



Hepatitis C Elimination in Alaska DOC

Corrections as an Indicator for Success in
Hepatitis C Elimination

Robert T. Lawrence, MD, MA (bioethics), MEd
State of Alaska Department of Corrections
September 26, 2022



Disclosures

Robert Lawrence, MD is currently the Chief
Medical Officer for the State of Alaska
Department of Corrections

He has no conflicts of interest to report







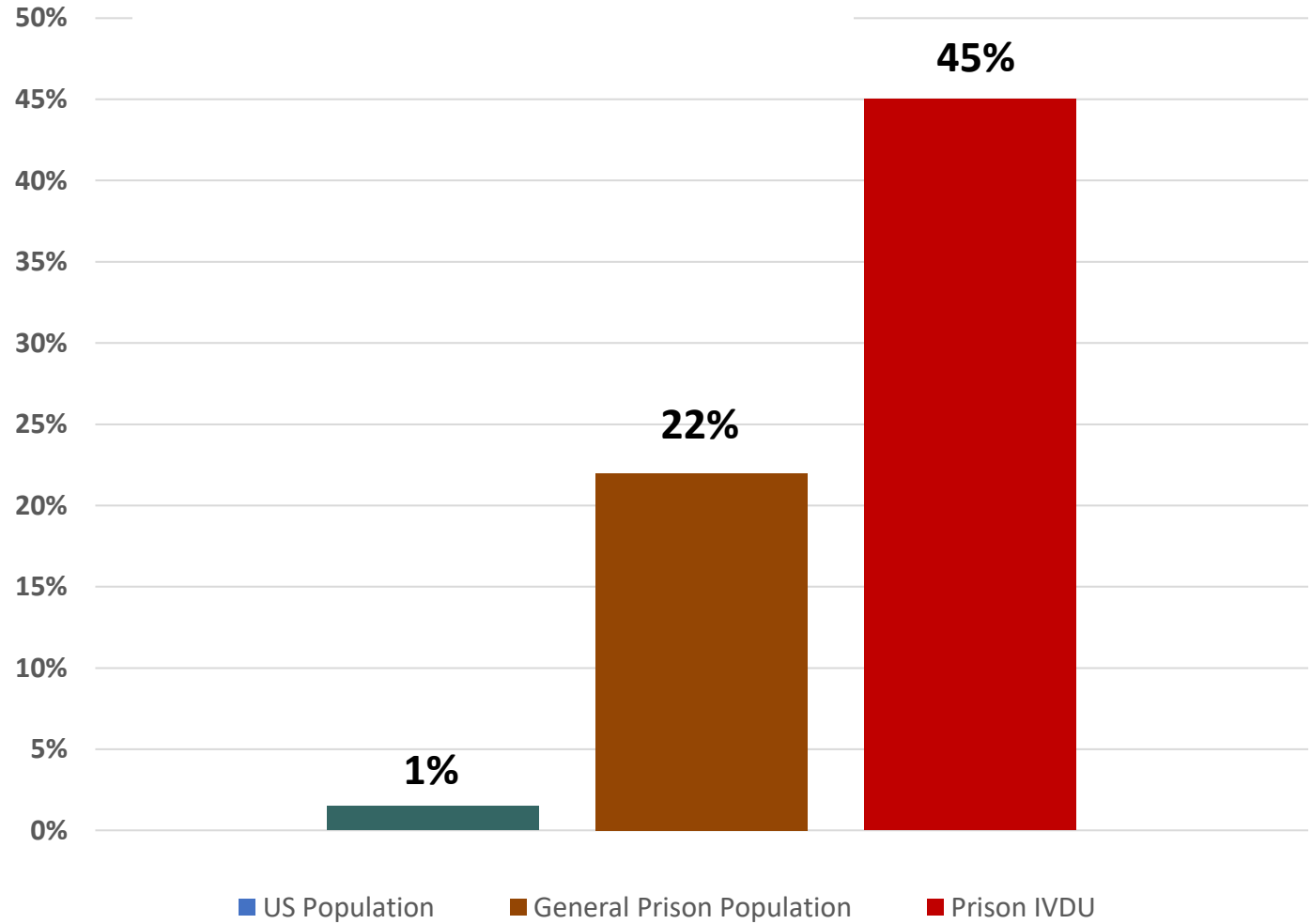
**ANVIL MOUNTAIN
CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



State of Alaska Department of Corrections. 2019.

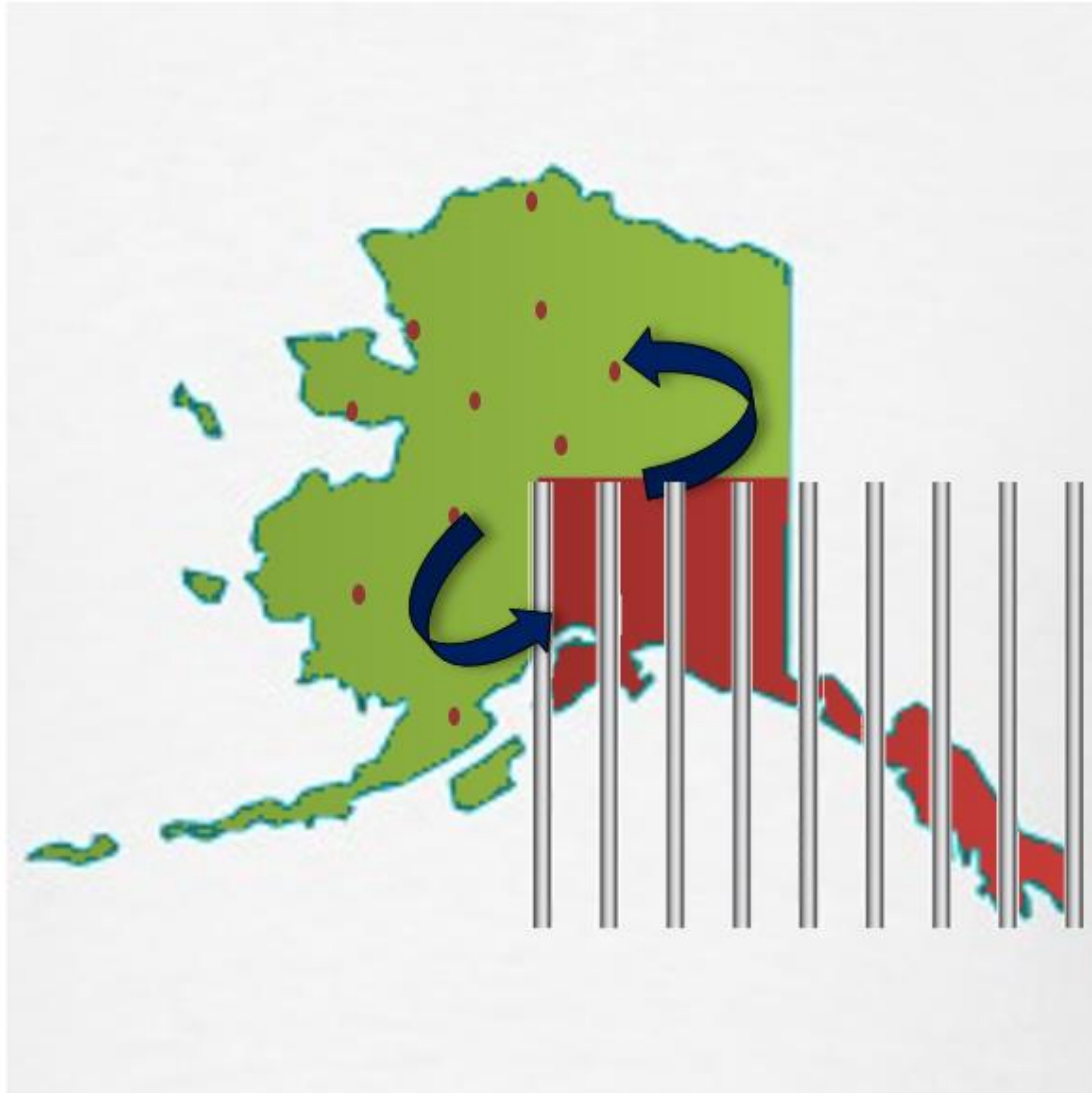
Prevalence of HCV in Alaska's Prisons and Jails





The overall incidence of HCV is lower in prison than the community, but the transmission risk is over 2-fold higher among recently released persons who inject drugs.

Stone, J et al. Modelling the Impact of Incarceration and Prison-based Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Treatment on HCV Transmission Among People who Inject Drugs in Scotland. *Addiction*. 2017; 112(7):1302-1314. Epub 2017 Mar 3.

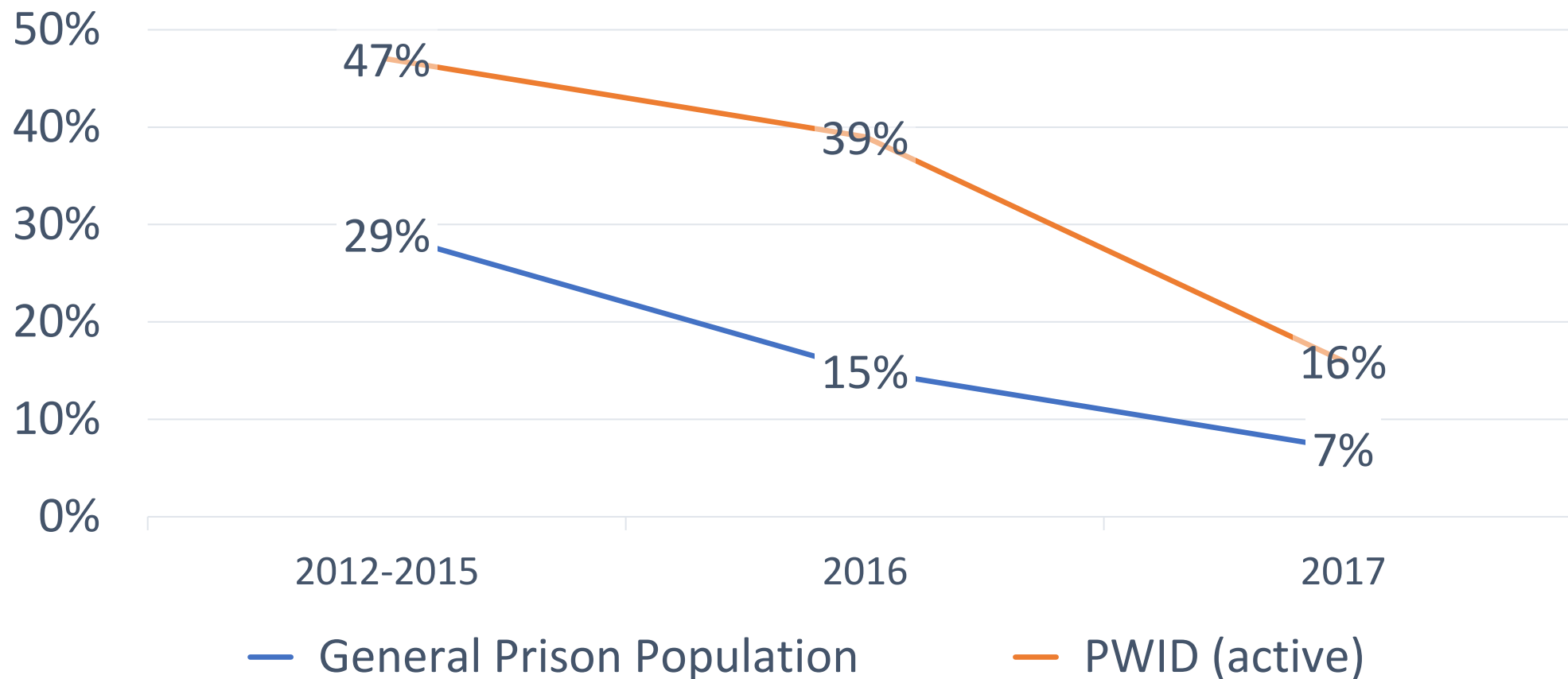


Hepatitis C Virus in Alaska

- Approximately **30%** of all persons with HCV infection in the US spend at least part of the year in a correctional institution
- Approx. **75%** of Alaska's inmates will return to the community within three years; eventually **95%** return to the community

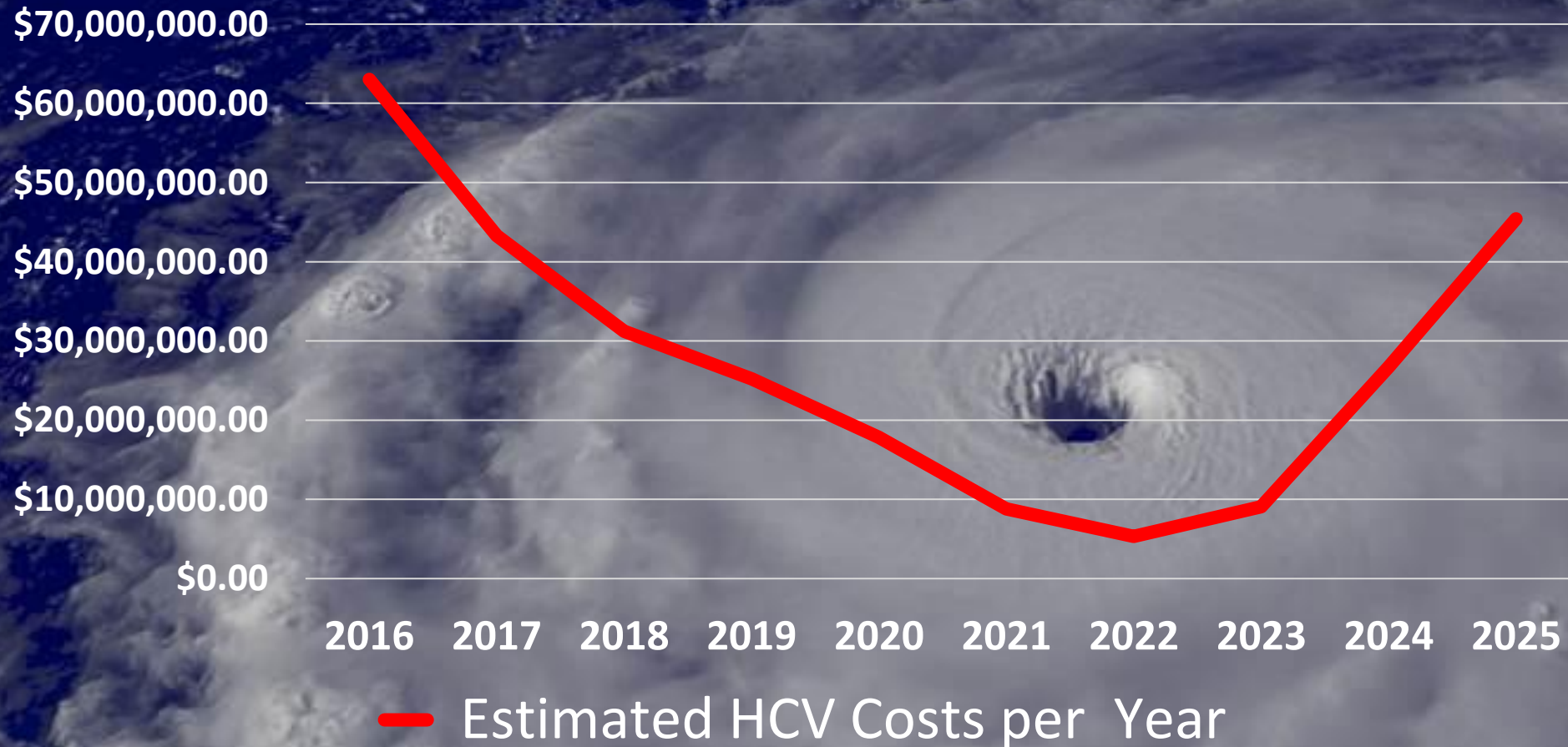


Percentage of Detainees in Iceland Prisons with HCV Viremia



Gottfredsson, M, et al. Major Decrease in Prevalence of Hepatitis C Viremia in Key Populations following the 2nd Year of Treatment as Prevention for Hepatitis C (TraP HepC) Program in Iceland. Oct 5, 2018

Alaska DOC costs for HCV elimination in FY 2016-2025

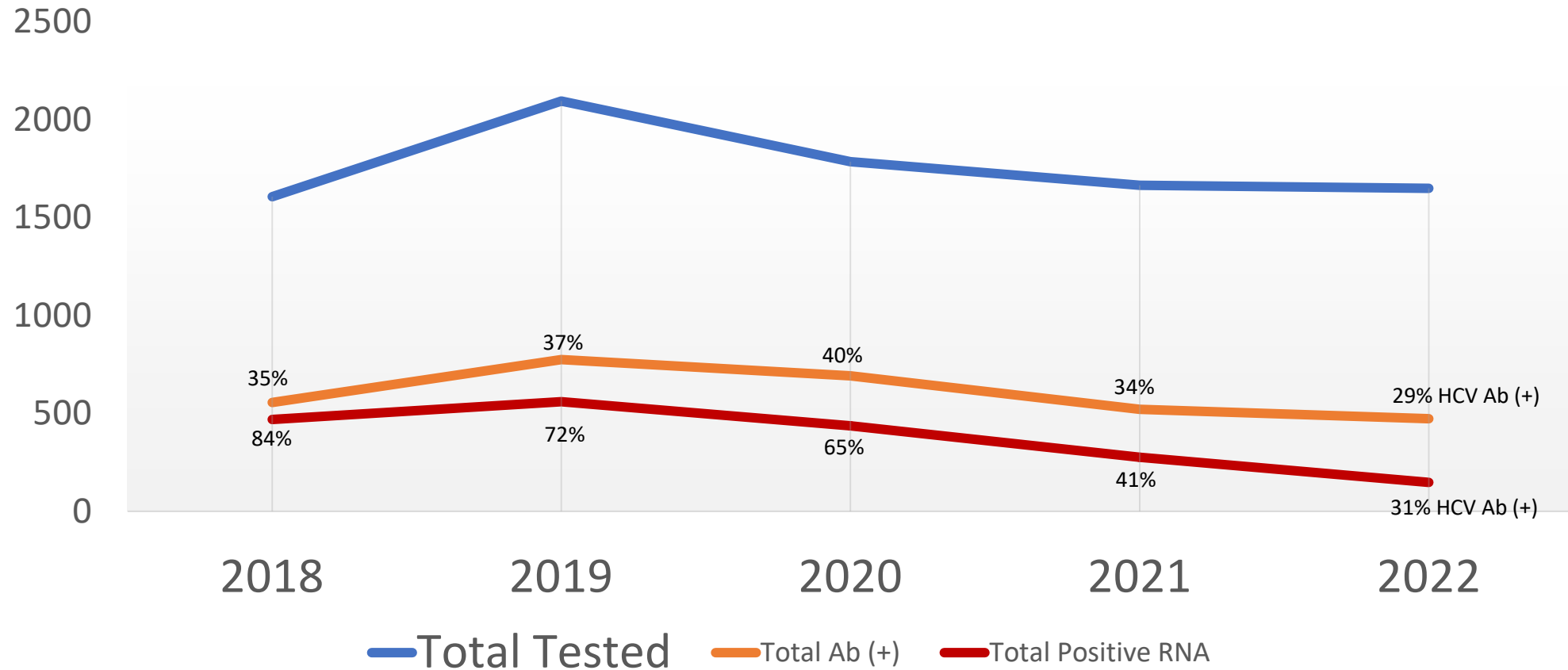


Sources: Alaska Department of Corrections, 2023; Alaska State Public Health Lab, 2023; and Magiorkinis G, Sypsa V, Magiorkinis E, Paraskevis D, Katsoulidou A, et al. (2013) Integrating Phylodynamics and Epidemiology to Estimate Transmission Diversity in Viral Epidemics. PLoS Comput Biol 9(1): e1002876. doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1002876



Alaska Dept. of Corrections HCV Testing

Patients Positive for HCV Ab and RNA

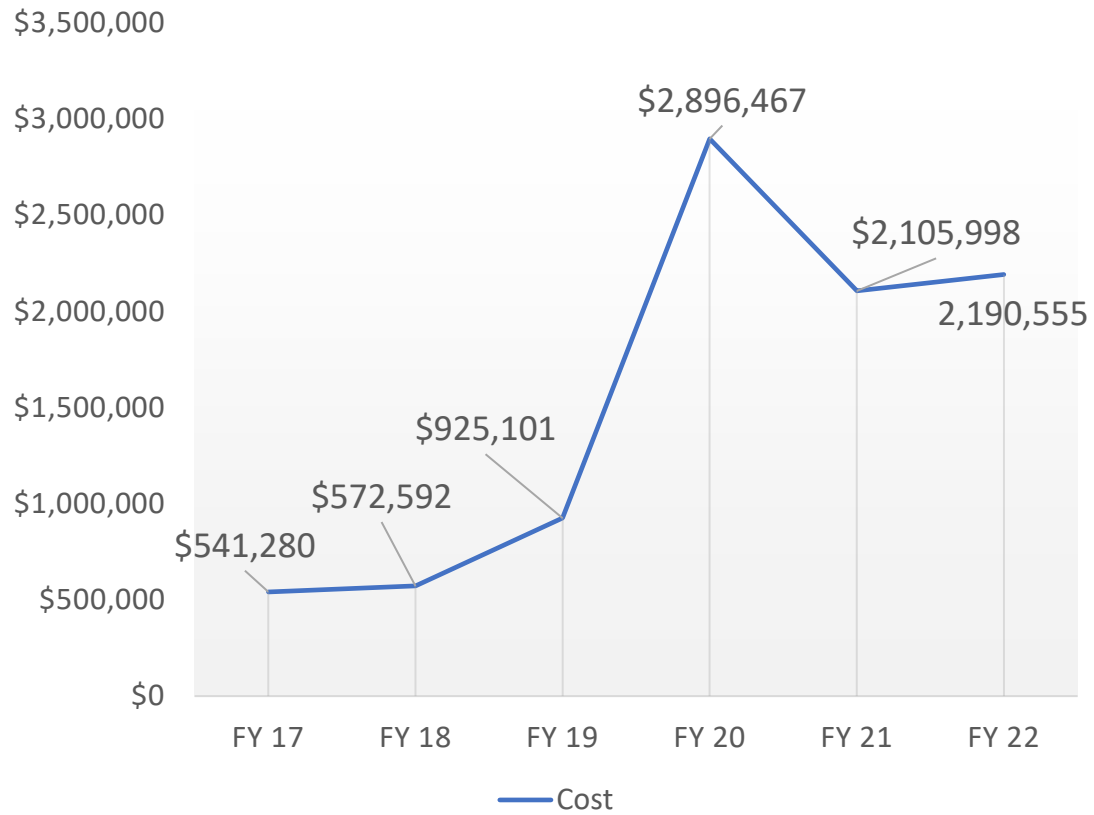


Source: State of Alaska Department of Corrections 2022 and Alaska State Public Health Lab, 2022.

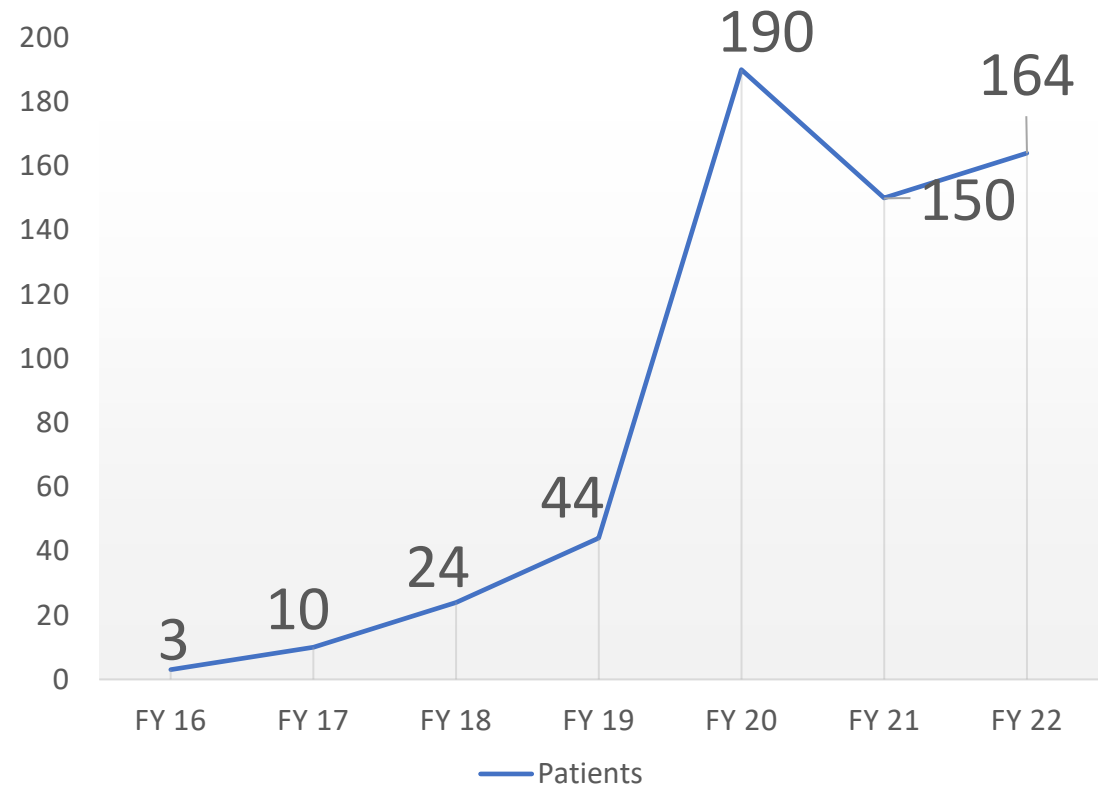


Alaska Dept. of Corrections HCV Treatment

Medication Costs

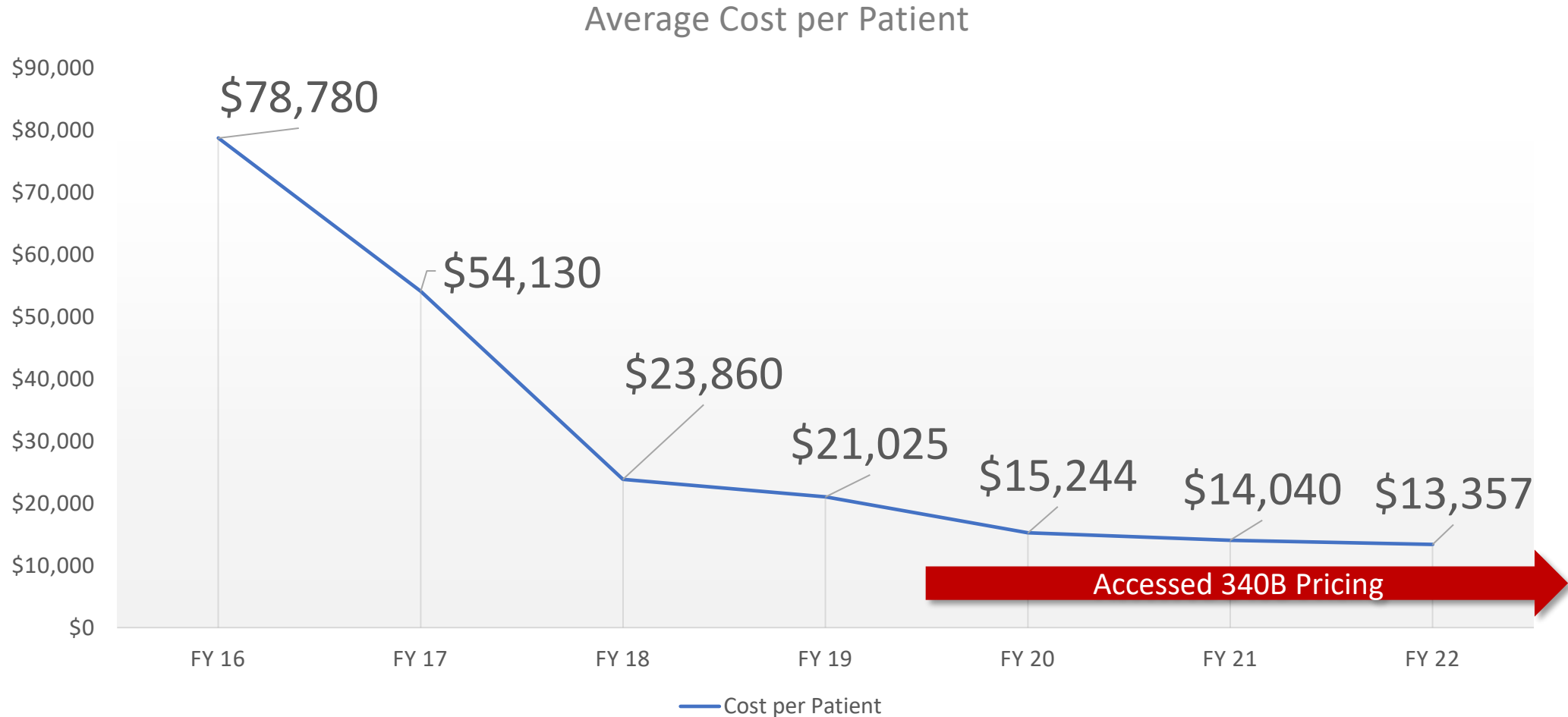


Patients Treated





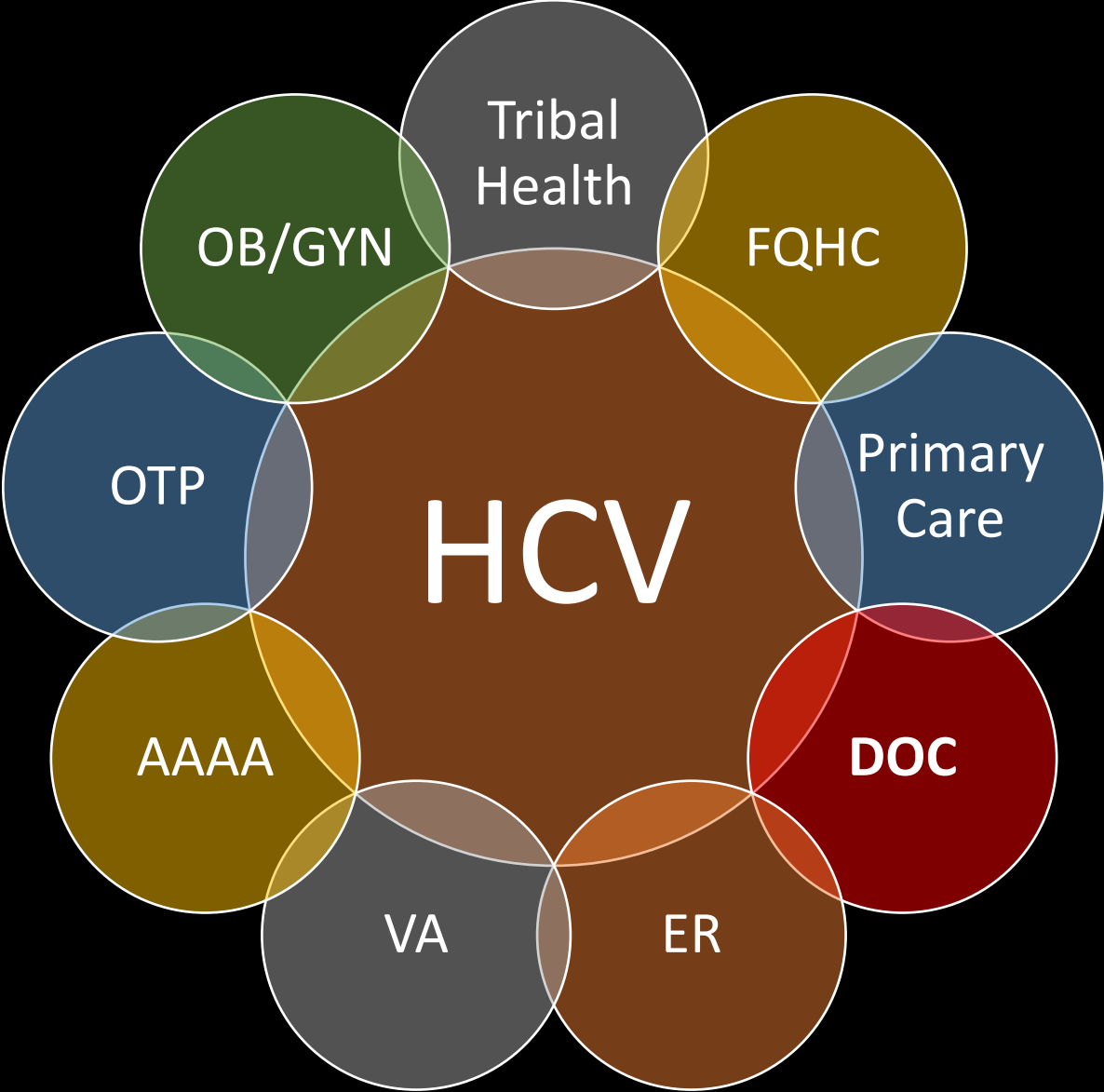
Hep C Average Cost to Treat per Patient





Steps to Elimination

1. Increase capacity of treating clinicians
2. Reduce the per-patient cost of cure
3. Institute universal opt-out testing
4. Improve linkage to care



HEPATITIS ADVISORY WORK GROUP (HAWG)

In 2014 the Alaska Section of Epidemiology along with State, Tribal, and private practice partners organized the Hepatitis Advisory Working Group. This group came together to address the high prevalence rate of viral hepatitis in Alaska and develop a strategic plan for the prevention, care, and treatment of Alaskans with chronic hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV) and associated morbidities.

Source: State of Alaska Section of Epidemiology.
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/SiteAssets/Pages/hepatitis/AlaskaHepatitisActivities.pdf>



ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM




FOUR A's
ALASKAN AIDS ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATION



THANK YOU

doc.alaska.gov/health-rehab-services

 ROBERT LAWRENCE, MD, MEd

 907-269-7300

 Robert.Lawrence@Alaska.gov