

# Expanding Hepatitis Testing and Linkage to Care in Emergency Departments

NASTAD's Hepatitis Testing Partnership  
October 17, 2019



# ***NASTAD's vision is a world free of HIV and viral hepatitis***

- NASTAD is a non-profit association that represents public health officials who administer HIV and hepatitis programs in the U.S. and around the world.
- We strengthen domestic and global governmental public health through advocacy, capacity building, and social justice.

# Hepatitis Testing Partnership

- A diverse coalition of stakeholders working together to increase testing and linkage to care for hepatitis B and C
- Convenes through a listserv and quarterly webinars to share ideas, lessons learned, resources, and best practices

**HEPATITIS**  
**TESTING**  
**PARTNERSHIP**

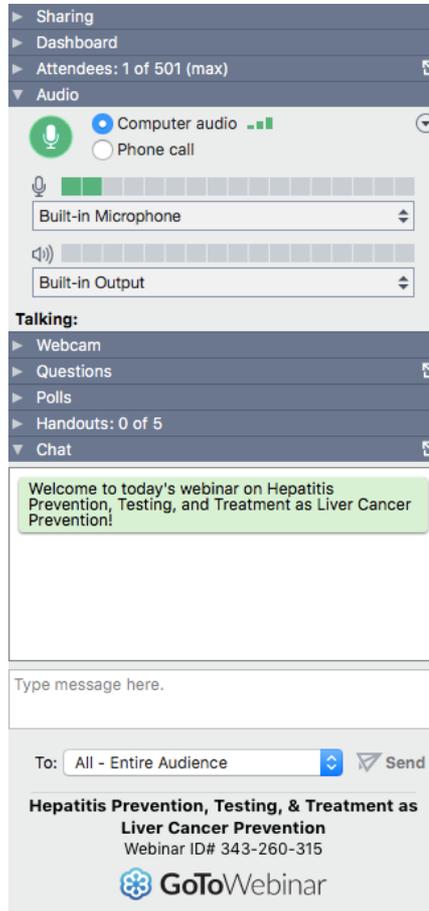
# Phone/Audio Options

**Call-In #: 1-631-992-3211**

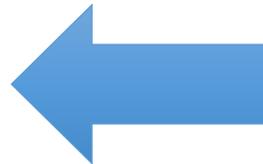
**Attendee Access Code: 138-157-570**

*All attendees are muted.*

# Questions?



The screenshot shows the GoToWebinar interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with options: Sharing, Dashboard, Attendees: 1 of 501 (max), Audio, Talking, Webcam, Questions, Polls, Handouts: 0 of 5, and Chat. The Audio section is expanded, showing 'Computer audio' selected with a microphone icon and 'Phone call' as an alternative. Below this are volume controls for 'Built-in Microphone' and 'Built-in Output'. The 'Talking' section is also expanded, showing 'Webcam', 'Questions', 'Polls', 'Handouts: 0 of 5', and 'Chat'. The chat box is visible, containing a green message: 'Welcome to today's webinar on Hepatitis Prevention, Testing, and Treatment as Liver Cancer Prevention!'. Below the chat box is a text input field with the placeholder 'Type message here.' and a 'Send' button. At the bottom, there is a 'To:' dropdown menu set to 'All - Entire Audience' and a 'Send' button. The webinar title 'Hepatitis Prevention, Testing, & Treatment as Liver Cancer Prevention' and ID 'Webinar ID# 343-260-315' are displayed, along with the GoToWebinar logo.



**Questions?** Submit questions in the chat box at anytime throughout the webinar.

# Speakers

- Ethan Cowan, MD, MS, FACEP, Director of Research and Community Engagement/Associate Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine, Mount Sinai Beth Israel
- Heather Henderson, MA, CAS, Director, Social Medicine Strategies, Division of Emergency Medicine, Tampa General Hospital

# Non-targeted Hepatitis C Screening in the Emergency Department

Ethan Cowan, MD, MS, FACEP

Director of Research and Community Engagement  
Associate Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine  
Department of Emergency Medicine  
Mount Sinai Beth Israel  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



**Mount  
Sinai**  
Beth Israel



**WHY?**

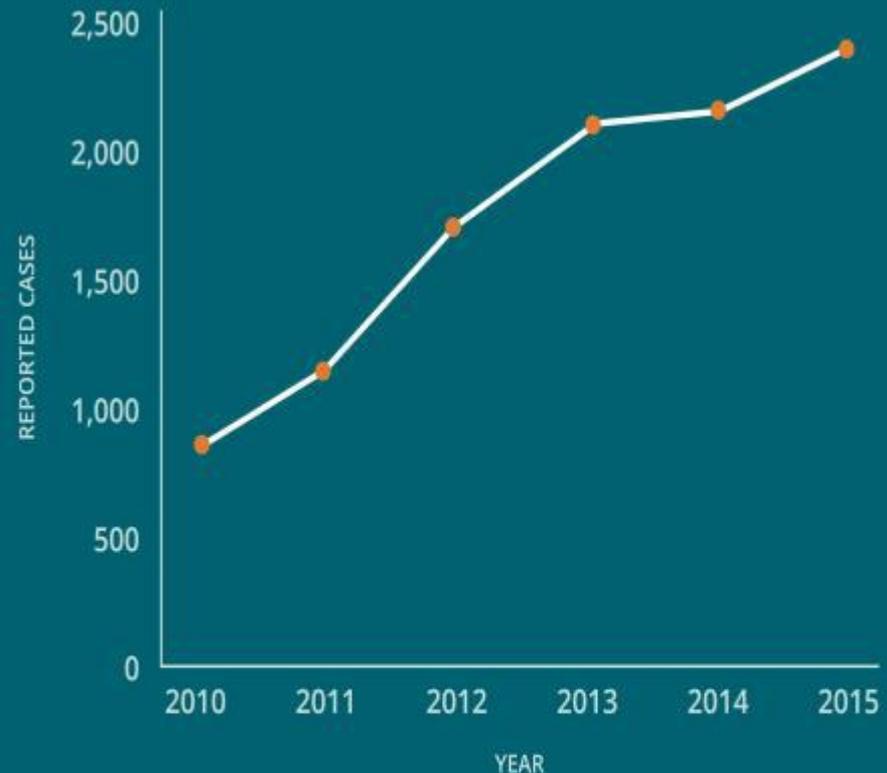


# HCV Facts

- Most common chronic blood borne infection in the US
- Estimated 2.4 million people in the US living with HCV
- Leading cause of liver disease and liver cancer
- Leading indication for liver transplant in the US
- HCV death rates in NYS now exceed HIV death rates
- HCV is curable

# Background and Significance

**NEW HEPATITIS C  
INFECTIONS HAVE  
NEARLY TRIPLED  
SINCE 2010**

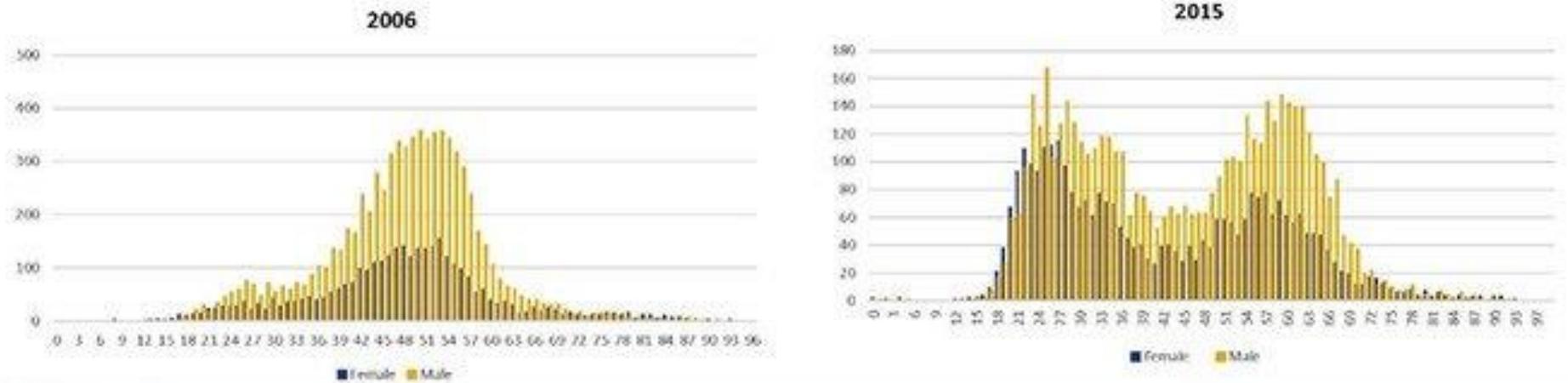


GIVEN LIMITED TESTING AND UNDERREPORTING, CDC ESTIMATES THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF AMERICANS NEWLY INFECTED IS **34,000**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# Changing State of the HCV Epidemic

## Total Hepatitis C by Age, Sex and Year, NYS (Excluding NYC)



*New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Communicable Disease Electronic Surveillance System; NYSDOH AIDS Institute*

# Current CDC HCV Screening Recommendations

- CDC recommends HCV screening for:
  - Current or former injectable drug users
  - Persons born between 1945-1965
  - Recipients of factor concentrates or organ transplant prior to July 1992
  - People with HIV, ever on HD or persistent ALT elevation
- Two Questions
  - Why screen in the Emergency Department?
  - Why do non-targeted screening?

# Program Description



# Offer & Screening Eligibility

1. Initial HCV testing offer done by the RN at the time of the primary assessment (“hard stop” in EMR)

“We offer HIV and Hepatitis C testing to all of our patients. We recommend that you get tested today. Is that okay?”

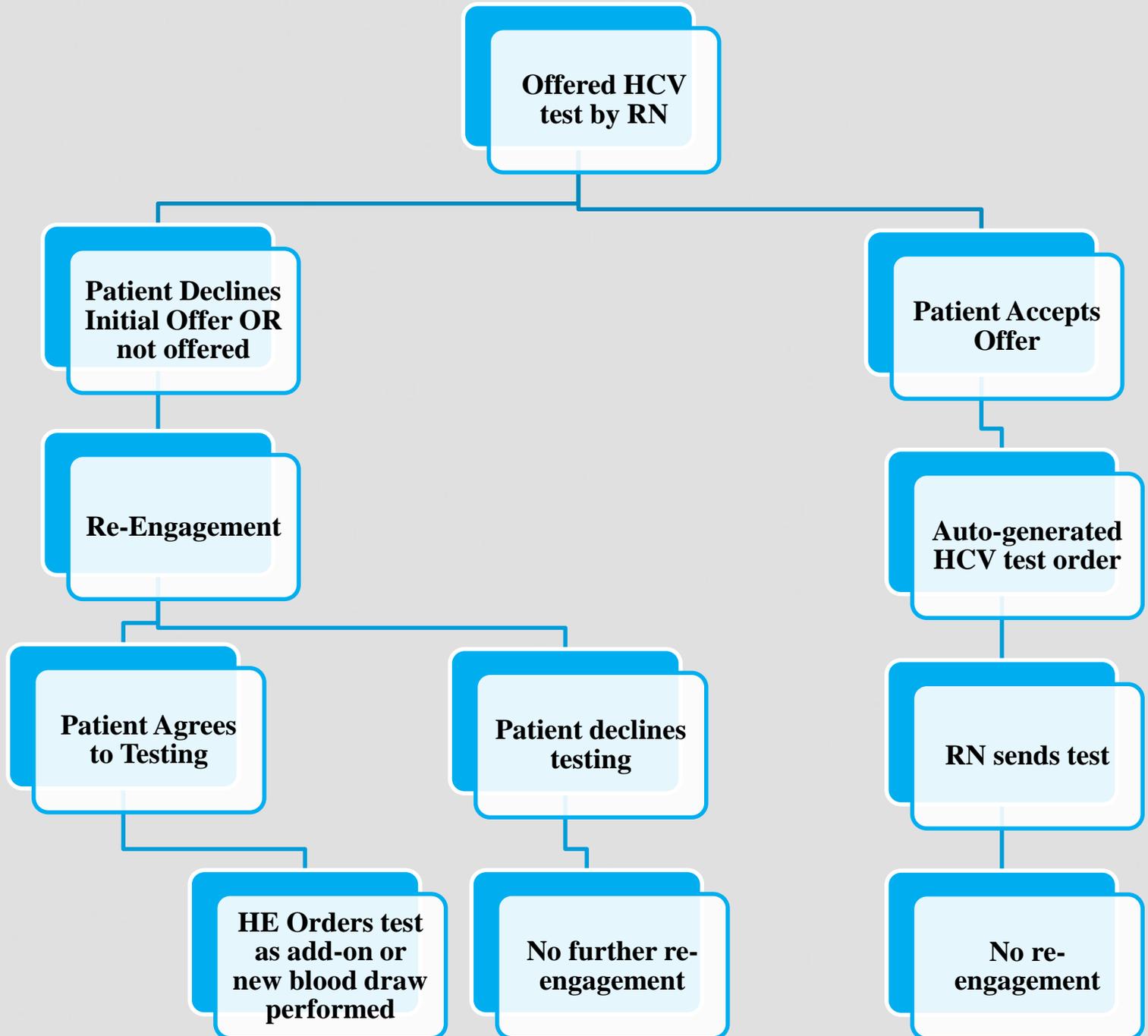
2. Eligibility

1. All patients aged 18 and older
2. Being seen in the adult and pediatric areas of the ED
3. Able to consent to testing
4. Medically stable

3. Exclusion criteria

1. Triaged to the psychiatric ED
2. Intoxicated, or Mentally Incapacitated or critically ill

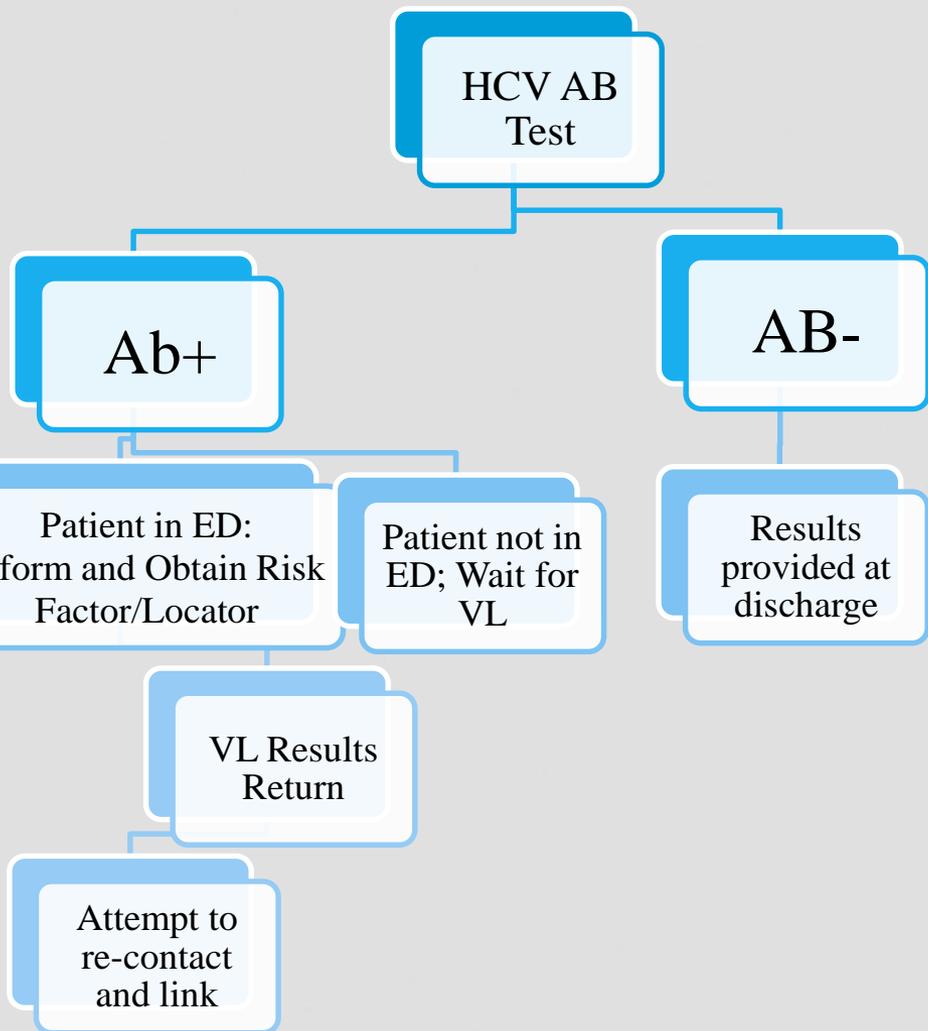
# HCV Screening Flow



# Re-Engagement

1. Structured Re-Engagement Performed by a Trained Health Educator (HE)
2. HEs attempt to reengage all patients who decline or are not offered testing by the RN
  1. Brief educational session
  2. Important to be tested at least once in your life
  3. You can have HCV and not know it because there may not be symptoms
  4. HCV is curable
3. Coverage
  1. 15 hours per day on weekdays (9am-Midnight)
  2. 8 hours on weekends (10am-6pm)

# Hepatitis C Positive Patients



## Lab Results:

Antibody Results:

- 1 hour lab turn around time

Viral Load Results:

- 5 to 7 day turn around time

**Risk Factor Form:** 17 question survey given to all patients testing Ab+

## Linking Patients

- Positive patients given appointments in Liver Clinic
- Linkage defined as attending 1<sup>st</sup> outpatient appointment for HCV treatment

# Lost to Follow-up Procedures for RE HCV Ab

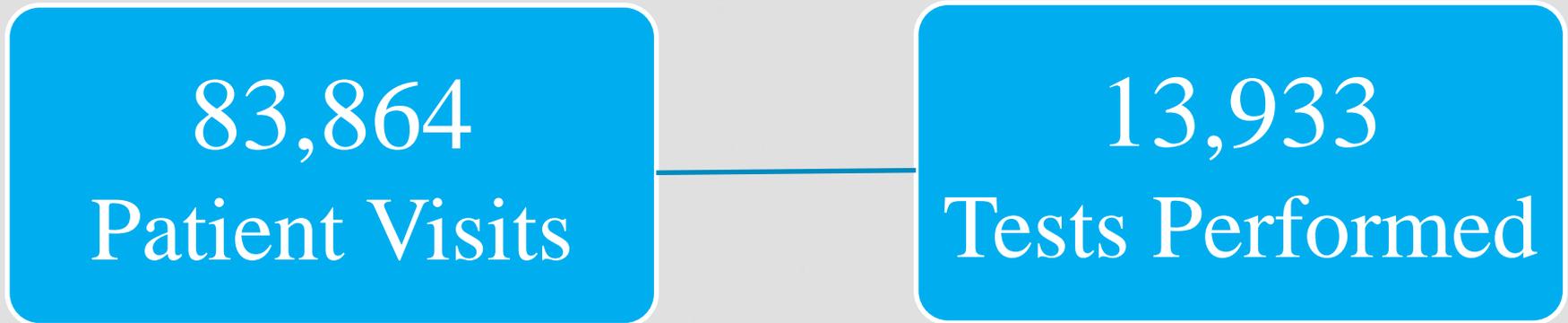
1. Patients with phone numbers called up to 7x, then monthly
2. Patients with address have mailgrams sent
3. Patients with no contact information “flagged” in EMR
4. Monthly jail search
  - list sent to CHS – Contact initiated by CHS staff
5. Monthly list provided to DHS
  - homeless outreach performed by DHS
6. Quarterly list provided to DOHMH (QNS and VL+) for registry matching

# **1<sup>st</sup> Year Program Results**

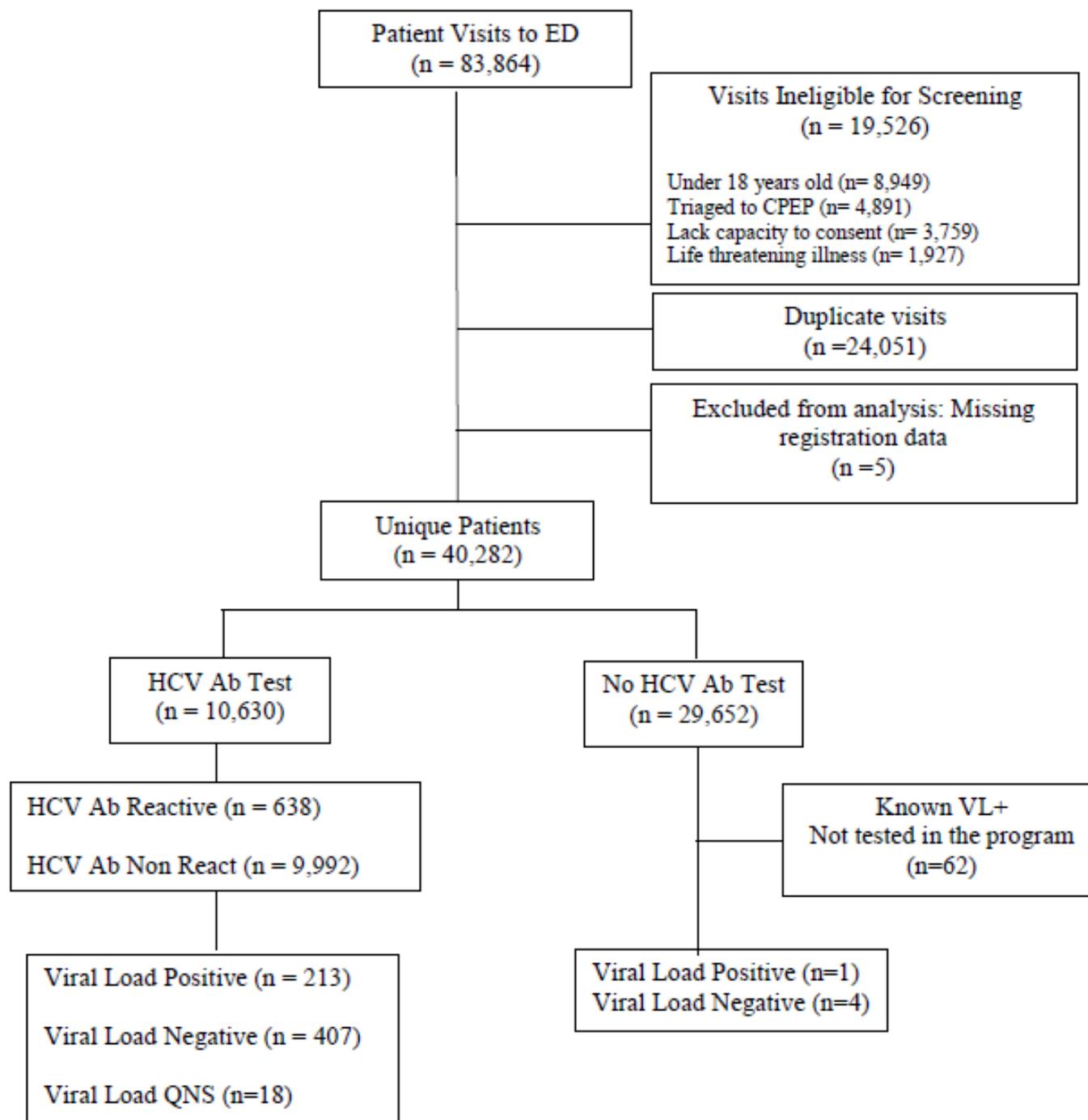
**June 6, 2018 – June 5, 2019**

## Program Summary

6/6/2018 – 6/5/2019

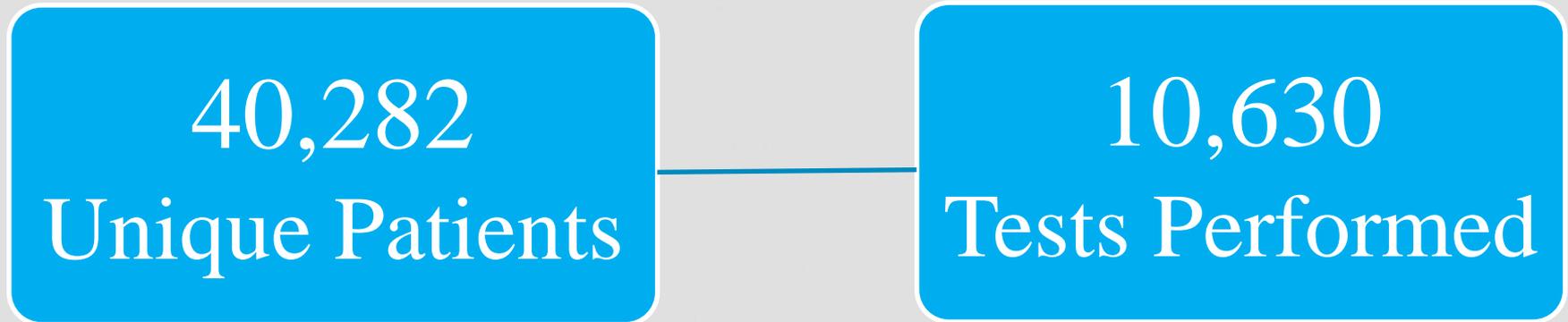


HCV test performed in 17% of all ED Visits



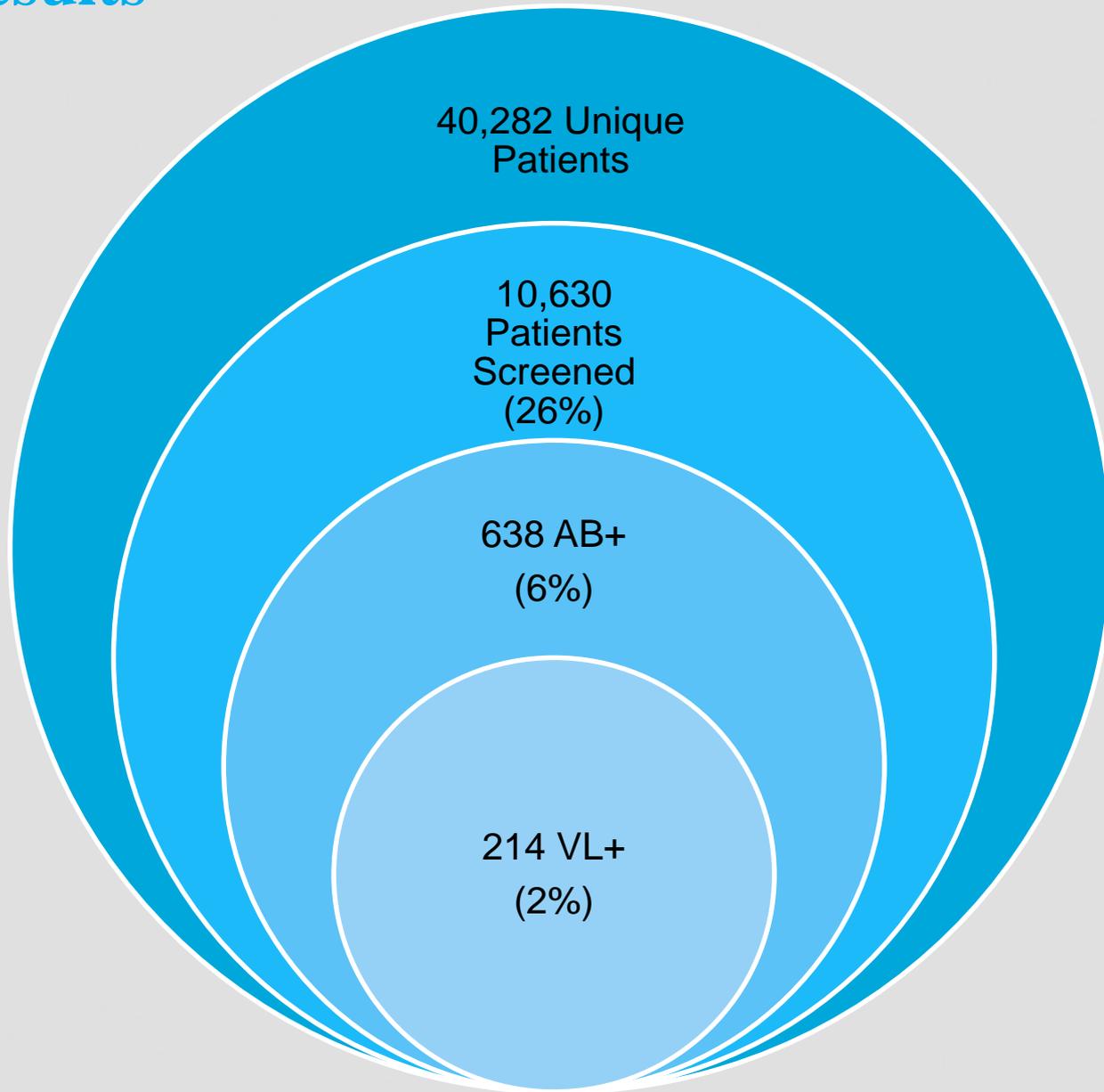
# Program Summary

6/6/2018 – 6/5/2019



26% of all unique eligible patients are tested

# Testing Results



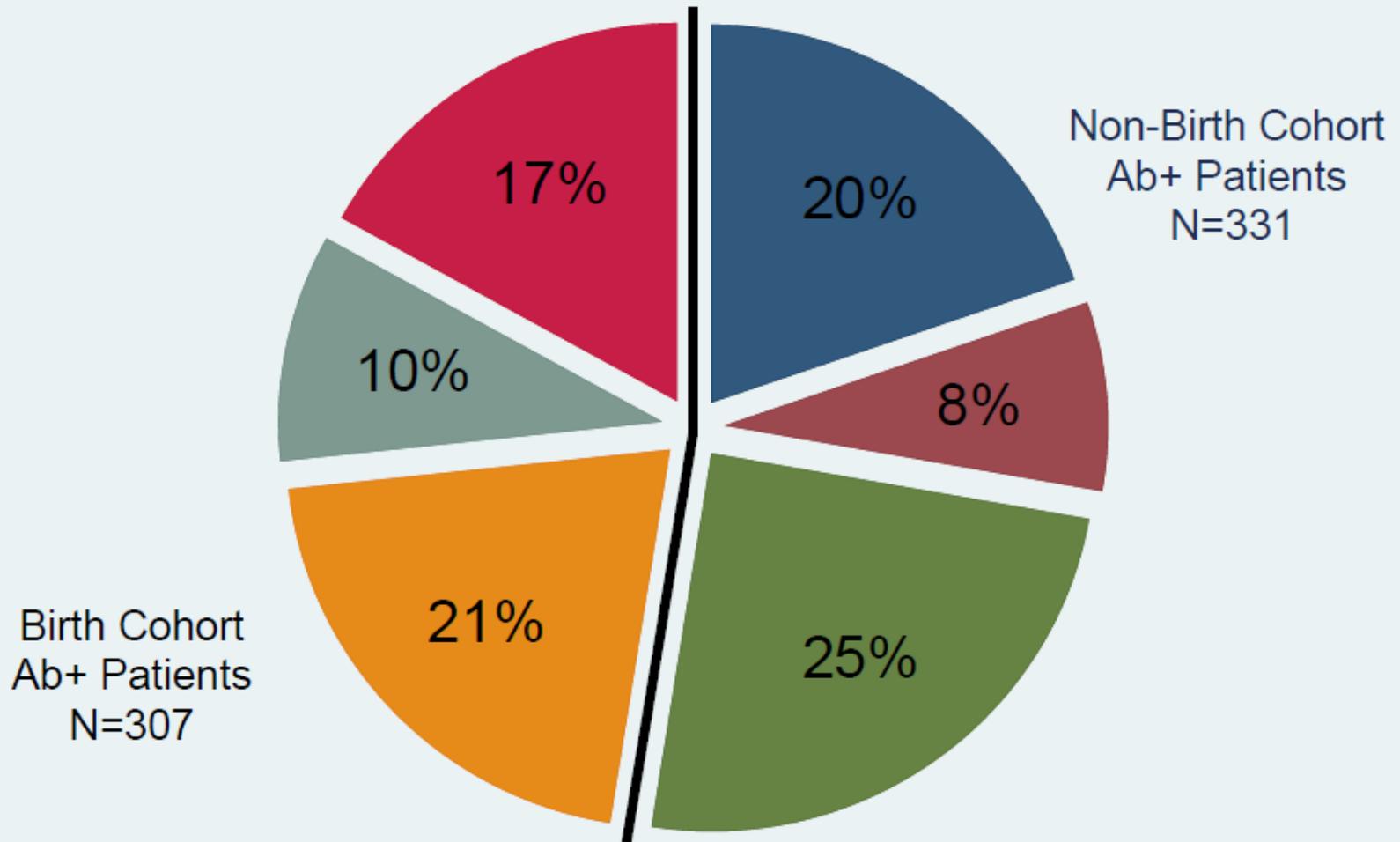
# Population Characteristics

		Unique Patients N = 40,282	Tested N = 10,630
Age*	Mean (SD)	47.23 (19.27)	45.96 (18.45)
Birth Cohort*	Yes	10,513 (26%)	2,671 (25%)
	No	29,769 (74%)	7,959 (75%)
Sex*	Male	17,715 (49%)	4,567 (47%)
	Female	18,843 (51%)	5,048 (53%)
Race*	Asian	2,113 (5%)	535 (5%)
	Black	6,467 (16%)	2,031 (19%)
	Unknown	10,929 (27%)	2,795 (26%)
	White	10,251 (26%)	2,194 (21%)
	Other	10,522 (26%)	3,075 (29%)
Ethnicity*	Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	6,019 (15%)	1,980 (19%)
	Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	12,128 (30%)	3,131 (29%)
	Unknown	22,135 (55%)	5,519 (52%)
Insurance*	Commercial	11,806 (29%)	2,825 (27%)
	Medicare	8,375 (21%)	2,138 (20%)
	Medicaid	12,658 (31%)	3,958 (37%)
	Unknown	414 (1%)	79 (1%)
	Self Pay	7,029 (18%)	1,630 (15%)

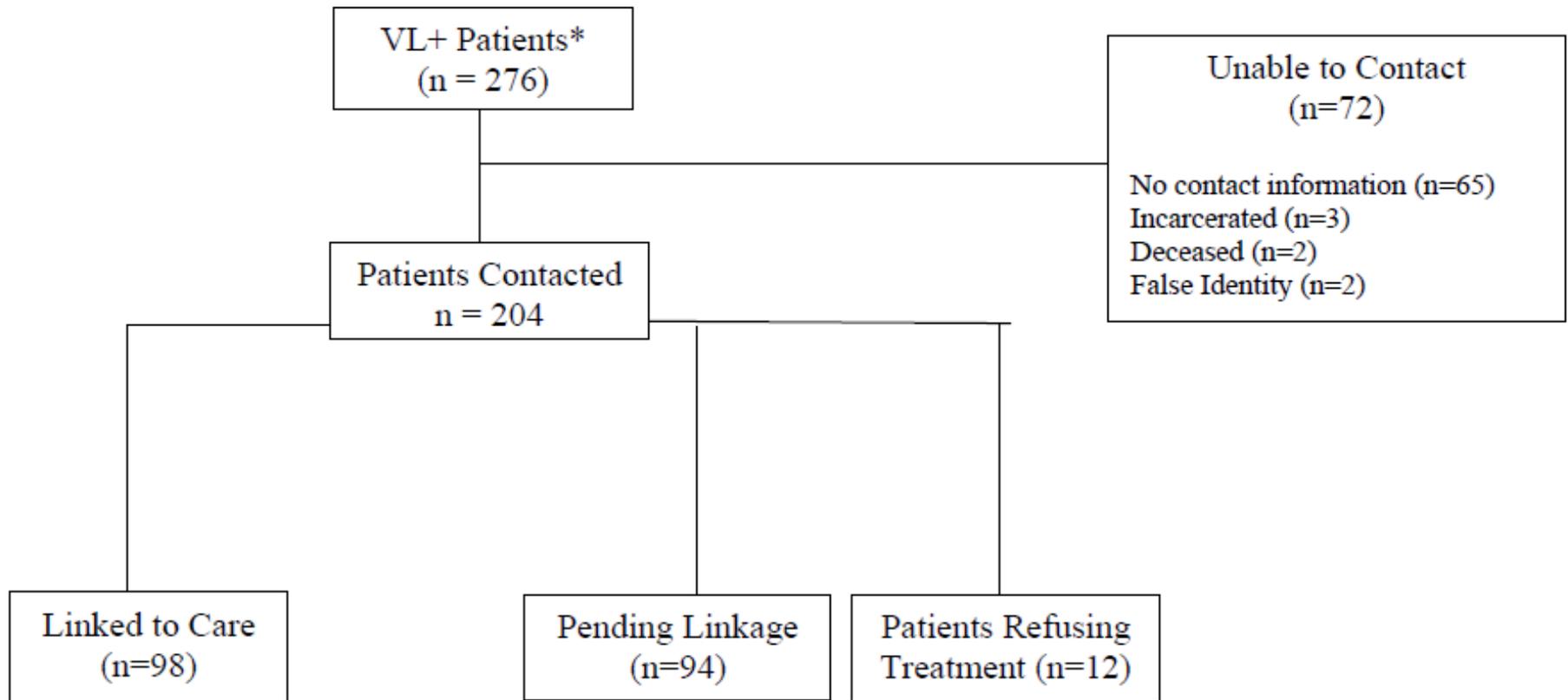
# Population Characteristics

		Reactive N = 638	VL Positive N = 214
Age*	Mean (SD)	53.86 (15.05)	52.98 (14.27)
Birth Cohort*	Yes	307 (48%)	101 (47%)
	No	331 (52%)	113 (54%)
Sex*	Male	414 (65%)	156 (73%)
	Female	223 (35%)	57 (27%)
Race*	Asian	24 (4%)	7 (3%)
	Black	130 (20%)	49 (23%)
	Unknown	134 (21%)	45 (21%)
	White	168 (26%)	61 (29%)
	Other	182 (29%)	52 (24%)
Ethnicity*	Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	134 (21%)	38 (18%)
	Not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino	221 (35%)	76 (35%)
	Unknown	283 (44%)	100 (47%)
Insurance*	Commercial	63 (10%)	7 (3%)
	Medicare	177 (28%)	47 (22%)
	Medicaid	307 (48%)	117 (55%)
	Unknown	11 (2%)	1 (0.5%)
	Self Pay	80 (12%)	42 (19%)

# Risk Factors for Birth and Non-Birth Cohort AB+ Patients

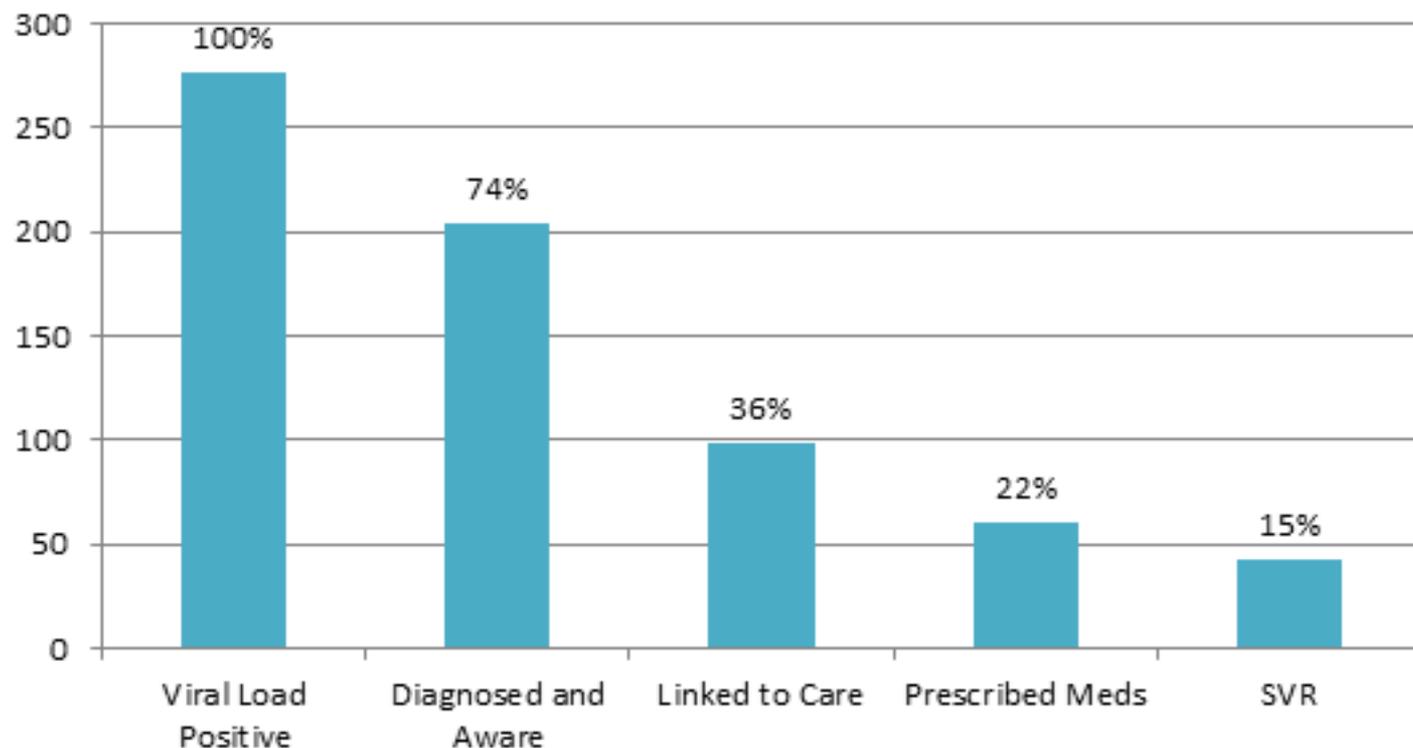


# Linkage to Care Summary



\*Includes known positives, not tested by our program and out of care

## HCV Care Cascade at Mount Sinai Beth Israel



# Costs & Funding

# Program Costs

1. Direct costs approximately \$350,000/annually
  - Partial support for program director
  - Partial support for a project manager
  - Three (3) FTE Health Educator lines
  - Supplies and Travel
  - Statistical and data support

# HOW 340B WORKS

 **340B HEALTH** For more information, please contact Kathryn Diblett at 202-552-5855 or [kathryn.diblett@340bhealth.org](mailto:kathryn.diblett@340bhealth.org).



1

Drug manufacturer sells outpatient drugs to 340B hospital at discounted price



2

Only hospitals that treat high volumes of low-income patients or serve remote, rural areas qualify for 340B



3

Hospital provides 340B drug to outpatient when hospital is responsible for patient's care



4

Low-income and uninsured patients receive drugs at free or reduced cost.

Insured patients pay their normal co-pay, and their insurer reimburses the hospital their normal payment.

5

The hospital's 340B savings are the difference between what the hospital paid for a drug at the 340B price and what it would have paid at a non-340B price.

6

Examples of how 340B hospitals use savings to help low-income patients

Provide free oncology services to low-income patients treated in the hospital's cancer clinic

Implement medication therapy management programs to improve patient care and reduce overall health costs and readmissions

Provide lifesaving drugs at free or no cost to uninsured and vulnerable patients

Open a new indigent care clinic

# Our Team

Medical Director:

Ethan Cowan

Project Manager:

Joan Esbri-Cullen

Health Educators:

Samantha Brandspiegel

Joseph Zaheer

Clare O'Brien-Lambert

Program Hepatologist:

Amreen Dinani

Program Epidemiologist:

George Loo





# Co-Locating Linkage to Care for HCV and Opioid Use Disorder in the Emergency Department

Heather Henderson, MA, CAS  
Director of Social Medicine Strategies  
Division of Emergency Medicine  
Tampa General Hospital  
PhD Candidate, University of South Florida

# HCV In the United States

3.5 million estimated cases of HCV in the United States

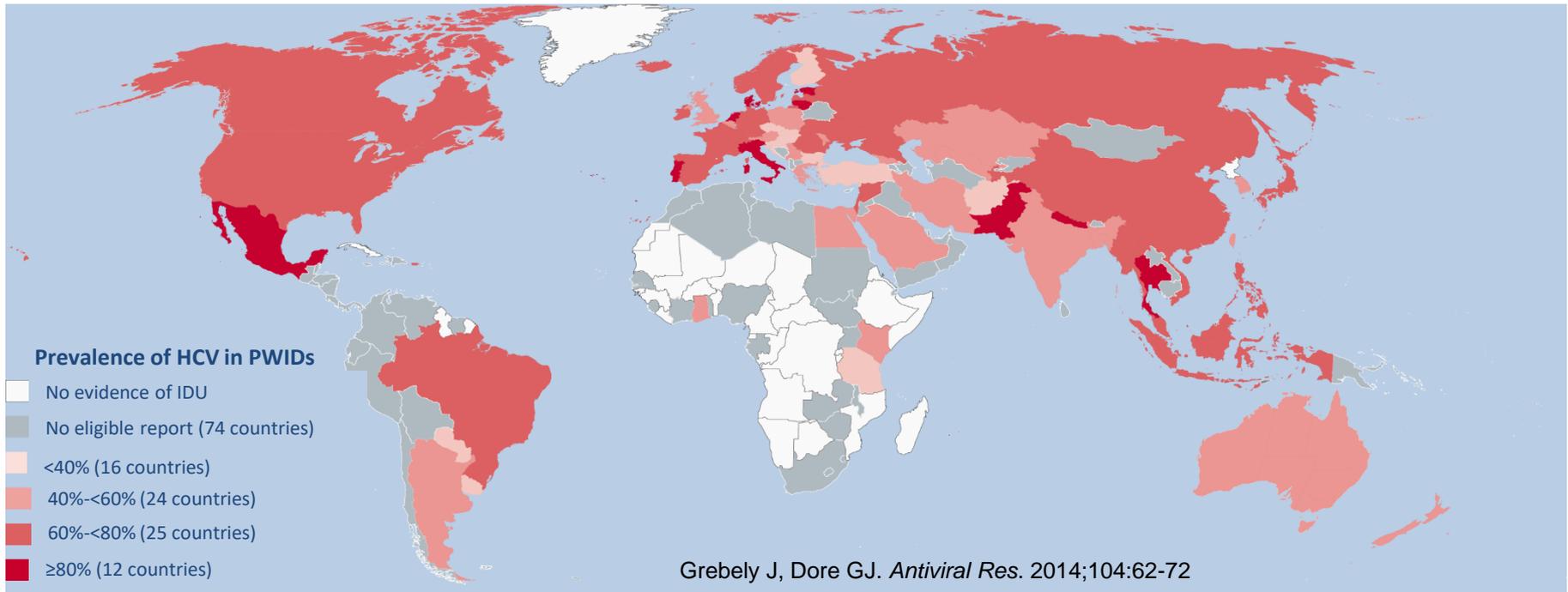
34,000 new HCV infections in 2015

New infections tripled over 5 year period

The greatest increases in new HCV infections, and the highest overall number of cases, were among young people aged 20-29 years, with injection drug use as the primary route of transmission

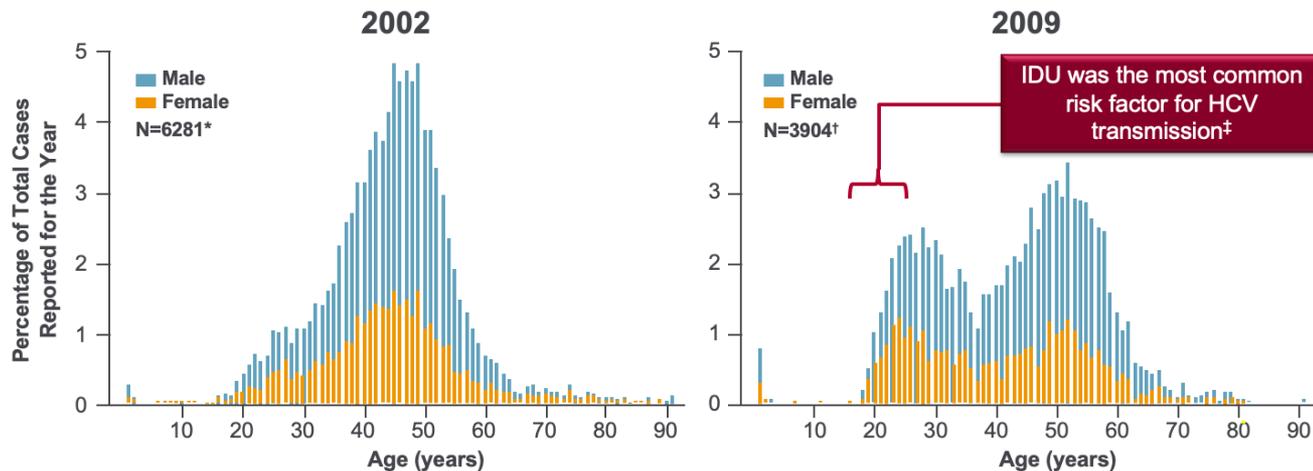
<https://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/statistics/2015surveillance/Commentary.htm#hepatitisC>

# Prevalence of HCV in People Who Inject Drugs (PWID)



# Injection drug use has changed the age distribution of HCV in the past decade

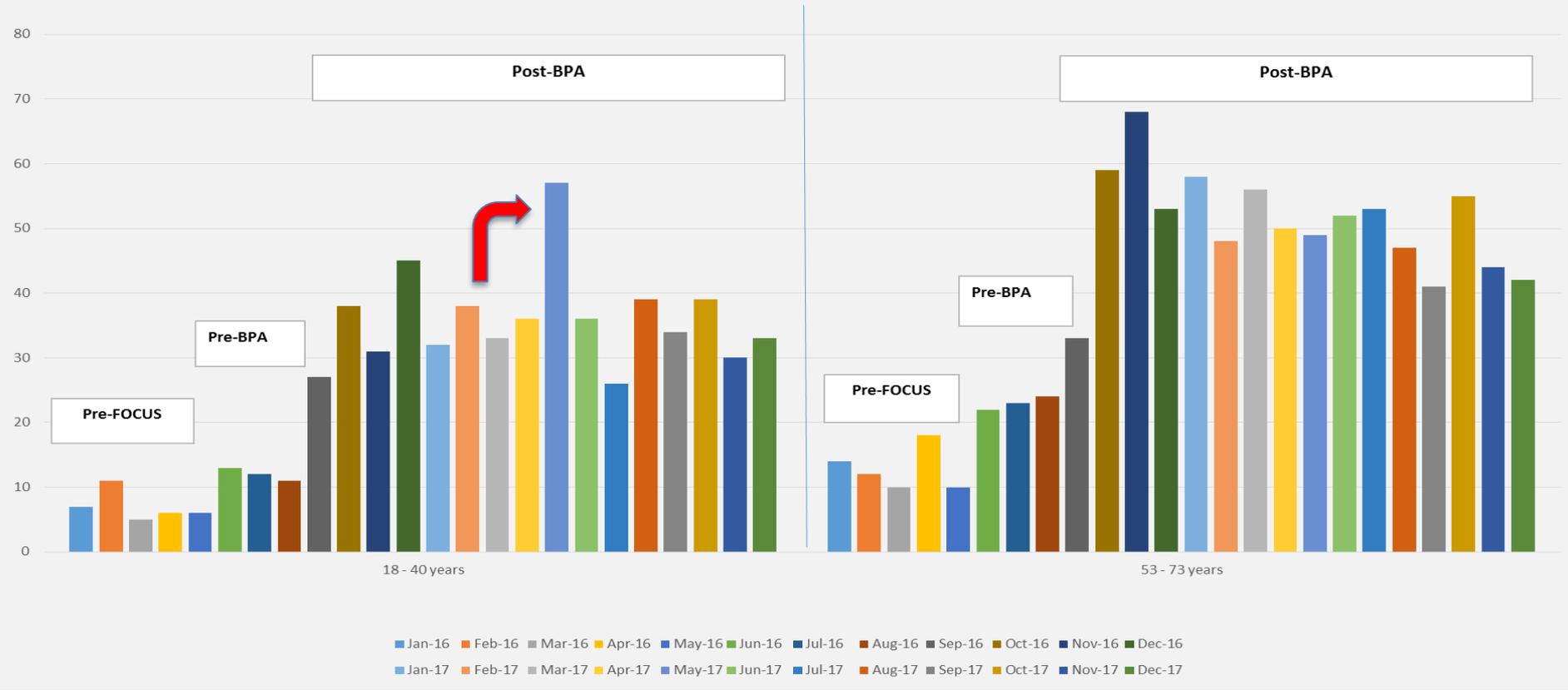
Newly Reported Confirmed HCV Cases,  
Massachusetts, 2002-2009



CDC. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2011;60(17):537-541.

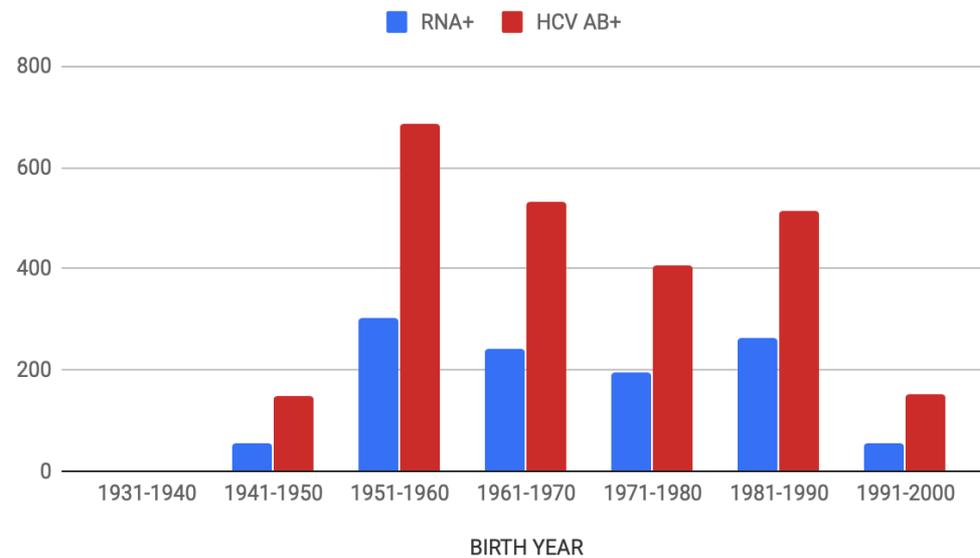
# TGH DATA

## Young Cohort vs Baby boomers

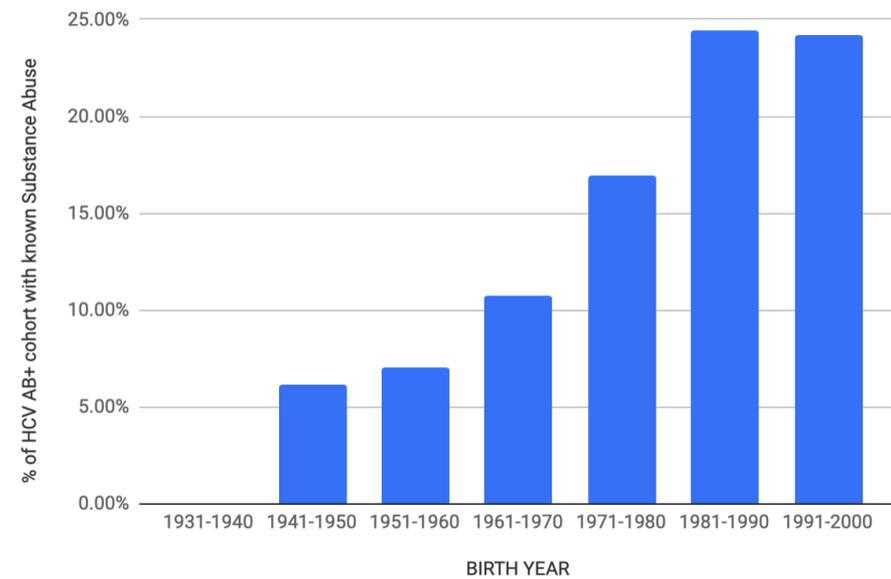


# TGH DATA

RNA+ and HCV AB+ TGH AS OF MARCH 23, 2019

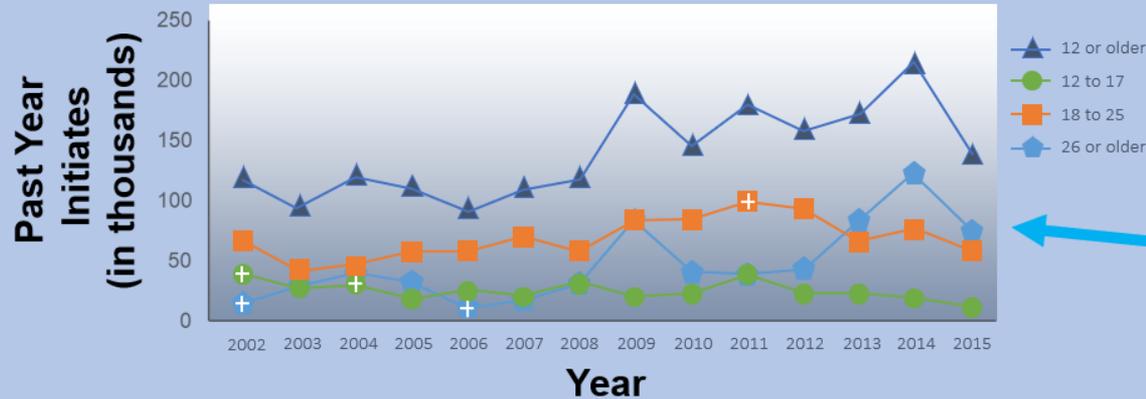


% of HCV AB+ cohort with known Substance Abuse



# Injection Drug Use in the United States

Past Year Heroin Initiates Among People Aged  $\geq 12$  Years, by Age Group (in Thousands): 2002-2015\*



**Heroin use doubled among people over 26 in the last decade**

\*+ = Difference between this estimate and the 2015 estimate is statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

## Defining populations and injecting parameters among people who inject drugs: Implications for the assessment of hepatitis C treatment programs

Sarah Larney<sup>a,\*</sup>, Jason Grebely<sup>b</sup>, Matthew Hickman<sup>c</sup>, Daniela De Angelis<sup>d</sup>, Gregory J. Dore<sup>b</sup>, Louisa Degenhardt<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of NSW, Sydney, Australia

<sup>b</sup> Kirby Institute, University of NSW, Sydney, Australia

<sup>c</sup> School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom

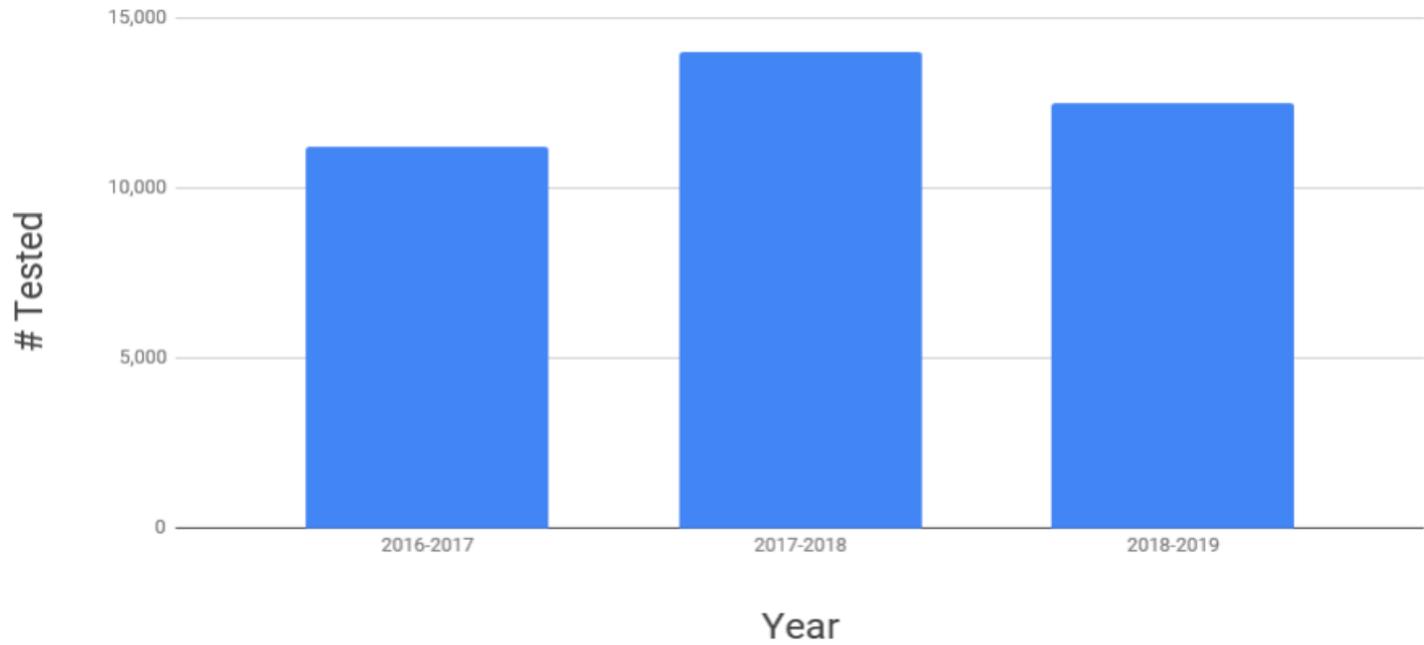
<sup>d</sup> Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge, United Kingdom

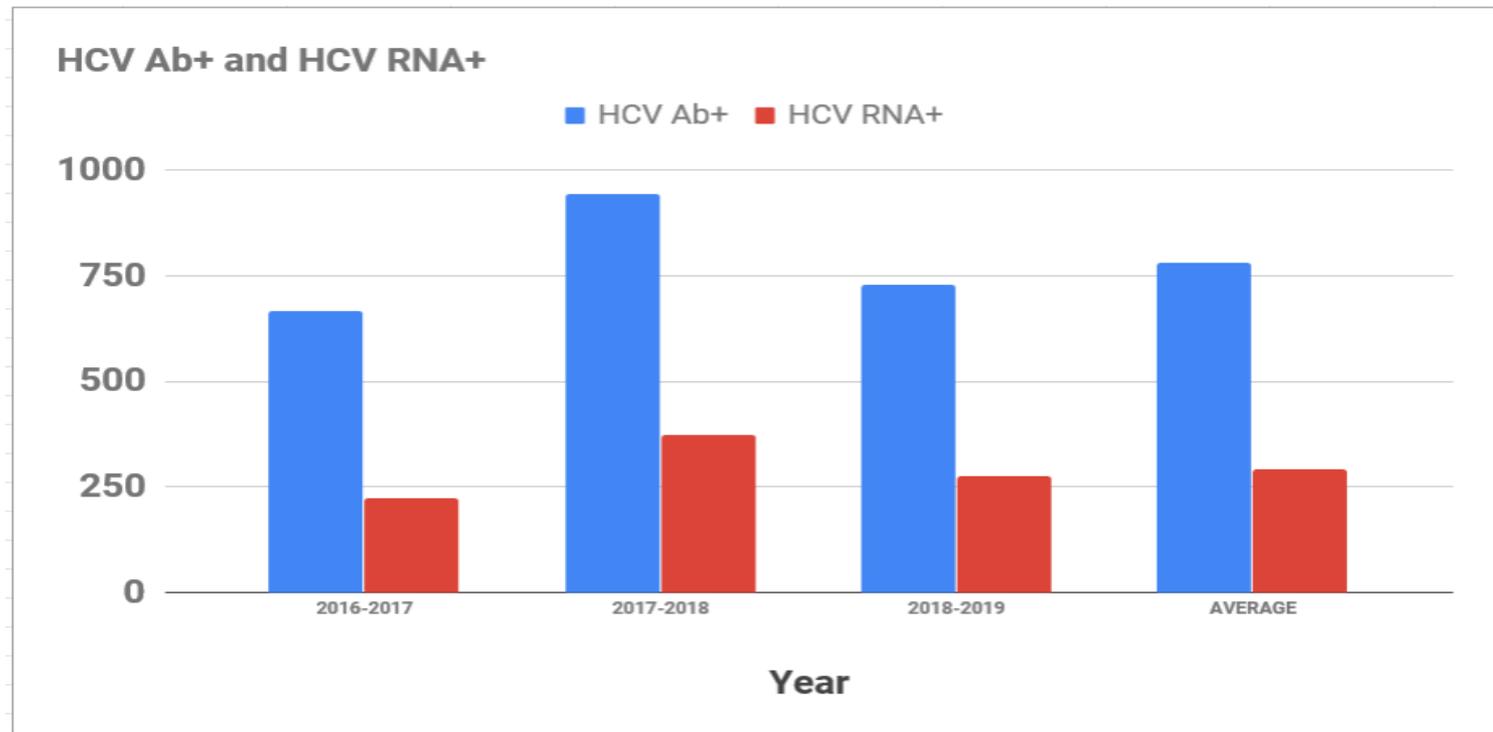
International Journal of Drug Policy 26 (2015) 950–957

- Estimated 15 million people in the world inject drugs
- 67% of those are estimated to have HCV (10 million)
- 80% of new HCV infections are in PWIDs
- 153,000 PWIDs in the United States are estimated to have a dual infection (HIV and HCV)

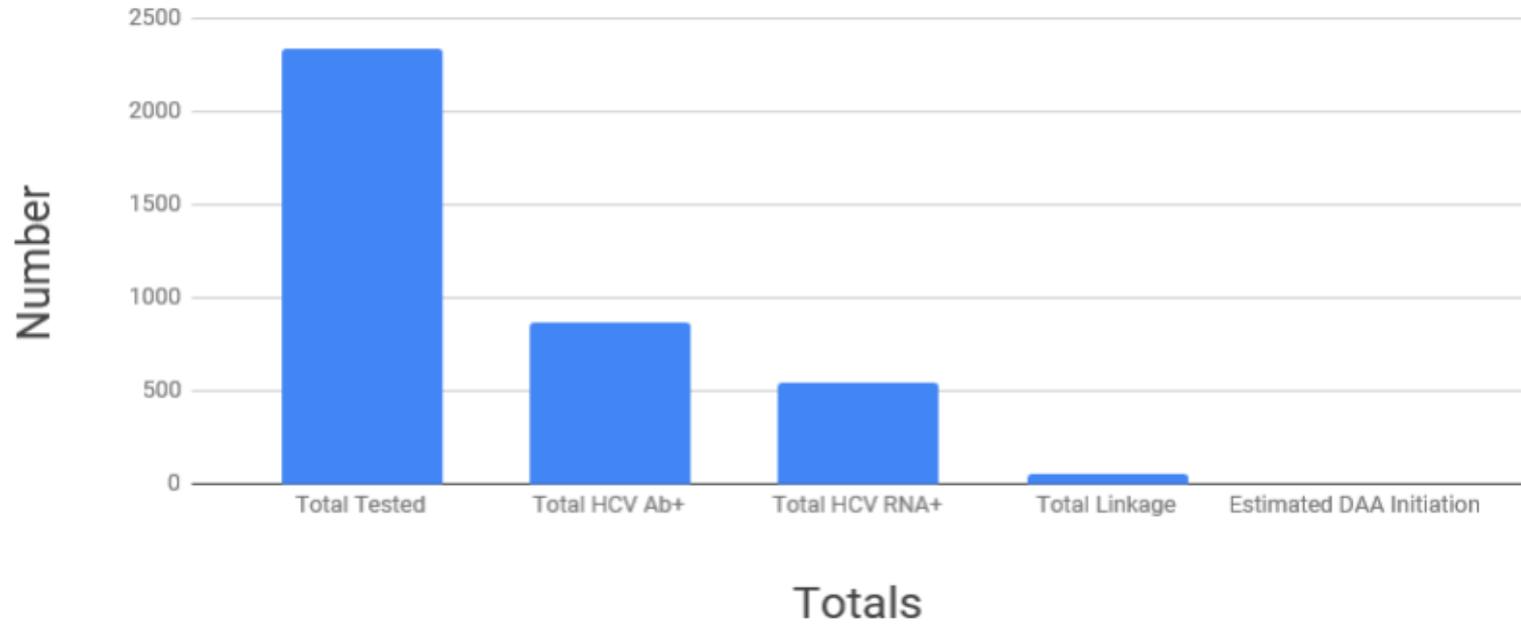
Grebely J, et al. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2013;57(7):1014-1020.

### HCV ANNUAL TEST VOLUME TGH ED

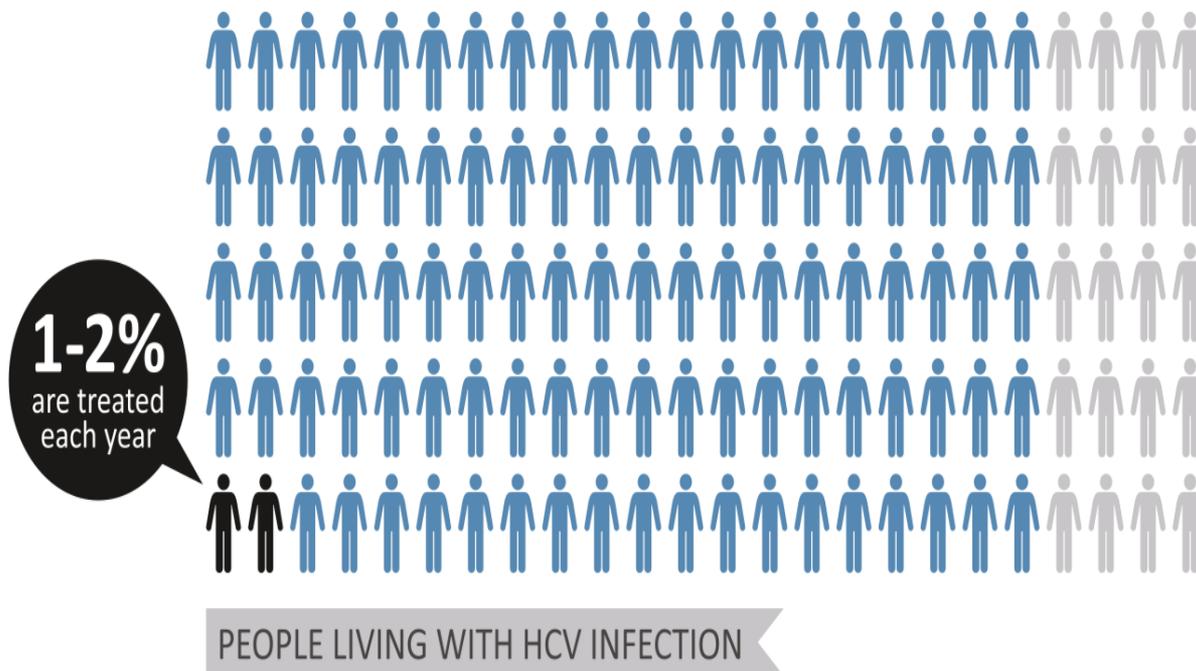




## TGH HCV CASCADE OF CARE



**80%** OF NEW INFECTIONS OCCUR  
AMONG CURRENT PWID



**Fig. 1.** Despite high burden of HCV infection among PWID, treatment uptake remains low. In many high-income countries (and some low- and medium-income countries), >80% of new cases of HCV infection occur among PWID each year (Hajarizadeh et al., 2013). However, the annual HCV treatment uptake is only 1–2% among PWID (Grebel et al., 2009; NCHECR, 2010a,b; Mehta et al., 2008; Alavi et al., 2013; Iversen et al., 2014).

# Linkage to Care for HCV and Injection Drug Use in the ED

Medication Assisted Treatment Pathway for Opioid Use Disorder Launched September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

115 Patients enrolled to date

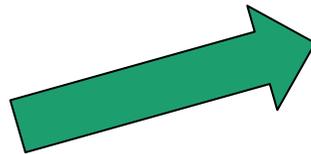
64.5% follow-up rate (compared to national average of 22%)

62% of Pathway Patients HCV RNA Positive

# Buprenorphine and DATA 2000 Act

A DATA 2000 Waiver Requires:

- 8 hour course for physicians
- 24 hour course for PA's and ARNP's
- After completion of course (offered by ASAM and AAFP for \$199)
- Submit certificate to SAMHSA
- Receive "X-number" which allows treatment of up to 30 active patients

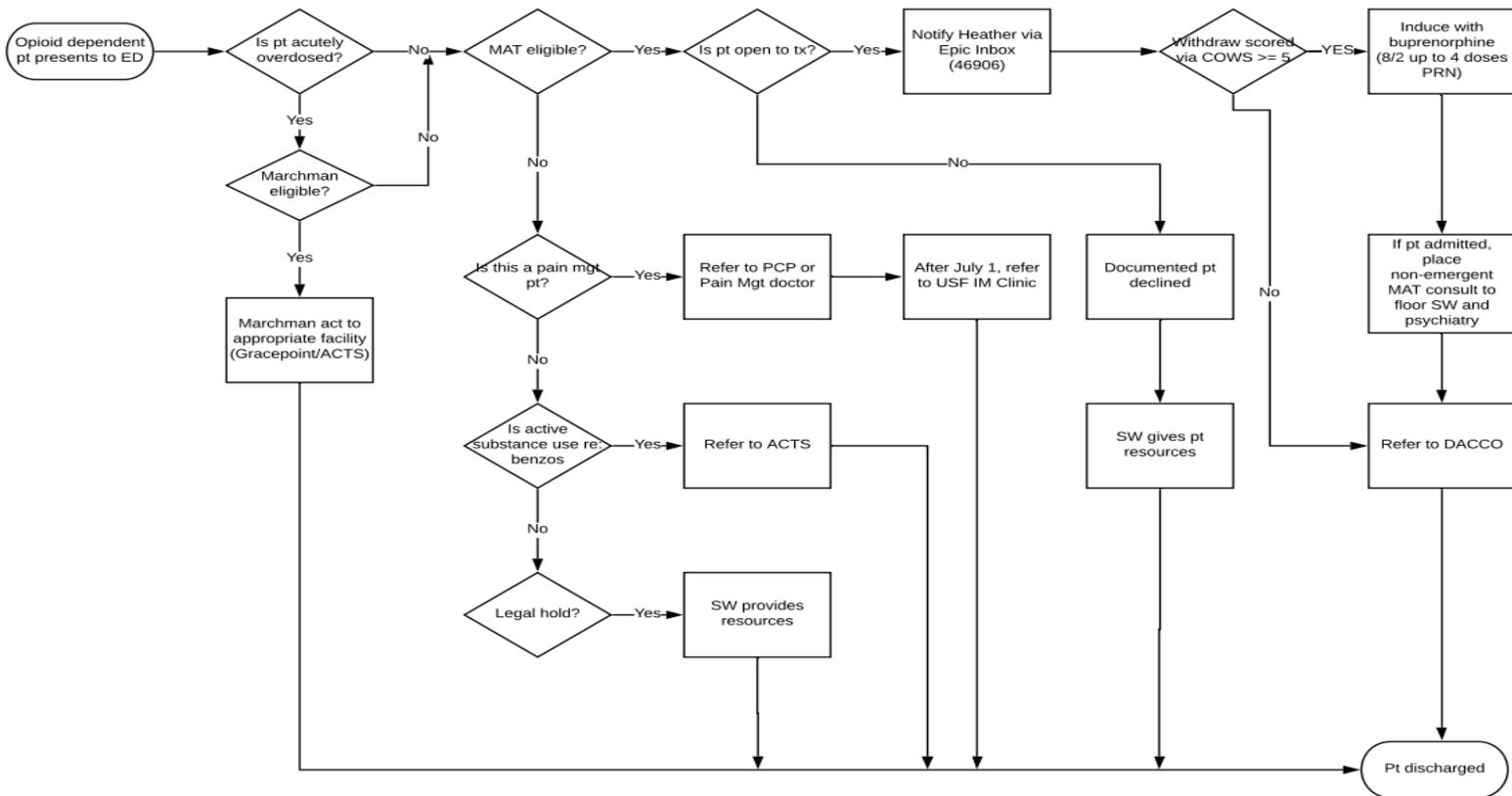


According to the Controlled Substance Act (CSA)\* it is **illegal** to prescribe a controlled substance for treatment of OUD, **unless:**

The practitioner is specially licensed and compliant with requirements of act

Administering the drug acutely for a period not more than 72 hours

Administering the drug to a hospital patient who is being treated for another medical or surgical condition while in a hospital setting



**PATIENT PRESENTS TO ED**

Chief Complaint: Withdrawal, Substance Abuse, Anxiety, Back Pain, Abdominal Pain, Etc.

MAT Specialist uses COWS to score for withdrawal, and gains verbal consent for Social Work to meet with patient for MAT treatment.

MAT Specialist meets with provider and SW to discuss results of COWS. Provider and SW meet with patient to gauge readiness to stop using substances/MAT pathway enrollment

Upon Pathway enrollment (patient readiness and  $\geq 5$  COWS), provider dispenses 8/2 Buprenorphine dose to patient

- Assess after 20 minutes. Repeat if necessary
  - **Consult on-call MAT provider if patient is still  $\geq 5$  after two doses**

Once patient is medically stable, SW will email MAT referral form to DACCO, and arrange transportation

**END PATHWAY**

\*IF patient is pregnant, substitute SUBUTEX for BUPRENORPHINE

\*IF patient has overdosed, assess if they are appropriate for Marchman Act Pathway first.

**\*IF patient is going to be admitted, please place a non-emergent psych consult, with MAT PATHWAY as the heading. Please also place a non-emergent SW consult so that floor SW/CM can provide continuation of care.**

**ON CALL SCHEDULE FOR ENROLLMENT QUESTIONS/PATIENT CONSULTS**

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of the Month: Jack McGeachy | [jmcgeacy.ufl@gmail.com](mailto:jmcgeacy.ufl@gmail.com) | 352-410-2595

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of the Month: Heather Henderson | [heather42@mail.usf.edu](mailto:heather42@mail.usf.edu) | 813-842-4640

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Week of the Month: Andrew Smith | [afsmith@uab.edu](mailto:afsmith@uab.edu) | 256-714-3299

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Week of the Month: Kristina Ledbetter | [kledbetter@mail.usf.edu](mailto:kledbetter@mail.usf.edu) | 727-542-9844



### MEDICAL ASSISTED TREATMENT REFERRAL FORM

PATIENT INFORMATION	
Name:	
D.O.B.	
TGH MRN:	
Contact Number:	

MEDICAL INFORMATION	
Primary Care Physician:	
Insurance:	
Did patient receive a MAT dose in the ED?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
If you indicated yes, please provide time/dose:	
HCV Status:	
Liver Function:	<input type="checkbox"/> AST <input type="checkbox"/> ALT <input type="checkbox"/> TOTAL BILIRUBIN

**\*IF TOX SCREEN COMPLETED IN ED, PLEASE ATTACH RESULTS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
PATIENT SIGNATURE DATE

By signing this form, you are authorizing Tampa General Hospital to release your medical record information to DACC for treatment. Subsequently, if you are in need of treatment for hepatitis, you authorize DACC to release your medical record information to Tampa General Hospital.

**PLEASE EMAIL TO TGHMATPATHWAY@DACC.ORG**



# ORDERING BUPRENORPHINE [SUBOXONE] IN THE ED

- Patient Presents in Opioid Withdrawal
- Provider Orders Buprenorphine [Suboxone]
  - 8/2 mg buprenorphine-naloxone SL
  - (Subutex for Pregnant Women)
  - One now and one in 30 minutes, if still in withdrawal
  - Consult with on-call MAT doctor if >2 doses necessary
- Discharge After Medical Clearance
- Patient Presents to DACCO
- MAT Associate Follows-up with Patient

# COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Question: Can I prescribe Buprenorphine [Suboxone] without a DEA X-Waiver?**

**Answer: You do not need a waiver to dispense in the emergency room. You can write for the dose(s) needed to stabilize and discharge the patient.**

**Question: Do I need to discharge patient with a prescription?**

**Answer: No. Patient will receive continuation of care at DACCO for MAT treatment.**

**Question: What if the patient needs further assistance?**

**Answer: If the patient needs further assistance (such as transportation to DACCO, the MAT specialists and Social Work will work together to address any further patient needs.**

**Question: How do I consult MAT specialist in ED?**

**Answer: MAT specialists are watching EPIC for potential candidates based on chief complaints. If you want to begin therapy, contact MAT specialist/research assistant (in POD 5). A Best Practice Alert is scheduled to go live August 2019.**

# Program Innovations



24/7 ON-CALL  
COVERAGE FOR PATIENT  
CONSULTS



EXPANSION OF MAT TO  
INPATIENT



ACCESS TO FREE  
NALOXONE FOR ALL ED  
PATIENTS, AND ALL  
PATIENTS ENROLLED IN  
MAT PATHWAY



ED PROVIDER ON-CALL  
CONTRACTS TO  
FACILITATE ACCESS TO  
WEEKEND ADMISSION  
AT DACCO



INVOLVEMENT OF  
RESIDENTS IN  
TREATMENT PATHWAY,  
RESEARCH, AND  
EXPANSION



EXPANDED LINKAGE  
THROUGH DEDICATED  
SOCIAL WORK/CASE  
MANAGEMENT  
PARTNERSHIP

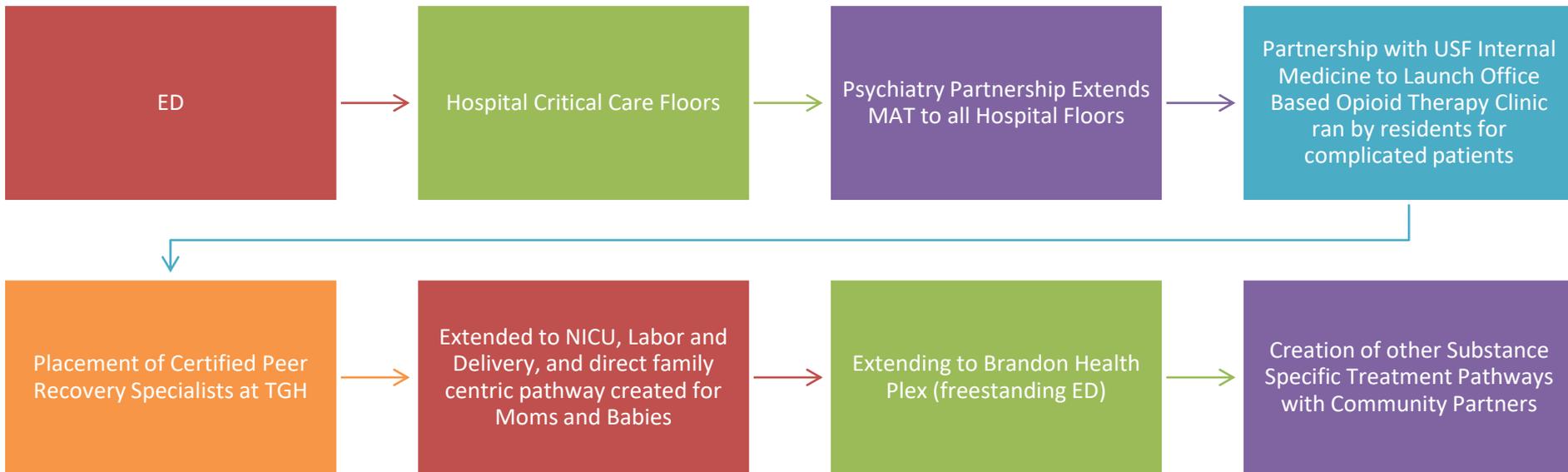


DEDICATED ED PEER  
RECOVERY SUPPORT  
SPECIALIST

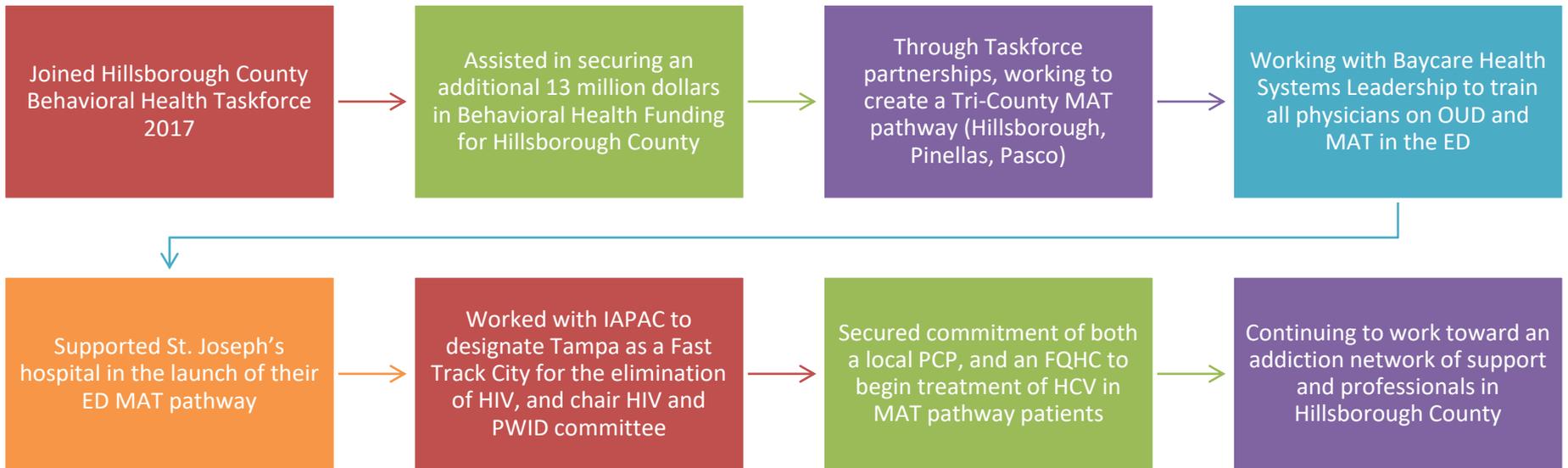


ACCESS TO  
TRANSPORTATION FOR  
ALL MAT PATHWAY  
PATIENTS

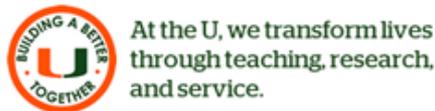
# Evolution of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Availability



# Continued Community Engagement



# Current Partnerships



# Disclaimer

The FOCUS Program is a public health initiative that enables partners to develop and share best practices in routine blood-borne virus (HIV, HCV, HBV) screening, diagnosis, and linkage to care in accordance with screening guidelines promulgated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), and state and local public health departments.

FOCUS funding supports HIV, HCV, and HBV screening and linkage to the first medical appointment after diagnosis. FOCUS partners do not use FOCUS awards for activities beyond linkage to the first medical appointment.

Questions?

---

**WE CAN  
ELIMINATE**  
**HEPATITIS**  
**#EndHepatitis**

# Contact Us

---

NASTAD's Hepatitis Testing Partnership  
<http://bit.ly/hepatitistestingpartnership>

[hepatitis@NASTAD.org](mailto:hepatitis@NASTAD.org)

NASTAD  
444 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 339  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: 202.783.0083