

# Recall Can Increase Treatment Uptake: An Audit of Positive Hepatitis C PCR Tests at the Kirketon Road Centre

R Gilliver<sup>1</sup>, KJ Chronister<sup>1,2</sup>, R Lothian<sup>1</sup>, J Kearley<sup>1</sup>, P Read<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kirketon Road Centre, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, Sydney

<sup>2</sup> Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney, Sydney

## Background:

- Kirketon Road Centre (KRC) is a publicly-funded primary health care service in Kings Cross, Sydney
- KRC provides prevention, treatment and care of viral hepatitis with a focus on people who inject drugs
- Achieving hepatitis C elimination goals will require engagement of those most at risk such as people currently injecting drugs
- Study aim: to describe outcomes of treatment engagement and subsequent recall of clients with a previous positive HCV PCR result
- It is estimated that over 80% of people living with hepatitis C in Australia have at some point been diagnosed. Elimination requires that people who have received a previous diagnoses of hepatitis C yet remain untreated, are re-engaged in care.

## Results:

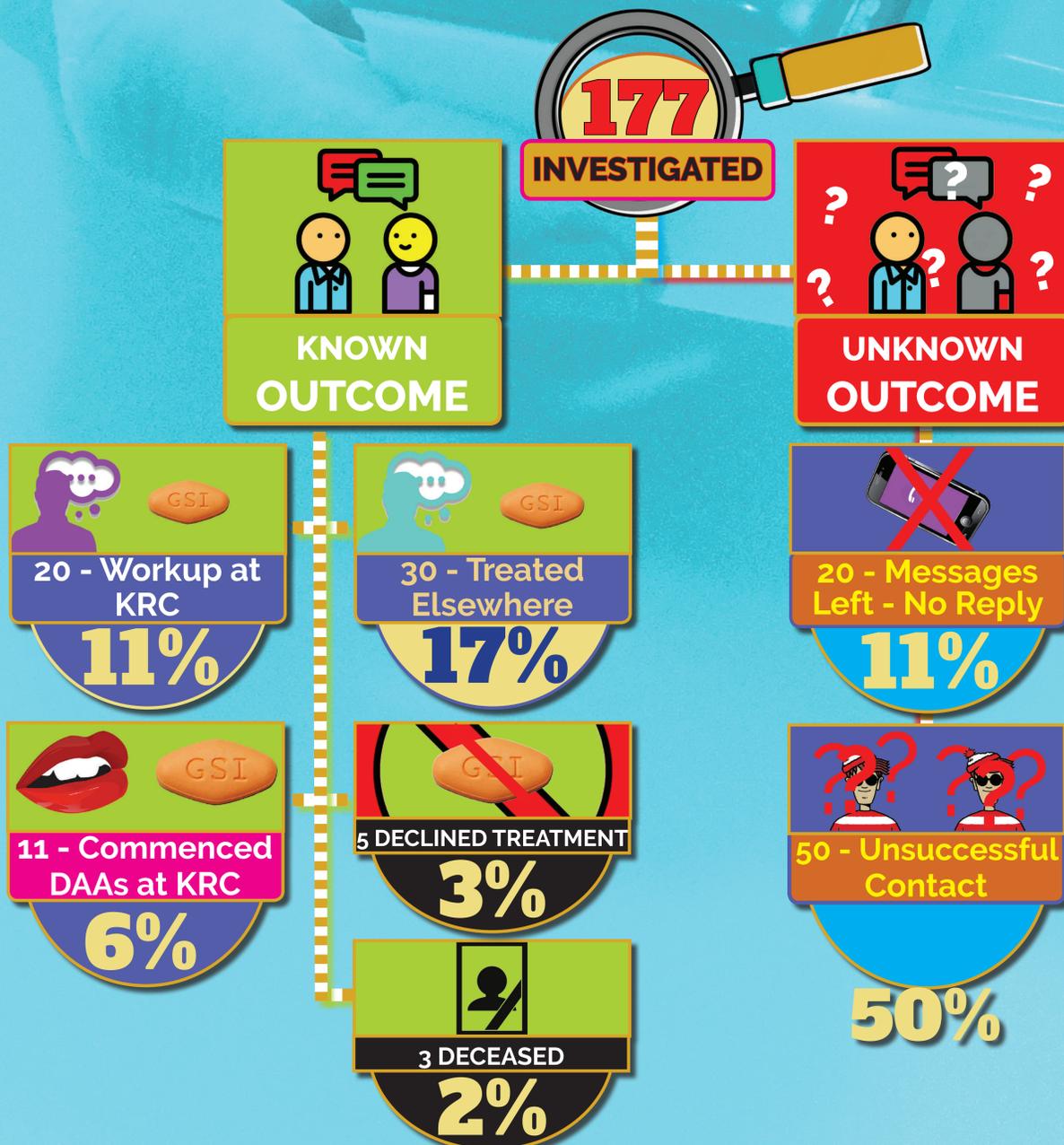
- 344 clients had positive PCR result
  - Mean age = 42 years
  - 64% male
  - 22% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
  - 82% injected drugs within last 12 months
- 167 clients excluded from cohort
  - 5 spontaneously cleared infection
  - 139 (41%) treated at KRC
  - 23 (7%) commenced work-up, lost to care

## Methods:

- Retrospective cohort of clients with a positive HCV PCR result between July 2014 and June 2017
- Demographic characteristics obtained from clinical database
- Active recall and file review used to determine treatment uptake
- Descriptive analysis of clients and treatment uptake

## Conclusion:

- Treatment uptake and completion among this population of people who inject drugs was at least 50% within the first 15 months of DAA availability
- Active recall engaged a further 17% of those not yet treated into care
- In a marginalised and transient population, contact details rapidly change prohibiting complete recall
- Recall is important to engage clients in treatment and achieve public health benefits, but must be timely to effectively reach clients



## Contact:

Kirketon Road Centre (KRC) Kings Cross  
 Email: Phillip.Read1@health.nsw.gov.au  
 Postal address: PO Box 22, Kings Cross 1340  
 Phone: (02) 9360-2766