

## TITLE: TRENDS IN HEPATITIS C PREVALENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO: PROGRESS TOWARD ELIMINATION

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### Background:

In 2017, San Francisco's HCV elimination initiative generated an estimate of city-wide HCV prevalence in 2015. Using additional data and improved methods, we aimed to update the 2015 estimate to 2019 and more accurately estimate the number of people with untreated, active HCV infection overall and in key subgroups, including people who inject drugs (PWID).

### Methods:

Our estimates are based on triangulation of data from blood banks, cross-sectional and longitudinal observational studies, and published literature. While for 2015 we could only gather an aggregate number of known treatment starts with direct-acting antivirals (to subtract from active HCV infections citywide as "presumed cured"), for the 2019 estimate we were able to pool estimates of treatment rates for each subgroup, allowing for a substantially refined estimate of remaining untreated infections.

### Results:

The total number of San Francisco residents estimated to have anti-HCV antibodies in 2019 was 22,585 (plausible range, PR:12,014–44,152), with a citywide seroprevalence of 2.6% (PR:1.4%–5.0%) – similar to the 2015 estimate of 21,758 (PR:10,274–42,067). Of those, approximately 11,582 (PR:4,864–35,094) had untreated, active HCV infection, representing 51.3% (PR:40.5%–79.5%) of all people with anti-HCV antibodies, and 1.3% (PR:0.6%–4.0%) of all San Franciscans. PWID are 2.8% of the total San Francisco population, yet 73.1% of those with anti-HCV antibodies and 90.4% of those with untreated, active HCV infection.

### Conclusion:

While plausible ranges are wide, these findings indicate that the overall number of people with anti-HCV antibodies may have increased slightly, and the number of people with active HCV infection may have decreased slightly since 2015. This estimate improves upon the 2015 calculations by directly estimating the impact of curative treatment, and will allow for more comparable results in subsequent estimate updates, tracking elimination progress.

### Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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