

FREQUENCY AND PREDICTORS OF MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER DIAGNOSES AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS

What was our study about?

The study examined predictors of mental health disorder diagnoses among people who inject drugs (PWID), as well as how common and frequent such diagnoses are.

What did we do?

Between 2005 and 2015, 923 PWID in Vancouver, Canada who had never been diagnosed with a mental health disorder were interviewed every 6 months.



Mental health disorder diagnoses are highly common and frequent among PWID.

What we found?

Every year, an average of **1 in 25 PWID** reported having been newly diagnosed with a mental health disorder (most commonly depression, anxiety and PTSD).

Women, those who experienced an overdose or violence, and those who accessed community health or social services were more likely to report diagnoses.

What's next?

It is important to ensure access to quality mental health care for those diagnosed, particularly women and victims of violence, as well as for those who are not connected with services and may have undiagnosed mental illness.

Reddon, H., Pettes, T., Wood, E., Nosova, E., Milloy, M. J., Kerr, T., & Hayashi, K. (2018). Incidence and predictors of mental health disorder diagnoses among people who inject drugs in a Canadian setting. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 37 (Suppl 1), S285–S293. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29168263/>

