Substance Use Treatment Utilization Among Women with and at Risk for HIV

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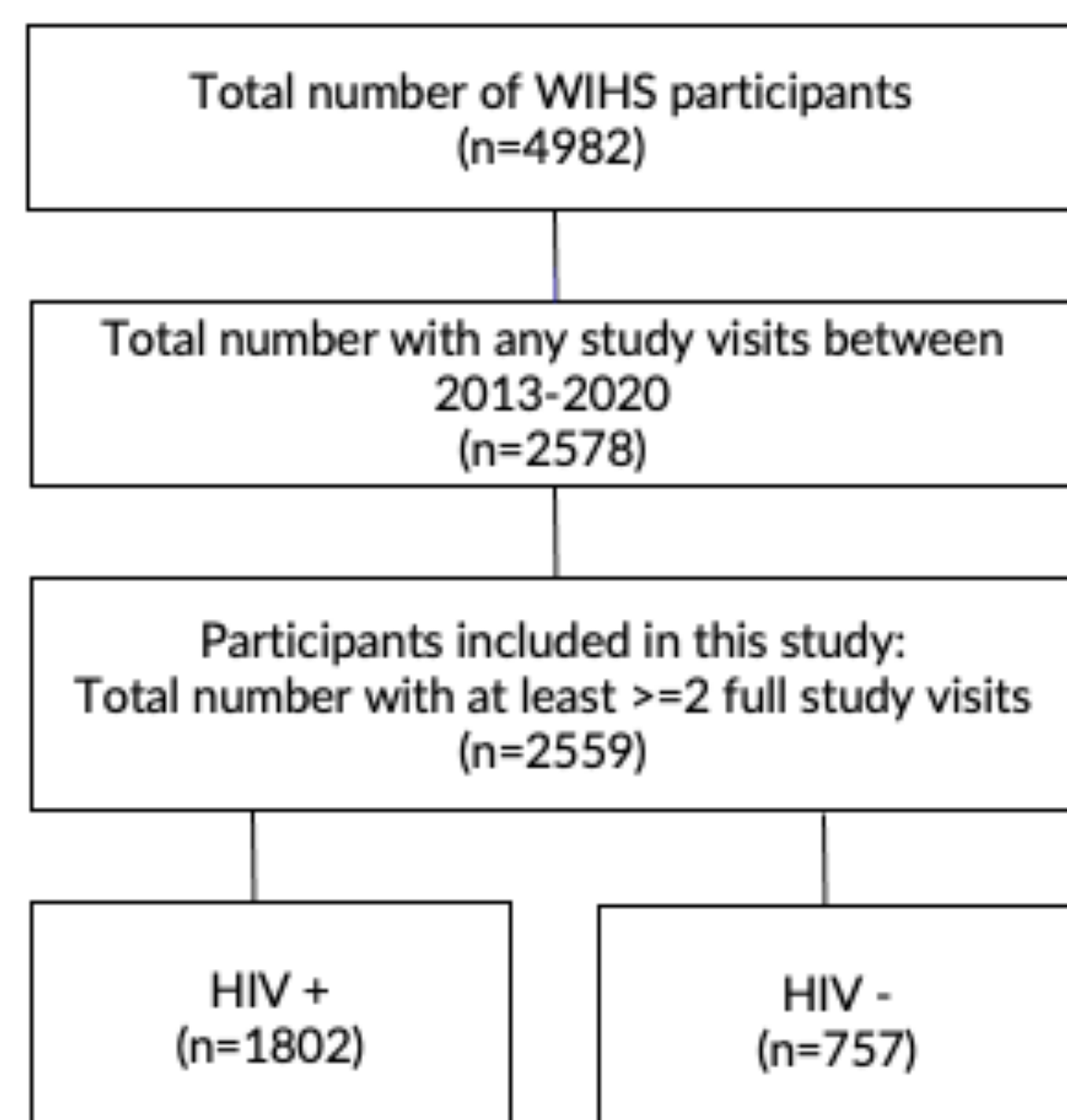
Background

- Substance use (SU) increases risk of HIV acquisition and is associated with worse HIV-related outcomes in persons with HIV (PWH).
- There are low levels of SU treatment utilization in the general population; less is known in diverse groups of PWH including women with HIV.
- **Objective**: To describe the prevalence of SU and treatment utilization among participants of the Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS), an observational cohort of women with or at risk for HIV

Methods

- All women enrolled in WIHS (10 sites) with at least 2 visits from 2013-2020 were included
- We described patterns of SU and treatment utilization among WIHS participants
- We analyzed demographic, sociobehavioral, and clinical characteristics associated with SU treatment utilization in the past year using multivariable logistic regression models

Definitions:
- **Current substance use**: self-report of any non-medical use of drugs in the past year (*excluding* tobacco, alcohol, marijuana alone)
  - Recent use: 1-4.9 years
  - Prior use: >=5 years
- **SU treatment utilization**: self-report of any drug treatment (including medications) among those with current SU

Total number of WIHS participants (n=4982)

Total number with any study visits between 2013-2020 (n=2578)

Participants included in this study: Total number with at least >=2 full study visits (n=2559)

HIV + (n=1802) HIV - (n=757)

Substance use treatment types:
- Inpatient detoxification
- Outpatient detoxification
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Medications for opioid use disorder (methadone, buprenorphine/naloxone)
- Halfway house
- Prison or jail-based programs
- Other programs

Results

### Baseline characteristics among WIHS participants, 2013-2020 (n=2559)

Characteristics	Total N=2559	HIV negative N=757 (29.6%) N(%)	HIV positive N=1802 (70.4%) N (%)
Age, years (mean, SD)	52 (9.5)	51 (9.9)	52 (9.2)
Non-Hispanic Black race	1835 (71.2)	544 (71.9)	1291 (71.6)
Annual household income <$24,000	1613 (72.1)	434 (67.4)	1179 (74.1)
Unemployed	1473 (57.6)	386 (57.4)	1087 (65.3)
Ever jailed/incarcerated	1447 (56.6)	893 (51.9)	1054 (58.5)

- 66% (n=1690) reported SU in their lifetime (65% HIV+, 69% HIV-)
- 14% (n=367) reported current SU (13% HIV+, 18% HIV-)
- Among those reporting current SU (excluding marijuana alone), 155 **(42%) reported any treatment in the past year.**
- Methadone was the most frequently used treatment (27% among all women with current SU; 67% among women with current opioid use)

Current, Recent, Prior Substance Use among WIHS Participants, by Substance Type (n=2559)
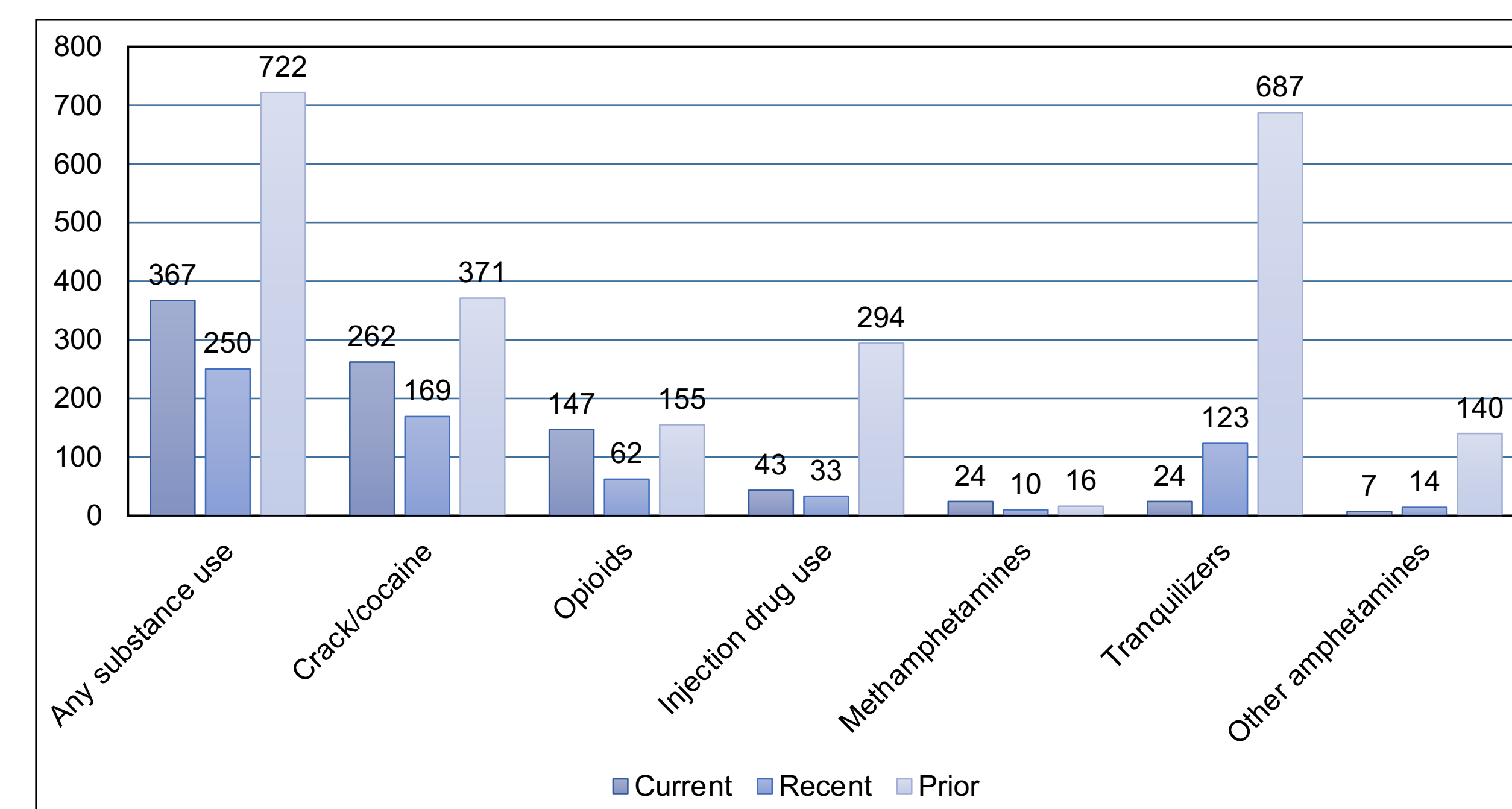
Proportion of Women with Current SU (n=367) Who Utilized Any SU Treatment, by Substance Type
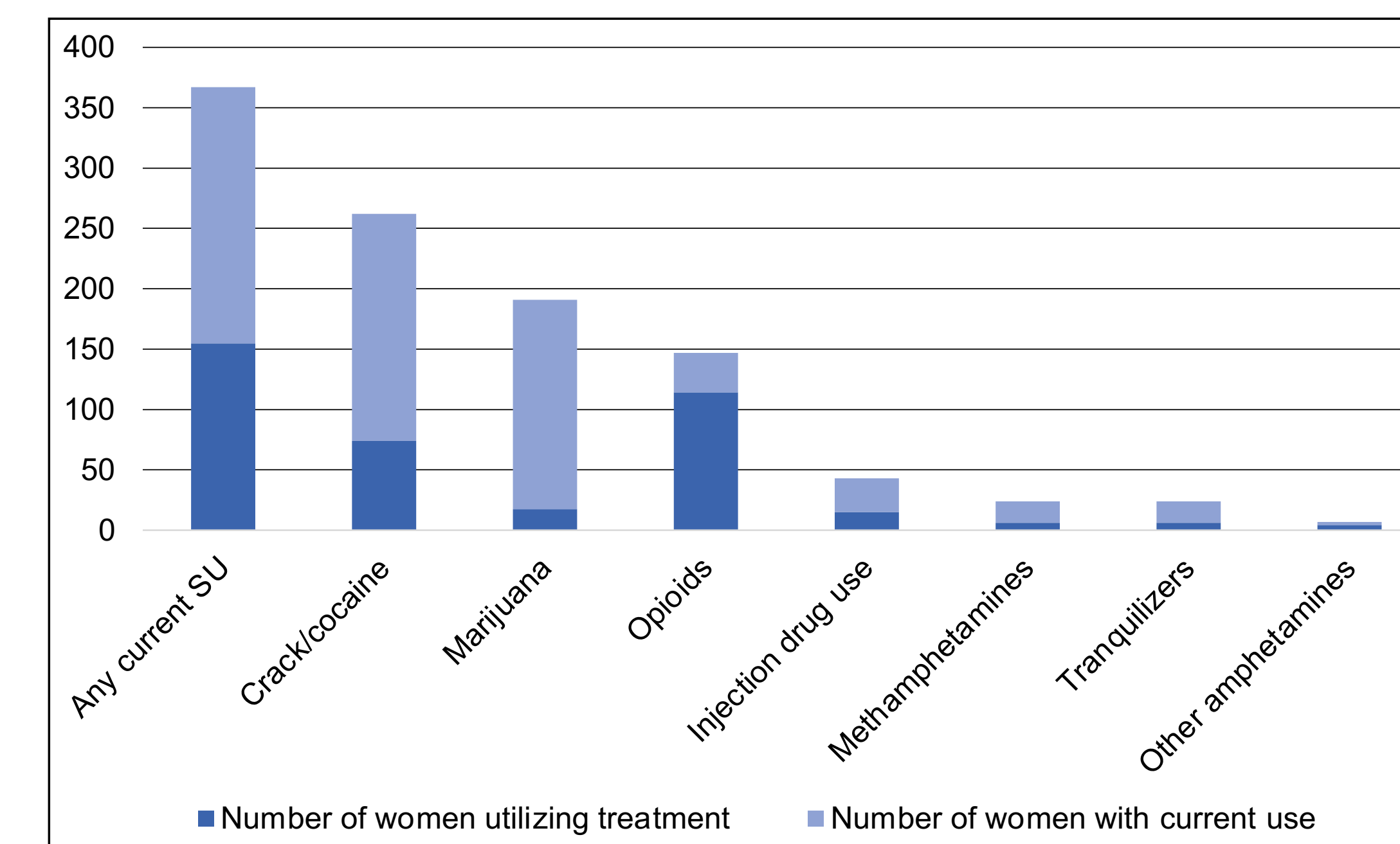
Substance Use Treatment Utilization in the Past Year, By Substance Type

Current Substance type	Counts	Any treatment	Inpatient detoxification	Outpatient treatment	Halfway house	Prison/jail-based treatment	Narcotics Anonymous	Alcoholics Anonymous	Methadone	Buprenorphine /naloxone	Other
Any drug use	870	19.2	5.2	2.9	1.5	0.3	6.2	3.2	11.4	1.0	1.0
Any drug use, excluding marijuana only	367	42.2	12.0	6.8	3.5	0.8	12.3	6.0	26.7	2.5	1.9
Marijuana	694	9.1	2.6	1.3	0.6	0.1	4.3	2.6	3.6	0.3	0.6
Crack/cocaine	262	28.2	14.9	5.0	5.0	1.2	13.4	6.5	8.4	2.3	2.3
Methamphetamines	24	25.0	16.7	0.0	4.2	0.0	4.2	8.3	8.3	4.2	4.2
Other amphetamines	7	57.1	14.3	0.0	14.3	0.0	14.3	8.3	42.9	0.0	0.0
Tranquilizers	24	25.0	12.5	0.0	8.3	4.2	8.3	12.5	16.7	0.0	4.2
Opioids	147	77.6	12.2	12.9	3.4	2.0	15.0	7.5	67.4	5.4	1.4
Injection drug use	43	34.9	23.3	4.7	9.3	0.0	16.3	14.0	18.6	7.0	2.3

Q1: 0-2.1 Q2: 2.2-5.3 Q3: 5.4-13.3 Q4: 13.4-77.6

Results

Association between HIV serostatus, participants characteristics, and SU treatment utilization in the past year among WIHS participants with current SU (n=367)

Participant Characteristics	Substance use treatment utilization (in past 1 year)		Odds of Substance use treatment utilization (in past 1 year)	
	SU treatment N=155 N (%)	No SU treatment N=212 N (%)	Unadjusted OR (95% CI)	Adjusted OR (95% CI)
HIV status				
Negative	62 (40.0)	75 (35.4)	REF	REF
Positive	93 (60.0)	137 (64.6)	0.82 (0.54-1.26)	0.57 (0.31-1.04)
Age, years				
Mean (SD)	54.2 (8.1)	52.1 (8.7)	1.34 (1.05-1.73)^	0.90 (0.64-1.29)^
Race				
Non-Hispanic Black	90 (58.1)	157 (74.1)	0.49 (0.31-0.76)	0.66 (0.37-1.18)
Other	65 (41.9)	55 (25.9)	REF	REF
Alcohol Use				
Abstain	94 (64.0)	58 (28.3)	REF	REF
0-7 drinks/week	31 (21.1)	74 (36.1)	0.26 (0.15-0.44)	0.35 (0.19-0.66)
>7 drinks/week	22 (15.0)	73 (35.6)	0.19 (0.10-0.33)	0.24 (0.12-0.48)
Cigarette smoking status				
Never	6 (4.0)	22 (10.6)	REF	REF
Former	23 (15.3)	31 (14.9)	2.72 (0.95-7.79)	2.40 (0.66-8.37)
Current	121 (80.7)	155 (74.5)	2.86 (1.13-7.28)	3.35 (1.07-10.45)
Marijuana use in past year				
No	104 (67.1)	72 (34.0)	REF	REF
Yes	51 (32.9)	140 (66.0)	0.25 (0.16-0.39)	0.31 (0.18-0.54)
Seen healthcare provider since last visit				
No	23 (15.8)	44 (21.5)	REF	REF
Yes	123 (84.3)	161 (78.5)	1.46 (0.84-2.55)	1.10 (0.52-2.33)
Seen psychiatrist or counselor since last visit				
No	89 (61.0)	151 (73.7)	REF	REF
Yes	57 (39.0)	54 (26.3)	1.79 (1.14-2.82)	2.46 (1.34-4.50)

° Percentages are column percentages unless otherwise noted and may not total 100 due to rounding
^ 10 year increments

In a separate model among women with HIV only, SU treatment utilization in the past year was **not** associated with any HIV care continuum outcomes.

Conclusions

- In the WIHS cohort, SU treatment utilization was high, especially for methadone use, reflecting the resilience of a population of older, Black women known to face stigma and barriers to treatment.
- Our analysis highlights opportunities for optimizing SU treatment in the context of HIV care for women, such as the need to prioritize buprenorphine and comprehensive, wraparound services in HIV care settings.

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