

# Drug and Sexual Risk Patterns Among Women Who Inject Drugs Using Florida's First Legal SSP



PRESENTER:  
**Belén Hervera, MPH**  
 PhD Student  
 Weill Cornell Medicine

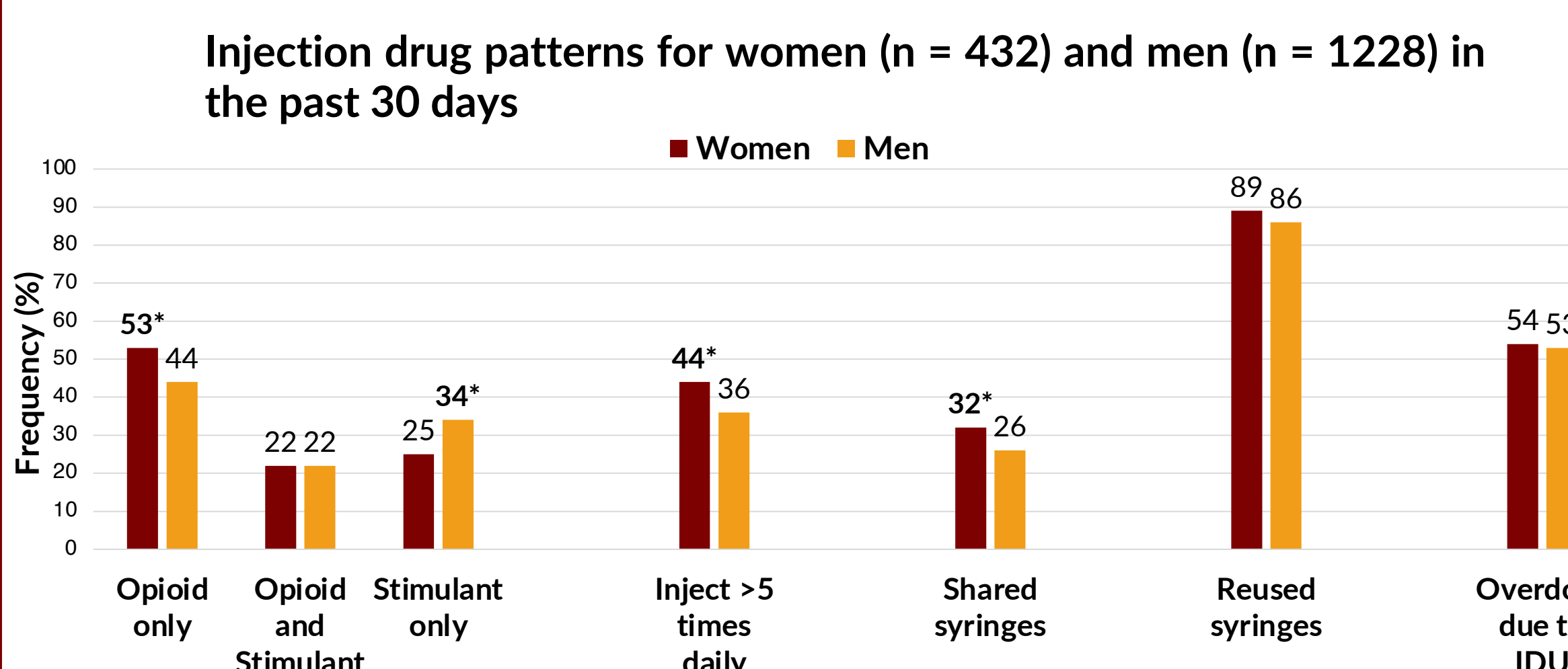
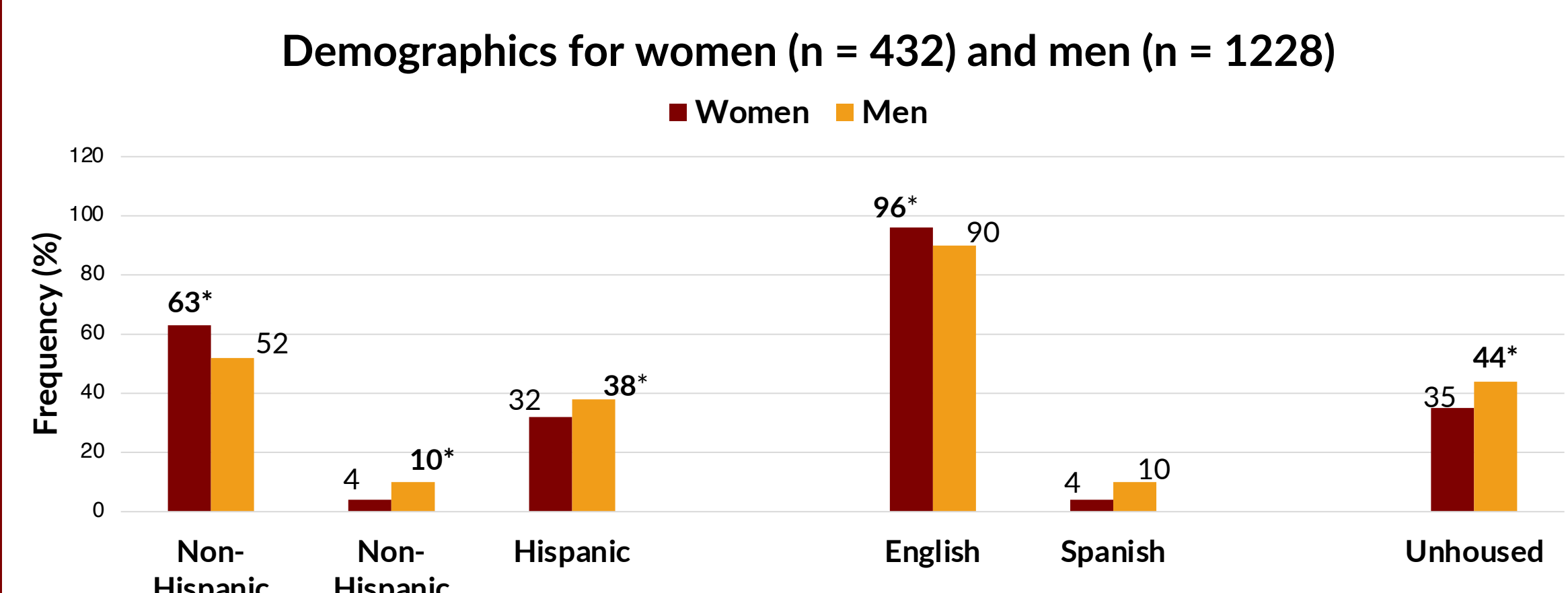
## BACKGROUND

- Women who inject drugs (WWID) face higher risks of injection-related infections, infectious diseases, and physical/sexual violence than men.
- WWID also experience reproductive health challenges and unintended pregnancies, leading to intergenerational societal impacts through prenatal drug exposure. These compounded risks increase demands on healthcare and social services.
- Yet, addiction research and harm reduction programs often overlook the needs of WWID.
- This study provides critical gender-specific data from Florida's first legal syringe service program (SSP) to inform targeted harm reduction strategies.

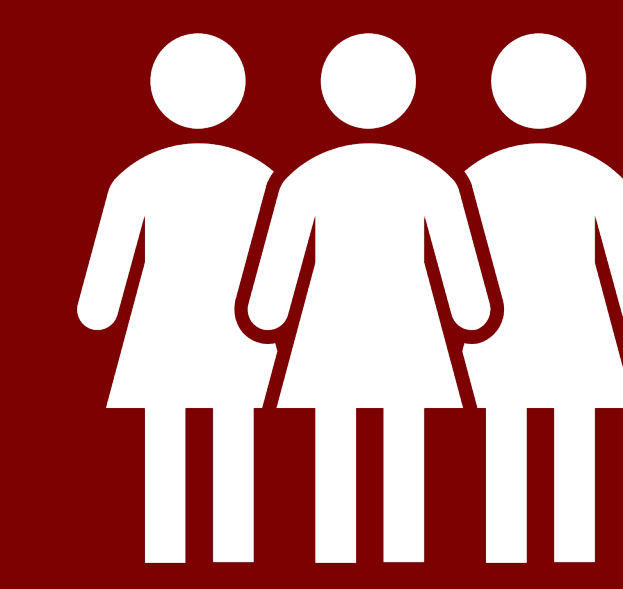
## METHODS

- **Study Design:** Cross-sectional analysis of SSP data (2016-2022) of sociodemographics, injection/sexual patterns, and HIV/HCV status.
- **Analysis:** Chi-square tests and logistic regression adjusting for key demographics (SAS 9.4).

## RESULTS

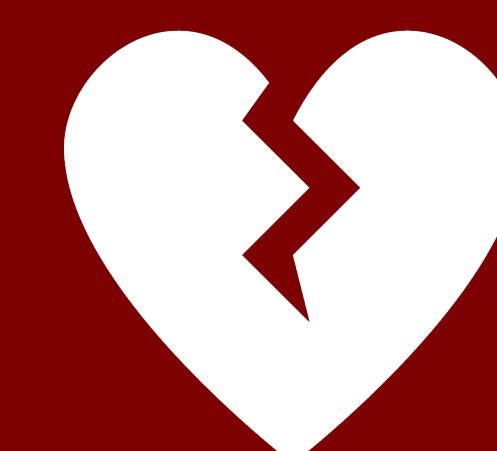
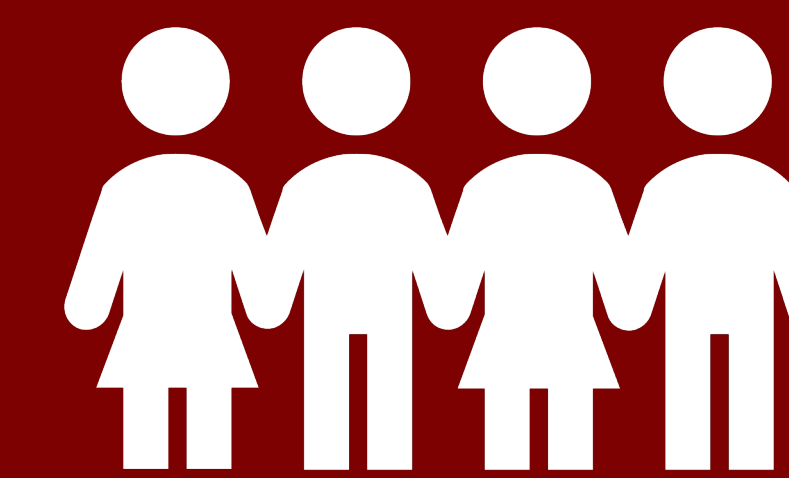


# High Risk and Underserved



Women who inject drugs face significantly higher odds of sharing syringes, injecting >5 times daily, engaging in transactional sex, and testing positive for HCV than men.

**Call to Action:** Targeted interventions are urgently needed to reduce health inequities, healthcare and societal costs.



## Syringe sharing

Characteristics	OR	Lower	Upper
		95% CL	95% CL
Women	1.61	1.23	2.1
Age	0.99	0.98	1
Non-Hispanic Black	1.08	0.67	1.73
Hispanic	1.2	0.93	1.55
Homeless	2.15	1.68	2.76
2018	0.76	0.76	1.05
2019	0.58	0.58	0.86
2020	0.43	0.43	0.65
2021	0.37	0.37	0.57
2022	0.32	0.32	0.5

## Frequent Injection (>5 times daily)

Characteristics	OR	Lower	Upper
		95% CL	95% CL
Women	1.33	1.05	1.7
Age	0.99	0.97	0.99
Non-Hispanic Black	0.71	0.46	1.1
Hispanic	0.93	0.74	1.16
Homeless	1.45	1.16	1.81
2018	1.11	0.81	1.53
2019	0.89	0.63	1.26
2020	0.96	0.67	1.38
2021	0.64	0.44	0.94
2022	0.93	0.65	1.32

## Transactional Sex

Characteristics	OR	Lower	Upper
		95% CL	95% CL
Women	6.6	4.12	10.57
Age	0.99	0.97	1.02
Non-Hispanic Black	1.18	0.54	2.61
Hispanic	1.16	0.71	1.9
Homeless	2.48	1.54	4.02
2019	0.79	0.41	1.54
2020	0.47	0.22	0.99
2021	0.35	0.15	0.85
2022	1.38	0.77	2.48

## HCV Reactive

Characteristics	OR	Lower	Upper
		95% CL	95% CL
Women	1.41	1.1	1.8
Age	1.03	1.02	1.04
Non-Hispanic Black	0.42	0.27	0.64
Hispanic	0.69	0.56	0.86
Homeless	2.42	1.94	3.02
2018	0.51	0.27	0.99
2019	0.45	0.23	0.89
2020	0.48	0.24	0.95
2021	0.3	0.15	0.6
2022	0.32	0.16	0.64

Tyler Bartholomew, PhD  
 University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine



Disclosure: The presenter has no financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.