

Rapid Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Testing in Wisconsin

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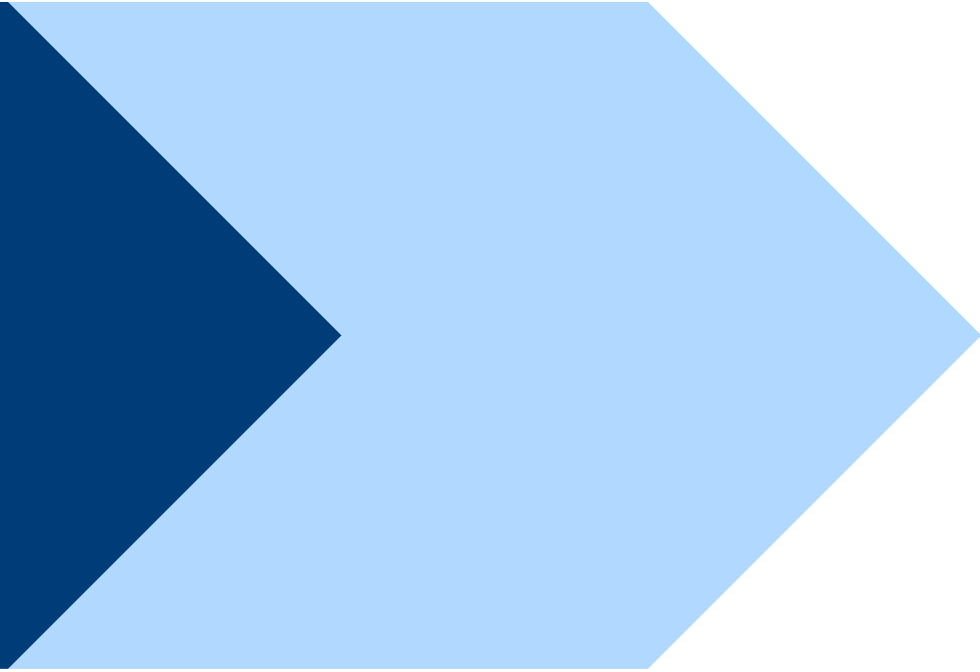
Harm Reduction Unit
Bureau of Communicable Disease
Division of Public Health



Agenda

- Wisconsin Syringe Service Programs (SSPs)
- Rapid HCV Testing Program
- Hepatitis C Data

Syringe Service Providers (SSPs)



- Reduce blood-borne infections (HIV, HCV, etc.)
- Connect to health services
- Overdose prevention
- Safe disposal

Wisconsin SSPs

- Bad River Harm Reduction
- City of Racine Health Department
- Marquette County Health Department
- Portage County Health and Human Services
- Public Health Madison Dane County
- Sixteenth Street Community Health Center
- UMOS
- Winnebago County Health Department
- Vivent Health

Services offered at Wisconsin SSPs

- Hepatitis C, HIV, and STI testing

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- Fentanyl test strip training and distribution
- Linkage to care and treatment

**Do you need of
any of these items?**



**Sterile injection
equipment**



**Wound care
supplies**



Naloxone



**Safer sex
supplies**



**Hygiene and
comfort items**



**Fentanyl
test strips**

You can receive these free supplies anonymously



Contact the Wisconsin Harm Reduction Response
Team to see when we will be in your area!



Phone: 608-264-8108 **Email:** DHSDPHharmreduction@wisconsin.gov

Harm Reduction Response Team (HRRT)

- New DHS program
- Drug user health support
- Soft launch August 2023

Xylazine

Xylazine is a medicine used in animals. It is not approved to use in humans. It is being found in fentanyl and heroin, and mixed with cocaine and meth.



The risk for overdose is much higher when drugs are mixed with xylazine.



There is no way to detect xylazine. It has no taste or smell and does not show up on fentanyl test strips.

Xylazine effects on the body



Drowsiness



Not being able to wake up



Slow heart rate



Slow breathing



Trouble swallowing



Dry mouth



Xylazine can also increase the risk of blood clots, skin sores, and muscle, nerve, or kidney damage.



Personal experiences using xylazine

"Put me out for hours"

"Made me pass out and I woke up with vomit on me"

"Skin on fire, teeth felt loose"

"Very drowsy, like I was sleepwalking"

Flip for more information

Wounds from using xylazine

- Severe wounds are being reported with xylazine use. Repeated use can lead to wounds that do not heal without medical treatment.
- Seek medical care immediately if a wound turns black, there is extreme pain or swelling around the wound, there is a bad smell, or if you have a fever. Wounds should be kept clean and dry.



How to respond to a xylazine overdose

- Call 911 and stay with the person until medical personnel arrive.
- Put the person in the recovery position.
 - Place the nearest arm at a right angle.
 - Put the back of the other hand next to the cheek closest to you and hold it there.
 - Bend the far knee, grasp the far leg, and roll them onto their side.
 - Open airway.
- Naloxone will **not** reverse the effects of xylazine, but should **always** be given if it is believed someone is having an overdose.



Do not use alone. Call Never Use Alone 800-484-3731 if there is no one you are comfortable with.

Xylazine resources

- What You Should Know About Xylazine
 - www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/other-drugs/xylazine/faq.html
- Xylazine Wound Care: A Guide!
 - [Nextdistro.org/resources-collection/xylazine-wound-care-a-guide](https://nextdistro.org/resources-collection/xylazine-wound-care-a-guide)



Drug User Health Coordinator

- Community education and awareness
- Training presentations for agencies
- Technical Assistance with implementation of best practices



Harm Reduction Basics

- People practice harm reduction everyday to keep themselves safe. Wearing seatbelts and helmets, driving the speed limit, and exercising are everyday examples of harm reduction.
- Harm reduction is a public health approach that engages directly with people who use drugs to prevent overdoses and the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C.
- Harm reduction programs can include a range of services. Some of the most well-known services are syringe service programs (SSPs) and Naloxone distribution.

Myths

SSPs increase drug use and enable people to use drugs.

If SSPs are put in place, more people will overdose and die.

SSPs mean there will be more needle litter.

Naloxone is not safe and causes harm when given to someone.



Facts

SSPs teach ways to use drugs more safely.

Naloxone is given out for free at SSPs to prevent fatal overdoses.

SSPs allow people to safely get rid of used syringes.

Naloxone is extremely safe, effective, and saves lives.

Benefits of Harm Reduction Programs



Distribute Naloxone and sterile syringes to prevent fatal overdoses and diseases.



People receive referrals to mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, and medical care.




Offer HIV, hepatitis C, and STI testing and treatment.

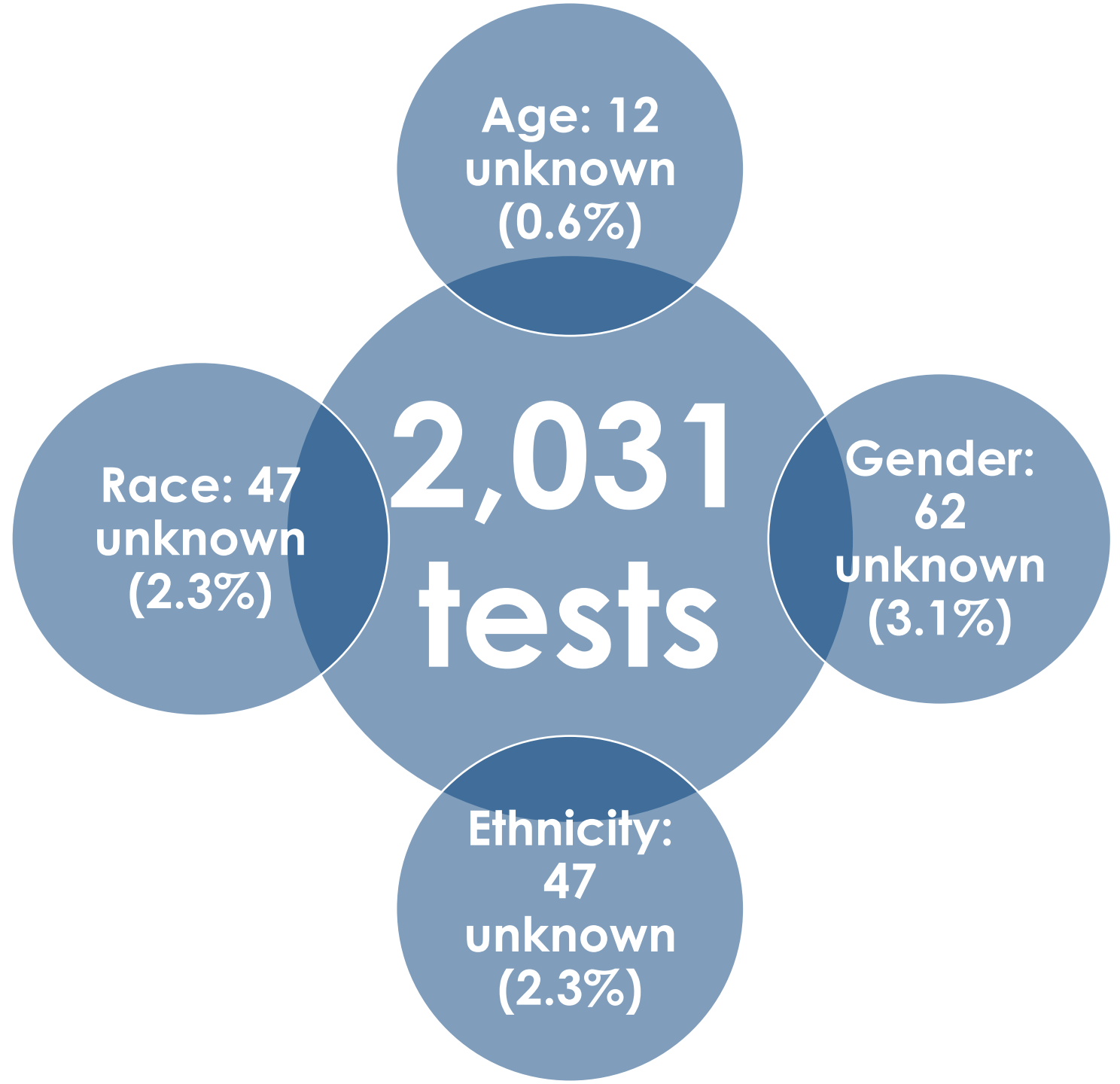


Provide law enforcement with the tools they need to respond to certain calls.

Rapid HCV Testing Program

- 
- OraSure Rapid HCV Antibody Tests
 - Rapid HCV testing forms
 - Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS)
 - Onsite Trainings

Hepatitis C Rapid Tests 2022



Hepatitis C Rapid Tests 2022

182 persons had
confirmatory tests
(~9%) reported
before rapid

Rapid tests only
visible to state
employees in
WEDSS

282 Reactive Tests

14% Positivity Rate

Hepatitis C Rapid Tests – Exposure

Among the 1,749 Non-Reactive Rapids

Ever injected drugs



If yes, ever shared equipment



Ever shared snorting equipment



Ever shared smoking equipment



Injection drugs in past 6 months

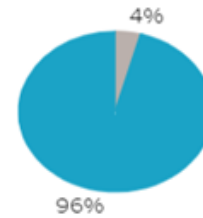


If yes, shared equipment (6mo)



Among the 282 Reactive Rapids

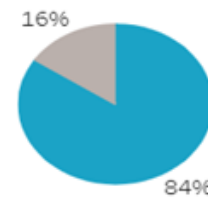
Ever injected drugs



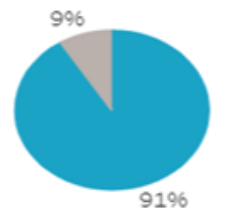
If yes, ever shared equipment



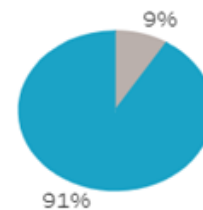
Ever shared snorting equipment



Ever shared smoking equipment



Injection drugs in past 6 months



If yes, shared equipment (6mo)



Site Visits at Partner Agencies

Review Tableau
Dashboard Data

Discuss testing
successes and
barriers

Tableau Dashboard Example



Vivent Quarterly Reports ☆ ⓘ ⋮

Owner **Lowe, Kelsa R - DHS (UW)** Modified **Aug 17, 2023, 11:42 AM** Extract **Aug 17, 2023, 11:42 AM**

Vivent Health Quarterly Report data

Views 6 Data Sources 1 Connected Metrics 0 Custom Views 0 Extract Refreshes 0 Subscriptions 0 Lineage

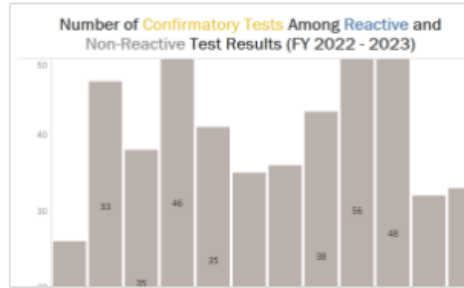
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Sort By: Sheet (first-last) ↑ ⋮

Testing Across Race, Age, and IDU Disclosure (FY2020-2023)

			FY22-23 %	Grand Total
AI/AN	13-39	No	13	13
		Yes	19	19
40+	Yes	1	1	
	No	5	5	
Asian	13-39	Yes	1	1
	No	7	7	
40+	Yes	1	1	
	No	7	7	
Black/AA	13-39	Yes	7	7
	No	16	16	

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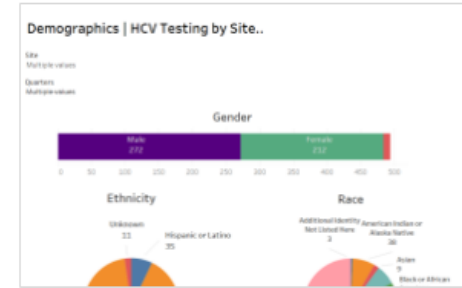
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Testing Across Race, Age, and IDU Disclosure (FY22-23)

			FY22-23 Q1	FY22-23 Q2	FY22-23 Q3	FY22-23 Q4
AI/AN	13-39	No	1	3	4	5
		Yes	5	5	5	9
40+	No	2	1	1	1	
	Yes			1		
Asian	13-39	No	3	1	3	
	Yes		1			
40+	Yes				1	
	No					
Black/AA	13-39	No	2	1	8	4
	Yes	2	1	3	1	

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Hepatitis C Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS)

Acute
Cases

Pregnant
Cases

Perinatal
Cases

A faded, light blue background image of the Wisconsin State Capitol building, showing its classical architecture with columns and a central entrance. The text is overlaid on this image.

Wisconsin Hepatitis C Program's
Rapid HCV Testing Protocol will be
published on our hepatitis C
webpage.

Resources

[Summary of Information on The Safety and Effectiveness of Syringe Services Programs \(SSPs\) | CDC](#)

[Syringe Services Programs \(SSPs\) | CDC](#)

[Dose of Reality: Safer Use/Harm Reduction | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

[Xylazine Fact Sheet \(wisconsin.gov\)](#)

[Harm Reduction Response Team Flyer \(wisconsin.gov\)](#)

[Harm Reduction: Keeping Communities Healthy \(wisconsin.gov\)](#)

[Wisconsin Hepatitis C Program | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

[Hepatitis C: Data | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

[Dose of Reality: Opioid Settlement Funds | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

[Dose of Reality: Resources for Professionals | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

Questions?

Thank you!

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