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Based on Australian figures (similar to UK) a study has estimated that not until injectors averaged 31 sharing partners a year would HIV prevalence escalate and that if each shared with under 17, infection levels would become minimal.¹ For hepatitis C the corresponding figures were 5.7 and 3. In Australia the average number of sharing partners is six – a comfortable margin of safety for HIV but implying that hepatitis C will continue to infect a quarter of all injectors and that the epidemic will only be controlled by much greater advances in reducing sharing or the risk from sharing.

¹ Murray J.M. *et al.* "The impact of behavioural changes on the prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus and hepatitis C among injecting drug users." *International Journal of Epidemiology*. 2003, 32, p. 708–714.