

A Screening Program for Hepatitis C among Baby Boomers in the Northeast United States reveals an Alarmingly High Prevalence of HCV among People who Inject Drugs

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Background

- 75% of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) in the U.S. occurs in people born between 1945-1965 (baby boomers).
- Stony Brook University Hospital in New York implemented a routine HCV screening and linkage to care initiative for baby boomers in 2016, following CDC guidelines.
- A high frequency of HCV among people who injected drugs (PWID) was noticed during this initiative.
- We studied the HCV testing patterns and prevalence in PWID born >1965 (non-boomers).

Methods

- Retrospective study of 23 month period (1/2016 – 12/2017) of patients with the following inclusion criteria:

ICD 10 Codes for Illicit Drug Use	EMR Keywords for PWID	Opiate related hospital visit
F19.10	IVDA	infection
T40.2x1A	IVDU	Altered Mental Status
F11	IV drug	withdrawal
T40.0-T40.6	heroin, cocaine	intoxication

- Chart review of HCV testing status and results.

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Acknowledgment

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Results

Fig.1 Analysis of Unique Medical Records

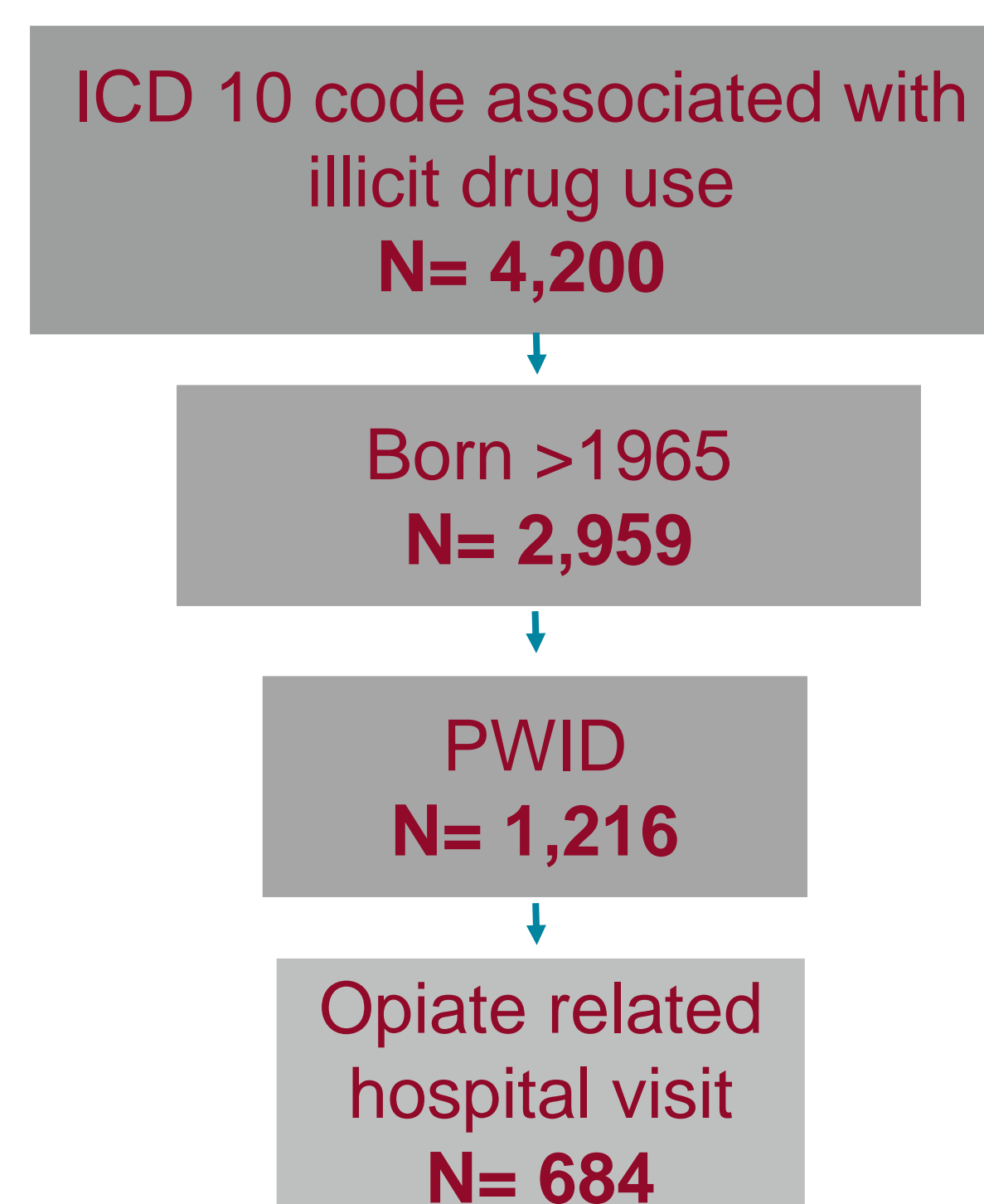


Fig.3 Mapping of HCV Ab+ (n=684) cases by Zip Code, Long Island, New York

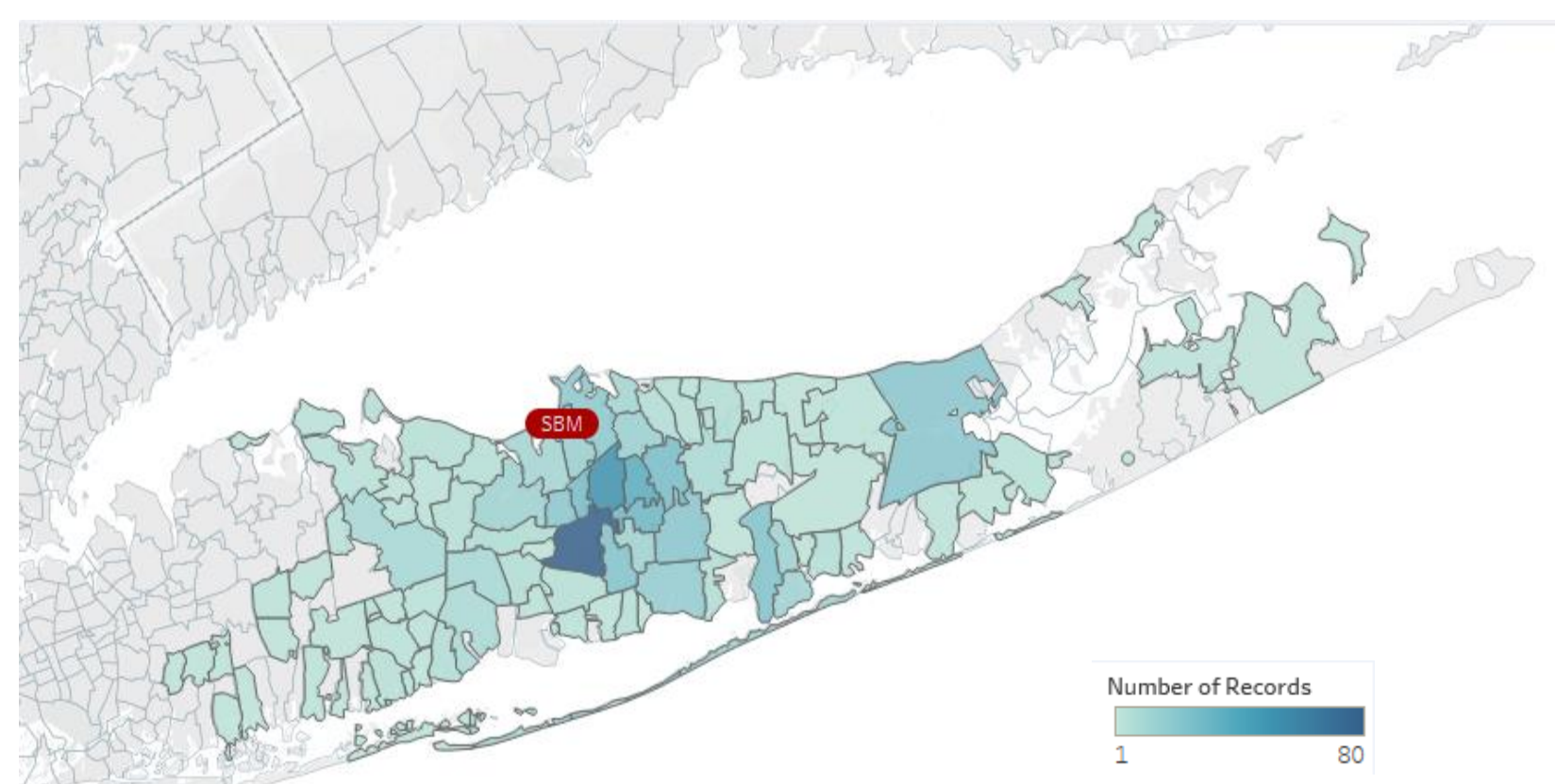


Fig. 2 HCV Testing Status & Results in Individuals with Opiate Related Visit

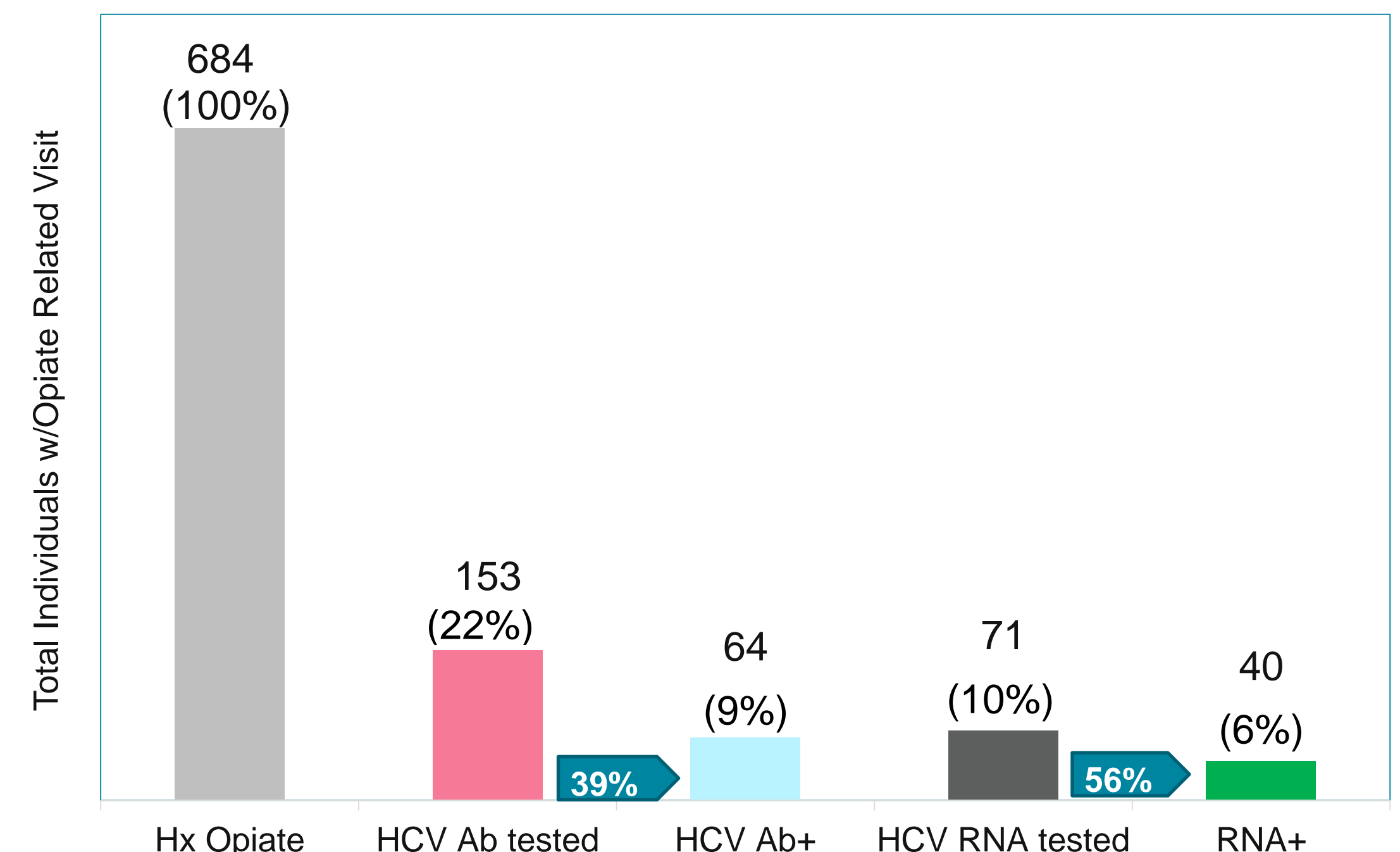


Fig. 4. Characteristics of Individuals w/ Opiate Related Visit

Gender	Total	HCV Ab Tested	HCV Ab+	HCV RNA Tested	RNA+				
Male	431	63.0%	88	20%	31	35%	35	19	54%
Female	253	37.0%	65	26%	33	51%	36	21	58%

Age Bracket	Total	HCV Ab Tested	HCV Ab+	RNA Tested	RNA+				
18-29	295	43%	56	19%	21	38%	24	15	63%
Male	171	58%	30	18%	10	33%	8	6	75%
Female	124	42%	26	21%	11	42%	16	9	56%
30-44	237	35%	57	24%	25	44%	28	17	61%
Male	166	70%	36	22%	13	36%	15	9	60%
Female	71	30%	21	30%	12	57%	13	8	62%
45-52	152	22%	40	26%	18	45%	19	8	42%
Male	94	62%	22	23%	8	36%	12	4	33%
Female	58	38%	18	31%	10	56%	7	4	57%

Conclusions

- Our results suggest that the prevalence of HCV in PWID born > 1965 is higher than in baby boomers.
- In response, we updated our HCV testing policy in 2018 to include PWID as a target population for routine HCV screening in the Emergency Department.
- The EMR Drug Toxicology order form available for the Emergency Department now includes three care sets: Hepatitis C Ab w/reflex to HCV RNA Quant, HIV 1/2 Ag/Ab Rapid Screen and Hepatitis B Surface Antigen.
- Prospective studies of HCV prevalence in this high risk population are needed.

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