

HEPATITIS IN PRISON ELIMINATION (HIPE) PROGRAM, PHASE ONE: OUTCOMES AND LESSONS LEARNED

HIPE

Hepatitis in Prisons Elimination Program



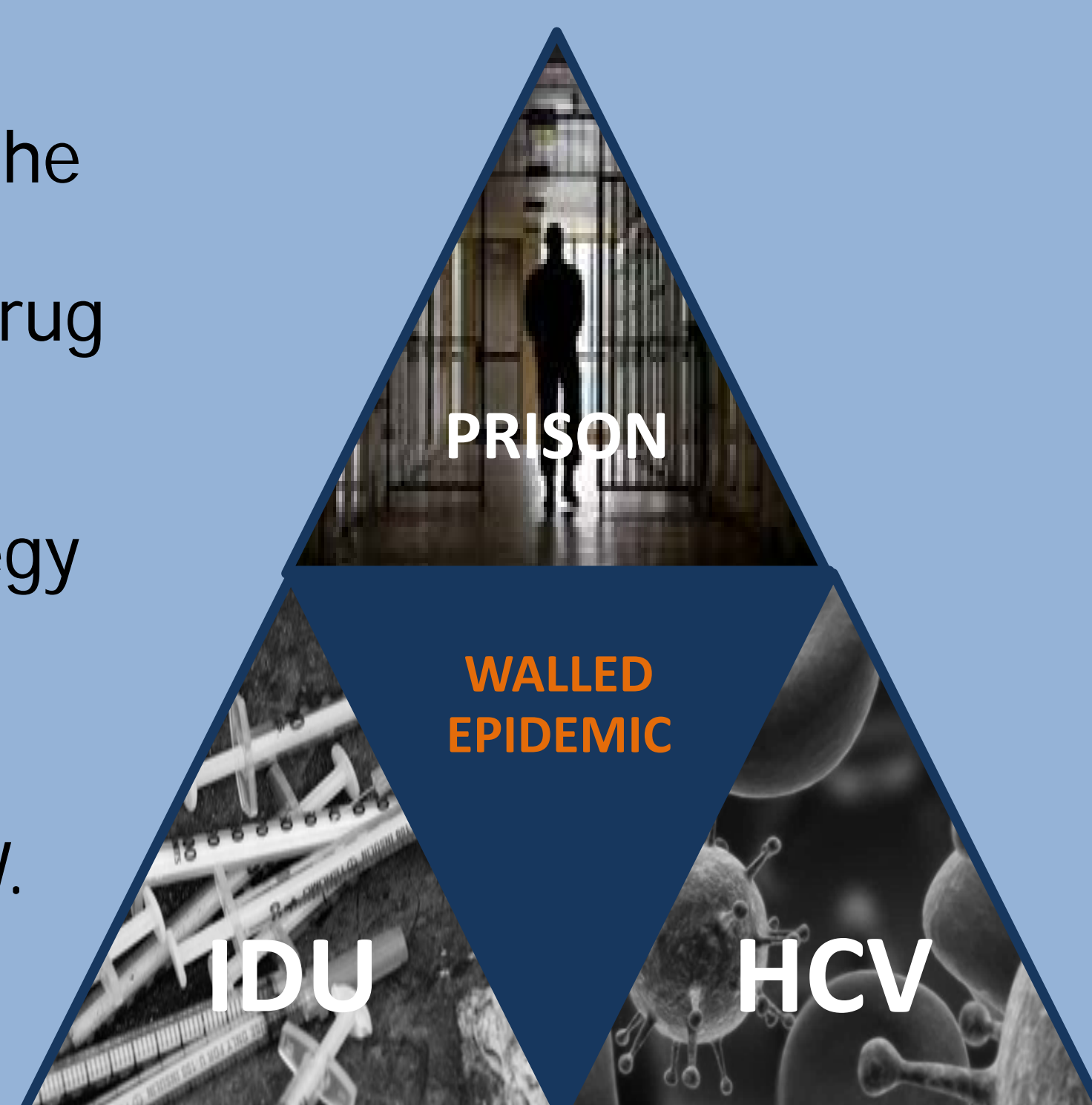
Mcgrath C¹, Montroy F¹, Lobo C¹, Wright T¹, Wood J¹

Colette.Mcgrath@health.nsw.gov.au

¹Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (the Network), NSW Health, Australia

Background

Hepatitis C (HCV) in NSW prisons is significantly more prevalent than in the community owing to the vexed relationship between HCV, injecting drug use (IDU) and prison. NSW has the highest incarcerated population in Australia. The NSW Hepatitis C Strategy identified people in custody as a priority population. The Network's is positioned to positively impact HCV prevalence and incidence across NSW. The HIPE Program is designed to support the NSW Ministry of Health's HCV virtual elimination 2028 goal.



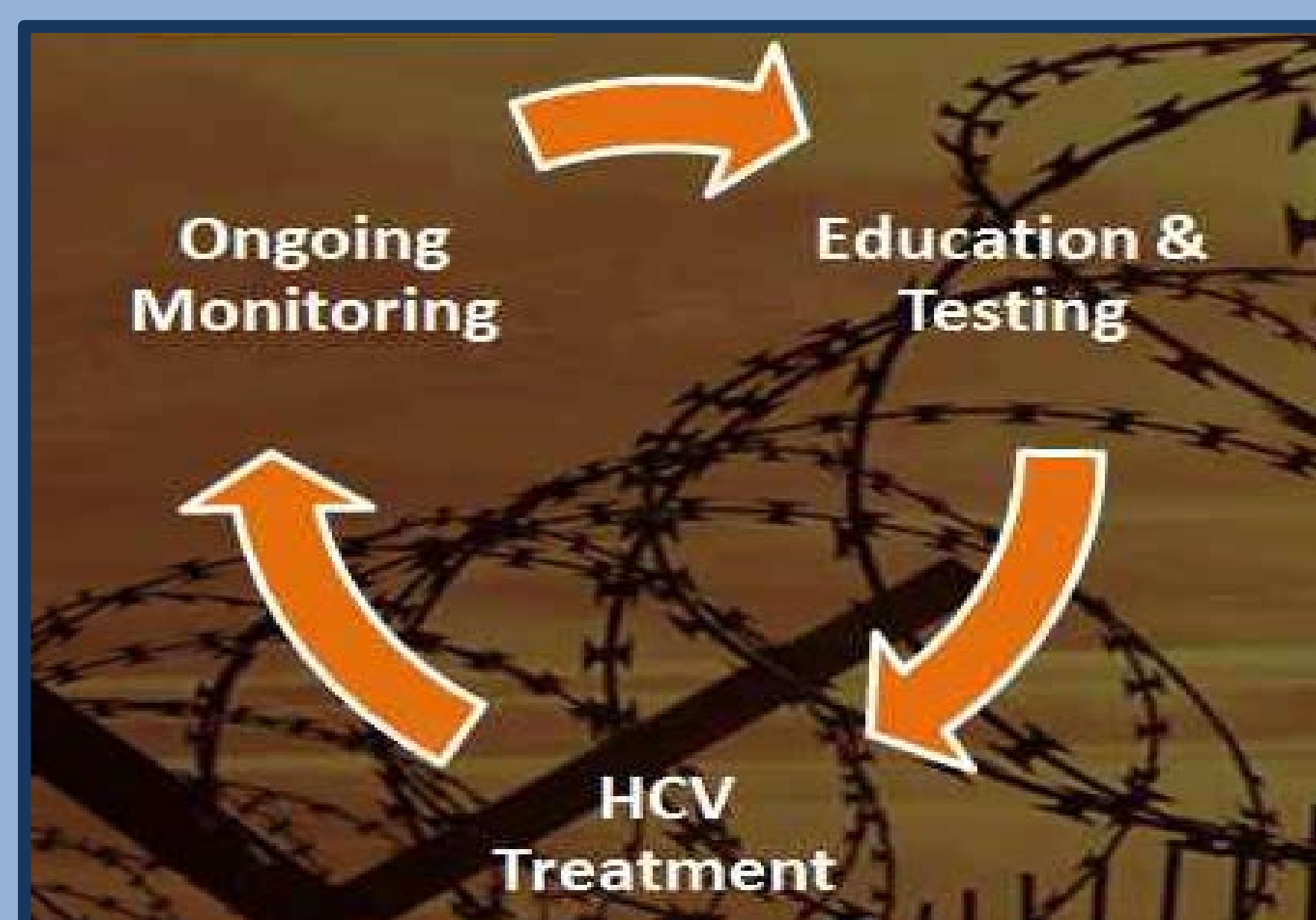
HCV exposure and viraemia prevalence found across HIPE sites and within demographic groups varied.

Correctional Centre (population)	Total Tested	HCV Exposure (HCVab+)	HCV Viraemia (HCV RNA+)
Emu Plains (214) ♀	202, 94%	76, 38%	36, 18%
Berrima Men (75) ♂	58, 77%	21, 36%	11, 19%
Kirkconnell (289) ♂	249, 86%	49, 20%	20, 8%
Broken Hill (103) ♂♀	100, 97%	36, 36%	16, 16%
Mannus (161) ♂	134, 83%	18, 11%	5, 4%
Ivanhoe (33) ♂	26, 79%	6, 23%	2, 8%
Brewarrina (28) ♂	27, 96%	8, 30%	2, 8%
Illawarra (60) ♂	39, 65%	12, 31%	6, 15%
Kariong (86) ♂	76, 88%	28, 37%	11, 15%
Mary Wade (92) ♀	90, 98%	22, 24%	3, 3%
Berrima Women (62) ♀	54, 87%	15, 28%	5, 9%
Cooma (186) ♂	136, 73%	*	20, 15%
Total (1389)	1191, 86%	291, 28%**	136, 11%

*Dried Blood Spot testing method- HCV RNA only; **Excludes Cooma

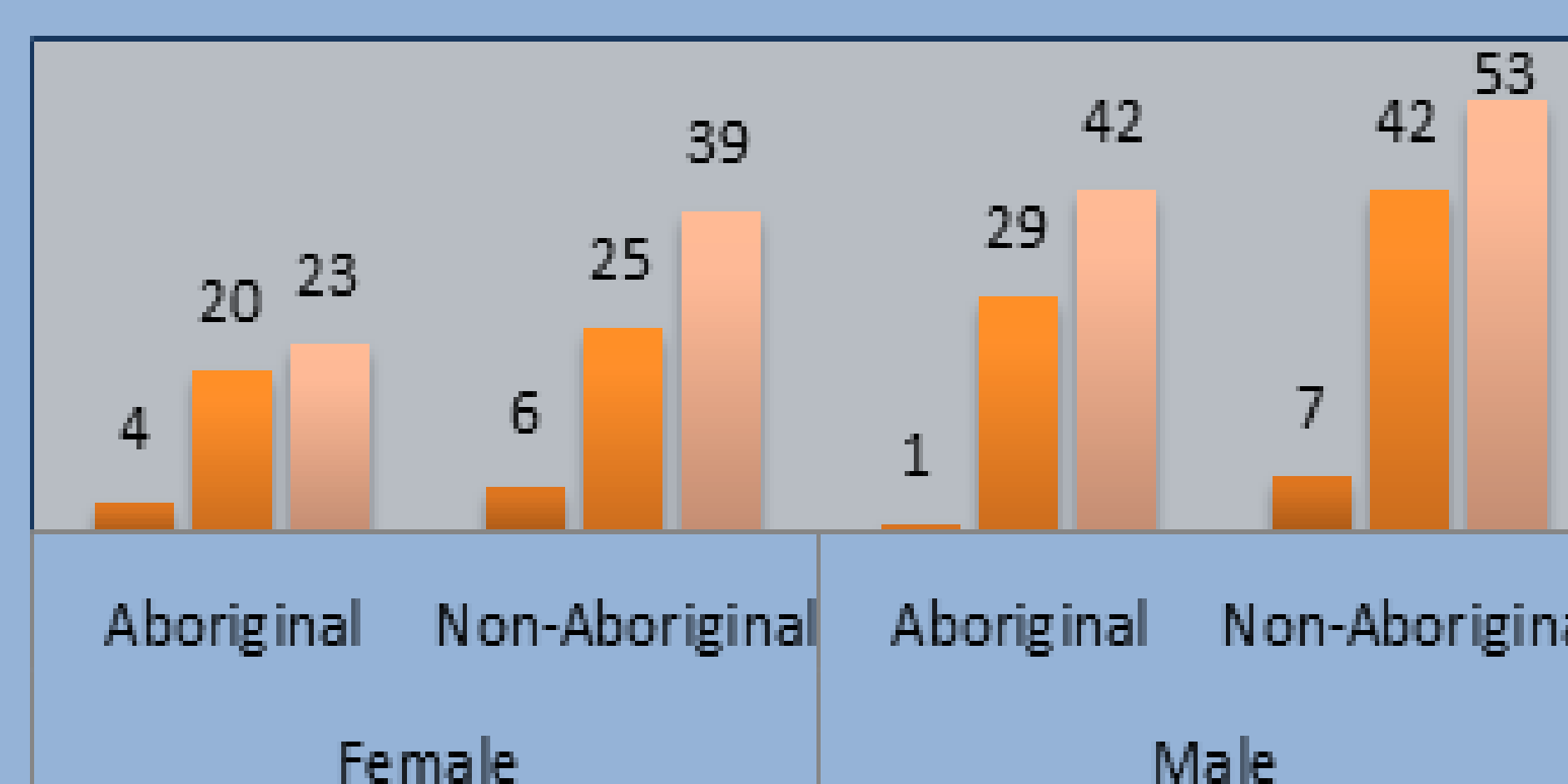
Methods

The HIPE Program involves targeting suitably sized NSW prisons to achieve virtual HCV elimination. This is undertaken through a tri-phase process of rapid broad screening, HCV treatment scale-up and monitoring of new admissions. This process is strengthened by targeted health promotion, harm reduction education and partnerships with CS NSW, Hepatitis NSW and NUAA.



HCV Exposure and Viraemia Prevalence by Gender and Aboriginality

■ On HCV Treatment ■ HCV RNA+ ■ HCV RNA-



Most patients exposed to HCV where no longer viraemic or on HCV treatment. More than 75% of patients received HCV treatment at the HIPE site. The remainder where followed up in the community or in another prison. Some patients where lost to follow up (3), declined (1) or had conditions contraindicating HCV treatment (2).

Results



To date 12 prisons in NSW have been HIPE. Engagement with the program has been high, particularly among Aboriginal patients- 5 times more likely to participate than Non-Aboriginal patients.

Conclusion

- The HIPE program's success highlights the importance of:
- Careful design to enhance the engagement of at risk groups
 - Consultation with local partners
 - Incorporation of key stakeholders
 - Addressing the challenges of loss to follow up in a dynamic and unpredictable environment

Acknowledgement: Heading artwork by a HIPE patient at Cooma.