

Hepatitis C Infections Identified Commercial Laboratories & EMS Na Administration Events Per Cap

Out of the Shadows:

Emergency Department Testing Unmasks the Hidden Faces of the HCV Epidemic & Identifies Communities at Risk for an Outbreak of HIV Among Persons Who Inject Drugs

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Legend

HCV Prevalence
Population

0.01% - 1.3%

1.34% - 2.2%



Alabama led the nation in painkiller prescriptions per capita (2014)



1 out of every 7 white individuals born after 1965 tests positive for hepatitis C virus infection in the UAB Emergency Department (2017)



Central Alabama communities are at the highest national risk for an outbreak of HIV infection among persons who inject drugs (2015)

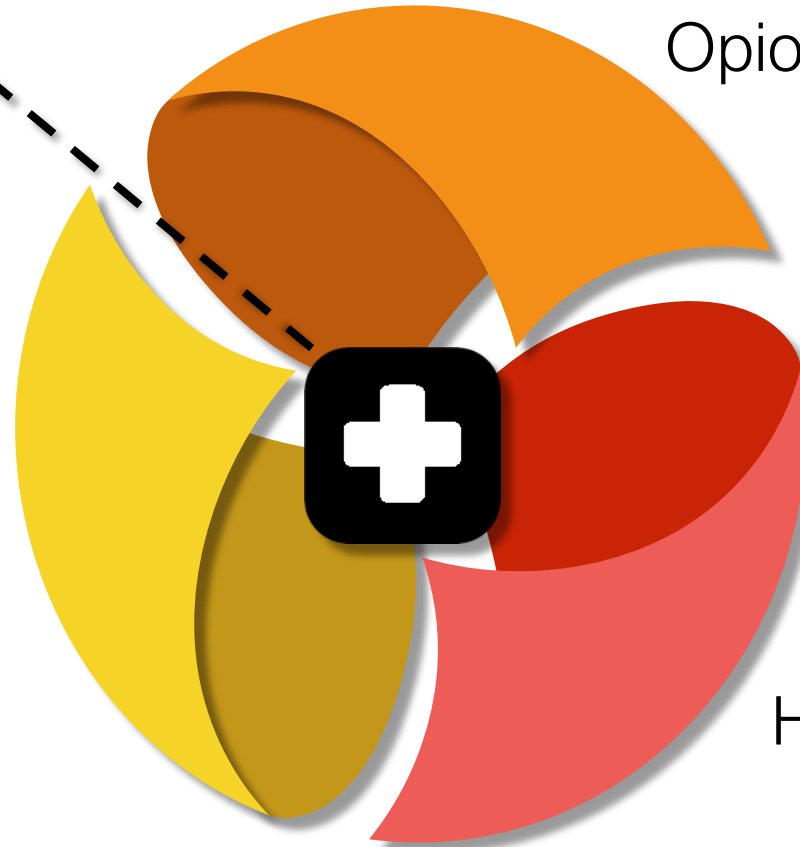
SYNDEMIC OF OPIOIDS & BLOOD BORNE VIRUS INFECTIONS

Emergency Department

Opioid Injection

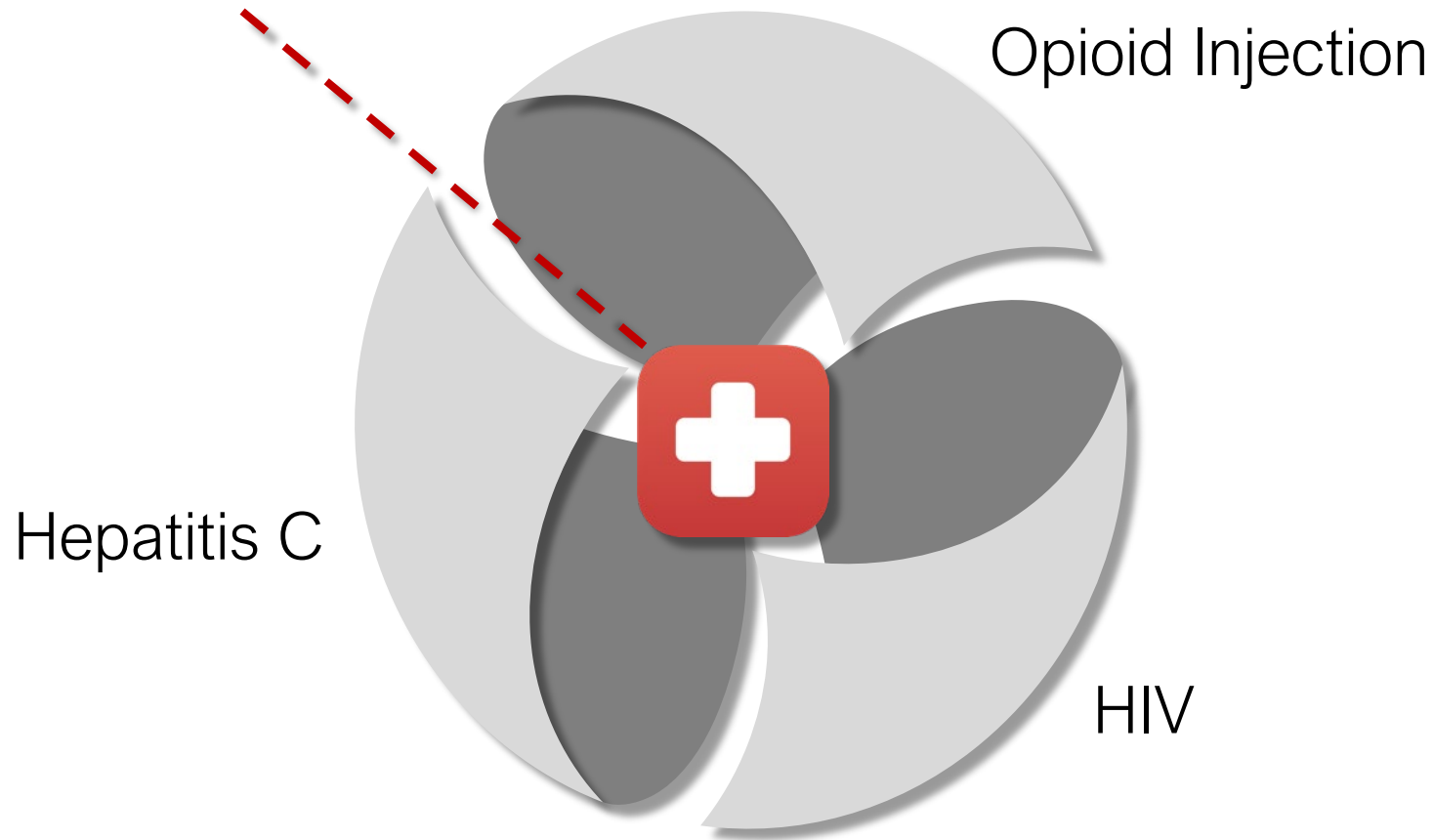
Hepatitis C

HIV



EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AS FRONT LINES TO MANY PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMICS

Emergency Department

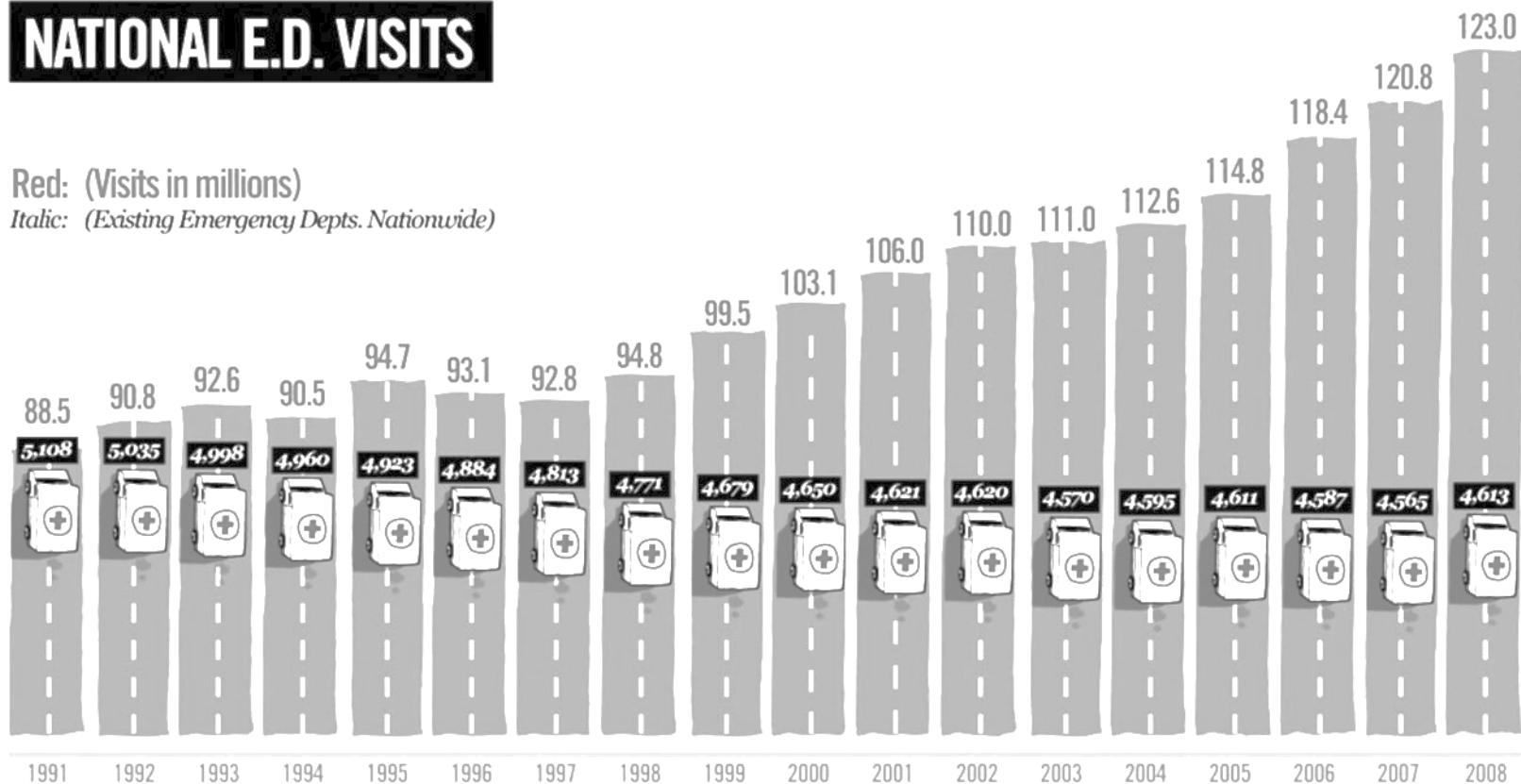


Annual US ED Visits Rising

NATIONAL E.D. VISITS

Red: (Visits in millions)

Italic: (Existing Emergency Depts. Nationwide)



Source: *Emergency Department Visits, Emergency Department Visits per 1,000, and Number of Emergency Departments, 1991–2008. Rep. American Hospital Association, June 2010. Web. 13 July 2010.*

Emergency Department Visits Account for Half of Hospital-Associated Health Care Visits in the

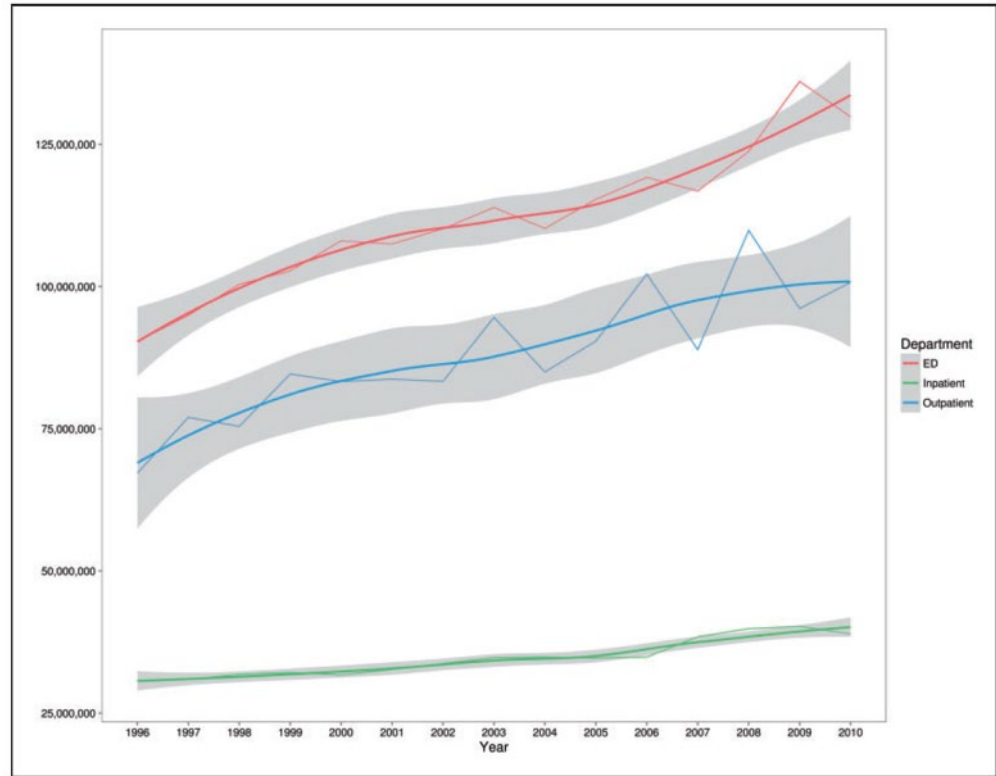


Figure 1. The number of health care contacts as ED visits, use of outpatient resources, and hospitalizations over a 14-year period. ED, emergency department.

Marcozzi D, Carr B, Liferidge A, Baehr N, Browne B. Trends in the Contribution of Emergency Departments to the Provision of Hospital-Associated Health Care in the USA. *Int J Health Serv.* 2017;13(3).

US ED's currently function as a "Safety Net"

Disproportionately High and Increasing Visit Rates by:

- Persons living below poverty
- Medicaid recipients
- Non-Hispanic, black individuals
- Uninsured persons



Tang N et al. Trends and characteristics of US emergency department visits, 1997-2007. *JAMA*. 2010;304:664-670.

EDs as a “Public Health Safety Net”?



Underserved populations

Uninsured, Medicaid
Recipients, Non-Whites,
Persons Living Below U.S.
Poverty Level

- Often less likely to have regular access to primary care preventative services
- Known to be disproportionately affected by public health priorities (i.e., HIV / HCV / Opioid Use Disorders)

ED Setting Challenges

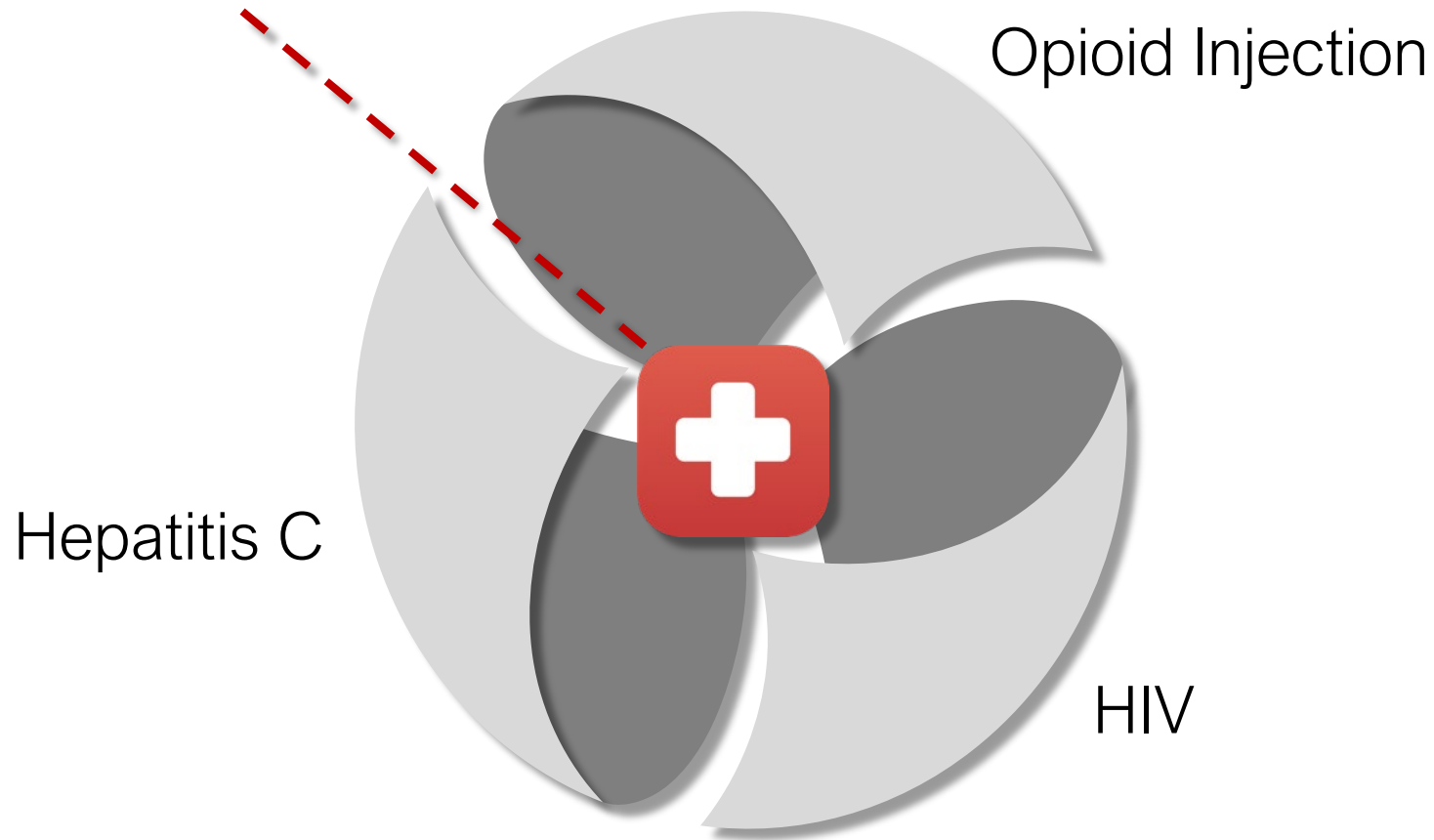
Competing Priorities of the ED

- Time Constraints
- ED Crowding
- Privacy
- Medical / Surgical Emergencies



EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AS FRONT LINES TO MANY PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMICS

Emergency Department

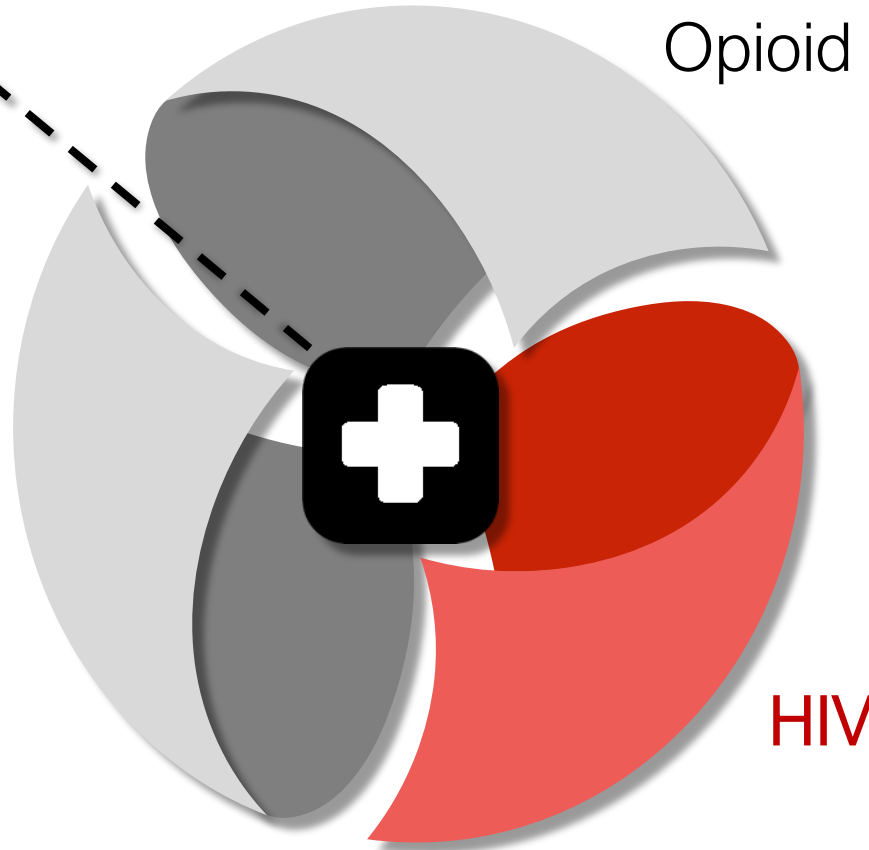


THE HIV EPIDEMIC

Emergency Department

Opioid Injection

Hepatitis C



HIV in Alabama (2015)

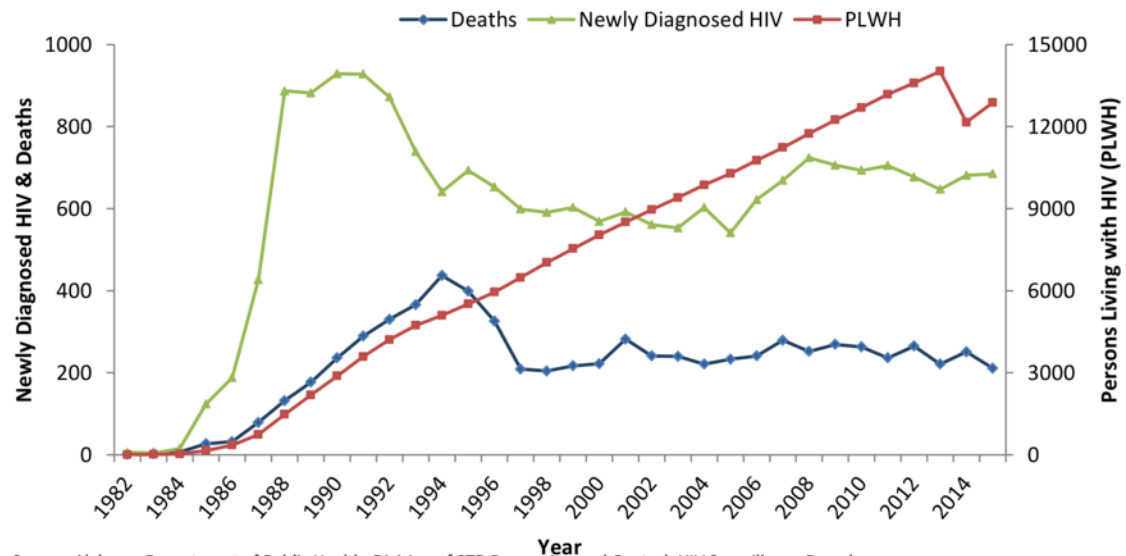
**14,589 estimated
infected**

- 1/333 (0.3%) of
Alabama
population

**12,874 known
infected**

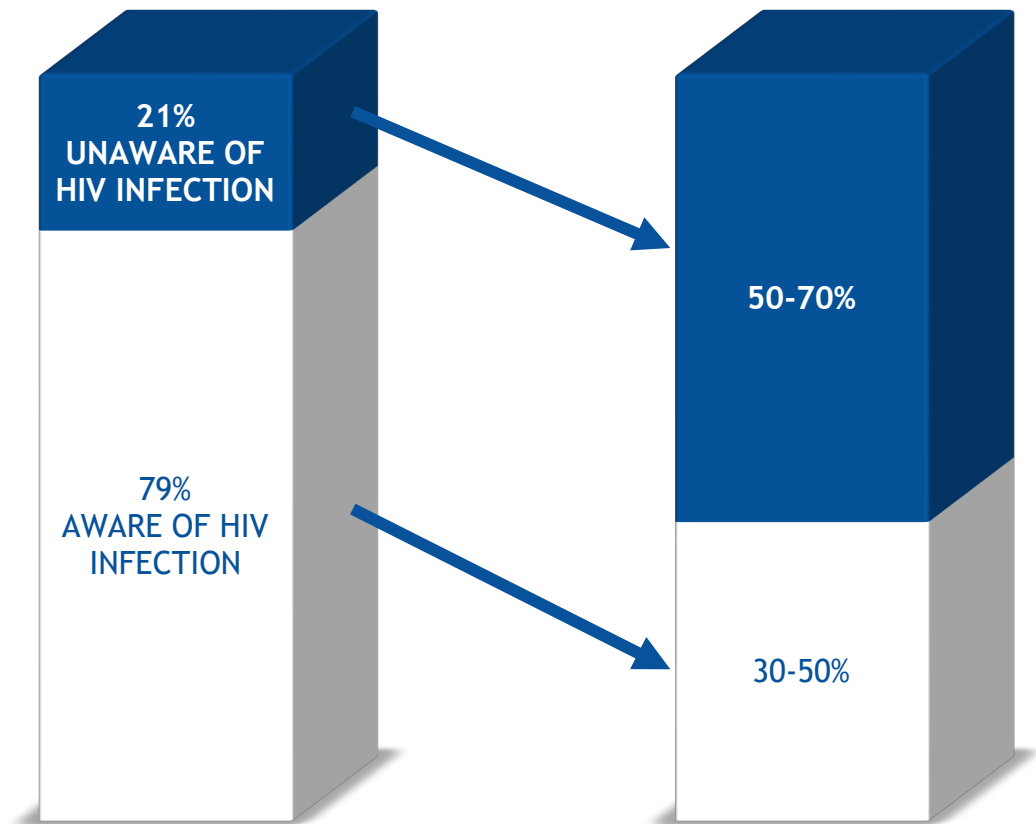
- 5,814 (45%) AIDS

**1/6 living with HIV
unaware**



Source: Alabama Department of Public Health, Division of STD Prevention and Control, HIV Surveillance Branch.
Note: PLWH include persons living with HIV infection (non-AIDS) and Stage 3 (AIDS) as of December 31st for the year reported.

MAJORITY OF NEWLY IDENTIFIED HIV INFECTIONS ACQUIRED FROM A PERSON LIVING WITH HIV INFECTION UNAWARE OF THEIR INFECTION



Persons Living With HIV
- 1.1 Million

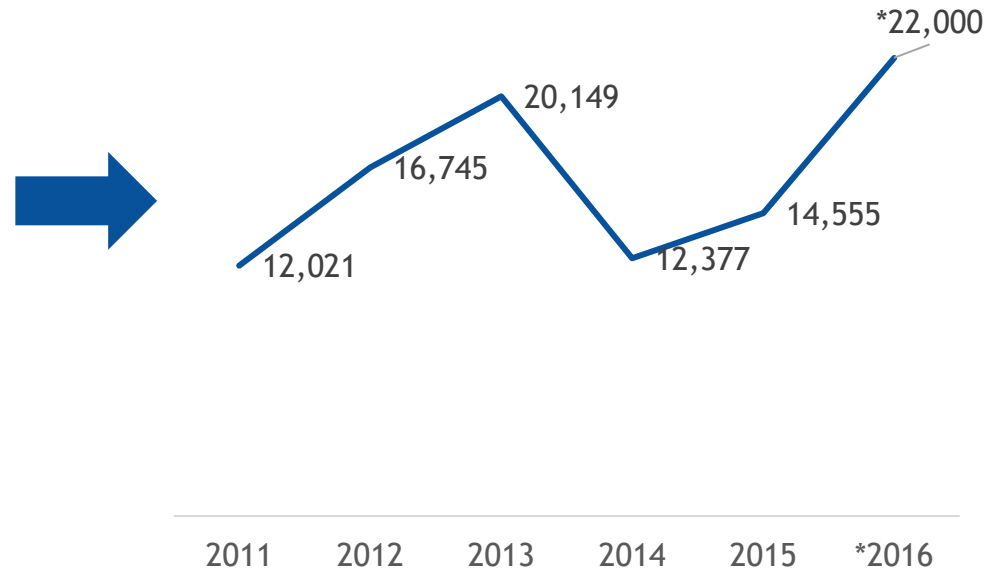
New HIV Infections Per
Year - ~56,000

Before August 2011



>150,000 tests to date

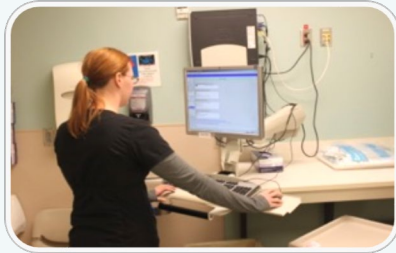
Annual HIV Tests Performed



Diagnostic HIV Testing Only
~480 HIV tests / year

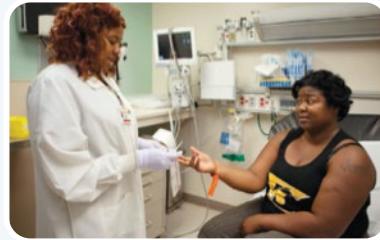
Non-targeted, Opt-out HIV Testing
>20,000 HIV tests / year

Integrated ED HIV Testing Process



Engagement

- Nursing
- EMR Required HIV Questionnaire
- Automated HIV orders



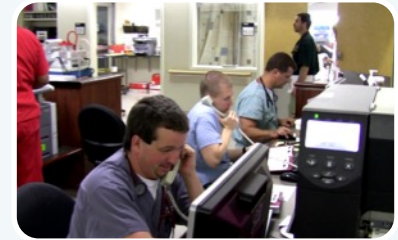
Testing

- Oraquick
- Abbott ARCHITECT Instrument



Counselling

- ED providers during ED visit



Referral

- Linkage coordinator

Is the patient between the ages of 18 - 64?

- Yes No (if no, then ineligible)

Have you ever been tested for HIV?

- No
 Yes
 Unknown
 Unable to obtain (if unable, then ineligible)

When were you last tested?

- Less than 3 months (if yes, then ineligible)
 3 months to 1 year
 1 - 5 years
 Greater than 5 years

What was the result of the test?

- Negative
 Positive (if positive, then ineligible)
 Don't know/remember

If the patient is eligible for an HIV screening test inform the patient:

"We provide a free and confidential rapid HIV test for all emergency department patients.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns."

Testing option

- Acknowledged and eligible (Fires icon and CDC HIV Order)
 Ineligible at UED*
 Ineligible at Highlands ED**
 Declined (Patient must sign refusal document)



ED Nursing HIV/HCV Screening Questionnaire

Cerner EMR Automation of HIV / HCV Testing Orders

- Acknowledged and eligible
- Declined
- Unable to obtain

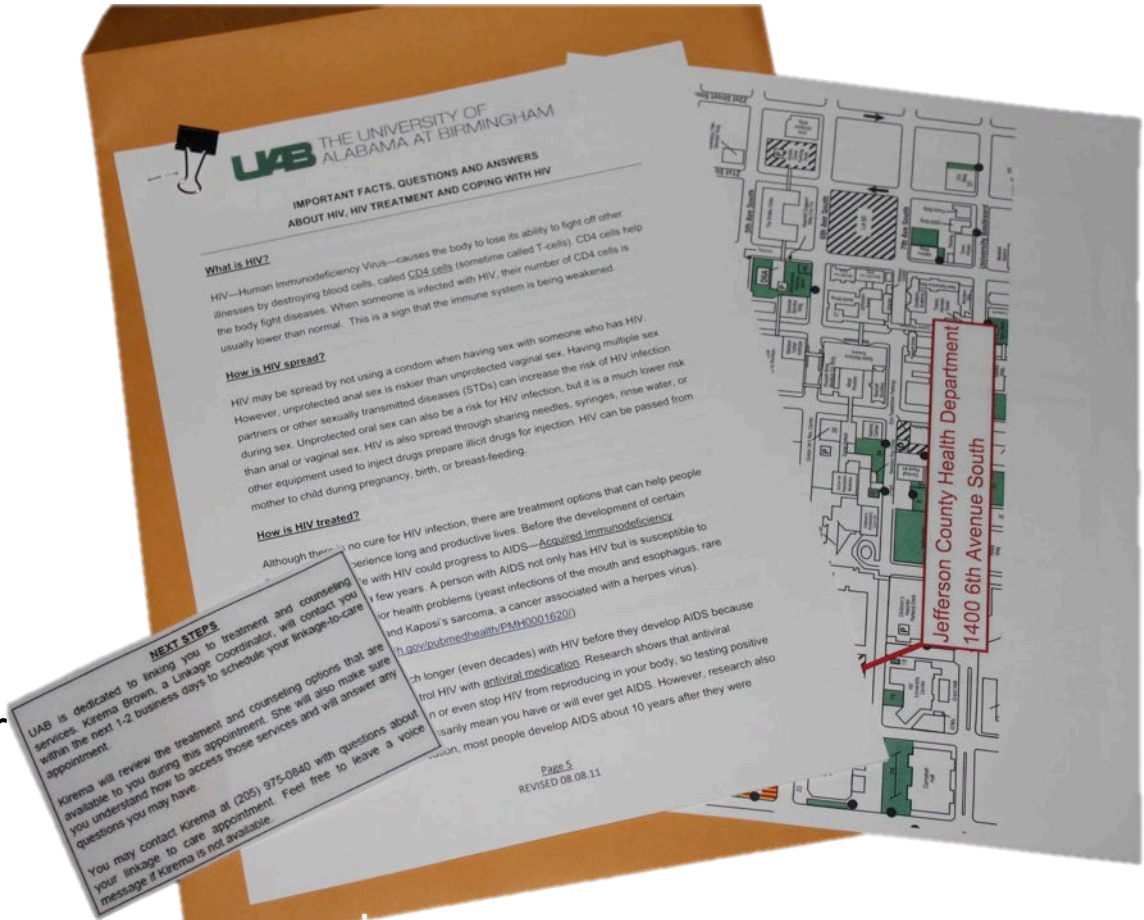
Laboratory			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Urinalysis	Ordered Stat collect, 07/13
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Phenytoin Level (Dilantin Level)	Ordered Stat collect, 07/13
<input type="checkbox"/>		Phenytoin Level (Dilantin Level)	Deleted Stat collect, 07/13
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Drugs of Abuse Profile	Ordered Stat collect, 07/13
<input type="checkbox"/>		CDC HIV (UED only)	Processing Stat collect, 07/13
<input type="checkbox"/>		CBC/Diff	Completed Stat collect, 07/13
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		BMP (Basic Metabolic Panel)	Ordered Stat collect, 07/13
Precautions			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Seizure Precautions	Ordered 07/13/11 6:26:00
Diagnostics/Procedures			
<input type="checkbox"/>		EKG	Completed 07/13/11 6:26:00, Sunday-Friday 060

Bed	Reg	Ac	Age	Sex	Chief Complaint	LOS	Tria	MD	Lab	LRad	RN	RN Reassess	BC	InPT	MD	RN	Res	Comment
POD4_22		III	40	F	EMS reports that famil	5:59						Request			MNH54	Ina	Obie	w814 -->hospitalist-
POD4_23		II	34	F	CP, abd pain since mid	1:13			9/0	1/0/0		Request					D-MO	need EKG
POD4_24		II	92	F	CP to right side that ra	5:30						Request	I		MNH54		Obie	-->GI surg
POD4_25		III	45	F	EMS called for sz per t	3:47						Request			MNH54		Obie	d/c after keppra
POD4_26																		
POD4_27		III	39	M	(amb) pt family said he	1:53			5/1			Request			MNH54	Tol	Obie	
POD4_28																		
POD4_29																		
POD4_30																		
POD4_31		II	64	M	Initial call to 911 for SC	2:44			9/7			Request	B		MNH54	Hilary	Obie	-->TH
POD4_32		III	48	M	pt states he was stand	10:11				7/7/6		Request			MNH54	Hilary	Obie	MR-->nsgy dispo
Checkout																		

HIV / HCV Post-test Counselling

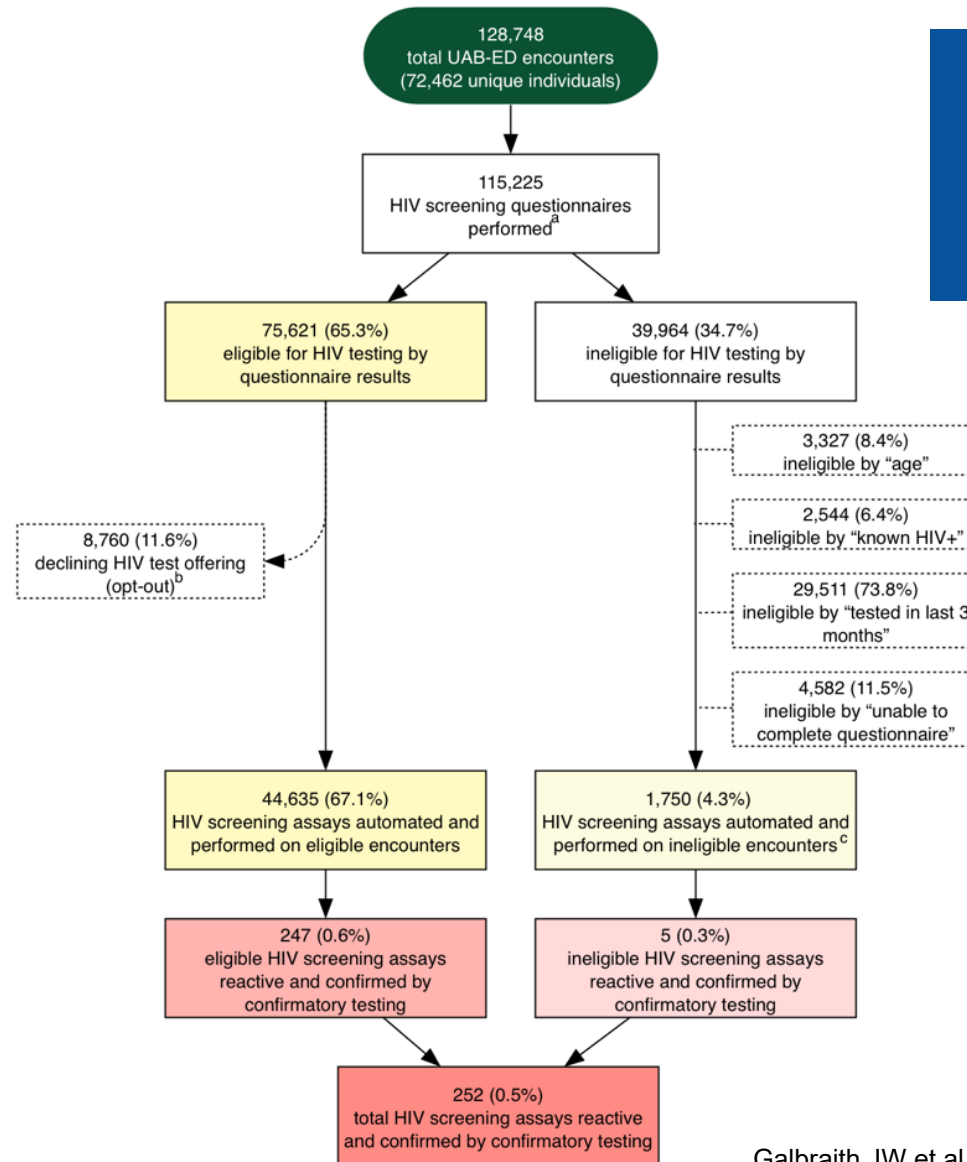
“Positive Packet”

- Checklist for Physicians
- Counseling pointers
- Handouts for patient
- Linkage to Care Coordination
 - Contact Information for Linkage to Care Coordinator



UAB-ED HIV Testing Results

9/21/11 – 12/31/13



Galbraith JW et al. *Public Health Rep.* 2016;131 Suppl 1:96-106.

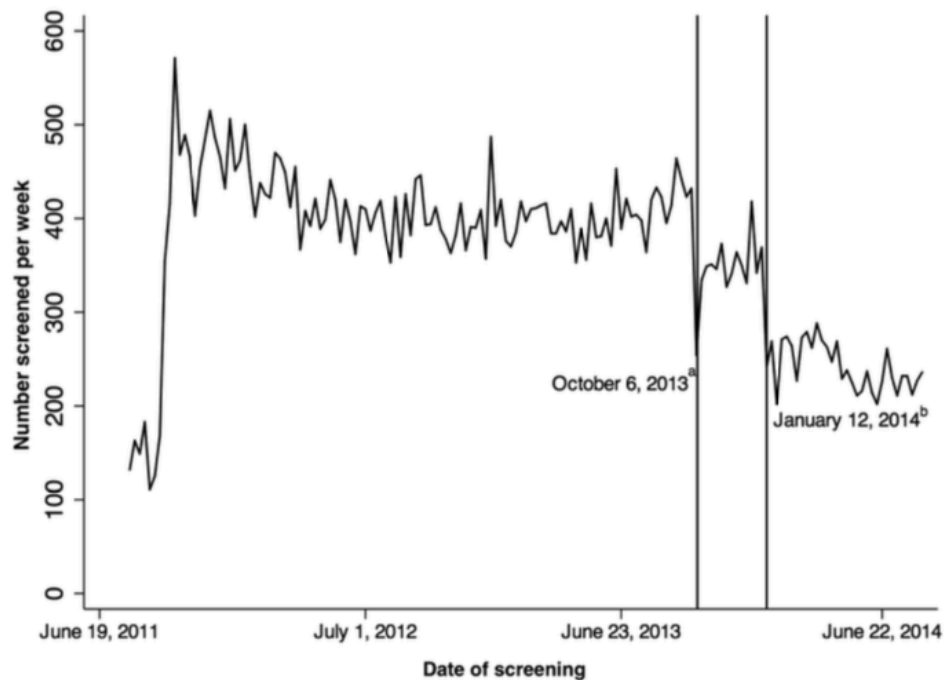
UAB-ED HIV Testing (8/9/2011 - 1/23/2018)

Total Tests
116,674

Total HIV+
Confirmed
583 (0.5%)

*76% Linked to Care
& Attend 1st HIV
Provider Appt.

Figure 5. Impact of HIV screening programmatic changes implementing fourth-generation instrument-based testing and displacement of HIV test offering from nursing triage on weekly volume of HIV tests performed, University of Alabama at Birmingham Emergency Department, September 9, 2011, through June 30, 2014



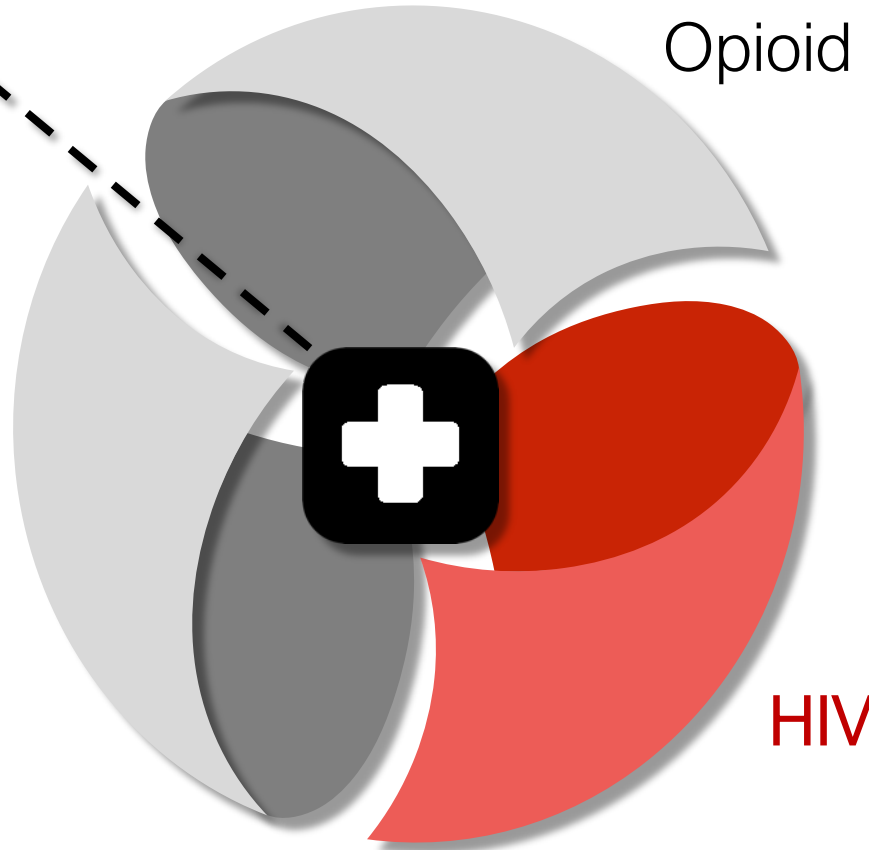
1. Galbraith JW, Willig JH, Rodgers JB, et al. Evolution and Escalation of an Emergency Department Routine, Opt-out HIV Screening and Linkage-to-Care Program. *Public Health Rep.* 2016;131 Suppl 1:96-106.

THE HIV EPIDEMIC

Emergency Department

Opioid Injection

Hepatitis C



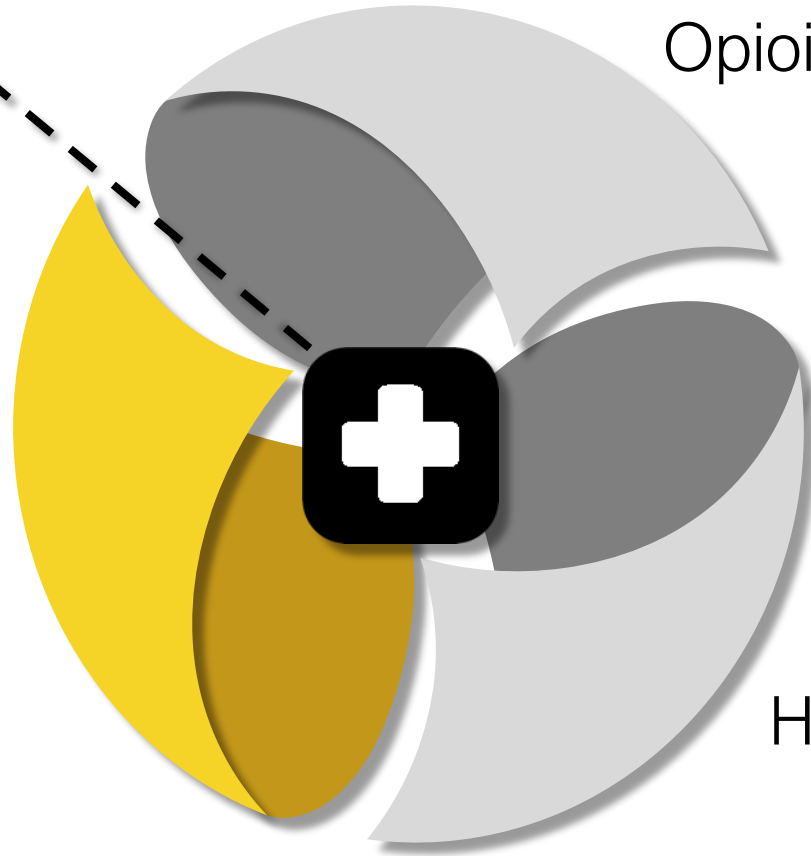
HEPATITIS C EPIDEMIC

Emergency Department

Opioid Injection

Hepatitis C

HIV



Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection

What it is?

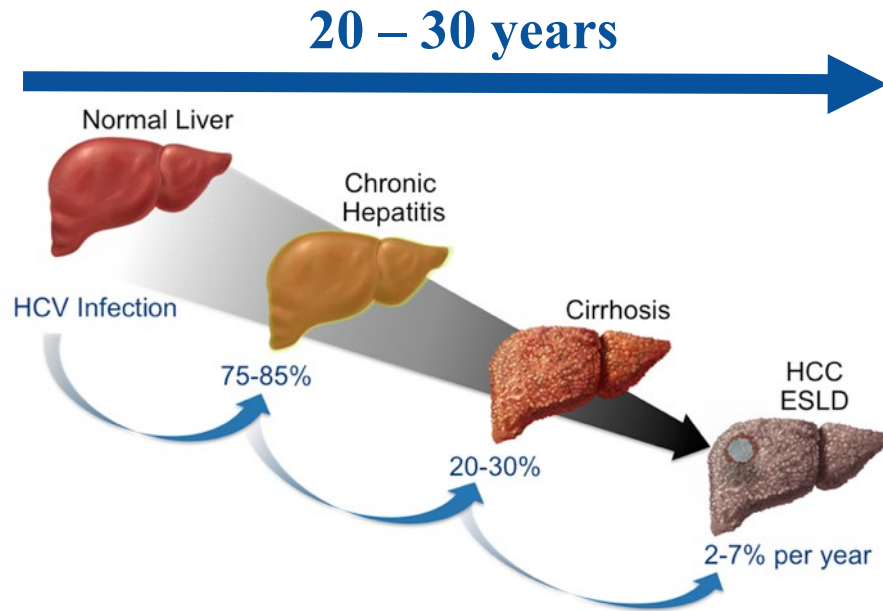
- Contagious infectious disease caused by an RNA virus



How is it acquired/transmitted?

- **Most commonly** by direct contact with blood from an infected person
- Pre ~1990s: Primarily via **blood transfusions or organ transplantation**
- Currently: Primarily via **sharing needles/equipment** (intravenous drug users)
- Other routes (less common): Sexual contacts, Maternal-fetal, Sharing personal items (e.g. razor blades), Tattooing

HCV Morbidity



<http://www.mobieg.co.za/articles/stds/hepatitis>

<http://www.hepatitisc.uw.edu/go/evaluation-staging-monitoring/natural-history/core-concept/all>

Acute Hepatitis C Virus infection:

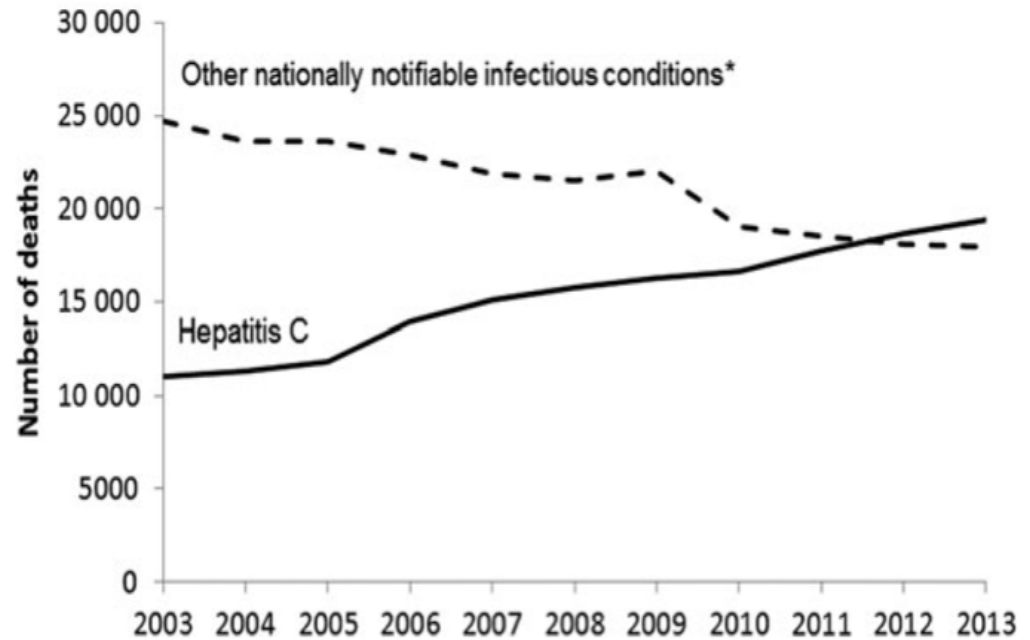
- Short-term illness \leq 6 months of exposure
- Acute leads to chronic infection for most people (75%)

Chronic Hepatitis C Virus infection:

- Long-term illness which can last a lifetime
- Potential for serious liver problems, including cirrhosis (scarring of the liver) liver cancer and death

HCV Mortality

**Deaths due to HCV
exceeds those
attributable to
60 other infectious
diseases combined
including HIV and
tuberculosis**



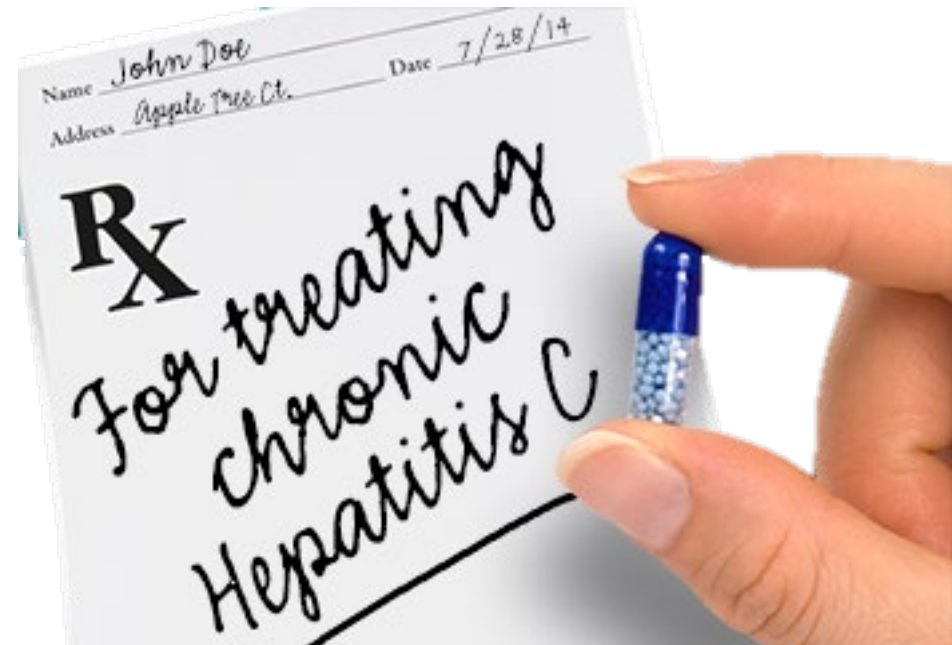
Ly KN, et al. Rising Mortality Associated With Hepatitis C Virus in the United States, 2003-2013. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. 2016;62(10):1287-1288.

The good news

- Antiviral medicines can CURE >90% of persons with hepatitis C reducing risk of death from liver cancer and cirrhosis

The challenge

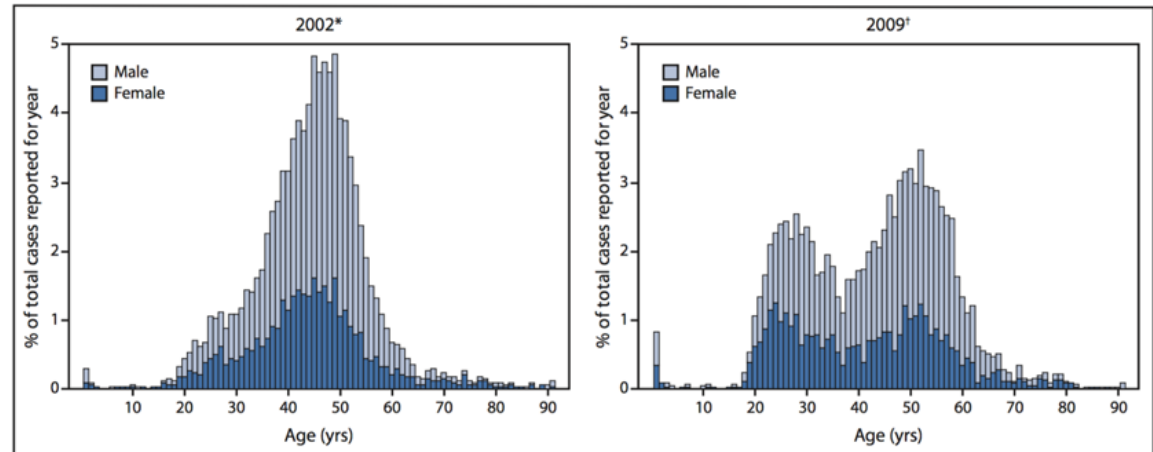
- Typically indolent (clinically silent)
- Optimal systems for screening, linkage to care and treatment remain under-developed
- Resource constraints



Evolving Epidemiology of HCV Infection in the US

- 3.5 million with chronic HCV
- Persons born between 1945-1965 account for 75% of infections
- Rising incidence among young (age <30) white IDUs

FIGURE 2. Age distribution of newly reported confirmed cases of hepatitis C virus infection — Massachusetts, 2002 and 2009



* N = 6,281; excludes 35 cases with missing age or sex information.

† N = 3,904; excludes 346 cases with missing age or sex information.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Hepatitis C virus infection among adolescents and young adults: Massachusetts, 2002-2009. *MMWR Morbidity and mortality weekly report*. 2011;60(17):537-541.



Dr. Turner Overton

Mr. Clark

Photo source: Bob Sheppard, UAB Media Relations

UAB-ED Targeted HCV Testing

Unrecognized Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection Among Baby Boomers in the Emergency Department

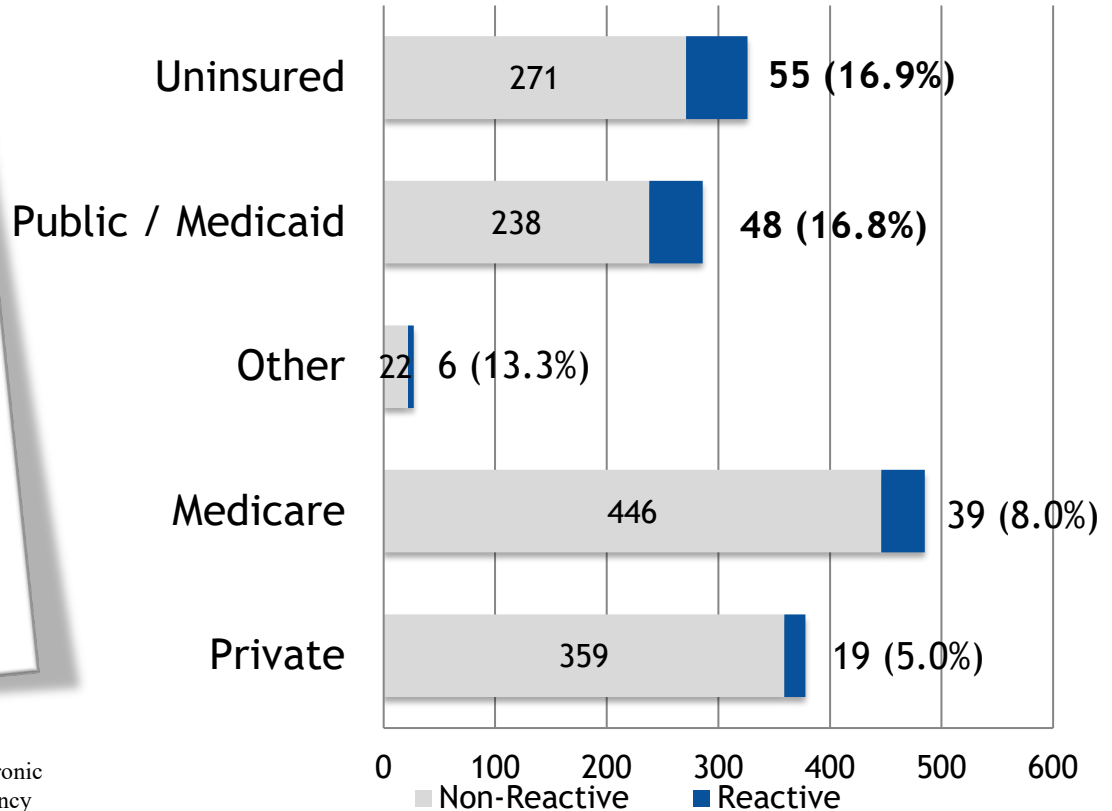
James W. Galbraith,¹ Ricardo A. Franco,² John P. Donnelly,¹ Joel B. Rodgers,¹ Jordan M. Morgan,¹ Andres F. Viles,¹ Edgar T. Overton,² Michael S. Saag,² and Henry E. Wang¹

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Preventive Services Task Force have highlighted public screening as an essential strategy for increasing hepatitis C virus (HCV) detection in persons born between 1945 and 1965 ("baby boomers"). Because earlier HCV screening efforts have not targeted emergency department (ED) baby boomer patients, we describe early experience with integrated opt-out HCV antibody (Ab) screening of medically stable baby boomers presenting to an urban academic ED. We performed HCV Ab testing 24 hours per day and confirmed positive test results using polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The primary outcome was prevalence of unrecognized HCV infection. Among 2,325 unique HCV-unaware baby boomers, 289 (12.7%) opted out of HCV screening. We performed HCV Ab tests on 1,529 individuals, of which 170 (11.1%) were reactive. Among Ab reactive cases, follow-up PCR was performed on 150 (88.2%), of which 102 (68.0%) were confirmed RNA positive. HCV Ab reactivity was more likely in males compared to females (14.7% vs. 7.4%; $P < 0.001$), African Americans compared to whites (13.3% vs. 8.8%; $P = 0.010$), and underinsured/uninsured patients compared to insured patients (16.8%/16.9% vs. 5.0%; $P = 0.001$). Linkage-to-care service activities were successfully contacted by 100 of the 102 confirmed cases. Overall, 54 (54%) RNA-positive individuals were successfully contacted by phone within five call-back attempts, and 21 (55.3%) individuals (70.4%) RNA-positive individuals attended their initial visit with a liver specialist; 3 (7.9%) with confirmed appointments attended their scheduled appointment. Conclusion: We observed high prevalence of unrecognized chronic HCV infection in this series of baby boomers presenting to the ED, highlighting the ED as an important venue for high-impact HCV screening and linkage to care. (*Hepatology* 2014;60:000-000)

Chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is an urgent public health challenge in the United States, affecting an estimated 5.2 million individuals.¹ Sequelae of untreated chronic HCV infection, such as cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma, are common (25%-50%), and rates of these complications are expected to rise.^{2,3} A recent surge in the number of highly effective direct-acting agents has transformed the care of HCV infection, highlighting the urgency of identifying persons with this condition.^{4,5} As a result of the expansion of illicit drug use and contaminated transfusions that occurred in the 1970s and 1980s, HCV infection is particularly prevalent in the "baby boomer" population (those born between 1945

Abbreviations: Ab, antibody; CDC, Center for Disease Control and Prevention; CI, confidence interval; ED, emergency department; EHR, electronic health record; HCV, hepatitis C virus; HCV, human immunodeficiency virus; IQR, interquartile range; IQR, interquartile range; NHANES, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey; OR, odds ratio; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; UAB, University of Alabama at Birmingham; UAB ED, UAB Hospital emergency department; USPSTF, U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.
From the ¹Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Alabama School of Medicine, Birmingham, AL, and ²Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, University of Alabama School of Medicine, Birmingham, AL.
Received April 7, 2014; accepted August 28, 2014.
This project was supported by contract CDC-P150-10134 from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Mr. Donnelly received support from National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant 1K12NS081270 from the National Institutes of Health.
This project was supported by contract CDC-P150-10134 from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Mr. Donnelly received support from National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant 1K12NS081270 from the National Institutes of Health.
This work was presented at an oral session at the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Conference in Washington, DC, November 4, 2013.

Galbraith JW, Franco RA, Donnelly JP, et al. Unrecognized chronic hepatitis C virus infection among baby boomers in the emergency department. *Hepatology*. 2014; Sep 1. doi: 10.1002/hep.27410. [Epub ahead of print]



Heroin deaths jumped 140 percent in Jefferson County in 2014

Alabama ranks #1 as highest painkiller prescribing state

Jeffco sees 25 heroin, Fentanyl deaths in June: 103 fatal overdoses so far in 2016

Jasper Police Investigate 22 Heroin Overdoses

Jasper Pharmacist Sentenced to 2 Years in Prison for Illegally Dispensing Prescription Drugs

'A plague on society': Fentanyl deaths in Jefferson County more than doubled in 2016

Jessica Kilpatrick, Walker County

Feds indict Vestavia Hills doctor on 10 charges related to 'opioid problem' in Walker County

Pragmatic Targeted Screening Missed the Mark

Identifying non-baby boomer targets (PWID) is challenging

- 85% of persons tested were baby boomers or older at UAB
- UAB tests for IDU risk accounted for <5% of all test orders

Systemic barriers

- Provider - discomfort asking IDU questions, hard to operationalize asking, fear of affecting rapport with patient
- Patient - recall bias, privacy, concern of affecting rapport with provider



“I decide to walk down the street and find a needle laying on the ground, and of course I find them... I’ve sat on the side of the road, and pulled up some water out of my water bottle and shot the dope right there on the side of the road”



Cody Standard, Birmingham
HCV+

Photo source: Ashley Cleek, Public Radio International

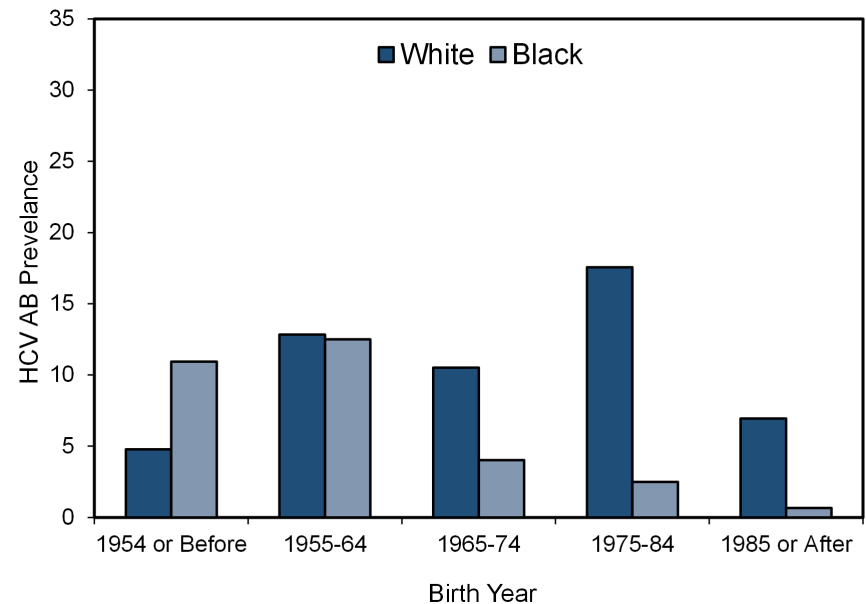
UAB Emergency Department Universal HCV Testing

Sept 15, 2015 to April 10, 2017 (Unpublished data)

	No. Tested, n	HCV-Ab +, n (%)
Born 1945-1965		
Total	9,665	1,102 (10.5)
Race		
White	4,704	448 (9.5)
Black	3,450	464 (11.9)

	No. Tested, n	HCV-Ab +, n (%)
Born After 1965		
Total	16,397	1,215 (7.4)
Race		
White	7,083	970 (13.7)
Black	2,063	207 (2.7)

Total tested: 27,063
HCV-Ab+: 2,275 (8.4%)



KENTUCKY

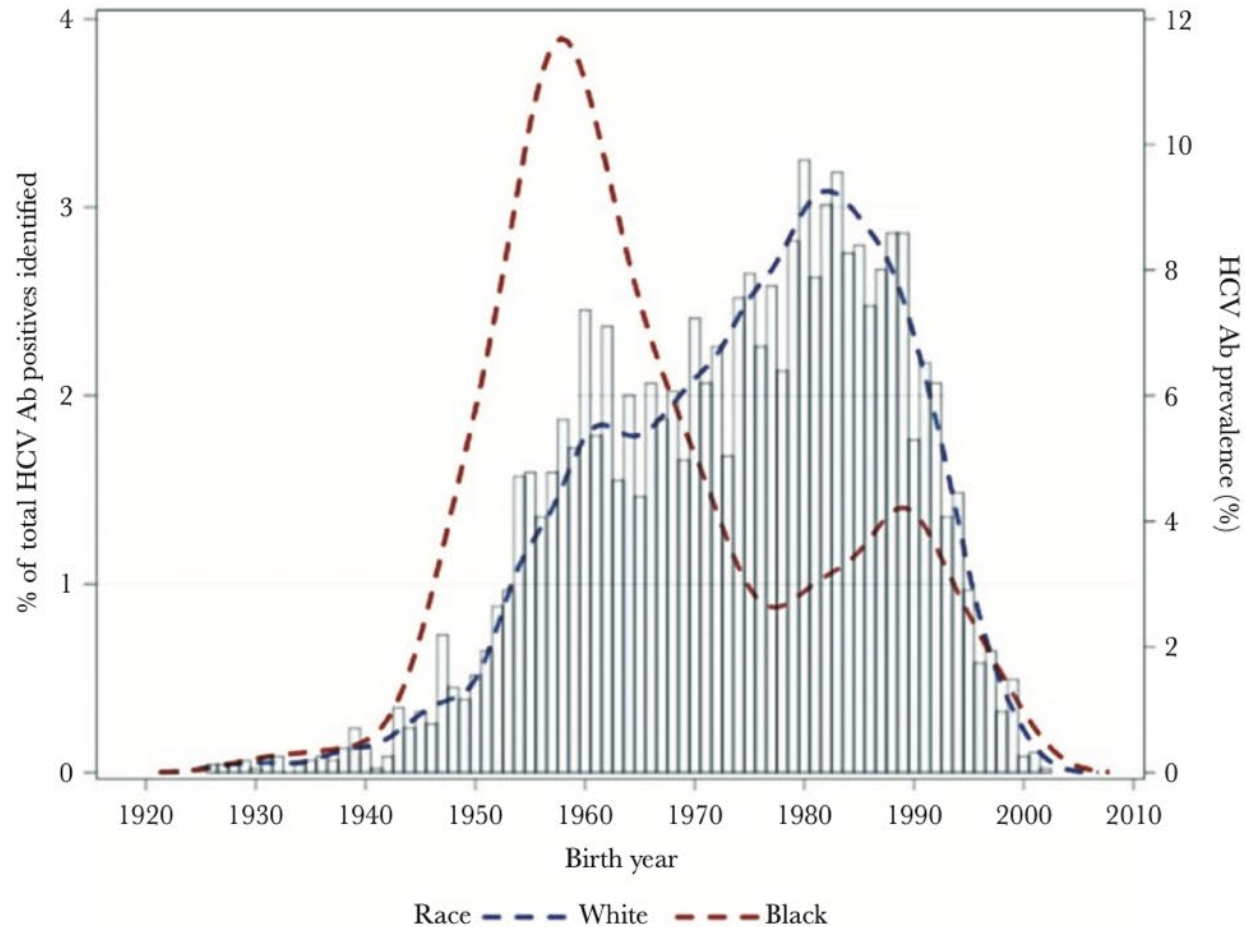


Figure 1. Chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) birth year distribution and prevalence by birth year and race. Gray bars indicate % of total; dashed lines indicate kernel density curve of HCV antibody (Ab) prevalence by birth year and race (red = Black; blue = White).

High Prevalence of Hepatitis C Infection Among Adult Patients at Four Urban Emergency Departments — Birmingham, Oakland, Baltimore, and Boston, 2015–2017



Weekly / Vol. 69 / No. 19

Weekly / May 15, 2020 / 69(19);569–574

James W. Galbraith, MD¹; Erik S. Anderson, MD²; Yu-Hsiang Hsieh, PhD³; Ricardo A. Franco, MD⁴; John P. Donnelly, PhD^{5,6}; Joel B. Rodgers, MA⁷; Elissa M. Schechter-Perkins, MD⁸; William W. Thompson, PhD⁹; Noele P. Nelson, MD, PhD⁹; Richard E. Rothman, MD, PhD³; Douglas A.E. White, MD² ([View author affiliations](#))

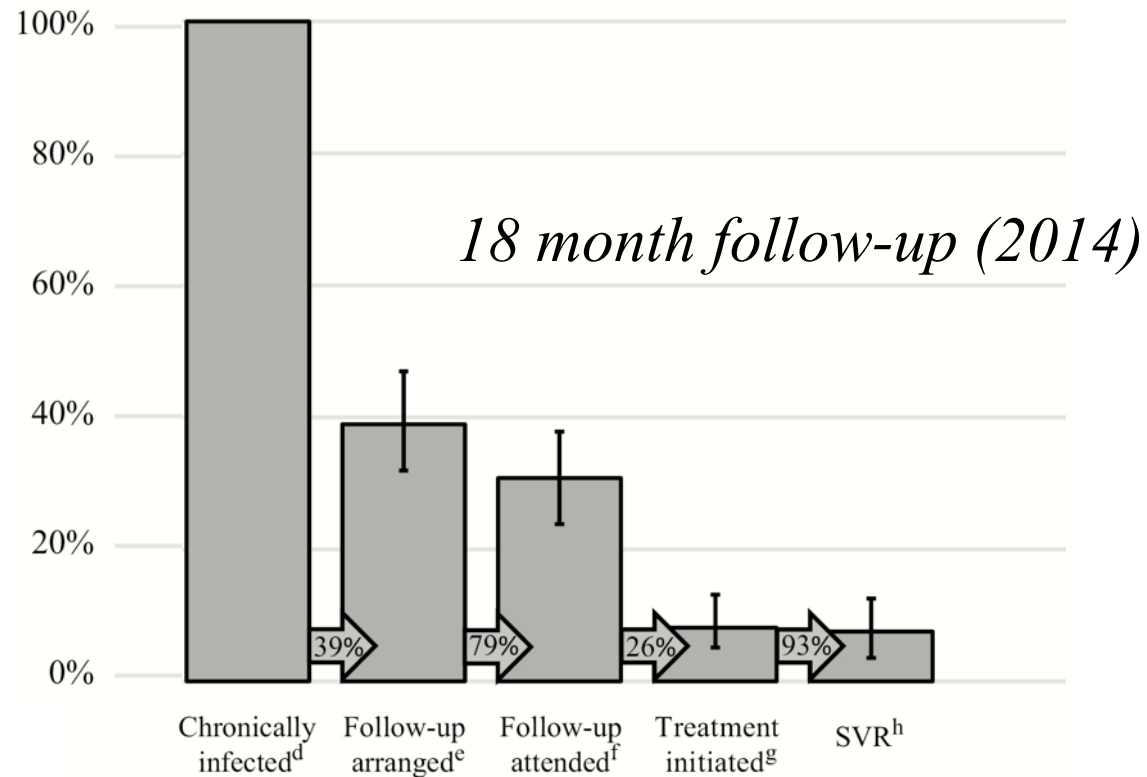
	University of Alabama at Birmingham Birmingham, Alabama	Highland Hospital, Oakland, California	Johns Hopkins Baltimore, Maryland	Boston University Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts	All sites
Unique ED visitors	18,916	18,272	13,069	26,870	77,127
Patients eligible for hepatitis C testing	13,999	9,585	7,639	12,284	43,507 [†]
Anti-HCV tests performed	5,973	2,900	1,638	3,741	14,252 [§]
Total anti-HCV positive tests (%)	459 (7.7)	166 (5.7)	120 (7.3)	570 (15.2)	1,315 (9.2)
Adults born 1945-1965, positive test results for anti-HCV/anti-HCV tests (%)	232/2,205 (10.5)	98/713 (13.7)	69/437 (15.8)	288/1,585 (18.2)	687/4,940 (13.9)
Born after 1965, positive test results for anti-HCV/anti-HCV tests (%)	227/3,768 (6.0)	68/2,187 (3.1)	51/1,201 (4.2%)	282/2,156 (13.1)	628/9,312 (6.7)
Total HCV RNA tests performed (%)	398 (86.9)	125 (75.3)	38 (31.6)	557 (97.7)	1,118 (85)
Total current HCV infections (positive test results for HCV RNA) (%)	252 (63.3)	79 (63.2)	27 (71.1)	335 (60.1)	693 (62.0)
Estimated prevalence of positive results for HCV RNA (%)	4.9	3.6	5.2	9.1	5.7
State and national estimated prevalence of positive results for HCV RNA, %	Alabama, 0.85	California, 1.25	Maryland, 1.00	Massachusetts, 0.85	National, 0.93

UAB-ED HCV Testing (Sept 2013 - March 2018)

Unique
Individuals
Tested **67,400**

HCV Ab+
6,461

HCV RNA+
4,070



Anderson ES, Galbraith JW, Deering LJ, et al. Continuum of Care for Hepatitis C Virus Among Patients Diagnosed in the Emergency Department Setting. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. 2017;64(11):1540-1546.

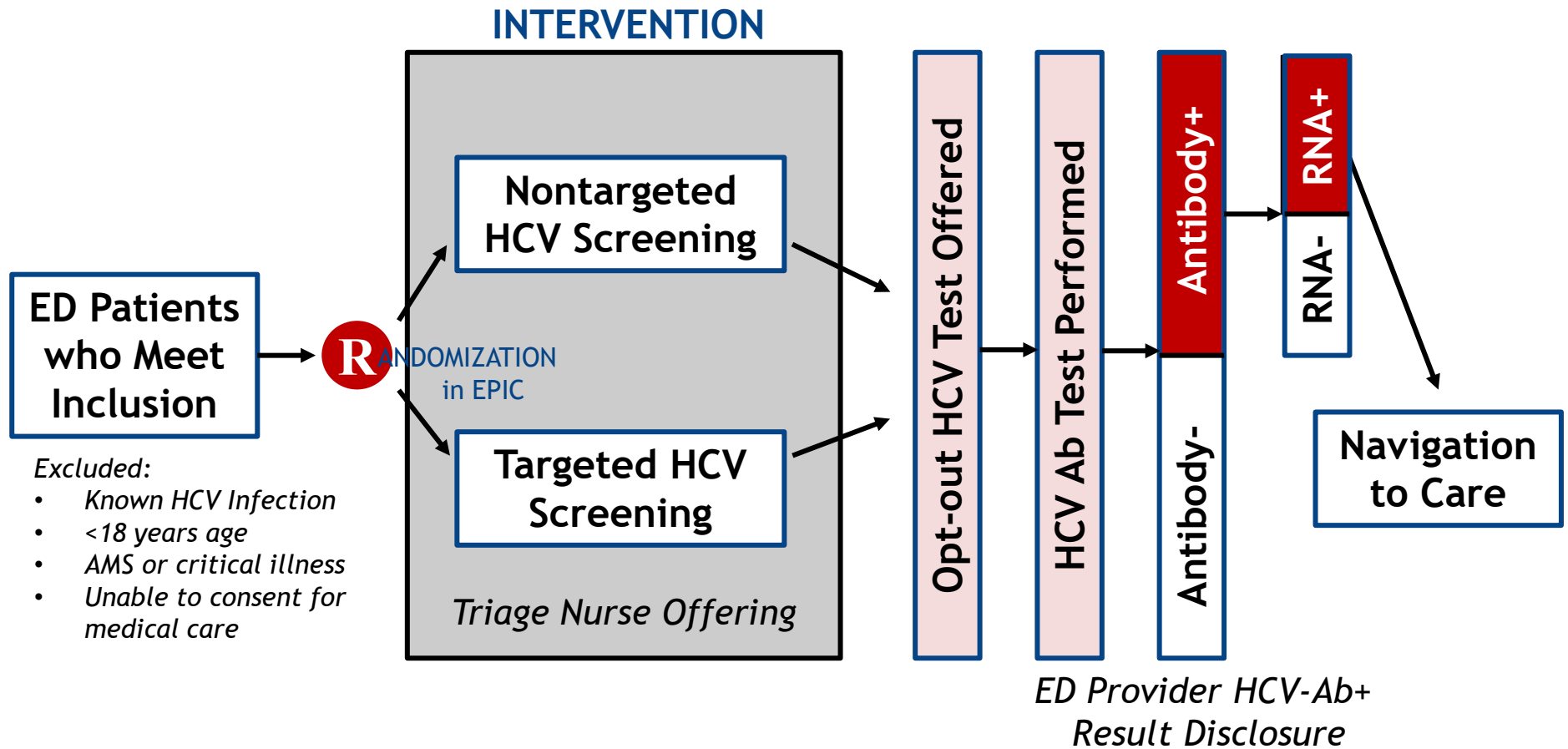
UAB LTC Manuscript

Table 2

Multivariate predictors of linkage-to-care failure among patients with chronic HCV infection (n = 1671).

Variable	p-value	OR	OR Confidence Interval (95%)
Age at screening	<0.001	0.96	0.95–0.97
White race	<0.001	1.65	1.23–2.22
Homelessness	0.005	1.91	1.19–3.08
Substance use	<0.001	1.77	1.34–2.34
Comorbid psychiatric disorder	<0.001	2.16	1.59–2.94
Competing comorbidities	<0.001	0.57	0.41–0.78
HIV co-infection	0.002	0.11	0.03–0.46

DETECT Trial Overview



Sites: UMMC, Johns Hopkins, Denver Health



215 new HIV dx (as of 3/2017)

- related to the injection of the drug Opana



Scott County, Indiana (pop. 24,000)

1.2% HIV prevalence

Austin City, Indiana (pop 4,200)

5.5% HIV prevalence (80% of cases)

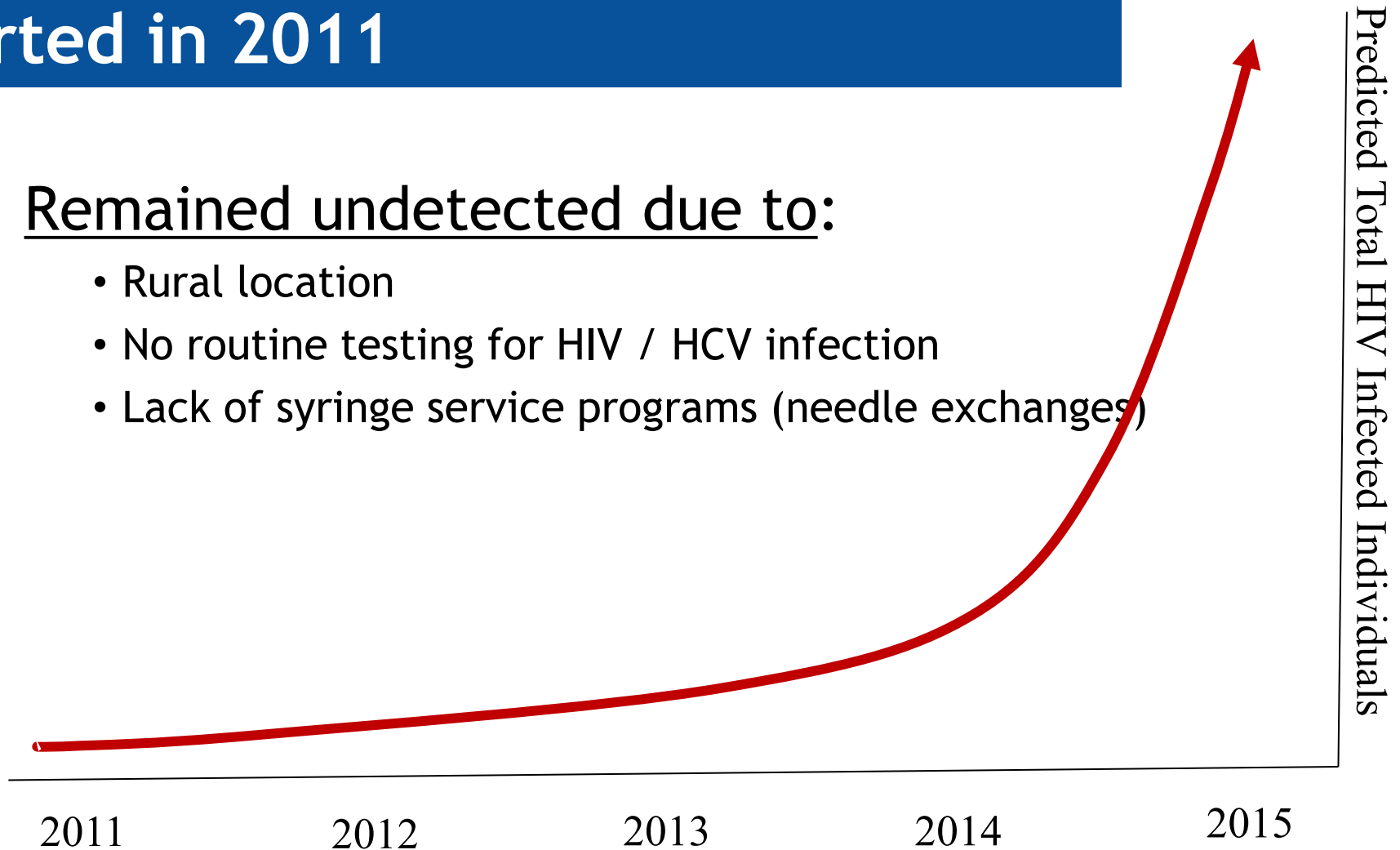
HIV Outbreak in Scott Co. (2015)



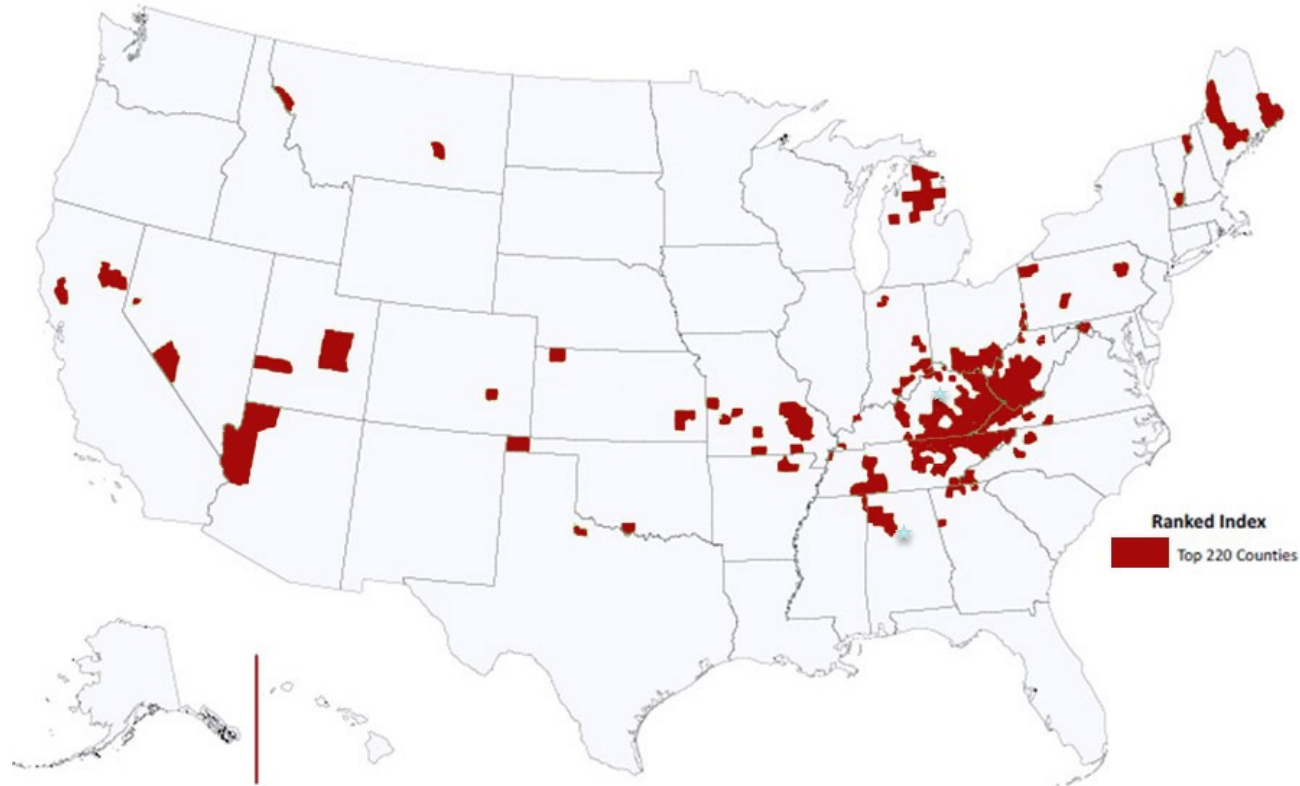
Scott Co. HIV Outbreak Likely Started in 2011

Remained undetected due to:

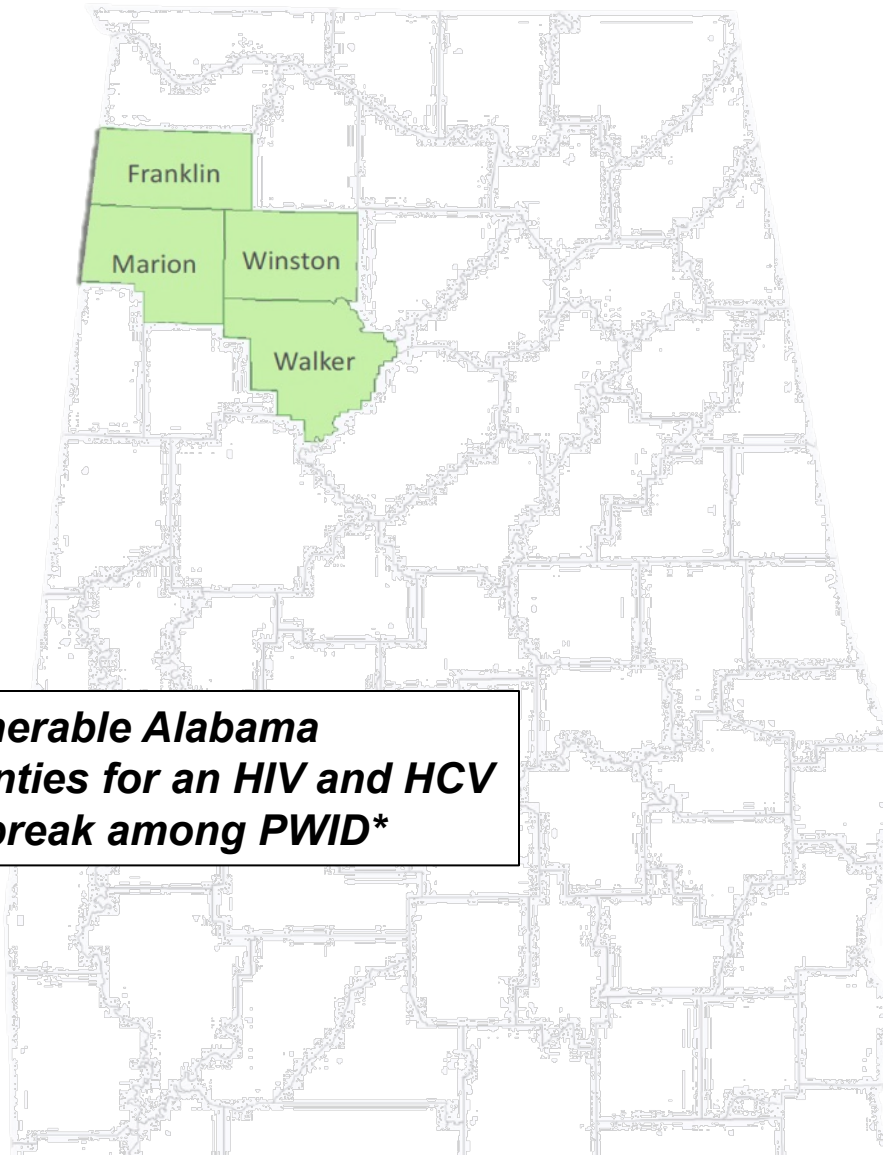
- Rural location
- No routine testing for HIV / HCV infection
- Lack of syringe service programs (needle exchanges)



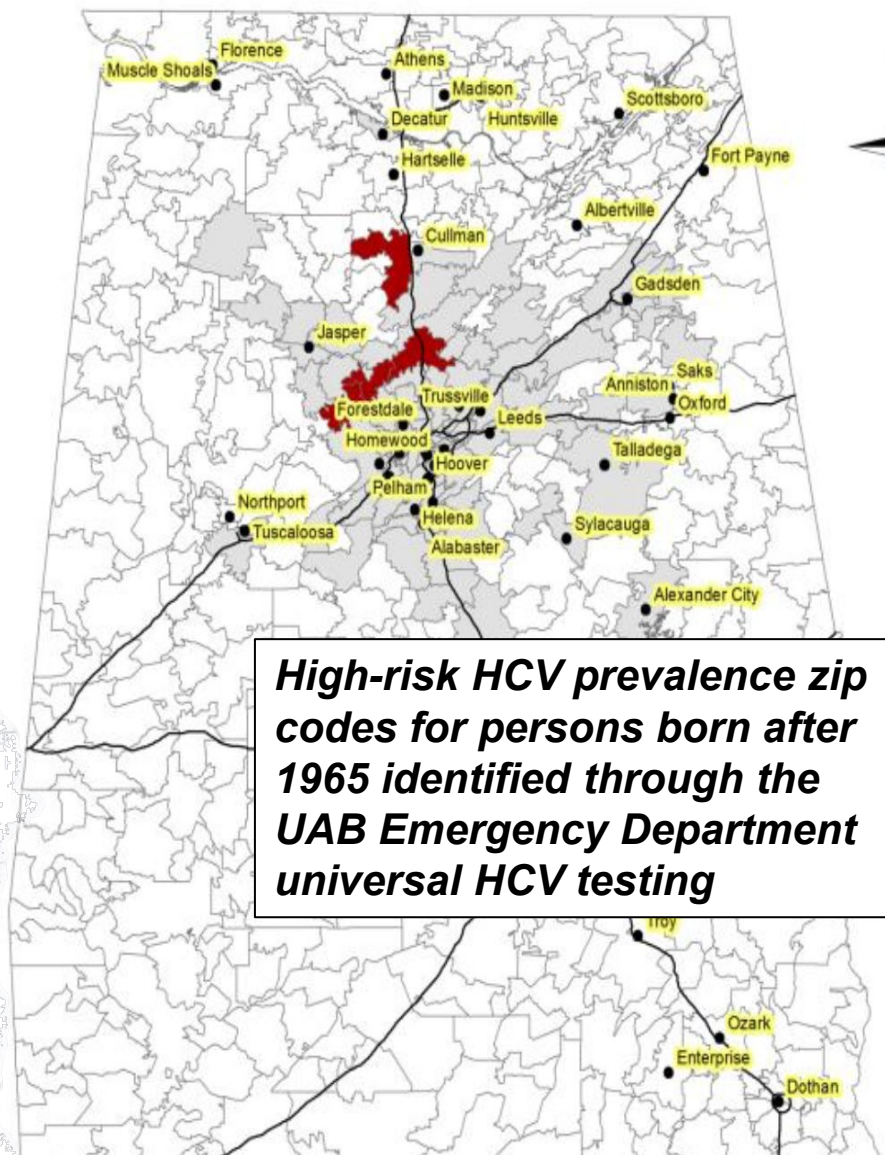
County-level Vulnerability to an Outbreak of HIV and HCV Infection among PWID (Top 5%)



Van Handel MM, Rose CE, Hallisey EJ, Kolling JL, Zibbell JE, Lewis B, Bohm MK, Jones CM, Flanagan BE, Siddiqi A-E-A, Iqbal K, Dent AL, Mermin JH, McCray E, Ward JW, Brooks JT: County-Level Vulnerability Assessment for Rapid Dissemination of HIV or HCV Infections Among Persons Who Inject Drugs, United States. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* 2016;73(3):323–331.

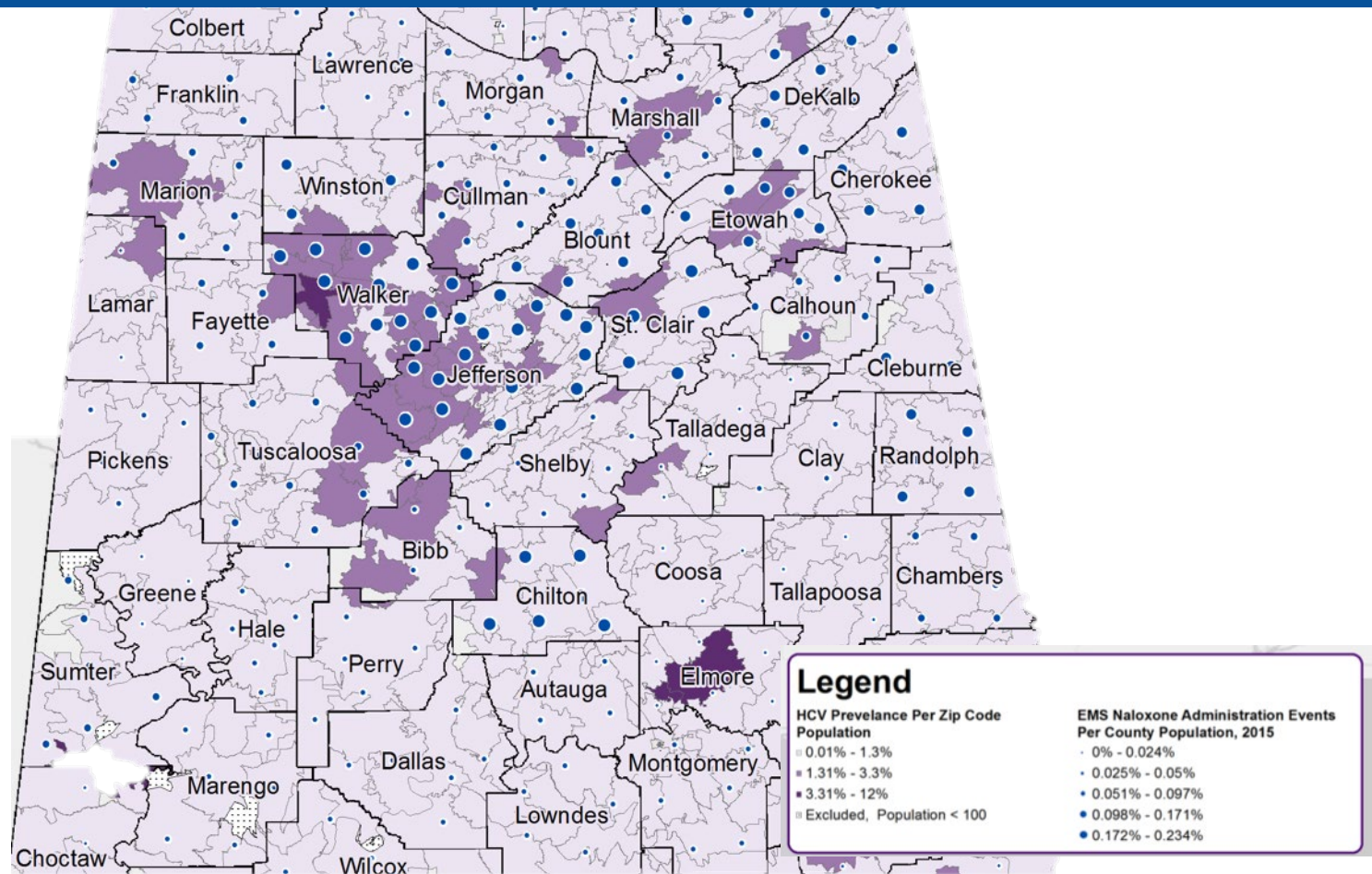


Vulnerable Alabama counties for an HIV and HCV outbreak among PWID*



High-risk HCV prevalence zip codes for persons born after 1965 identified through the UAB Emergency Department universal HCV testing

Alabama HCV Prevalence & EMS Naloxone Administration Events Per Capita



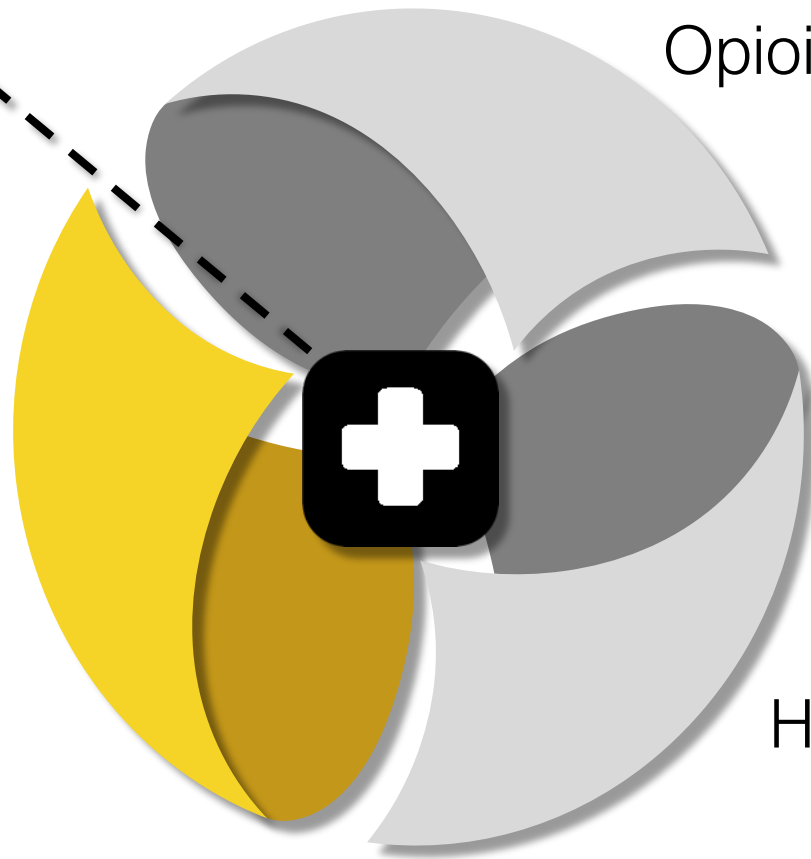
HEPATITIS C EPIDEMIC

Emergency Department

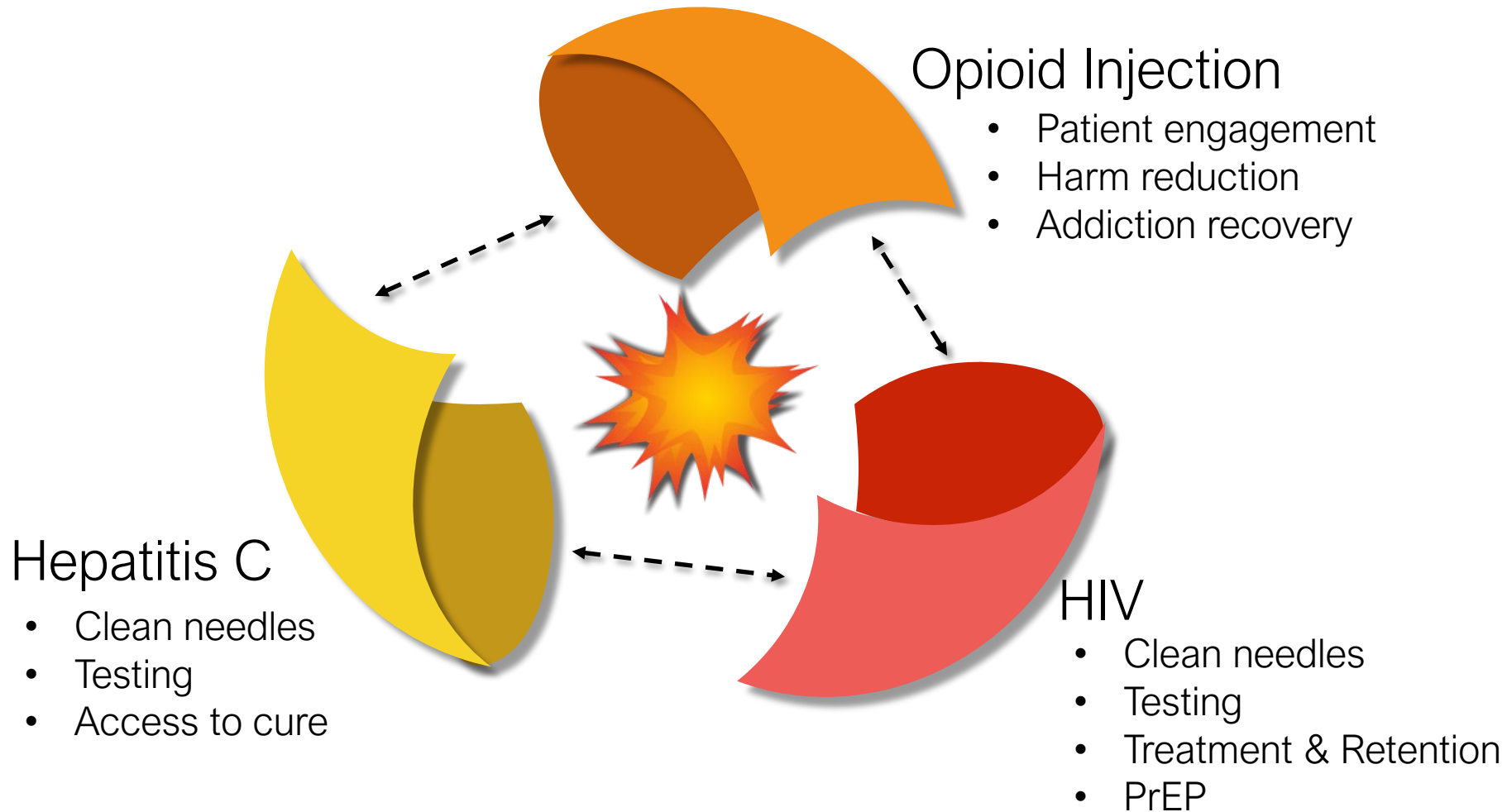
Opioid Injection

Hepatitis C

HIV



DISRUPTING THE GROWING SYNDROMIC IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES



Interventions Preventing Transmission of Bloodborne Pathogens Among PWID

Intervention	Risk Reduction Potential
Addiction treatment (abstinence)	100%
Treatment of HIV infection	If durably suppressed, negligible risk ^{1,2}
Medication-assisted therapy (MAT)	64% risk reduction in meta-analysis ³
Syringe service programs (SSP)	56% reduction in meta-analysis ⁴

¹Cohen et al. 2016, NEJM, 375(9):830-839

²Rodger et al. 2016, JAMA, 316(2):171-181

³MacArthur et al. 2012, BMJ, 345:e5945

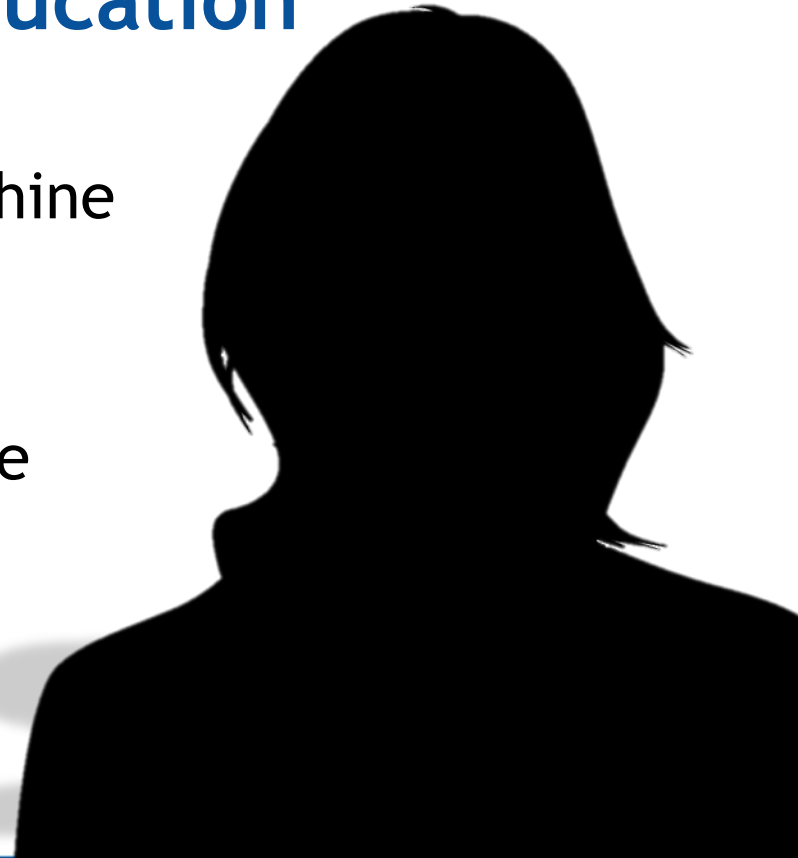
⁴Aspinall et al. 2014. Int J Epidemiol, 43(10):235-248

Bringing Patients with Opioid Use Disorders Out of the Shadows in US EDs

Harm Reduction Engagement & Education

Utilize for
community surveillance

- HIV/HCV Testing
- MAT Rx - Buprenorphine
- Referral resources (peer-navigation)
- Take Home Naloxone Distribution
- PrEP Referral



Alabama Laws Regarding Syringes (AL Statute 13-A-12-260)

(a) Definition of "drug paraphernalia." As used in this section, the term "Drug paraphernalia" means all equipment, products, and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use, or designed for use, in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging storing, containing, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing into the human body a controlled substance in violation of the controlled substances laws of this state. It includes but is not limited to:



(11) Hypodermic syringes, needles and other objects used, intended for use, or designed for use in parenterally injecting controlled substances into the human body;

- No explicit authorization for syringe exchange by law
- No exceptions to the law that would allow for the distribution of syringes to prevent blood-borne diseases

HB455

184589-1:n:04/04/2017:PMG*/th LRS2017-1495

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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would establish the Alabama Infectious Disease Elimination Act.

This bill would authorize the Department of Public Health and local health authorities to establish infectious disease elimination pilot programs in certain counties.

This bill would provide guidelines for infectious disease elimination pilot programs.

This bill would also provide limited criminal and civil immunity.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

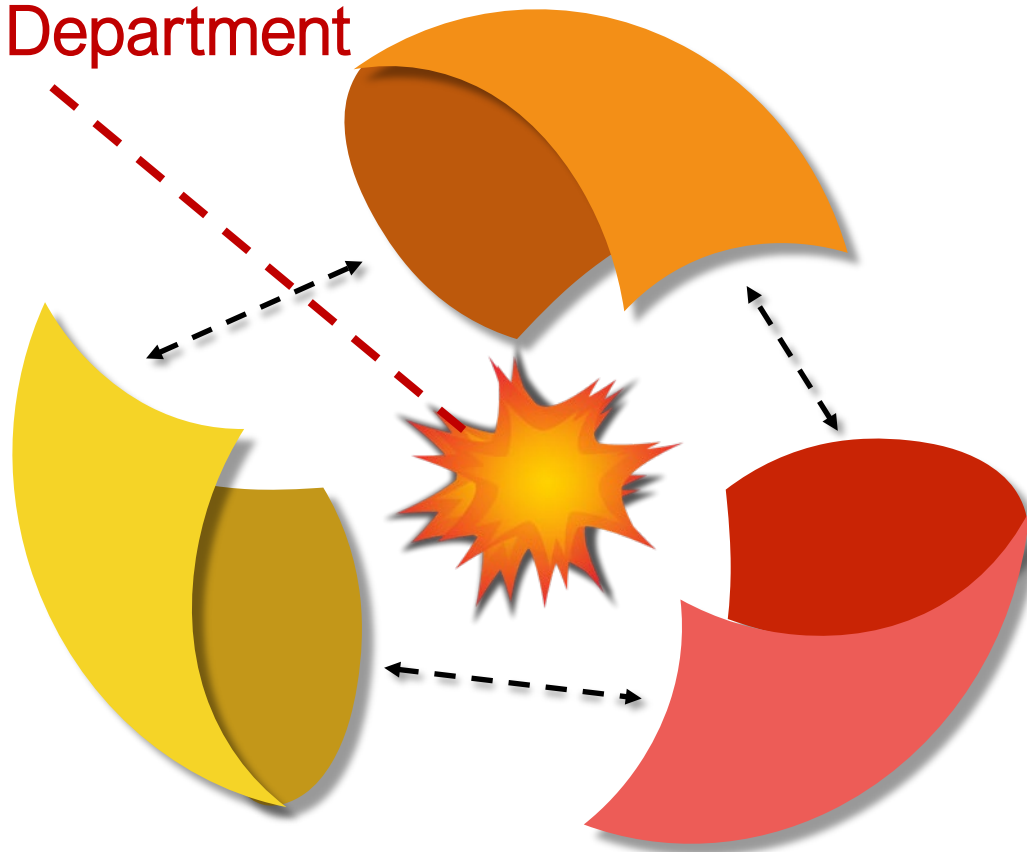
Relating to infectious diseases; to create the Alabama Infectious Disease Elimination Act; to authorize the Department of Public Health and local health authorities to establish infectious disease elimination pilot programs in certain counties; to provide guidelines for infectious disease

Page 1

<http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/ALISON/SearchableInstruments/2017RS/PrintFiles/HB455-int.pdf>

DISRUPTING THE GROWING SYNDEMIC IN US EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

Emergency Department



Hepatitis C Infections Identified Commercial Laboratories & EMS Na Administration Events Per Cap

Out of the Shadows:

Emergency Department Testing Unmasks the Hidden Faces of the HCV Epidemic & Identifies Communities at Risk for an Outbreak of HIV Among Persons Who Inject Drugs

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Legend

HCV Prevalence
Population

0.01% - 1.3%

1.34% - 2.2%