

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

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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:

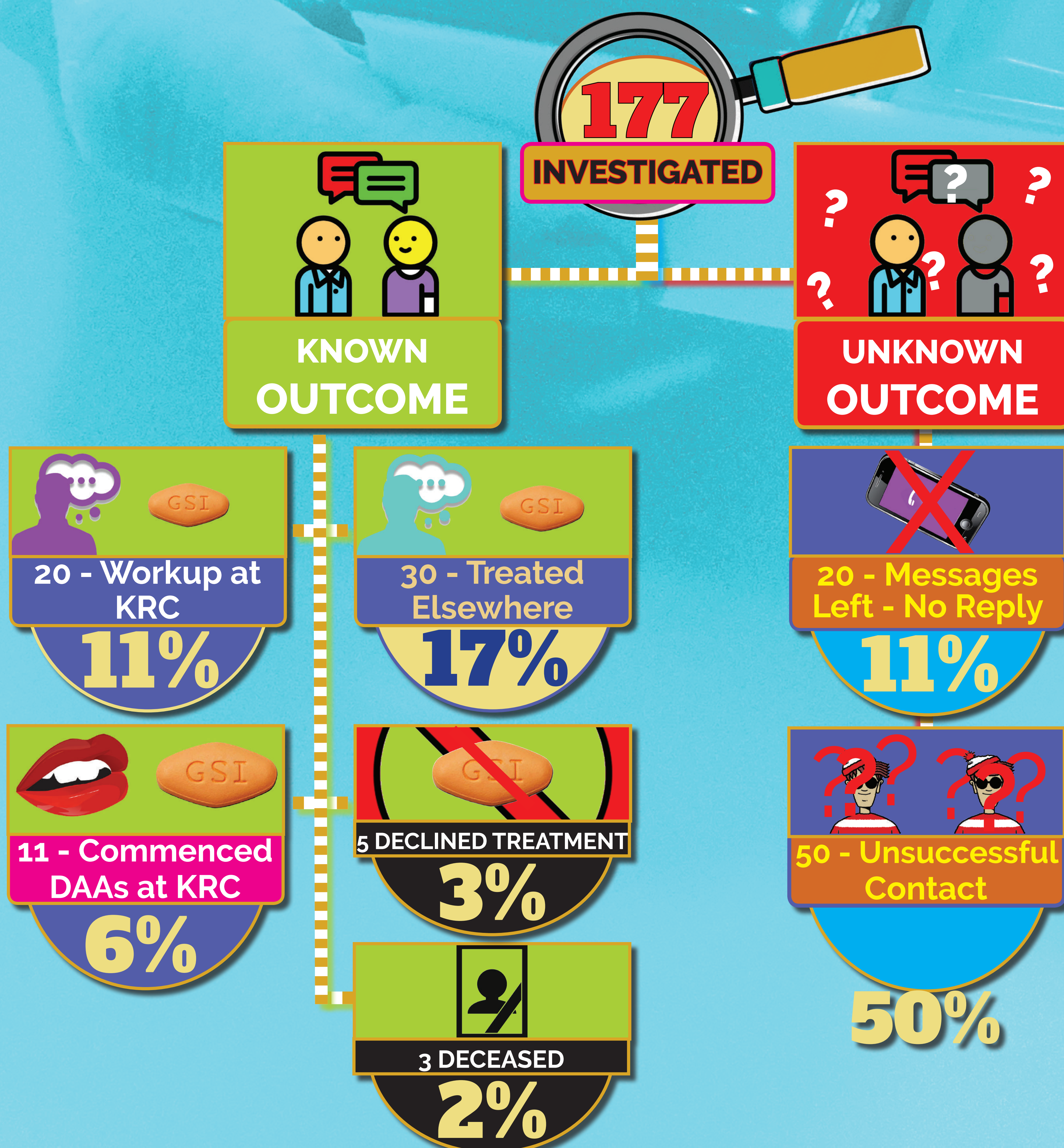
- 344 clients had positive PCR result
 - Mean age = 42 years
 - 64% male
 - 22% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
 - 82% injected drugs within last 12 months
- 167 clients excluded from cohort
 - 5 spontaneously cleared infection
 - 139 (41%) treated at KRC
 - 23 (7%) commenced work-up, lost to care

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



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