

MIND THE GAP HCV POLICIES VERSUS COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

SNAPSHOT OF FRONTLINE PERSPECTIVES ON HEPATITIS C SERVICES FOR MOST-AT-RISK POPULATIONS IN MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES: INFORMING PROGRESS AND RESPONSE TOWARD 2030 ELIMINATION TARGETS

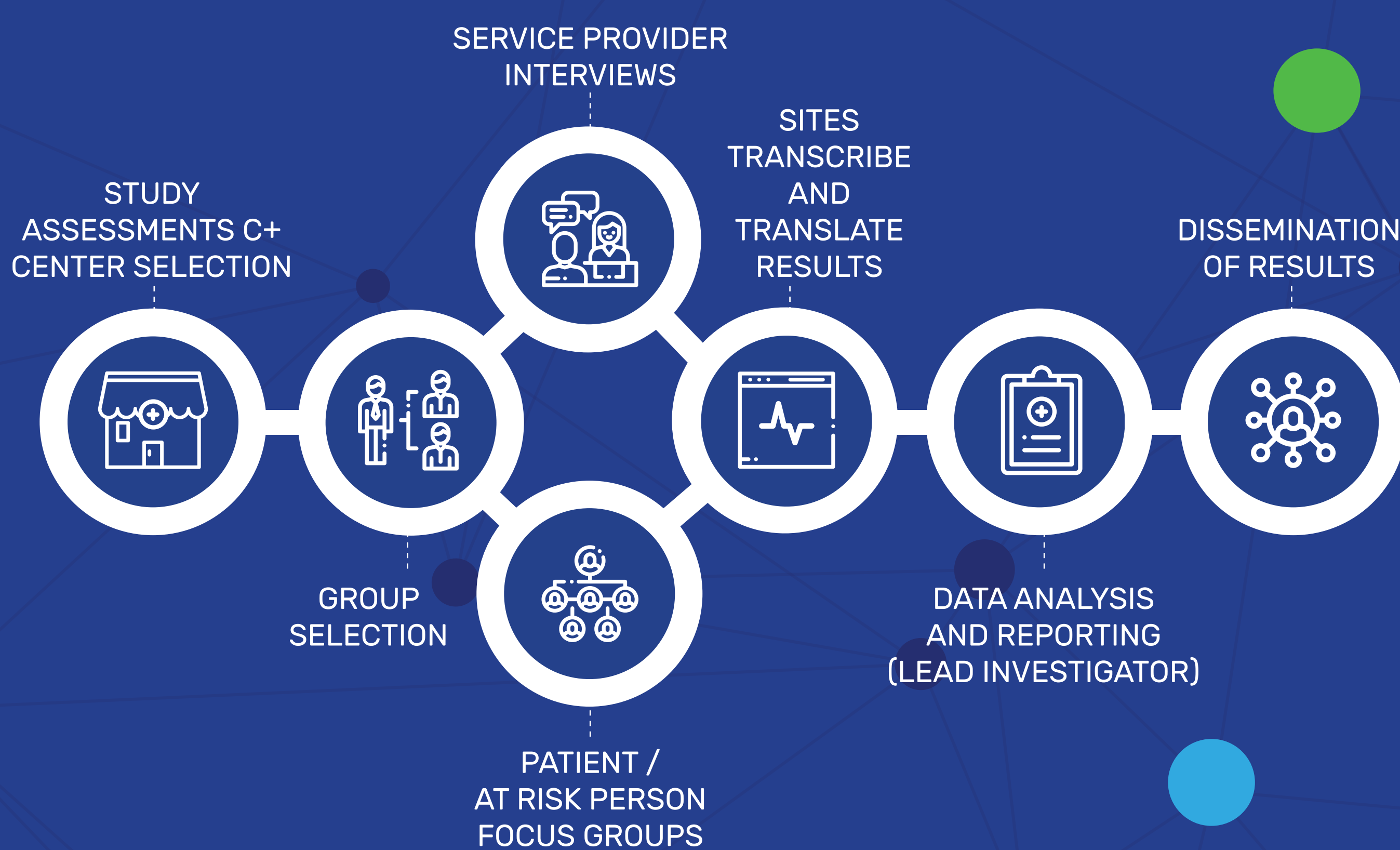
GOAL

Exploring experiences and perspectives of at-risk populations and healthcare workers regarding current provision of HCV services and identifying policy improvements necessary for achieving WHO Global Hepatitis Strategy's 2030 elimination targets.

METHODOLOGY

A qualitative exploratory cross-sectional study based on focus groups discussions and semi-structured interviews was conducted in 5 countries included in Coalition PLUS's HIV/HCV Drug Affordability project: Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Morocco, and two sites in India.

FLOW CHART OF STUDY PROTOCOL



This resulted in:

- **Over 40 hours** of focus groups discussions
- **240 individuals** from at-risk populations involved
- **51 healthcare** workers providing HCV-related services interviewed

RESULTS

The data collected allowed to:

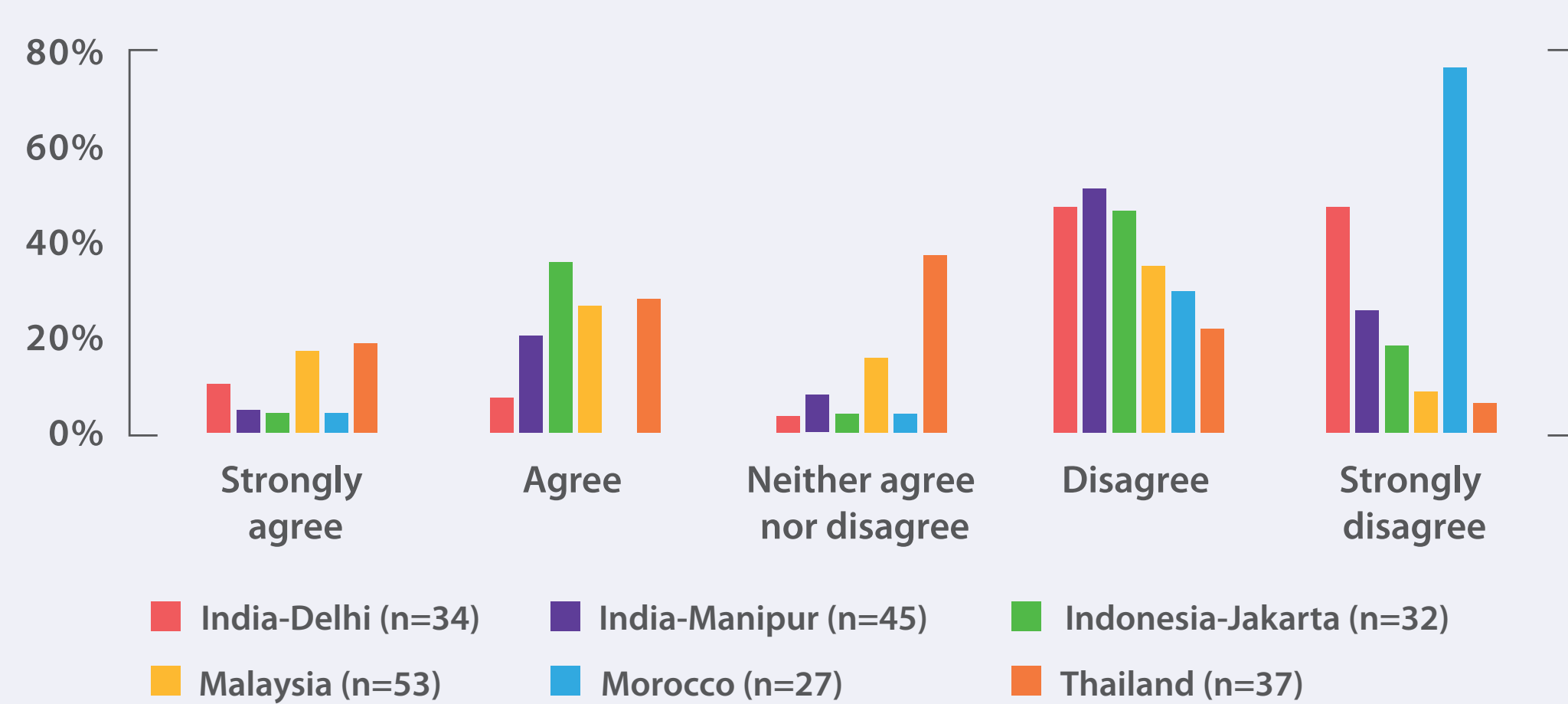
- document perceived barriers on the pathway to elimination
- provide a baseline snapshot of patients experience
- compare patients/at-risk-populations and HCW experiences and perspectives
- provide WHO, governments and service providers with community-based recommendations

KEY FINDINGS

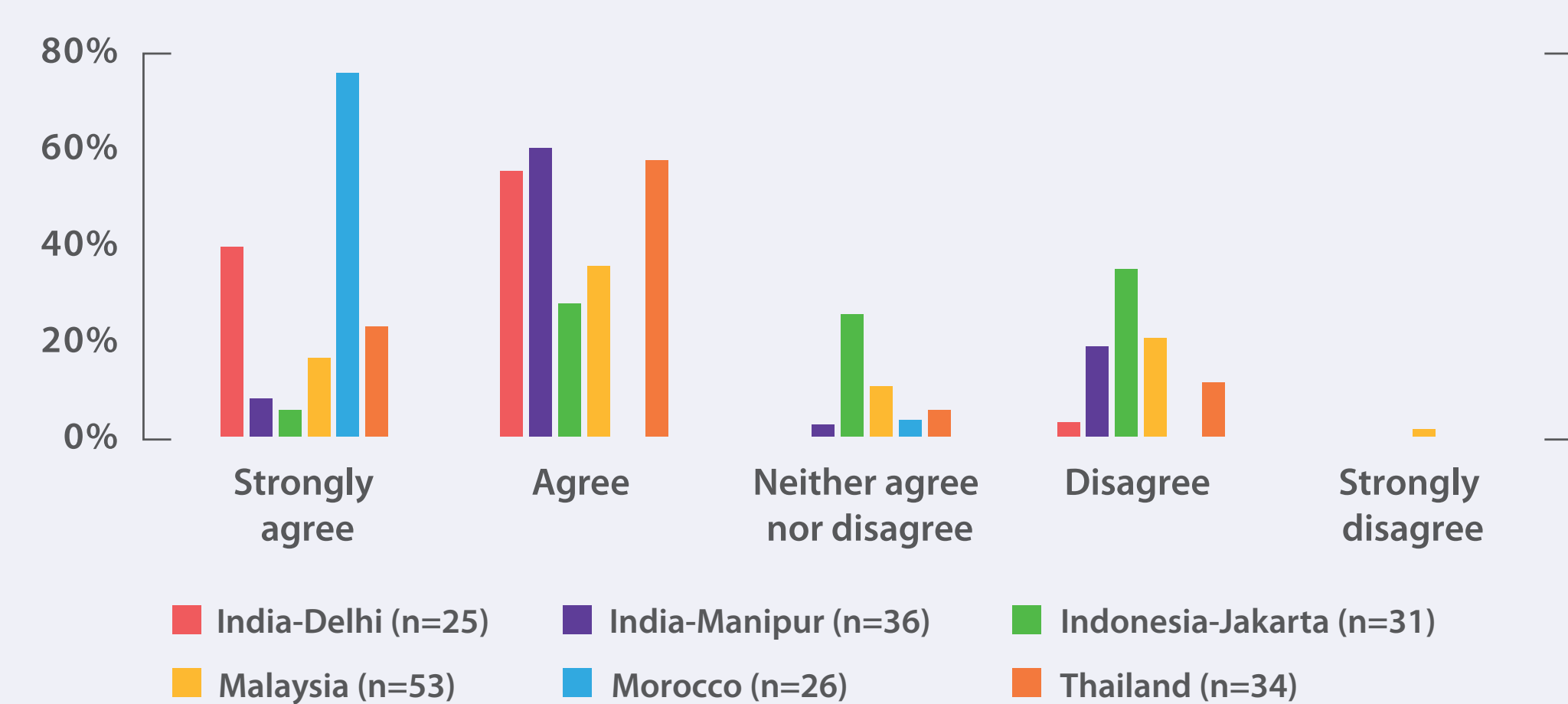
Insufficient HCV awareness: The lack of awareness is limiting the volumes entering the pathway at the testing stage and makes it difficult for patients to navigate services leading to diagnosis and treatment.

Insufficient HCV service capacity: limited capacity is generating bottlenecks for those who have screened positive and initiated the pathway toward diagnosis and treatment. The length, cost, and complexity of current pathways have a major impact on, not just individuals, but on the efficiency and scalability of HCV responses.

THE PUBLIC IS GENERALLY AWARE OF HEPATITIS C



THE COSTS OF TIME OFF WORK HAD AN IMPACT ON MY ABILITY TO COMPLETE DIAGNOSIS OR TREATMENT



RECOMMENDATIONS

Awareness-raising must deliver knowledge that is accessible, accurate, and actionable. Awareness must extend beyond knowledge of the disease itself to understanding of how to navigate the services leading to diagnosis and treatment.

Expansion of capacity, can be achieved through the creation of a wider cadre of healthcare workers eligible and trained for delivery of HCV services and through the integration of HCV services with other programs—notably harm reduction and HIV service.

Taken collectively, the study highlights that HCV services must be brought closer to the patients and the complexity of the pathway must be reduced.

AUTHORS

Donatelli M., Perfect C., Delabre R., Rojas Castro D. - Coalition PLUS ; Lungdim P. - Delhi Network of Positive People (DNP+) ; Nalinikanta R. - Community Network for Empowerment (CoNE) ; Agustian E., Thomas C. - Persaudaraan Korban Napza Indonesia (PKNI) ; Low CF. - Positive Malaysian Treatment Access and Advocacy Group (MTAAG+) ; Kurusamy T. - Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) ; Benmoussa A. - Association de Lutte Contre le Sida (ALCS) ; Sriparmong J., Tanguay P. - Thai Treatment Action Group (TTAG) ; Coghlan R. - TESS Development Advisors

The report can be found at



Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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Contact information

Maria Donatelli

mdonatelli@coalitionplus.org

+33 (0)6 16 28 10 92

www.coalitionplus.org

Coalition Internationale Sida
 Tour Essor 14 rue Scandicci,
 93500 Pantin, France

@coalitionplus Coalition PLUS