

# SCREENING FOR HCV WITH DRIED BLOOD SPOT TEST IN ACTIVE DRUG USERS. EVALUATION OF THE MAGNITUDE BEFORE INTERVENTION.

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## Background:

Cañada Real is a shantytown on the outskirts of Madrid, where 90% of the sale and consumption of illegal drugs in the region take place. Screening for HCV using dried blood spot (DBS) in drug users is simple, cheap, avoids the need for venipuncture and can be applied with only minimal training.



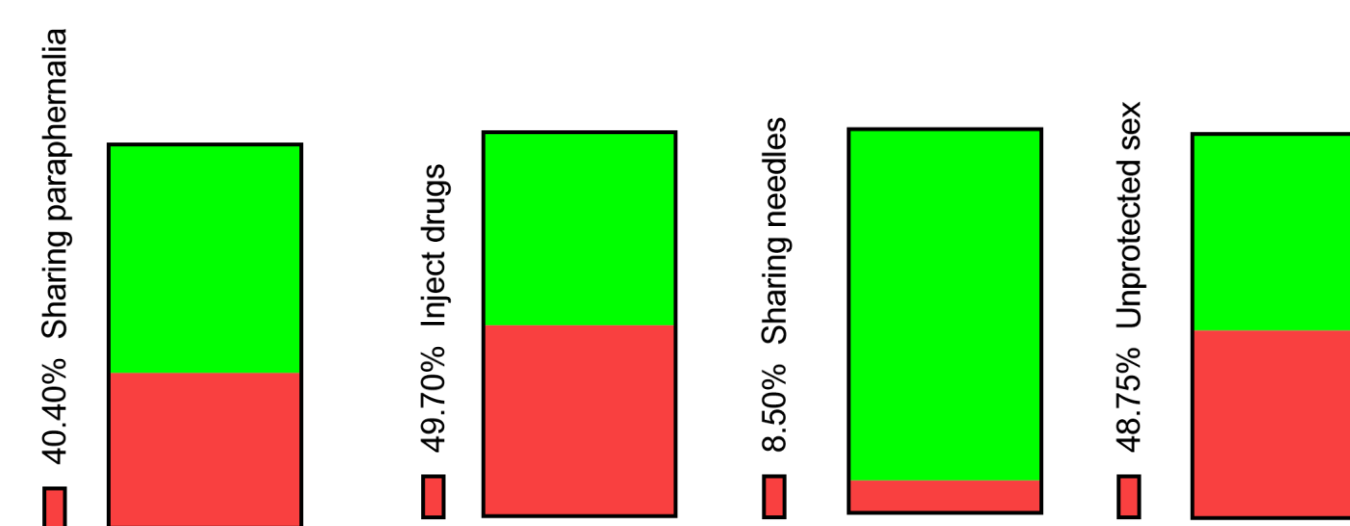
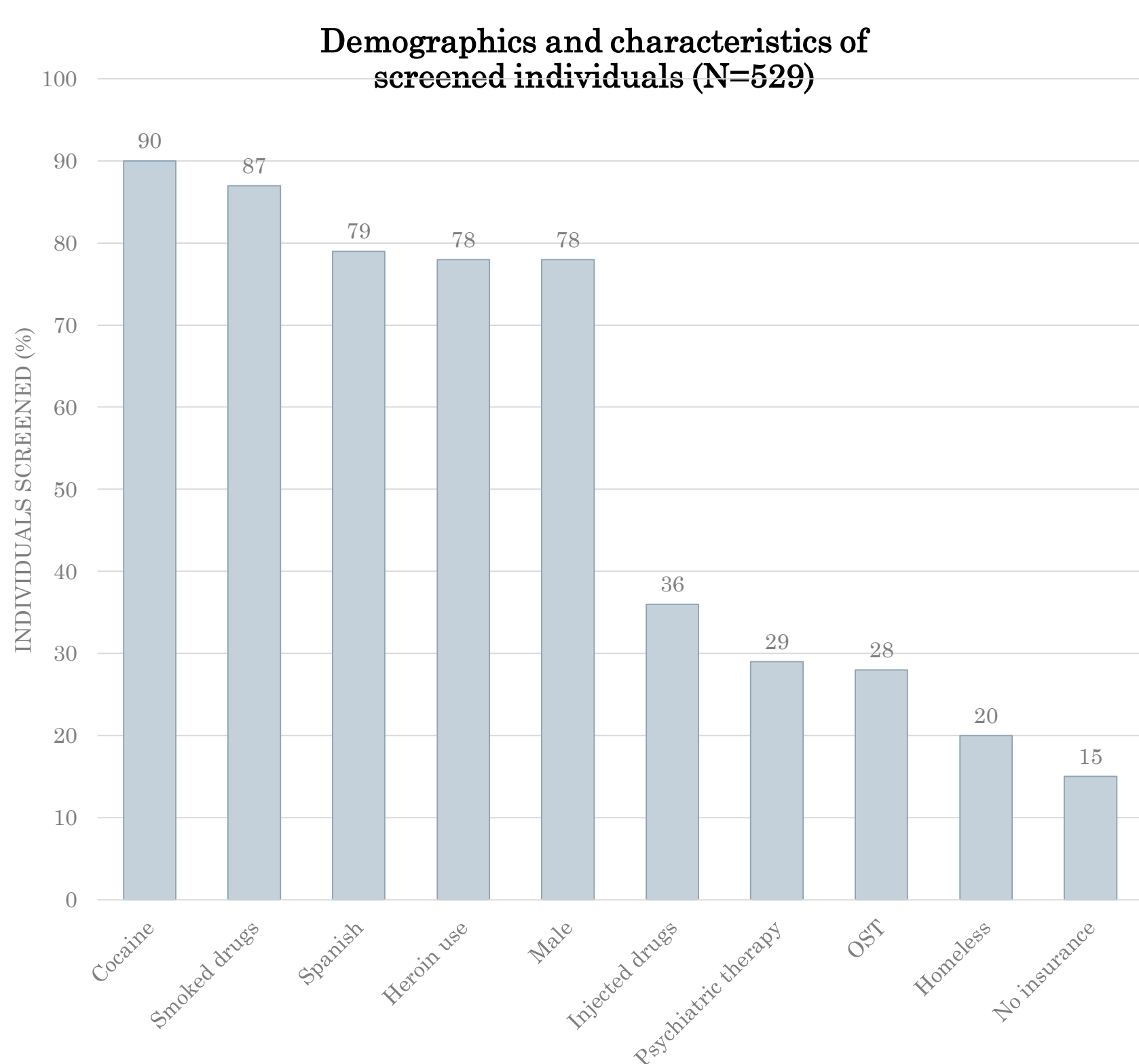
## Description of model of care/intervention:

Screening for HCV and other viruses (HIV, HBV, HDV) was carried out using capillary whole blood in DBS specimens in subjects from Cañada Real, as part of a low-threshold harm reduction strategy. A mobile harm reduction unit made an active search. Socio-demographic data was recorded.



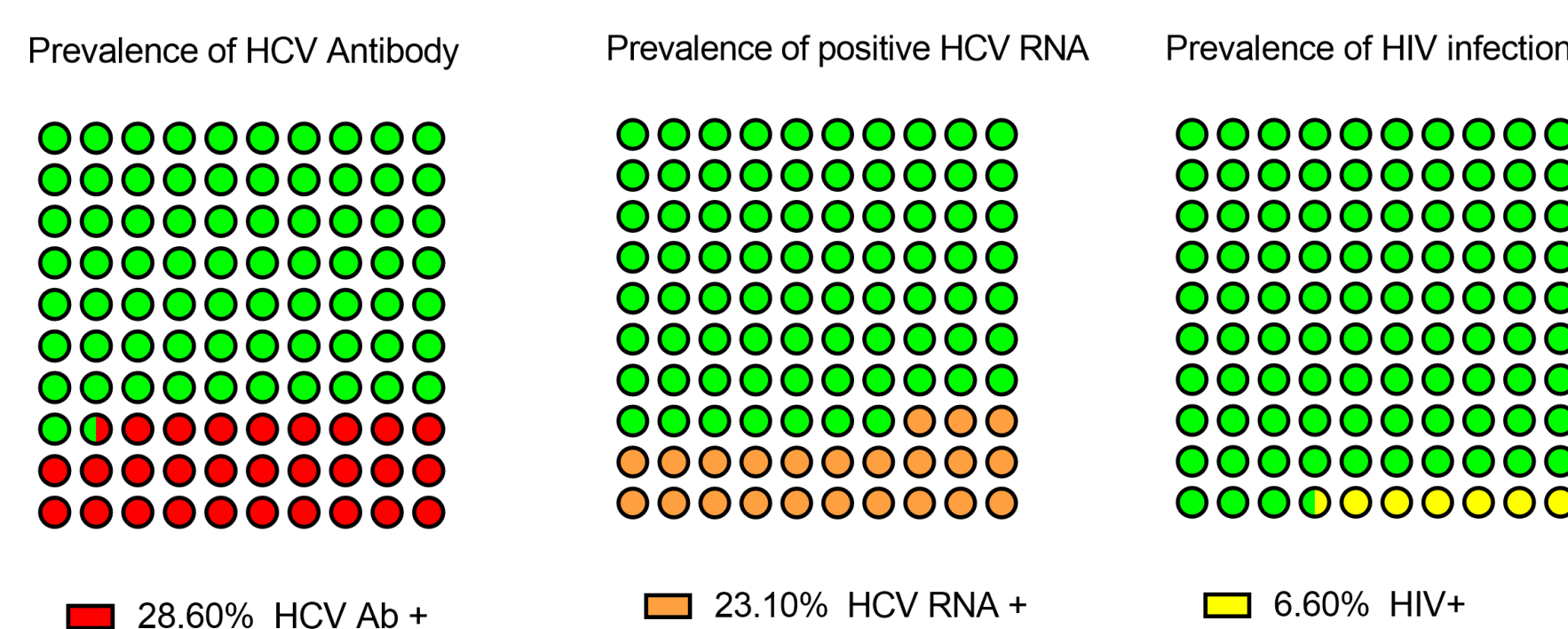
## Effectiveness:

529 drug users were screened for blood borne viruses at the shantytown. 78% were male, 79% Spanish born and 10% from Eastern Europe. 105 (20%) were homeless. Most frequent drugs used; cocaine 476(90%), heroine 412 (78%). Most of the drug users smoked these drugs 432 (87%) and 177(36%) injected them. 28% (142) received opioid substitution therapy and 29% psychiatric therapy. 35% of the drug users had not been tested/screening for hepatitis C in the last year.



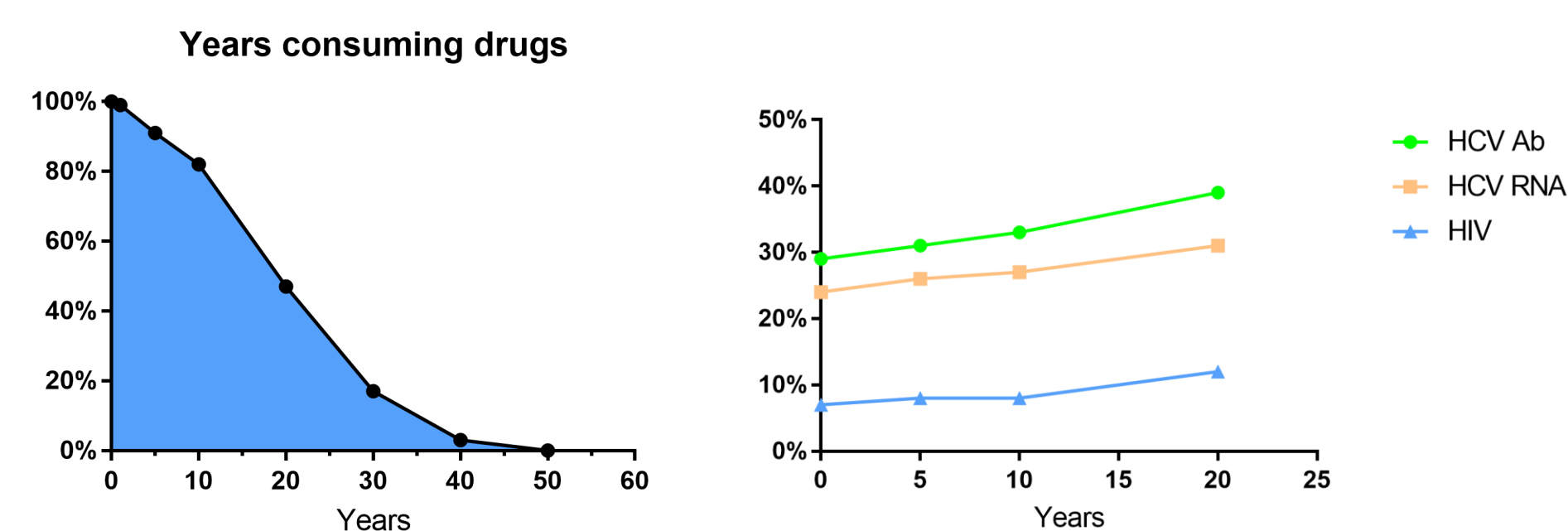
Risk factors for acquisition of HCV

Screening results with DBS: HCV antibodies: 28% positive, RNA positive: 23%, HIV positive: 6%, HBV positive: 4% and 2 patients were HDV positive.

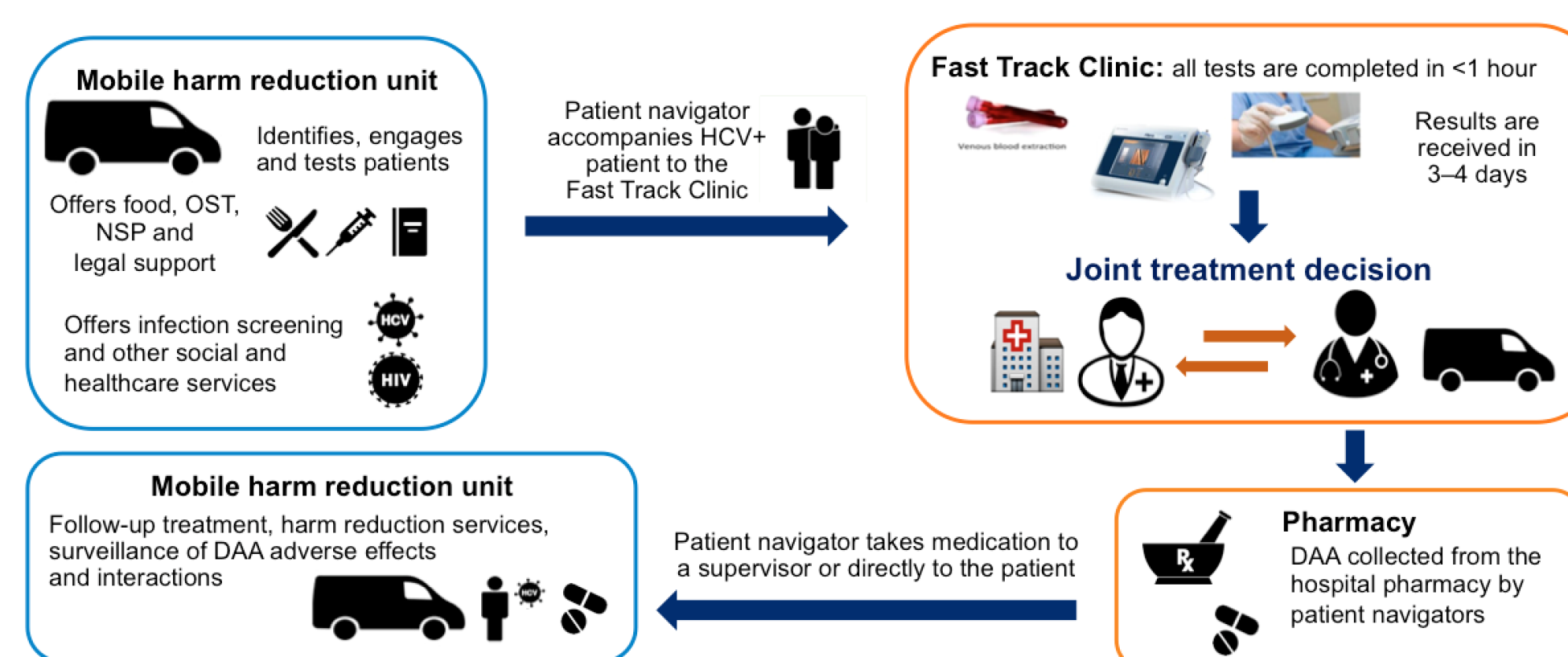


The figure shows that this population has been consuming for many years.

More prevalent as more time consuming drugs



## Model of care and circuit



## Conclusion and next steps:

DBS may be an excellent alternative for blood borne viruses screening in drug users. Proactive screening with DBS and active approaches to drug users help to quantify the problem in this population, thus establish more suitable preventive measures and a circuit of referral to specialist centers for confirmation of diagnosis and treatment.

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