PATTERNS OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE AND INJECTION RISK BEHAVIOURS AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS DURING AND FOLLOWING HCV DIRECT-ACTING ANTIVIRAL TREATMENT: THE SIMPLIFY AND D3FEAT STUDIES

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Background

- DAA-based therapy is effective in people who inject drugs\(^1\)-\(^{17}\) and should be offered to all, irrespective of ongoing drug use
- It is unclear if DAA-based HCV treatment has an impact on patterns of drug and alcohol use and injecting risk
  - Useful to inform the development of additional interventions/support services to be offered alongside HCV treatment and/or to help prevent reinfection

**OBJECTIVE:** To investigate patterns of drug and alcohol use, and injecting risk behaviours during and following DAA-based HCV treatment among people who inject drugs who are actively injecting or receiving opioid agonist treatment (OAT)

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**Methods**

- **Design:** Pooled analysis of 2 international, single-arm, open-label trials: SIMPLIFY and D3FEAT (25 sites, 7 countries)
- **SIMPLIFY and D3FEAT aims:**
  - **Primary:** To evaluate the efficacy of DAA-based therapy among people with recent injection drug use (last six months) or receiving OAT
  - **Secondary:** Several, including the evaluation of drug-related behaviours during and following treatment

- **Statistical analyses:** Group-based trajectory modelling
  - Method that identifies groups of individuals who share a similar trajectory pattern over time with respect to a variable of interest
Results

TRAJECTORIES OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE OVER TIME

Hazardous alcohol use defined based on the AUDIT-C Test (range: 0-12): ≥3 if female and ≥4 if male

Conclusion and implications

- For the most part, drug and alcohol use patterns remained stable during follow-up
- Some decreases in opioid use over time were noted, particularly for opioid injection
- Injecting risk behaviours decreased during follow-up; baseline prevalence was low
- Alcohol use may need particular attention among people receiving HCV treatment

FUTURE DIRECTIONS:
- Evaluate behavioural patterns up to 2 years of follow-up
- Evaluate factors associated with specific drug use patterns
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SIMPLIFY/D3FEAT NETWORK

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