



A District-Wide Approach to Hepatitis C Testing in Community Corrections

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Corrections in South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD)

Approximately 36,000 people are on Community Corrections Orders in NSW at any time.

There are three Corrections offices in SESLHD.

Offices vary in client demographic

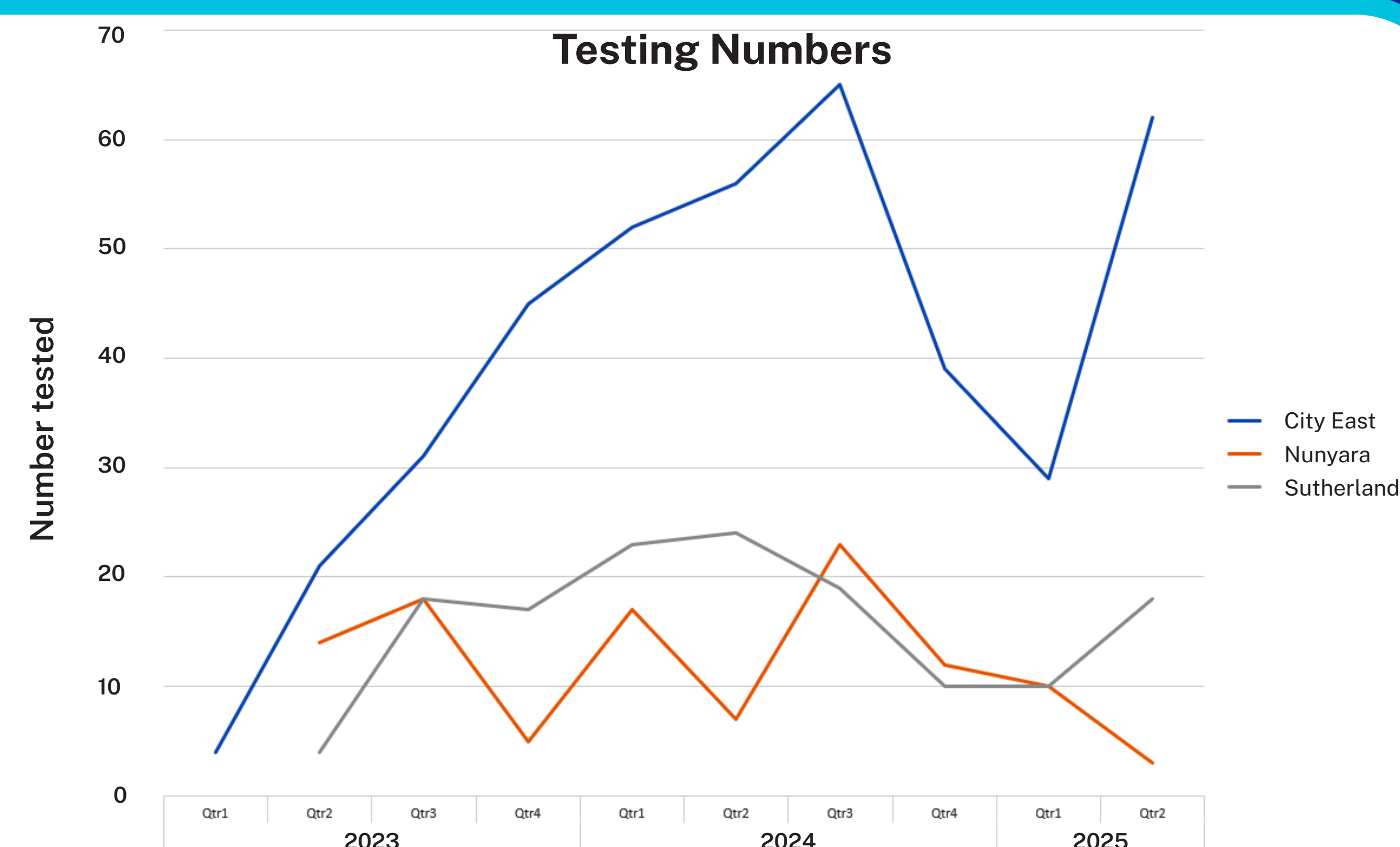
- Nunyara - a residential service on the grounds of Long Bay Complex with 35 short term residents
- Sutherland offices in the southern sector with 300 clients
- City East offices in city with over 1000 clients

Testing Schedule

87 Clinics in 27 months from March 2023 - June 2025

656 Tests across SESLHD Corrections

- Weekly clinics at City East
- Monthly clinics at Sutherland
- Quarterly clinics at Nunyara



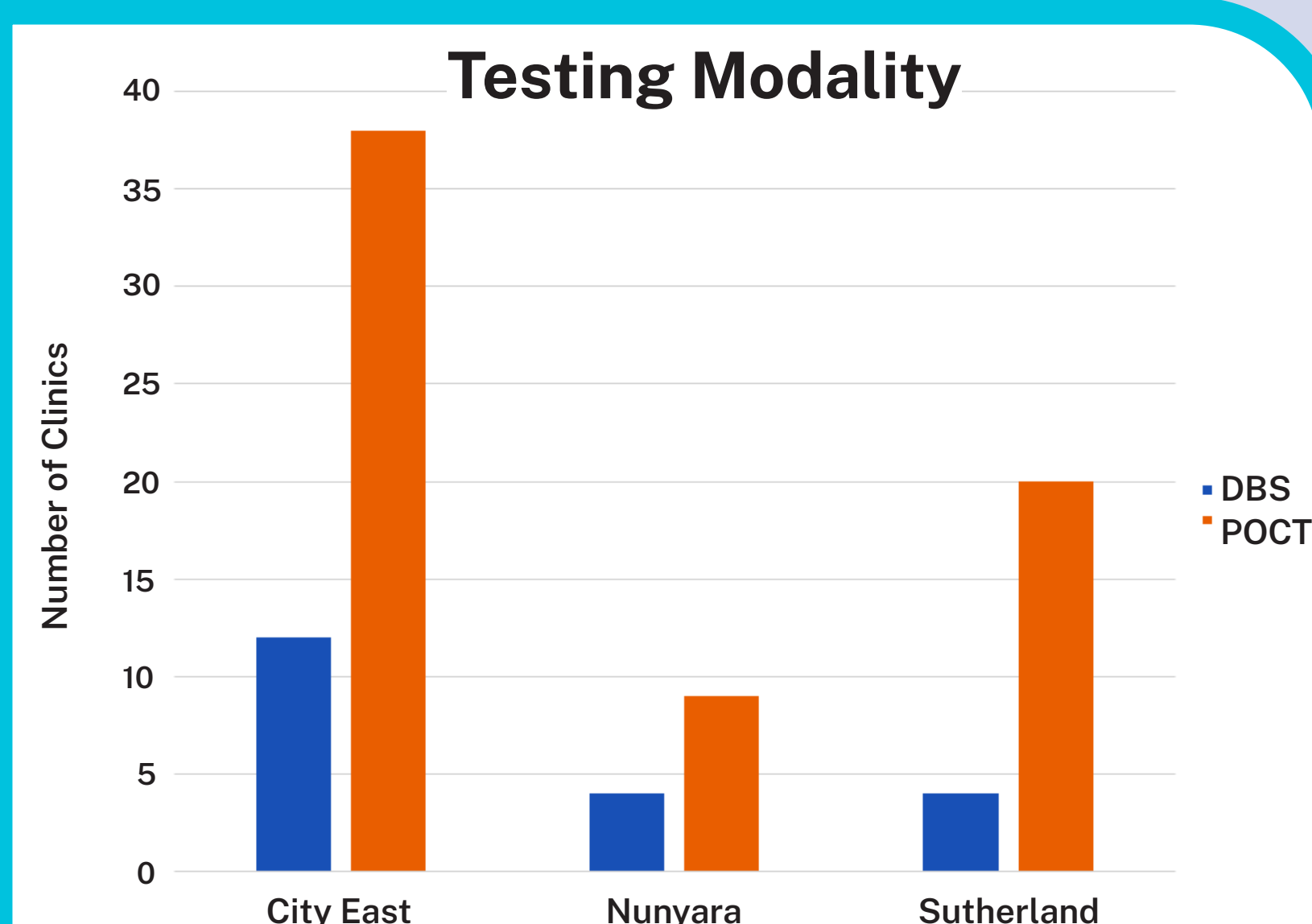
Prevalence

Positivity Rate

- District wide 6.1%
- City East 7.8%
- Sutherland 6.0%
- Nunyara 1.0%

Partnerships

- SHBBV Projects
- Community Corrections
- Prince of Wales Hospital Infectious Diseases
- St George Hospital Liver Clinic
- Kirketon Road Centre
- Hepatitis NSW



Getting Started

SESLHD has multiple services with capacity to provide Dried Blood Spot (DBS) and Point of Care Testing (POCT) and in an outreach setting. The Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus (SHBBV) Projects Team provides coordination.

There were no established networks or contacts with Corrections. Cold calling to phone numbers from internet searches began. Persistence, persistence, persistence resulted in an initial meeting and agreement to trial testing.

SESLHD was the first LHD in NSW to conduct HCV testing in a Corrections setting in March 2023!



Model

- Incentivised testing to support engagement
- Centrally coordinated clinics
- MOU to formalise partnership
- Education for Corrections staff
- Peer support embedded
- Shared staffing roster
- Continuity of care for testing and treatment
- Flexible follow up
- Pilot of same day treatment initiation
- Use of both POCT and DBS

Lessons

- Consistency is essential
- Flexible follow up supports treatment
- Building relationships with key Corrections contacts supports growth
- Peers support engagement
- Central coordination ensures clinics are covered
- 50% of people who returned a positive result have commenced treatment, with active follow up underway for those not yet engaged in care.



DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST STATEMENT

HCV Point of Care Testing supplies were provided through the Australian Hepatitis C Point of Care Testing Program, sponsored by The Kirby Institute, UNSW, and funded through the Department of Health and Aged Care, NSW Health, the National Health and Medical Research Council, Medical Research Future Fund, Cepheid, Gilead Sciences, and AbbVie.