

Memo on Demography of SF IVDUs and of HAFC's HIV+ Clients
John Newmeyer, Ph.D.

In 1987, there were about 16,000 San Francisco residents who have used drugs intravenously on more than an occasional basis (see attached paper). The numbers may be slightly less in 1989, but a systematic study of prevalence changes will not be completed until September.

Of the 16,000 IVDUs noted in 1987, 3,000 were gay men. Of those, perhaps 80 to 90% were primarily using "speed". The gay group was about 85% white, 8% black, 5% Hispanic, and had a median age of about 32.

Of the 13,000 heterosexual male and female, and lesbian, IVDUs, some 10,000 had heroin as their primary drug of choice, 2,000 were primarily "speed" (methamphetamine) users, and 1,000 used mainly cocaine. However, many if not most users injected more than one drug, with "speedballs" (heroin/cocaine) being an especially popular combination.

Of the heroin users, perhaps 50% were white, 30% black, and 15% Hispanic. Of the speed users, about 70% were white, 20% black, and 5% Hispanic. At least 60% of the cocaine users were black. The median age of the heroin users was 33; that for the cocaine users was about 31 and that for the speed users was roughly 29.

Collectively, the 13,000 heterosexual users were 67% male and 33% female, about 52% white, 31% black, 13% Hispanic, and 4% Asian and other races. Fewer than 8% were aged under 25.

At the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic during Fiscal Year 1989-90, there will be about 3,100 different drug abusers in treatment. Some 2,100 of these will have a recent history of IV drug use (most of the remainder will be "crack" abusers). Of those, about 220 will be gay men (80% of them speed users) and about 150 will be HIV+. At least 60% of these HIV+ gay men will be aware of their antibody status.

Of the 1880 or so non-gay IVDU clients, only about 11%, or 210 persons, will be HIV+, and of these only about one-third to one-half will be aware of their HIV status. However, it is increasingly true that the HAFC is a "magnet" for treatment of IVDUs who are

concerned about their HIV disease.

to that of the 2,000 HIV+ IVDUs in the city as a whole-- about 50% will be black, about 30% white, some 12% Hispanic, and 70% male, with a median age of 33. Age and sex doesn't correlate with HIV status among IVDUs, but blacks are two to three times more likely to be infected than IVDUs of other races.