

“In The Name Of God”

Enhancing The Hepatitis C Care Cascade Among People In Custody In Iran

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Acknowledgments & Disclosures

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Background

HCV care is not available in most Iranian prisons.

→ This study aimed to evaluate the impact of an intervention on HCV screening, diagnosis, and treatment uptake in a provincial prison in Iran.



Methods

Study period: July-December 2018

Study site: A large prison in Northern Iran

Study population: 1,482 incarcerated people

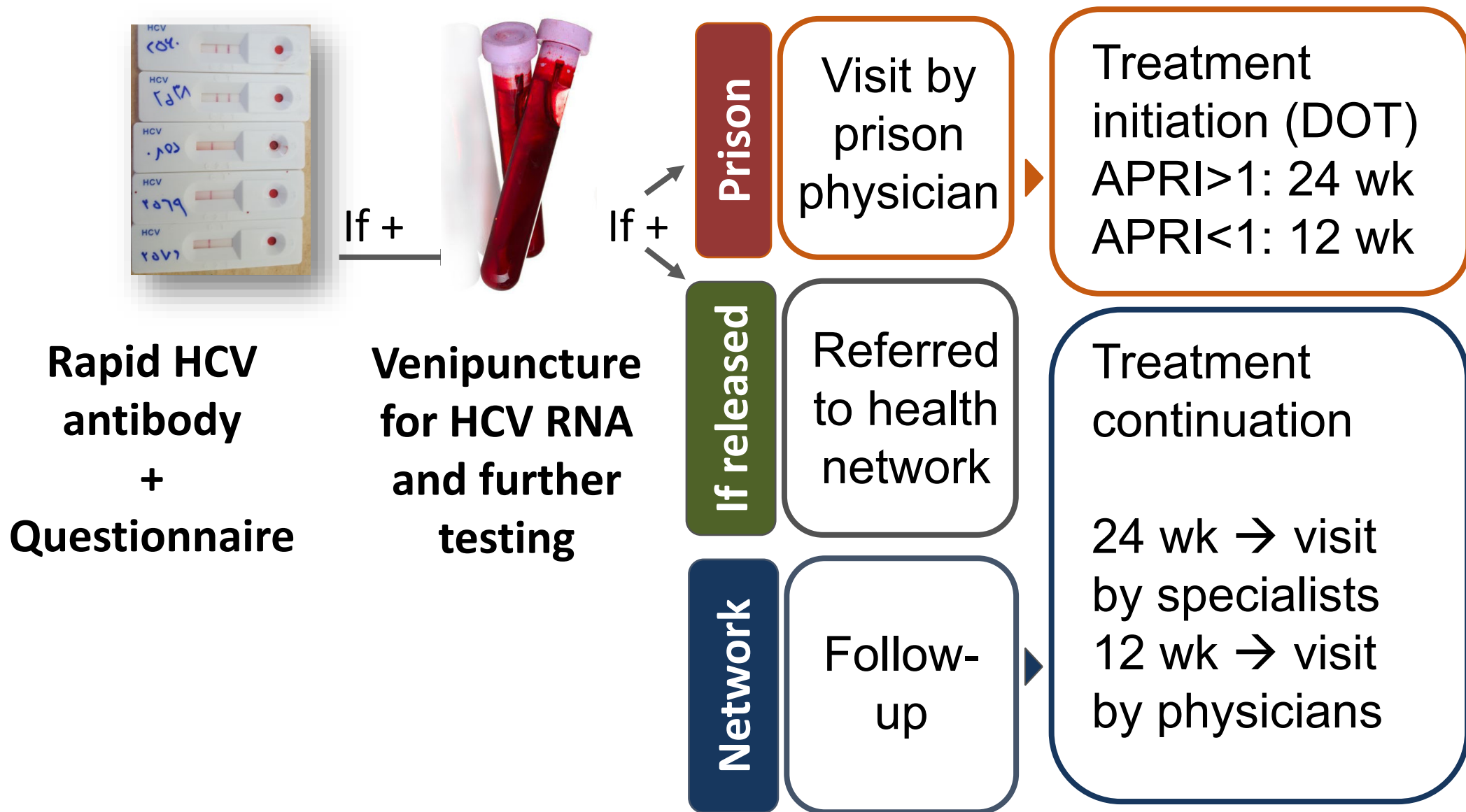
Inclusion criteria: 18 years old or above



Liver disease assessment: AST to Platelet Ratio Index (APRI)

Treatment response: SVR at 12 weeks post-treatment (SVR12)

Description of intervention



Results

Median age: 35 years (IQR: 29-41)

Male: 95%, Not finished high school: 64%

About 72% had a history of drug use, of whom:

→ 38% had recent drug use

→ 14% had ever injected drugs

HCV antibody: 7.5% (111/1,482)

→ 10% (106/1,059) among those who had ever used drugs

→ 43% (63/146) among those who had ever injected drugs

Effectiveness

People with positive HCV RNA: n=84

- 19% (n=16) were released before treatment
- 81% (n=68) initiated DAA therapy in prison

Treatment uptake:

- 82% (40/49) among people who had ever injected drugs
- 81% (17/21) among people with recent drug use

About 76% (n=52) were in prison for SVR assessment, who all were cured (100%, 52/52), including n=10 people with recent drug use

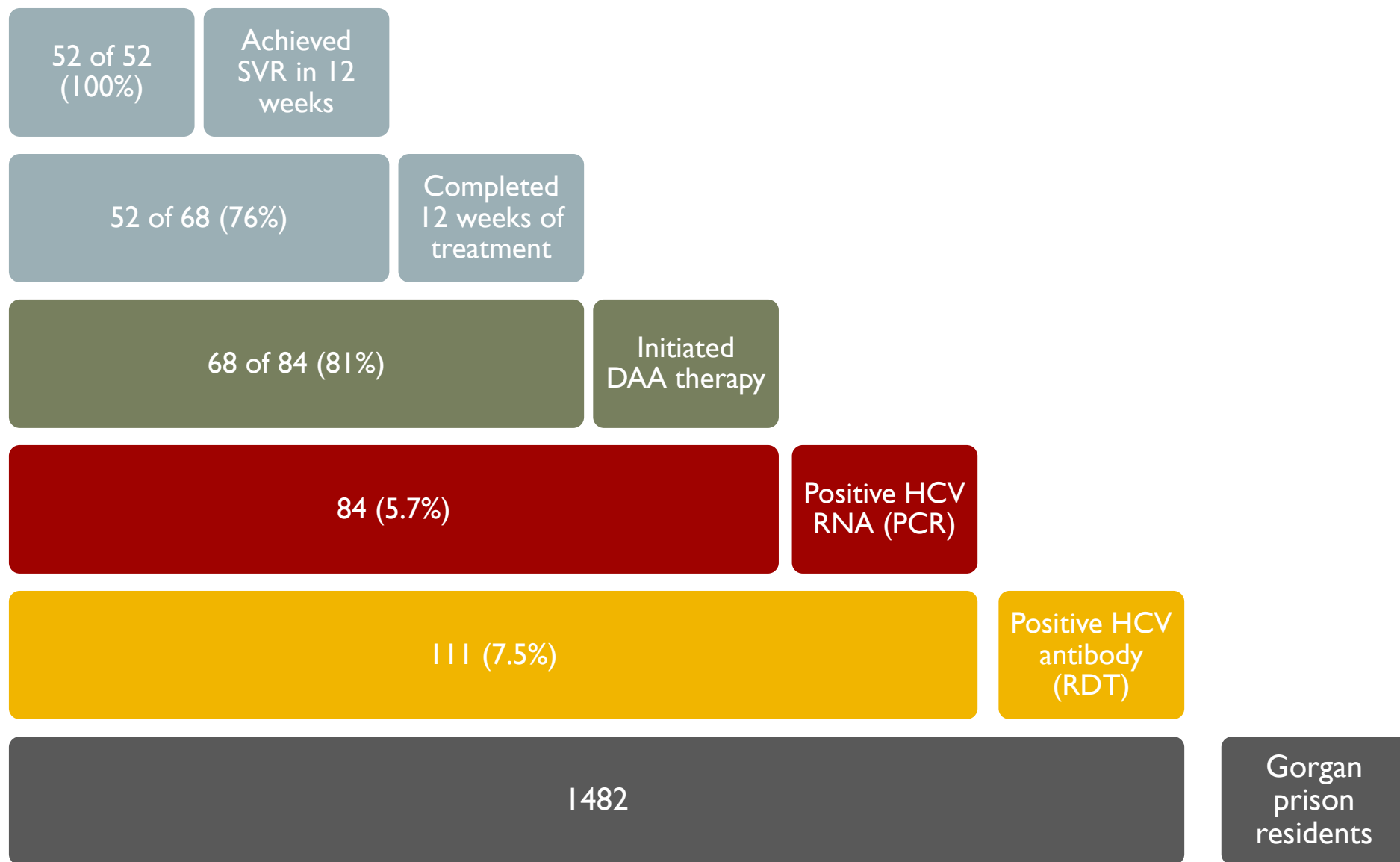


Figure 1. Hepatitis C Virus screening, diagnosis, and treatment uptake among Gorgan prison residents.

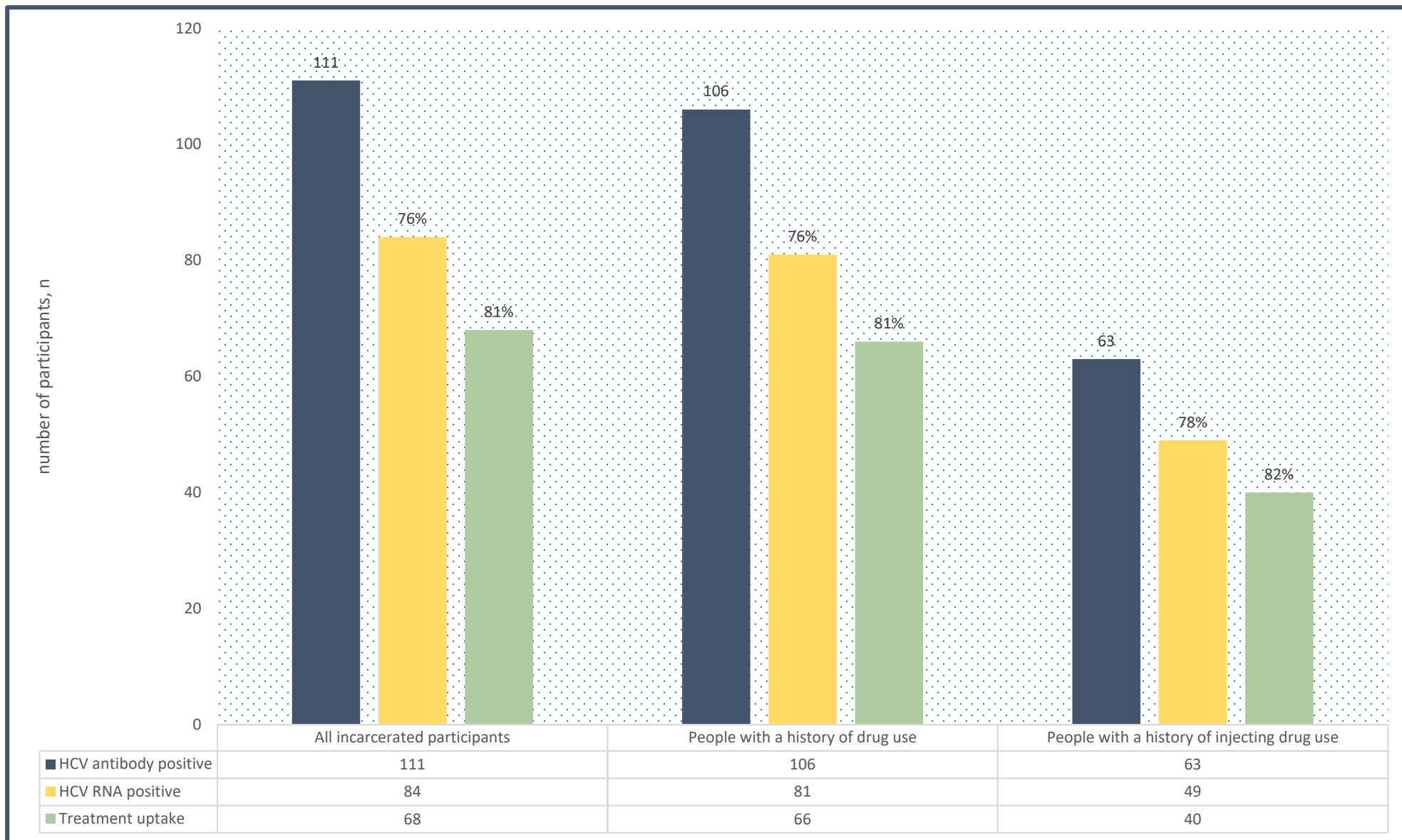


Figure 2. Hepatitis C Virus diagnosis, and treatment uptake among people with a history of drug use.

Conclusions

- **HCV test-and-treat programs are highly feasible and effective in Iranian prisons.**
- **Shortened duration therapies are needed to become available in Iranian custodial settings.**
- **Improved coordination with local health networks are required to enhance the care cascade.**

Appreciation

**Thanks For Your
Kind Attention!**

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