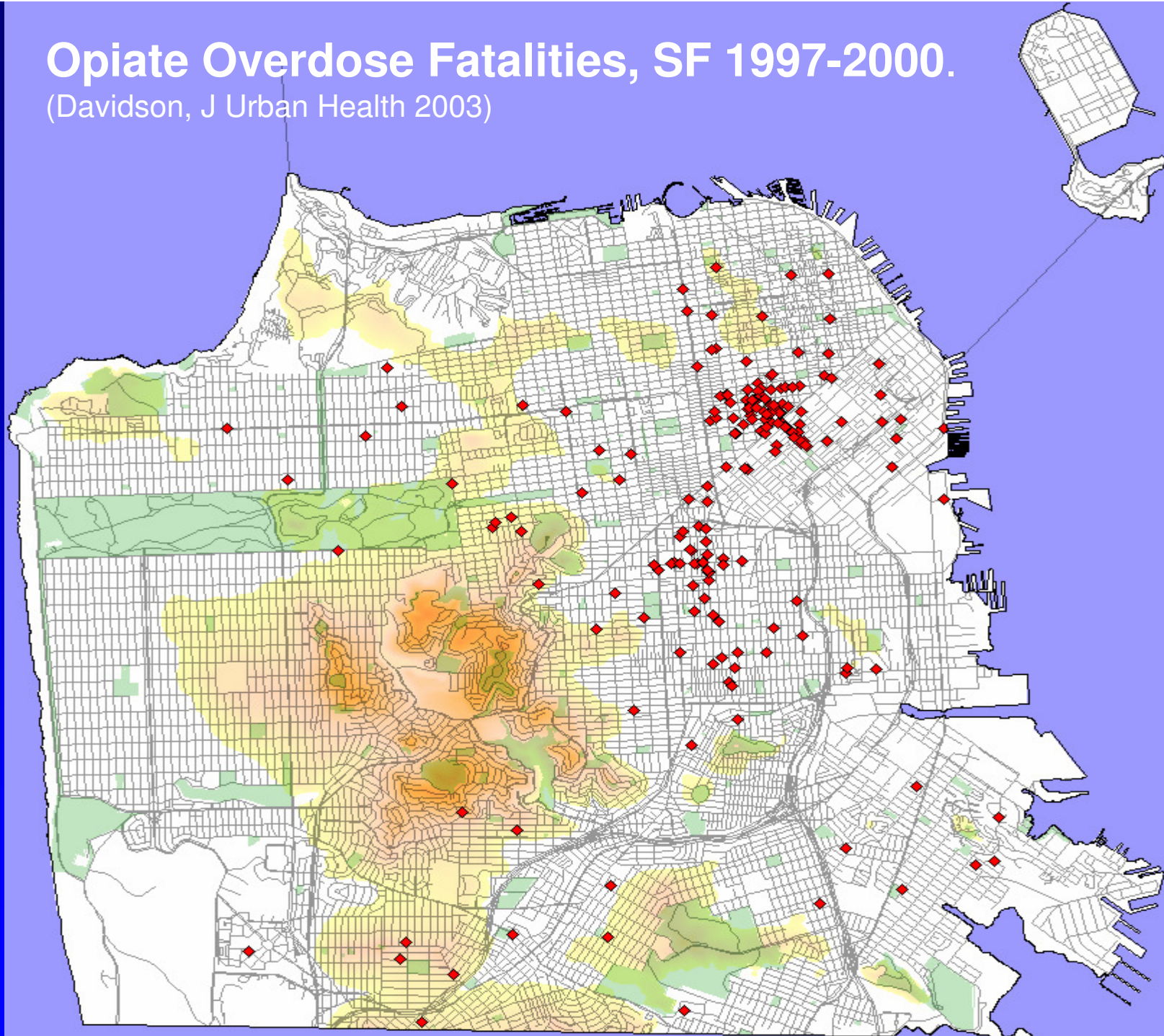


Figure 27.

Note: Data are not available for fiscal years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

Opiate Overdose Fatalities, SF 1997-2000.

(Davidson, J Urban Health 2003)



Soft-tissue infections including abscesses

- The prevalence of abscesses and soft-tissue infections among IDUs in San Francisco was 32% in 1997. (Binswanger, Clin Inf Dis 2000)

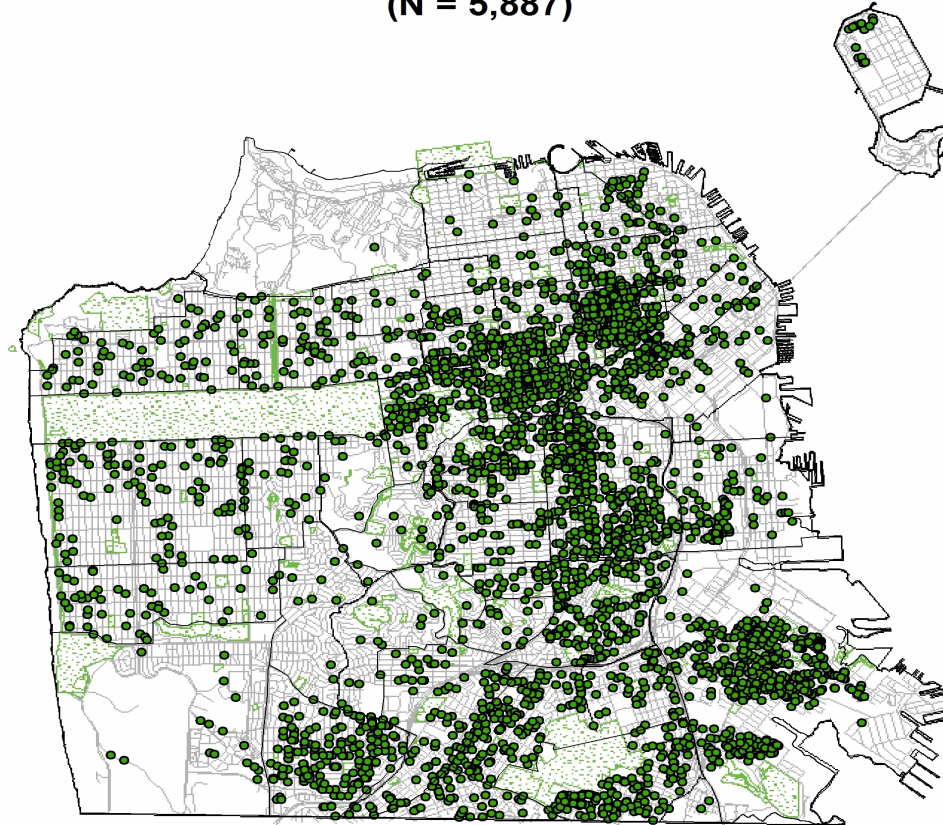
Summary

- Among IDUs in San Francisco
 - 1 in 8 has HIV
 - 9 in 10 have HCV
 - 8 in 10 have HBV
 - 1 in 2 have ever overdosed
 - 1 in 8 overdose in past year
 - 1 in 3 have a soft tissue infection

Acknowledgments

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Utilization of Drug Treatment in San Francisco, 2005 (N = 5,887)



Legend

- Location of Individuals Reporting Use of Drug Treatment

Source: San Francisco Department of Public Health, Community Substance Abuse Services