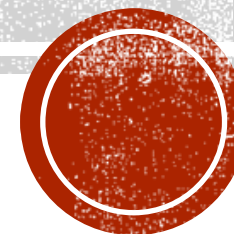


# **ALABAMA'S HCV WORK WITH THE PWID POPULATION: LESSONS LEARNED**

Anthony Lee, PhD,  
Sandra Karumberia, LMSW,  
Ashely Gilmore, LMSW, MPH,  
Ricardo Franco, MD



# ALABAMA HCV INFECTIONS 2011-2017 (COMMERCIAL LABORATORIES)

## Diagnosis

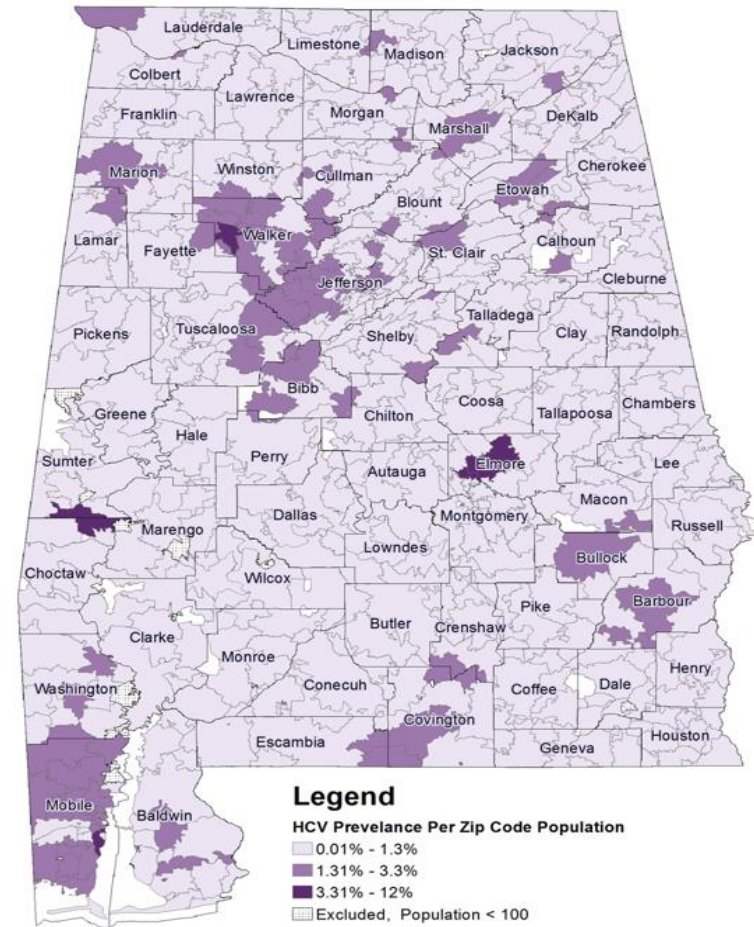
Est. 28,998 people living in Alabama with a positive test result for viremic HCV in 2017.

Est. newly diagnosed patients in 2017 (N=1,650).

## Treated (in 2016)

Est. 2,079 patients treated

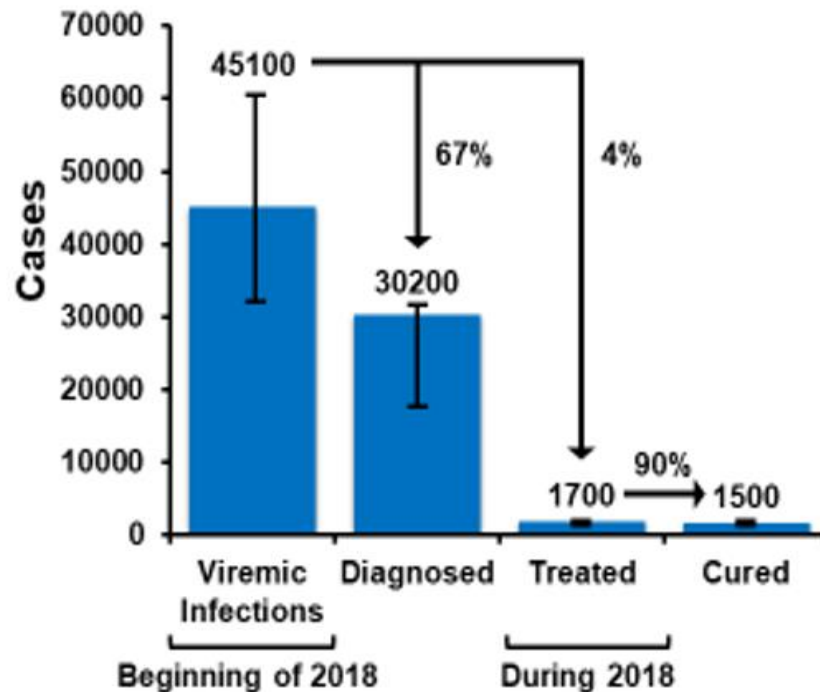
Sources: CDA Foundation; CDC; ADPH; UAB; AL Medicaid; AL Dept of Corrections; Five Horizons, JCDH



# ALABAMA'S HCV CARE CASCADE

## Baseline HCV Elimination Estimates

### HCV Care Cascade: AL, 2018



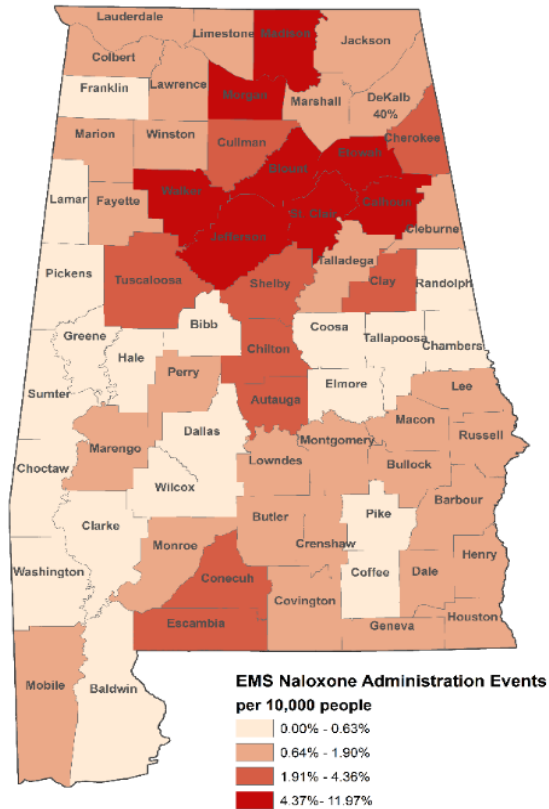
**1360 new cases reported in 2018**  
**= 27.5 per 100,000 population**

- Key HCV demographics
  - Baby boomers: 25,700
  - Medicaid recipients: 9,000
  - PWID: 3,000
  - Women of childbearing age: 4,500
  - Incarcerated persons: 1,600
  - HIV-coinfected persons: 600

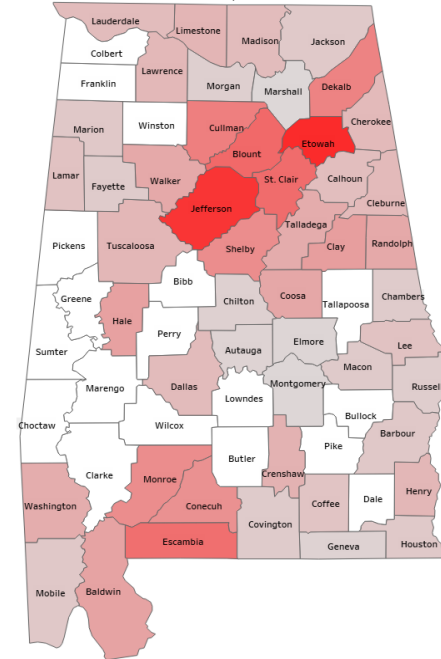


# OPIOID MORTALITY AND NALOXONE EVENTS

EMS Naloxone Administration Events  
in Alabama by County in 2017



AGE ADJUSTED RATE OF **OPIOID** RELATED DEATHS BY  
COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, ALABAMA



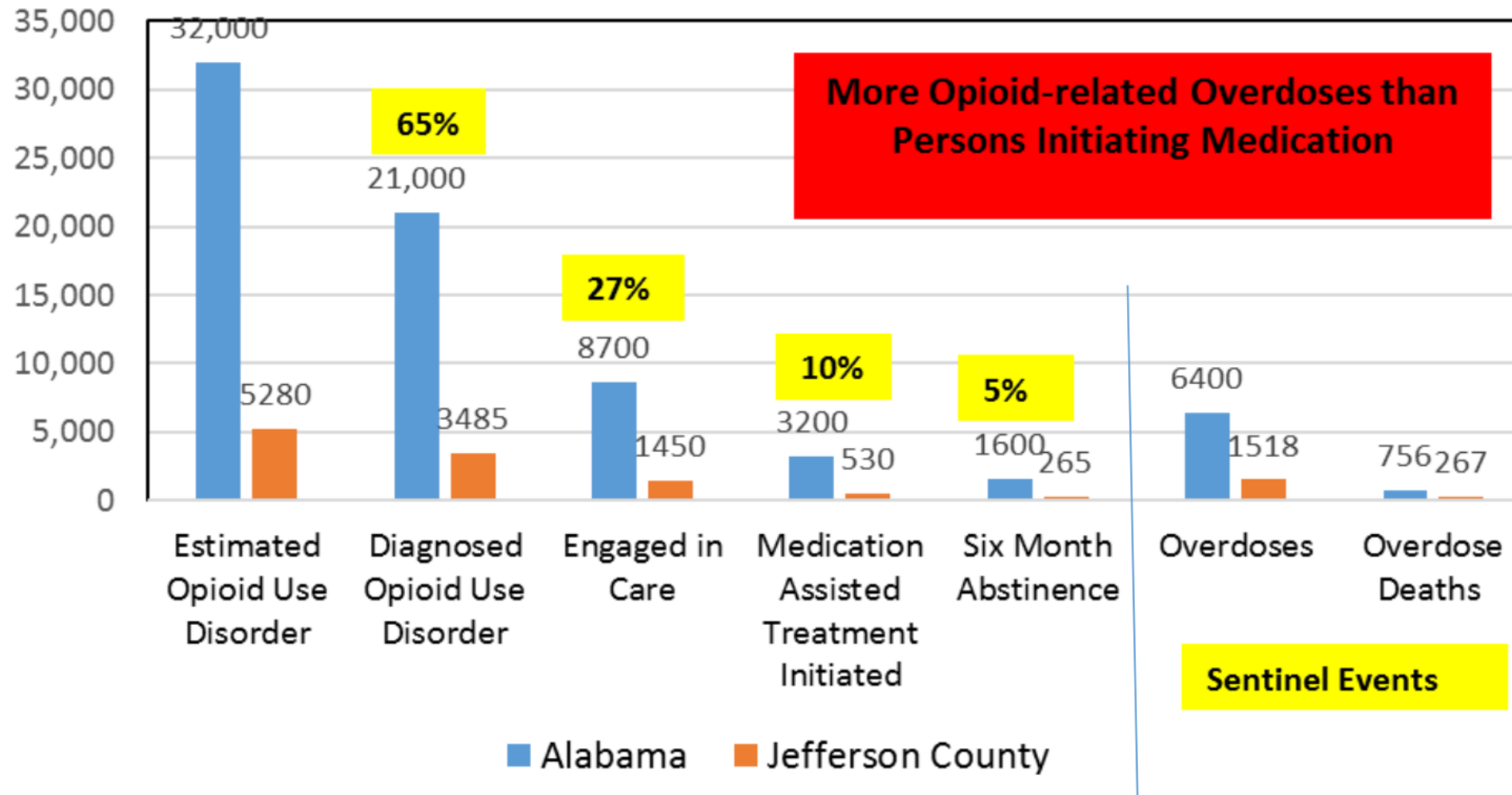
Rates are per 100,000 and age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. (19 age groups) standard; Confidence intervals (Tiware mod) are 95% for rates. Counties with fewer than 6 cases are suppressed

Data Source: ADPH EMS;





# Figure 1: Opioid Use Disorder Cascade of Care for Alabama and Jefferson County



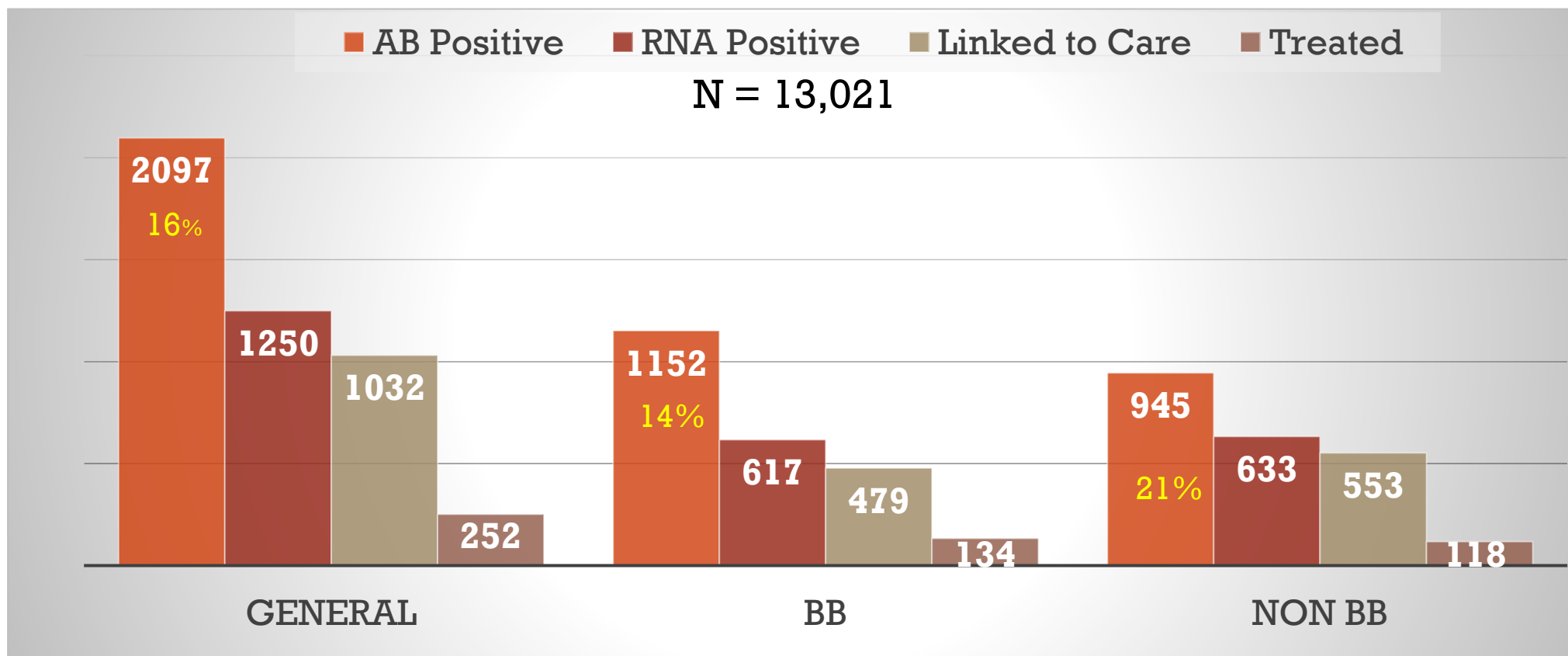
# OUR FOCUS COMMUNITY PROGRAM

- target vulnerable populations (especially in Appalachia).
- Partners: 13 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), 4 Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) sites, and 4 sites utilizing POC for field testing.
  - ACTIVE-C: implemented a CME based training program
  - improve access
    - primary care and MAT providers to manage and treat HCV.



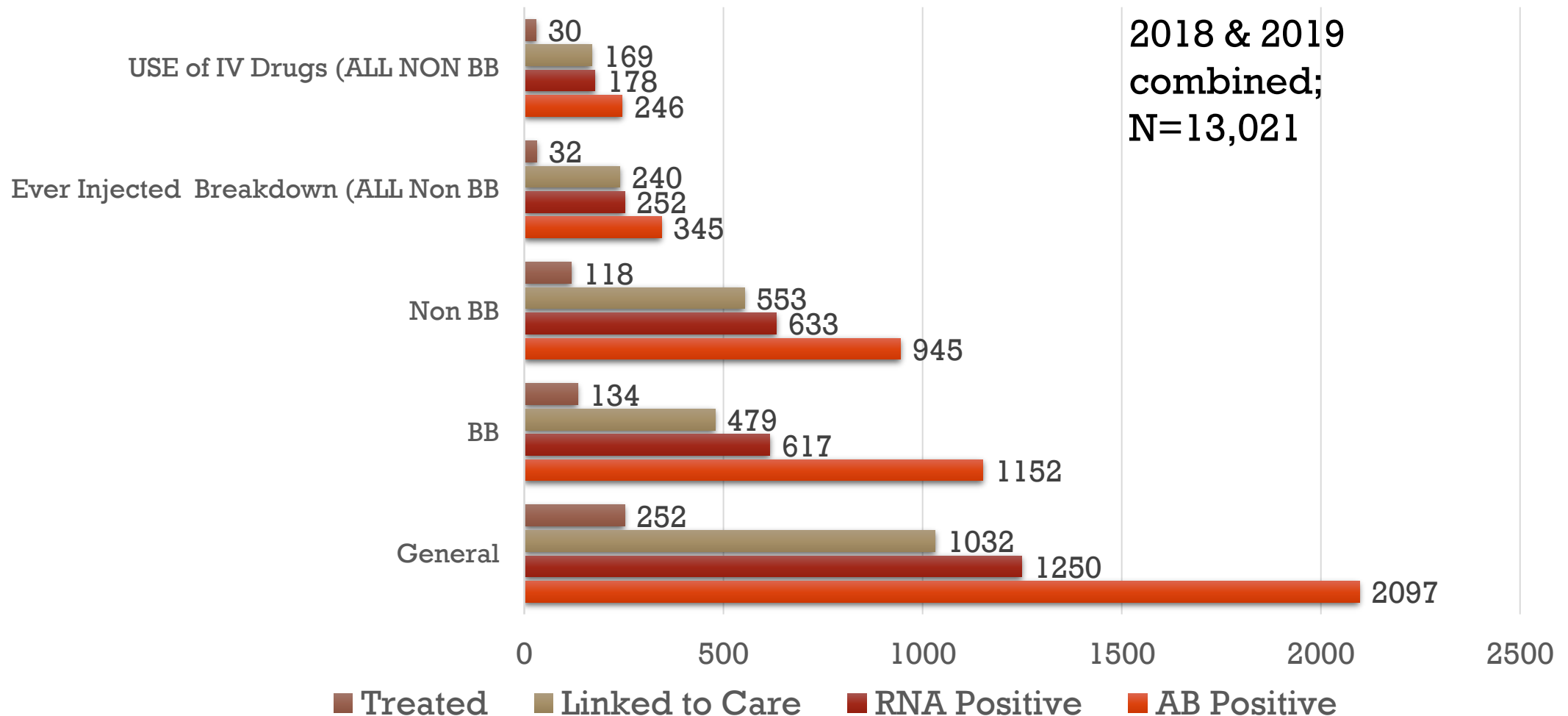
# RESULTS:

- Between 2018-2019, we screened a total of 13,021 patients and detected a sero-positivity of 16% (2097/13021).
- The sero-positive rate in the Non-Baby Boomers (NBB) population is 21% (945/4545) vs 14% (1152/8476) for baby boomers (BB).



# RESULTS

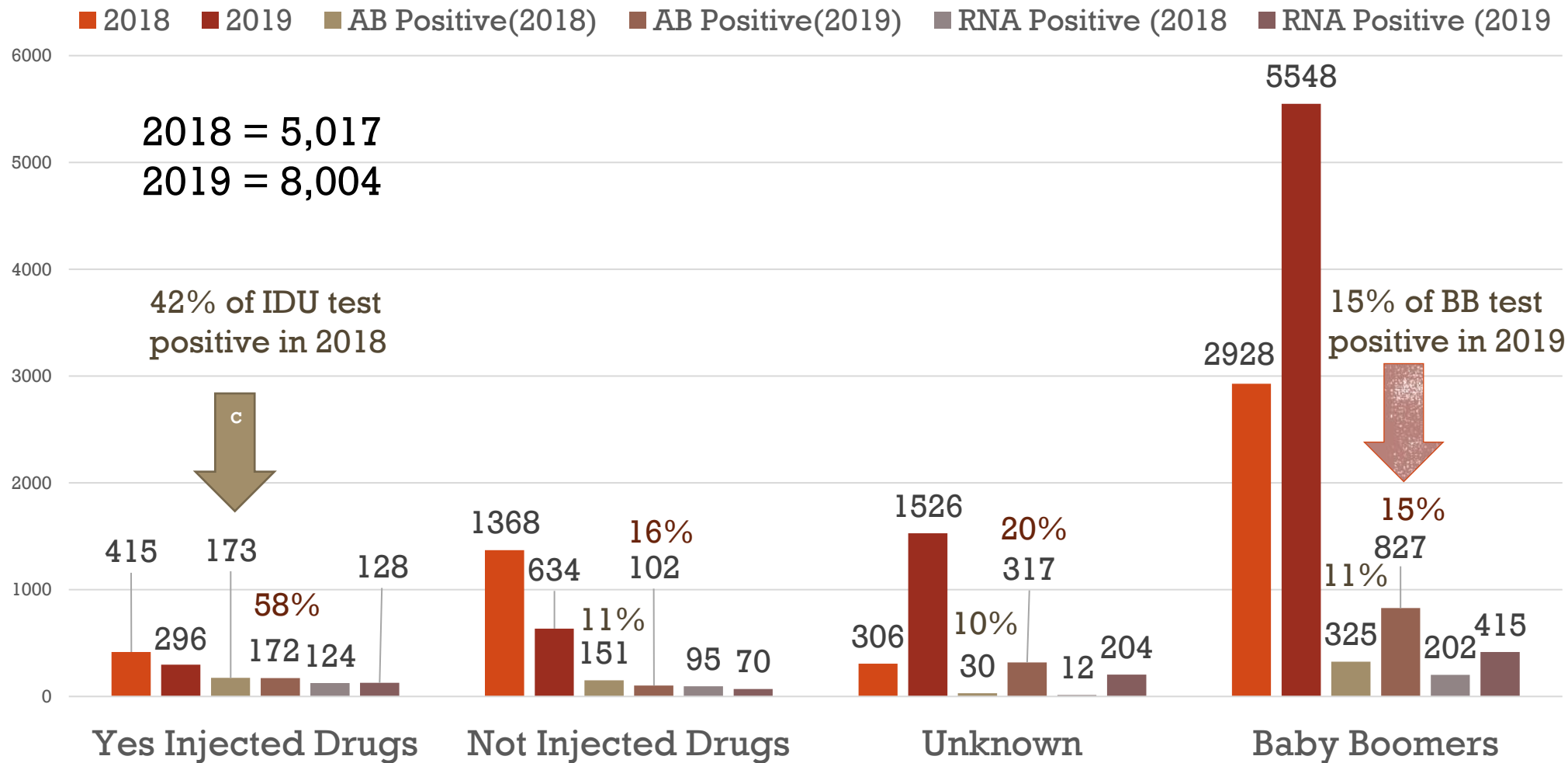
- *More than 1 out of 3 (37% or 345/945) of sero-positives NBB indicated injection drug use (IDU).*
- *(Of these, 72% (246/345) indicated IDU within the last 12 months at testing).*





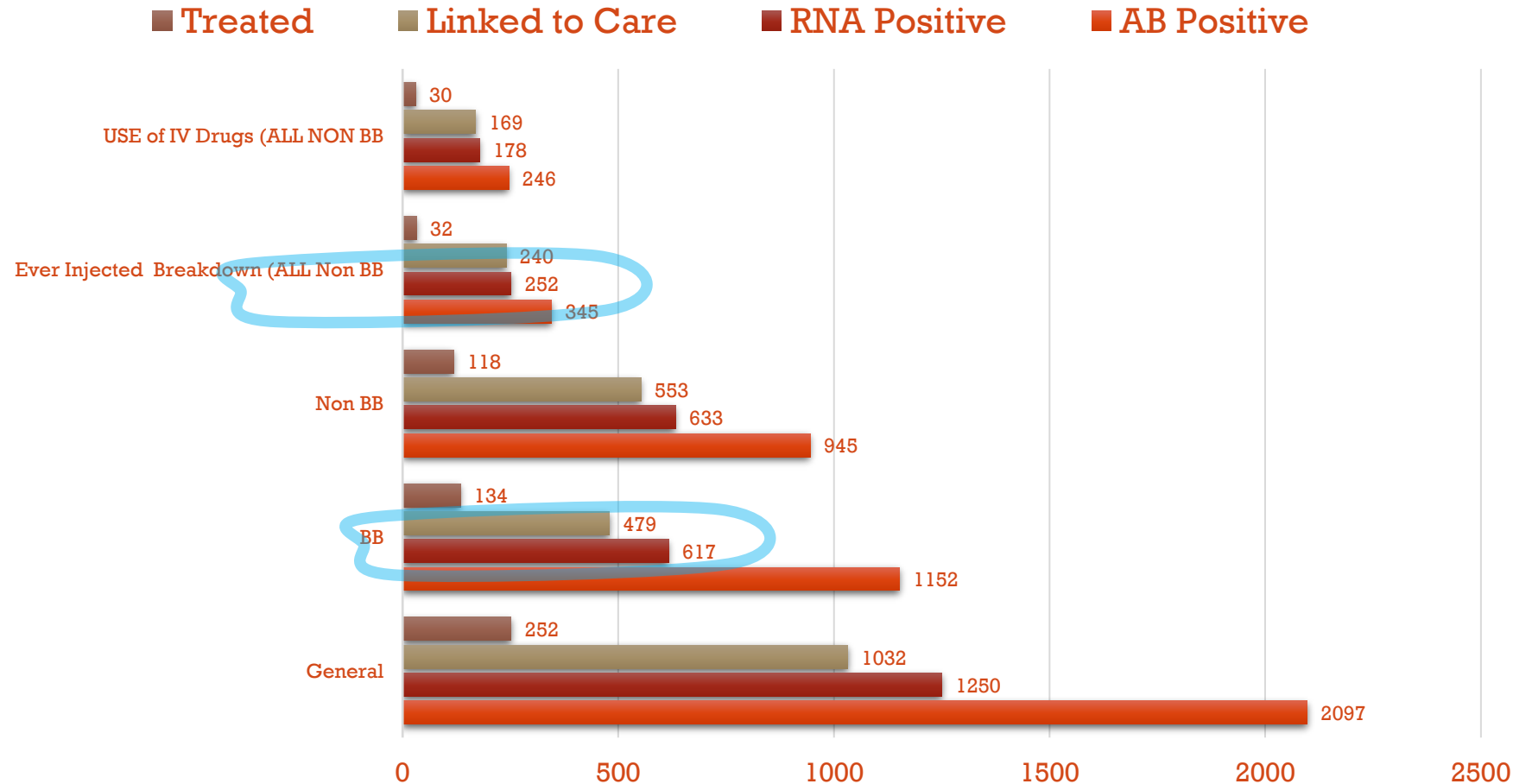
# RESULTS:

## BREAKDOWN SHOWING PATIENTS WHO HAVE EVER INJECTED DRUGS



# RESULTS

- *Viremic patients with known IDU status in the NBB cohort were linked to care at a 95% rate (240/252 IDU NBB) vs 75% (479/617 BB), the odds ratio was not significant. Odds ratio 1.27 95 % CI: 0.99 to 1.52;  $p < 0.06$ .*
  - *BB had better odds for being treated 28% (134/479) vs NBB 13% (32/240). Odds ratio 2.10 CI: 1.38 to 3.18;  $p < 0.0005$ .*



# OPIOID OVERDOSE DEATHS RISE IN ALABAMA IN 2020

## News

### Opioid crisis roars back in Alabama as overdoses rise during pandemic

Published: Sep. 20, 2020, 7:22 a.m.

<https://www.al.com/>

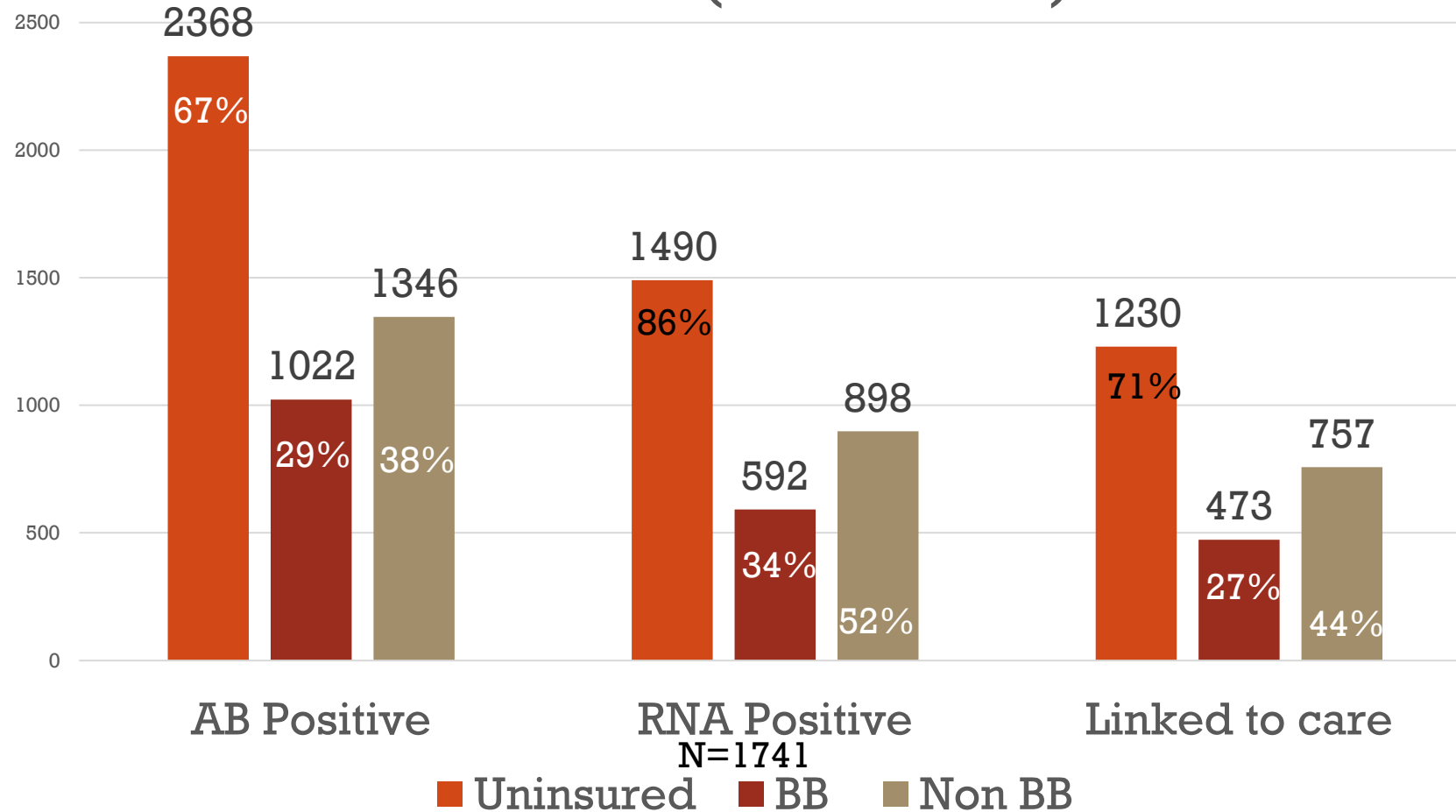


- According to the CDC, there were 81,230 drug overdose deaths in the United States in the 12 months ending May 2020, the largest number ever recorded for a 12-month period.
- During that period, drug overdoses increased more than 20% in Alabama,
  - resulting in the state being one of 25 with the highest increase



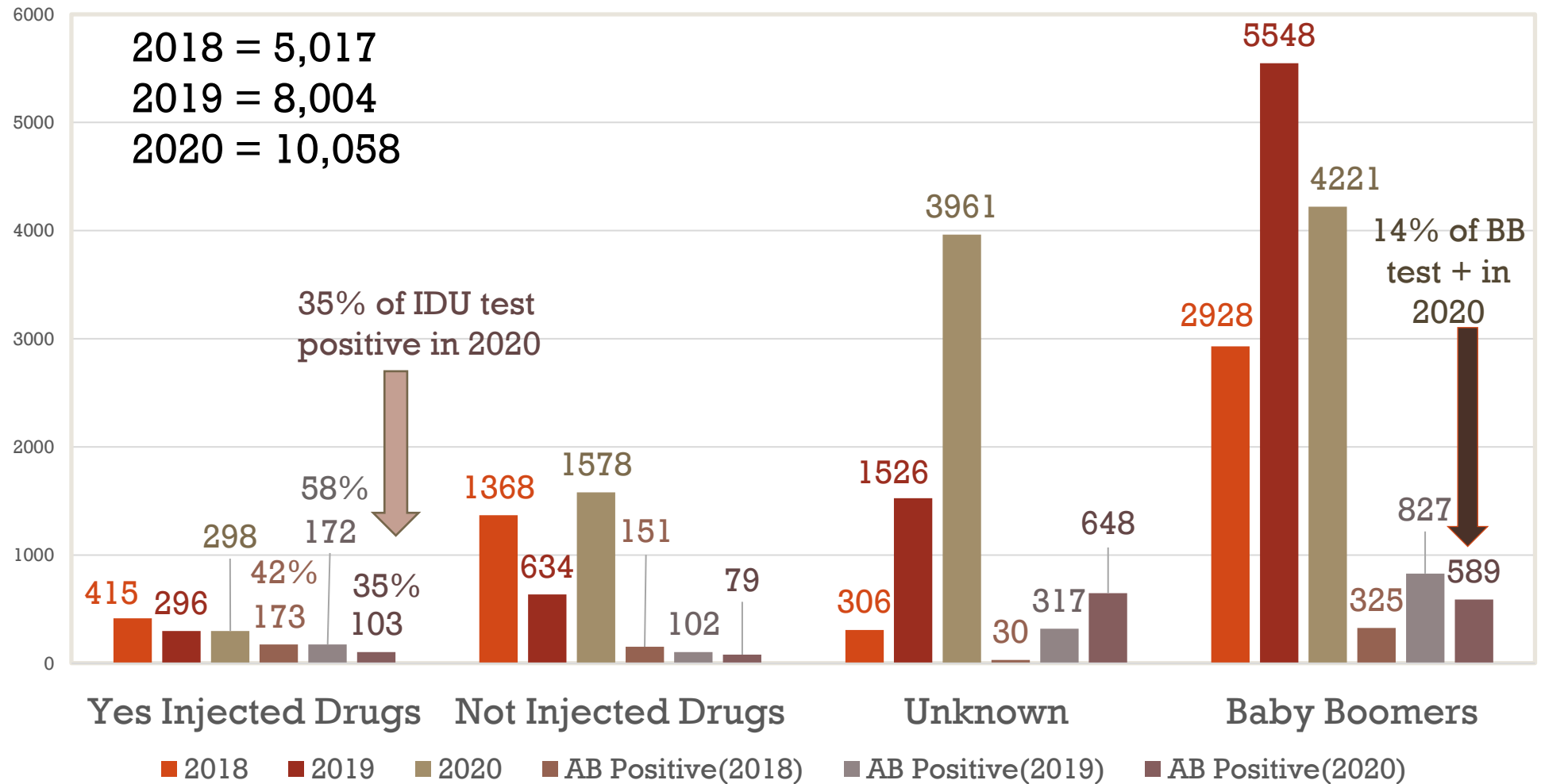
# CHALLENGES

## Uninsured Status of ab+ 2018-2020 N=3516 (cumulative)



# TESTING THRU THE PANDEMIC

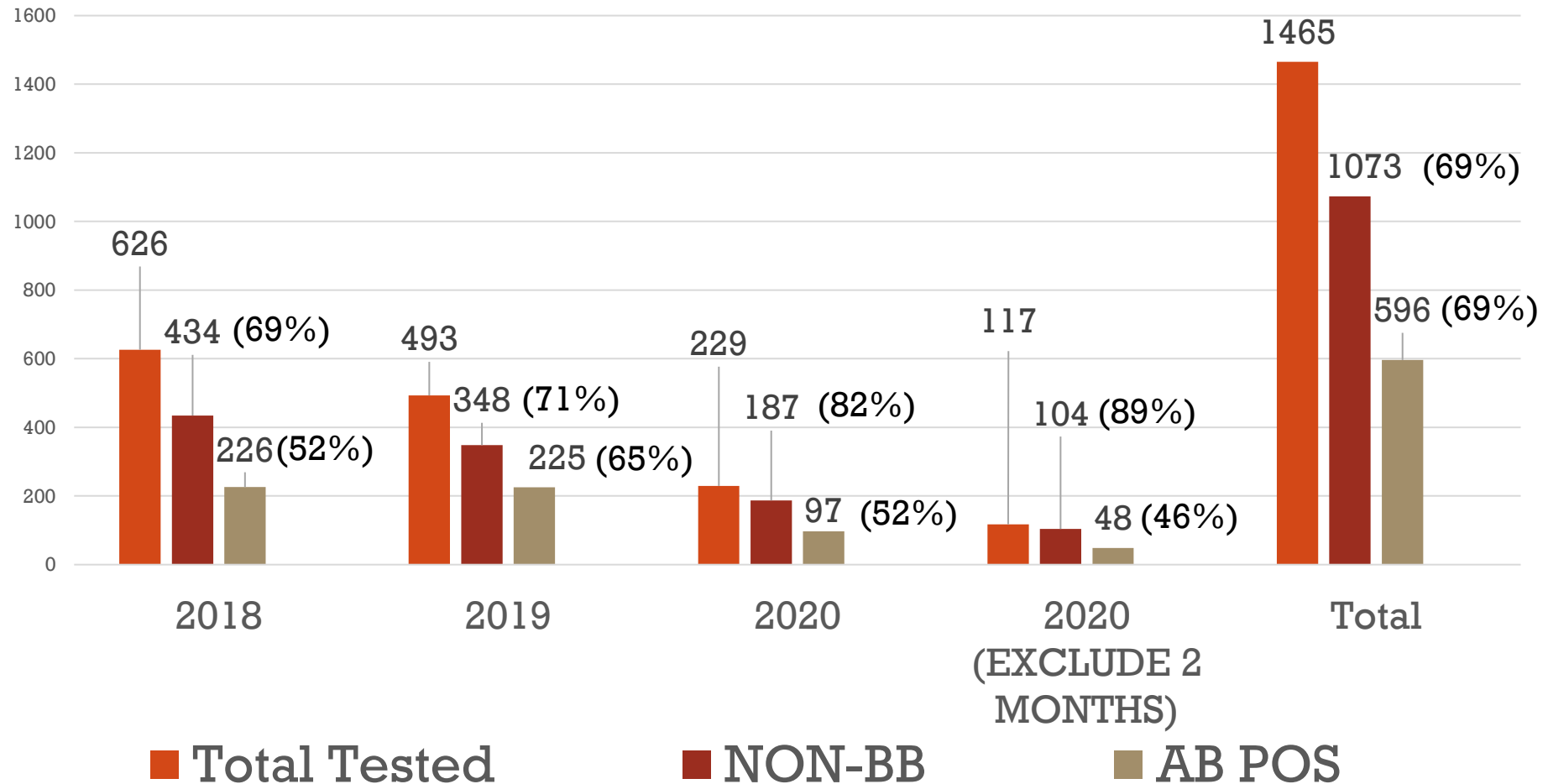
Breakdown showing pts who have ever injected drugs





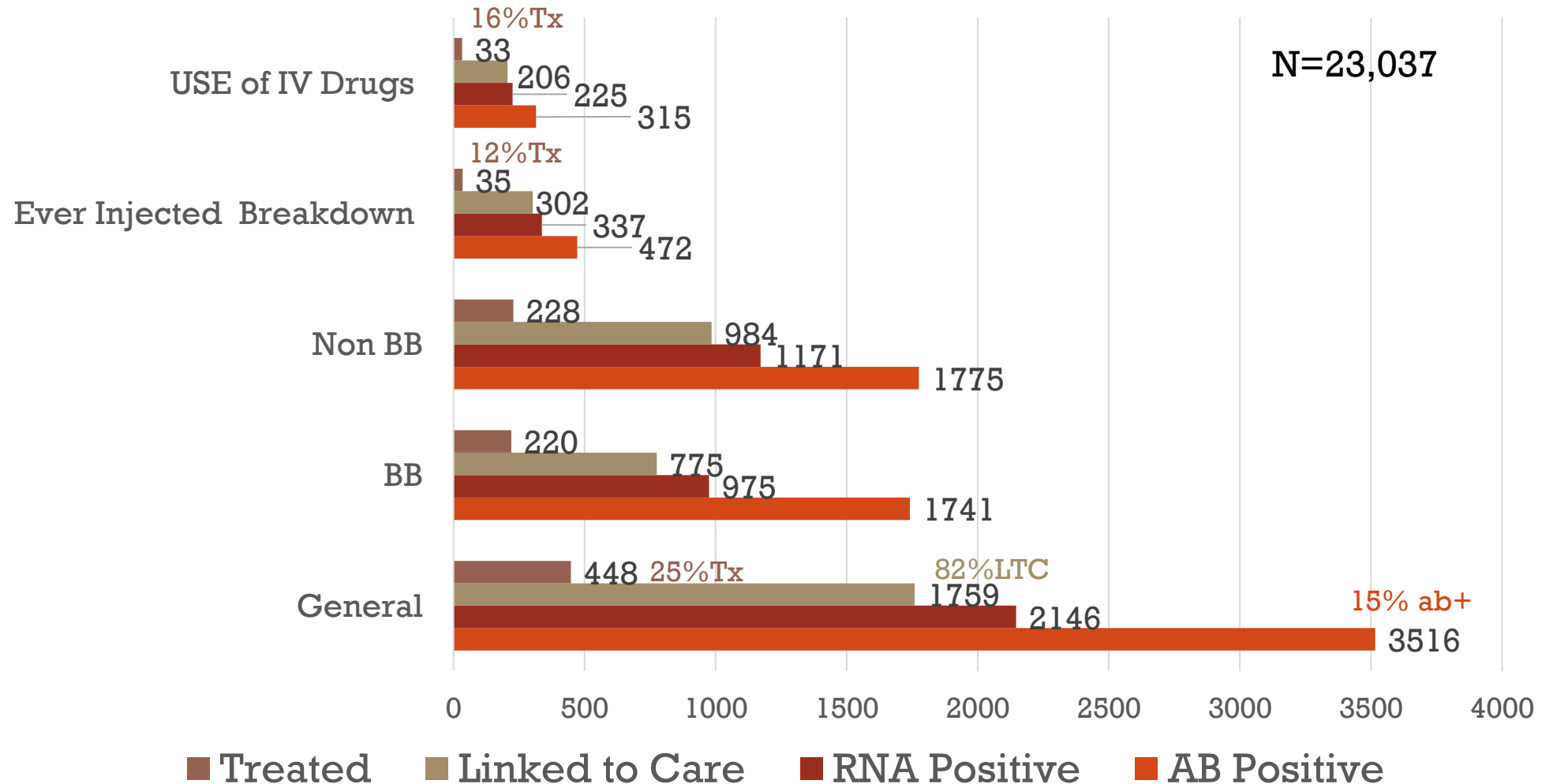
# TESTING AT MAT SITES THRU THE PANDEMIC

## MAT Sites 2018-2020



# OBSERVATIONS & CONCLUSION

2018 to 2020

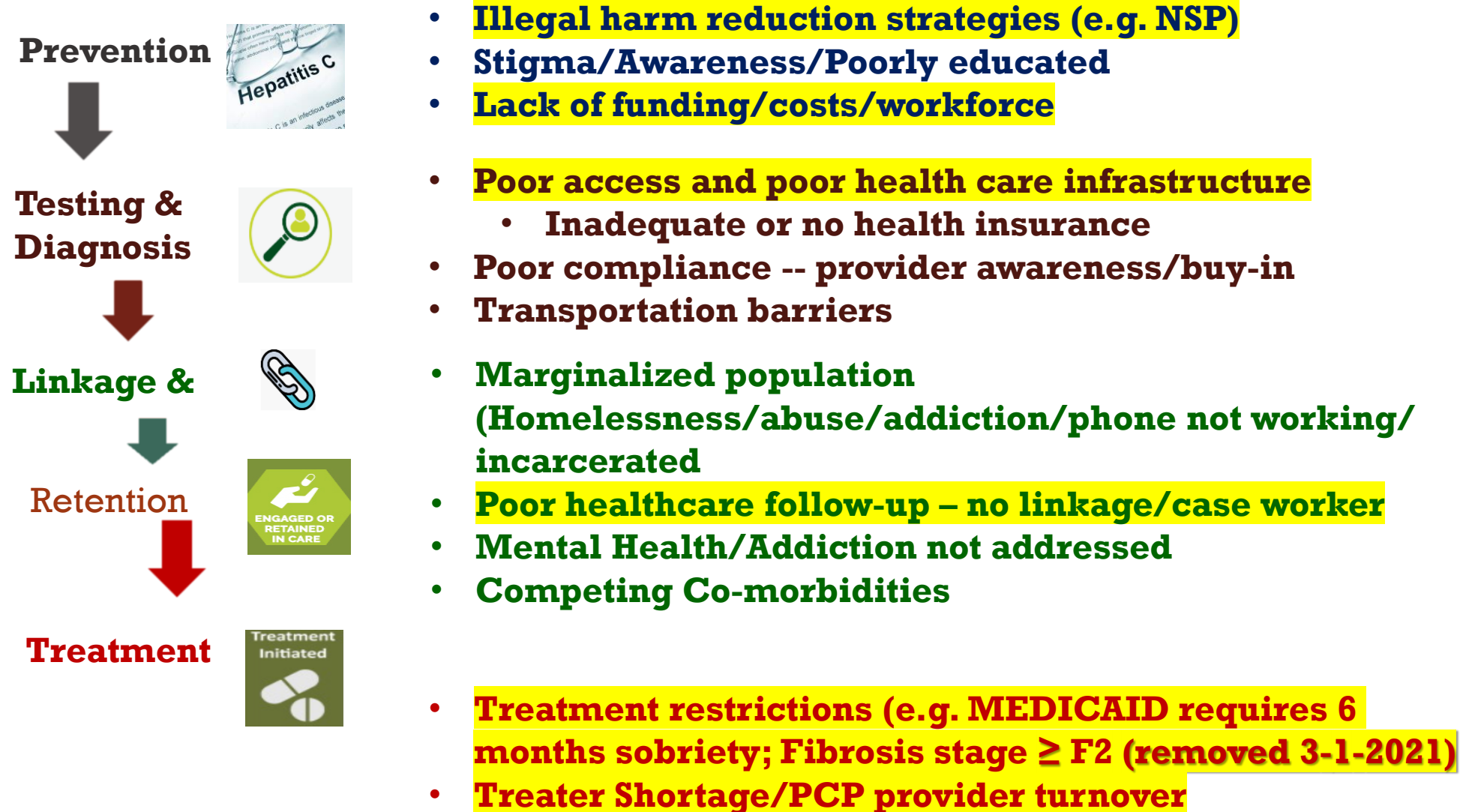


# OBSERVATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

- EMR based Reflex testing vs POC testing in MAT sites
  - Challenges (EMR vs staff readiness)
  - No Phlebotomist
- Provider/staff turnover and readiness
- Poor Internet Infrastructure @ rural sites
- Cash Model vs 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Billing @ MAT



# RURAL ALABAMA-BARRIERS ACROSS THE HCV CARE CASCADE



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **Other Partners: FOCUS at Gilead Sciences, QUEST Diagnostics**
- **Clinic Partners (FQHCs, ASOs & MAT Clinics)**
- **Members of UAB FOCUS, ACTIVE-C Team, Patients & Families**

**THANK YOU 😊**

