

# Dried Blood Spot for HIV and HCV

## Testing Priority Population Groups in the NSW Custodial Setting

### What is the DBS Study

Most options for HIV or HCV testing currently involve people attending clinics or community testing sites. The purpose of the Dried Blood Spot (DBS) testing pilot is to increase access to testing. It offers significant advantages to conventional blood testing such as providing added convenience, privacy and confidentiality.

This study also aims to assess whether DBS is an effective and manageable option for increasing access to HIV and HCV testing among priority populations in NSW. It will also assess who is likely to use the program as well as ascertaining participants' perspectives on the testing process.

### The Selection Criteria

The following people will be offered a HIV test:

- gay and other men who have sex with men,
- people from Asia and Africa, and
- people with current or previous sexual partners from Asia and Africa

The following people will be offered both an HIV and hep C test:

- people who identify as Aboriginal
- people who have ever injected drugs.

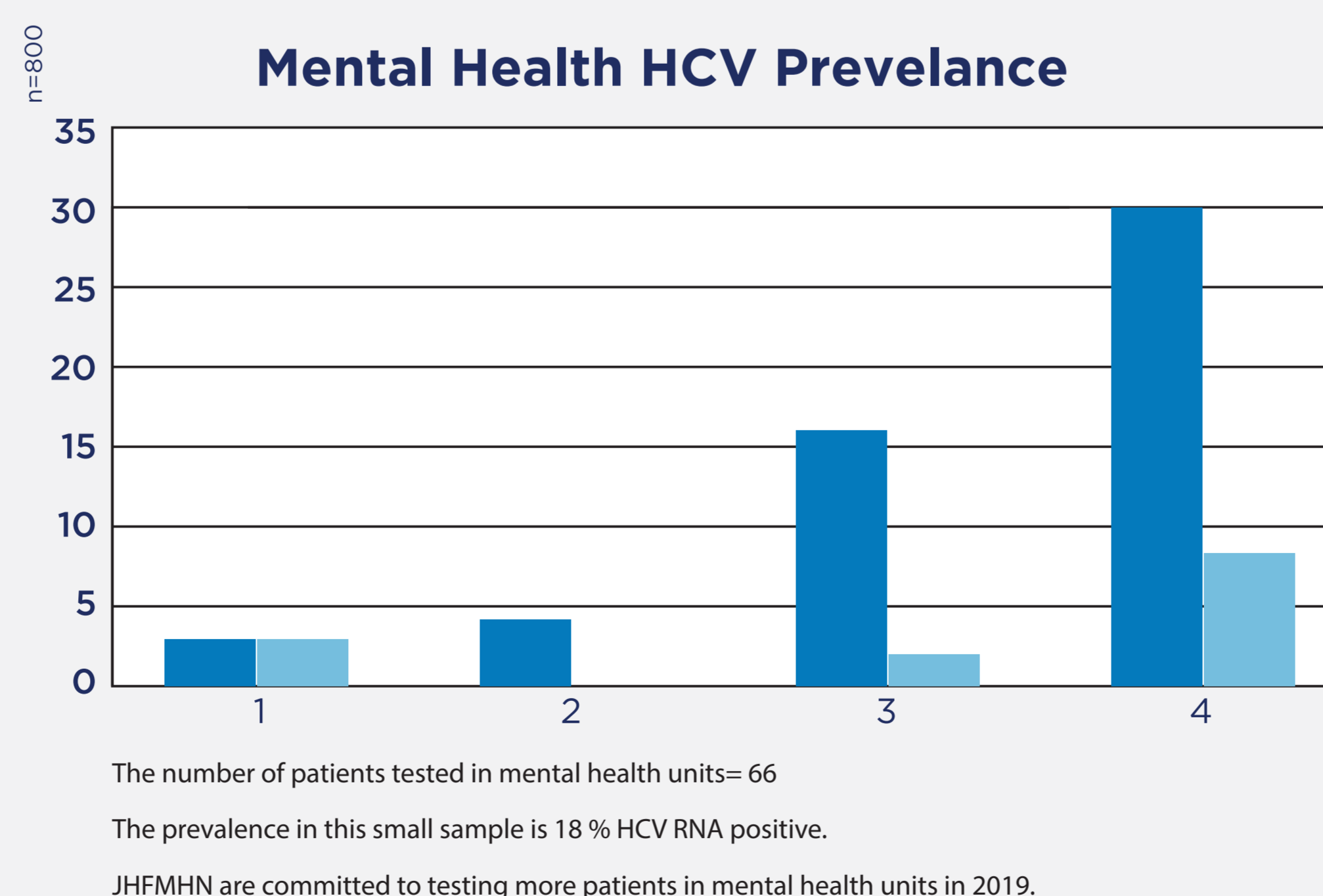
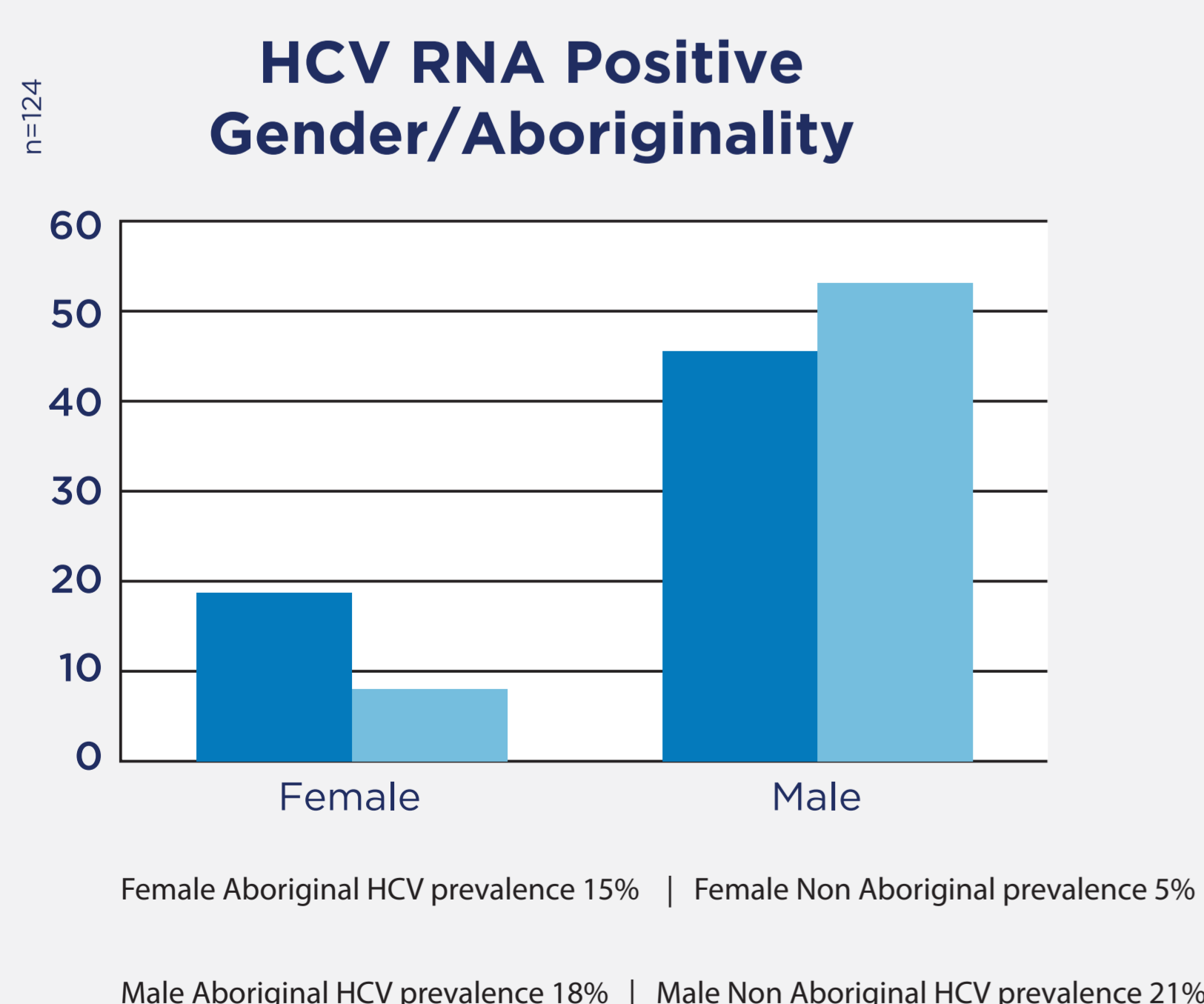
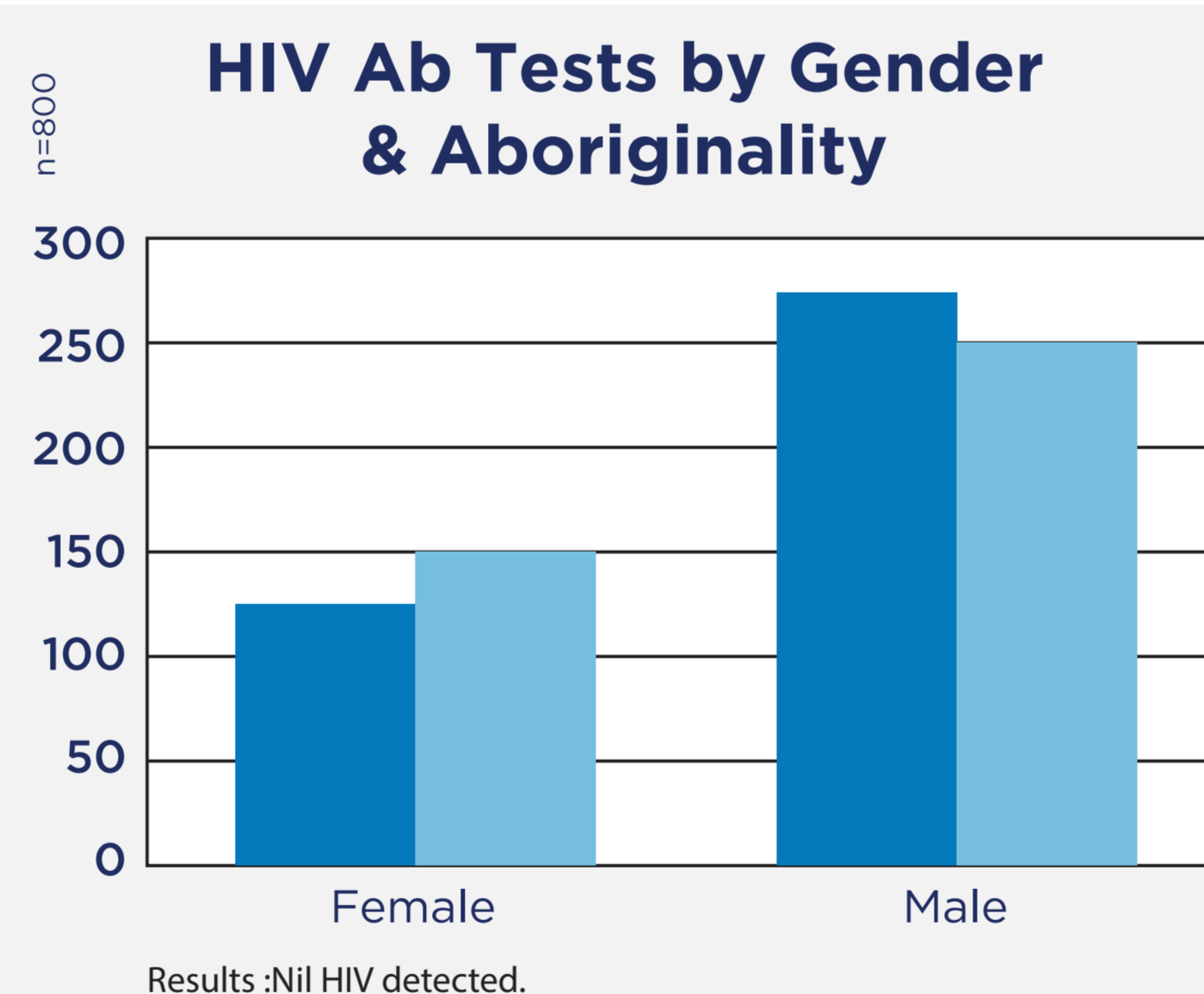
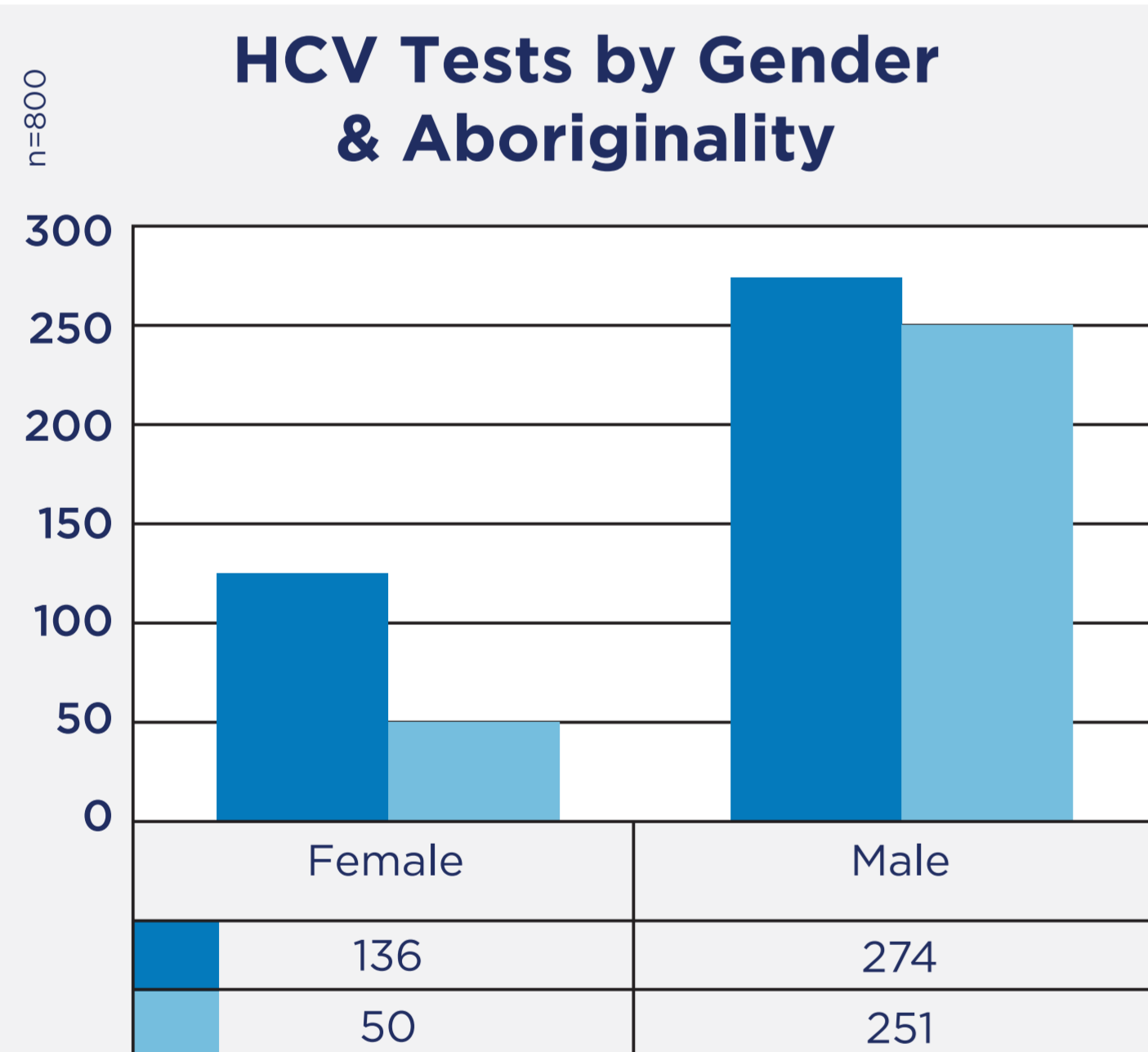


### Advantages For People In Custody

- Patients do not have to have venepuncture.
- The test is portable so the test can in reach to the patient units.
- Less security risks with not using needles and syringes.
- Testing takes less time so more people can be tested.
- More testing means more treatment uptake.
- More treatment means less risk of transmission.
- A decrease in prevalence of HIV and HCV decreases risk to correctional officers and nurses.

= ABORIGINAL

= NON- ABORIGINAL



#### 800 DBS tests were registered between July 2018 and May 2019. Of these:

- 579 (72%) were male
- 220 (28%) were female
- 800 (100%) were tested for HIV
- 711 (89%) were tested for hepatitis C
- 409 (51%) were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- 736 (92%) reported that they had ever injected drugs
- 26 (3%) were from Asia or Africa
- 106 (13%) reported current or previous partners from Asia or Africa

#### 579 DBS tests Males. Of these:

- 525 (90%) were tested for hepatitis C
- 274 (47%) were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- 527 (91%) reported that they had ever injected drugs
- 23 (4%) were from Asia or Africa
- 29 (5%) reported being MSM
- 98 (17%) reported current or previous partners from Asia or Africa

#### 409 tests were registered by people that identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

- 274 (67%) were male
- 135 (33%) were female
- 361 (88%) reported that they had ever injected drugs
- 0 (0%) were born in Asia or Africa
- 9 (2%) reported being MSM
- 27 (7%) Reported current or previous partners from Asia or Africa

#### 220 DBS tests Females. Of these:

- 186 (85%) were tested for hepatitis C
- 135 (61%) were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- 208 (95%) reported that they had ever injected drugs
- 3 (2%) were from Asia or Africa
- 8 (4%) reported current or previous partners from Asia or Africa

#### Outcomes:

- 73 Patients have been commenced on HCV treatment
- All patients have been commenced on HCV management plan.
- A few have been lost to follow up once released from custody.

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