



Opportunities for Engaging Patients in Care along the Hepatitis C Cascade of Care

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Disclosures

- Investigator- initiated research grants from Gilead Sciences, AbbVie, Merck
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Background/aims

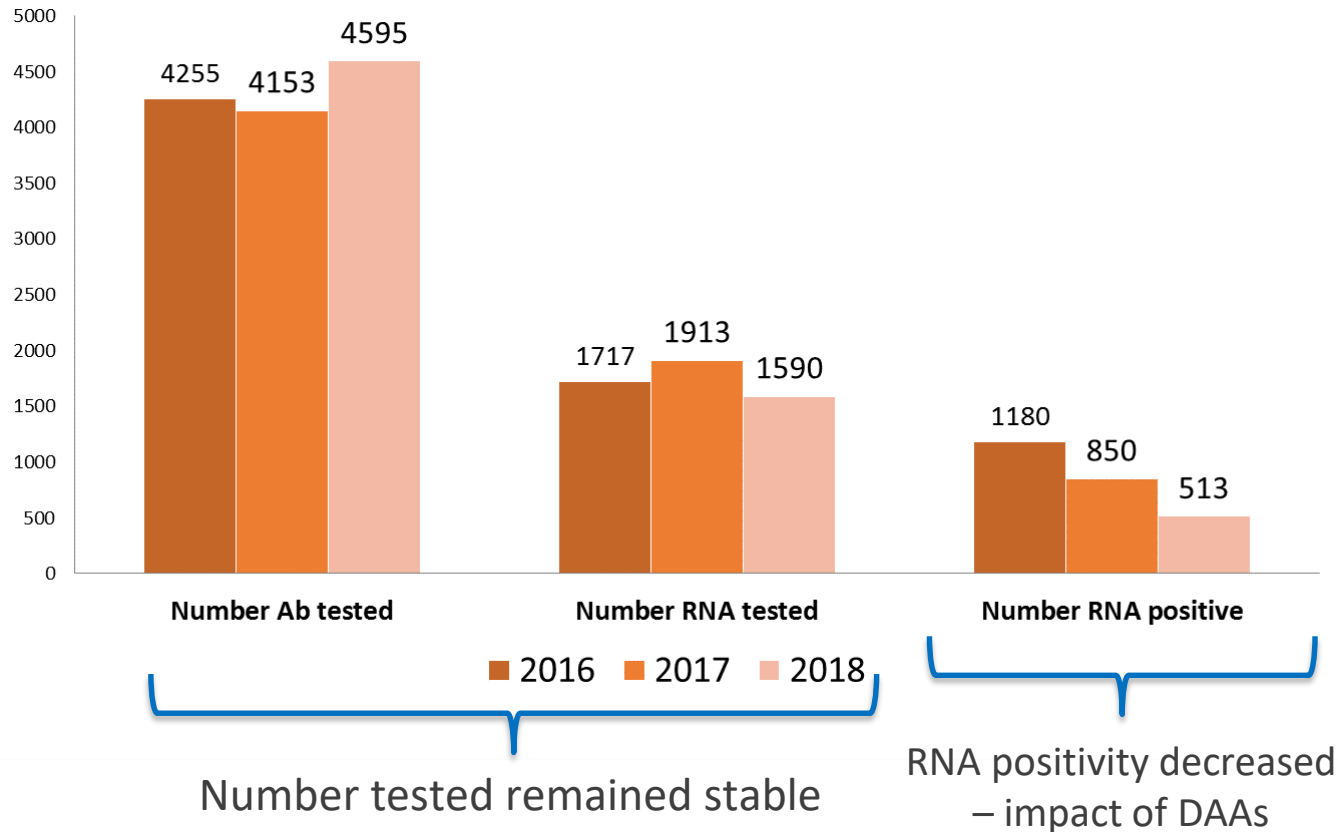
- ① Australian hepatitis C elimination strategies focus on testing and treatment uptake among people who inject drugs (PWID)
- ① Number of individuals initiating treatment in Australia has plateaued since 2017
- ① We describe HCV testing and linkage to treatment among patients attending health services in Victoria, Australia post-DAA introduction

Methods

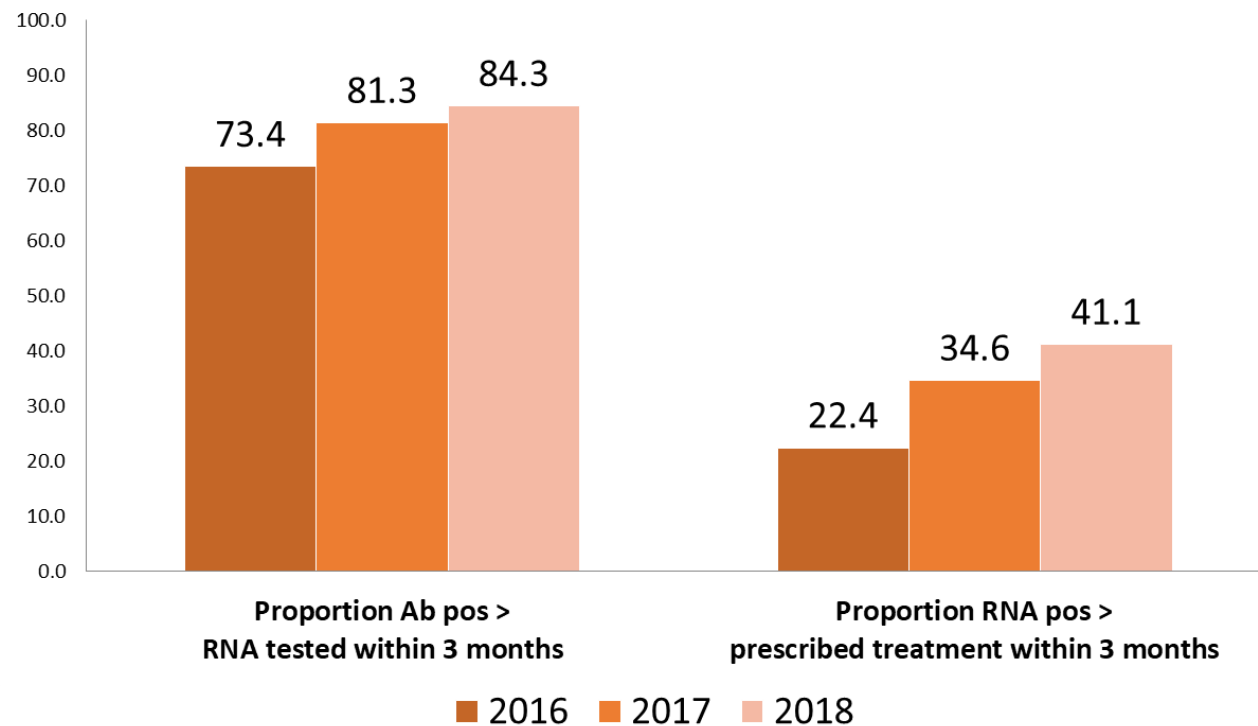
- Data were extracted from 17 clinics in Victoria, Australia via the ACCESS surveillance system
- Clinics provide services targeting PWID (including NSP, OST)
- We calculated the number of patients HCV tested from 2016 – 2018
- Describe progression through the cascade of care and linkage to treatment



Hepatitis C testing among services engaged PWID



Follow-up RNA testing and treatment uptake



- Proportion receiving follow-up RNA testing increased
- Proportion receiving treatment within 3 months increased
- Relatively low level of treatment uptake

Conclusions/Implications

- Number of patients receiving hepatitis C testing remained relatively stable from 2016 – 2018, but RNA positivity declined likely due to treatment
- Proportion of patients having follow-up/reflexive Ab-RNA testing increased
- Proportion of RNA positive patients linked to treatment increased, however the absolute number being treated annually decreased
- Less than half of patients who tested RNA positive in 2018 were prescribed treatment within 3 months
- Efforts to increase HCV testing and linkage to care are needed and serviced level coverage indicators can be useful to monitor progress