



# Hepatitis C in NSW

## The pathway to elimination by 2028

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## Policy Context



- NSW Hepatitis C Strategy 2014 – 2020
- NSW target to eliminate hepatitis C by **2028**

TEST	TREAT	PREVENT
Better management of hepatitis C across care cascade	Improve access to hepatitis C treatment	Build on established hepatitis C prevention efforts

- Settings focus: Needle Syringe Program, drug and alcohol treatment services, mental health services, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, correctional facilities and primary care
- Use of data to inform progress

## Managing the system - Implementation drivers



Health



## Statewide investments



Health

- Communications strategy
- RACGP contract
- Dried Blood Spot (DBS) testing pilot
- Statewide Clinical Action Group
- Peer-led test and treat programs
- Enhanced treatment in NSW correctional facilities

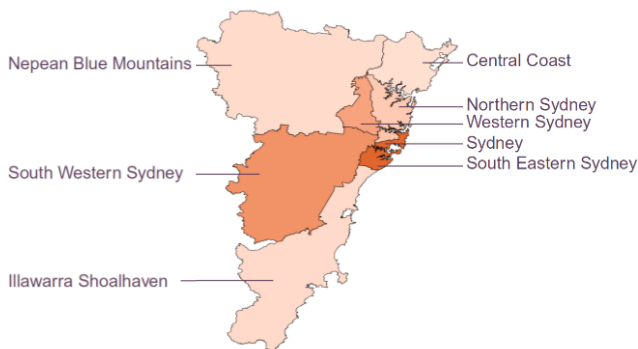
# Measuring success – the big picture



Health

- NSW has used prevalence modelling to inform elimination targets and set KPIs
- Estimated 80,700 people living with hepatitis C in NSW

## Metropolitan LHDs



## Rural and regional LHDs



Data source: Kirby Institute 2017 Estimates and projections of the Hepatitis C Virus Epidemic in NSW: Summary Report.

# TEST

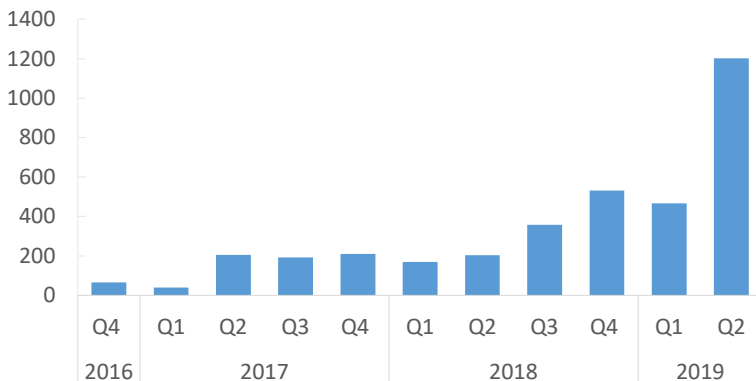


Health

- Targeted testing is needed to find people living with hepatitis C
- **NSW Dried Blood Spot (DBS) testing pilot** commenced in 2016

## Number of DBS registrations

DBS: an alternative to conventional testing



### Equity focus:

- Aboriginal people
- People who inject drugs
- People in custodial settings

### Scale-up across priority settings:

- NSP
- Prisons
- Outreach services



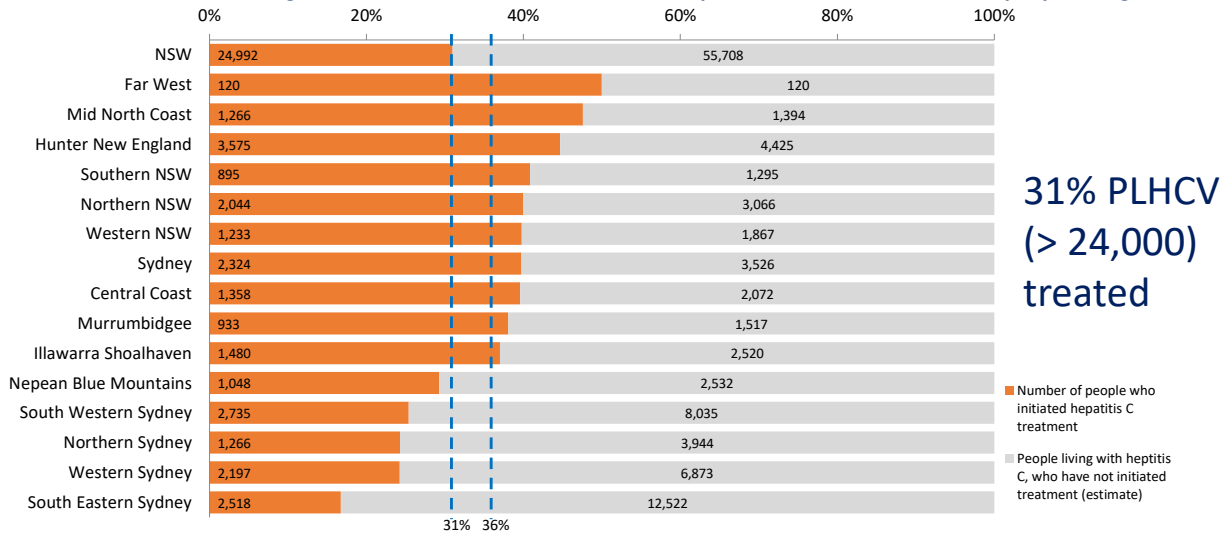
Data source: DBS pilot database – Registrations data

## TREAT



Health

Number of residents initiating treatment Mar 2016 – March 2019, compared to estimated number of people living with HCV



Data sources: Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule (PBS) data (includes people treated in Justice Health settings); The Kirby Institute, 2017 Estimates and Projections of the Hepatitis C Virus Epidemic in NSW: Summary Report

## TREAT – settings focus: correctional facilities



Health

- Hepatitis C prevalence in NSW prisons is 20 to 30 times higher than in the wider community
- Justice Health KPI to screen 9,000 patients in custody for BBVs and STIs and treat 1,500 people for HCV in 2019/20 with a focus on treating Aboriginal people
- **Hepatitis in Prisons Elimination (HIPE) Program** commenced in 2017, involves
  - Broad screening
  - Concurrent treatment with DAAs
  - Ongoing review of new admissions

⇒ *Achieved virtual elimination in 12 prisons in NSW by June 2019*

- Further scale-up planned

# TREAT - Justice Health



Health

Number of treatment initiations in Justice Health settings, and proportion who identify as Aboriginal



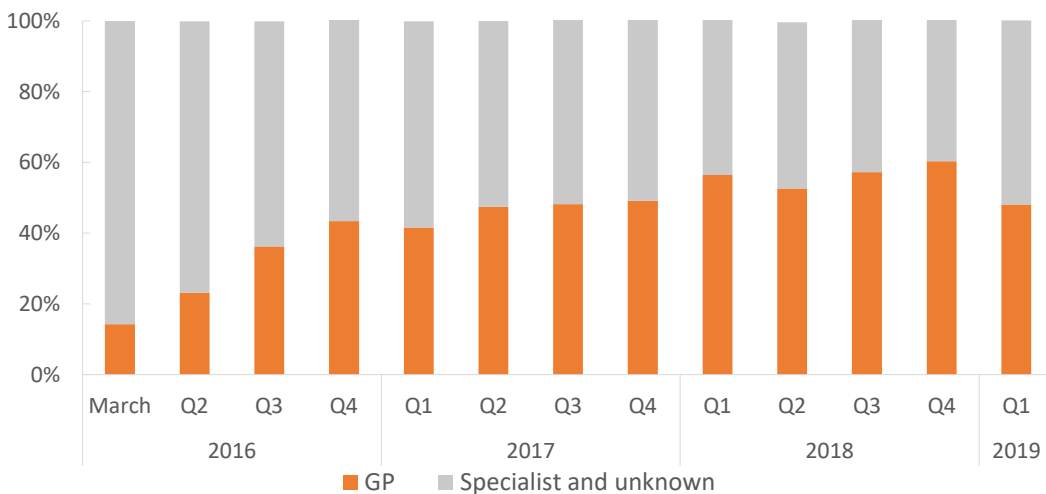
Data source: PBS Highly Specialised Drugs Program data, March 2016 - June 2018; NSW Health Hepatitis C Minimum Data set

# TREAT – settings focus: primary care



Health

Proportion of hepatitis C treatment initiated by prescriber type



Data sources: PBS data and NCIMS notifications.

## TREAT – population focus



Health

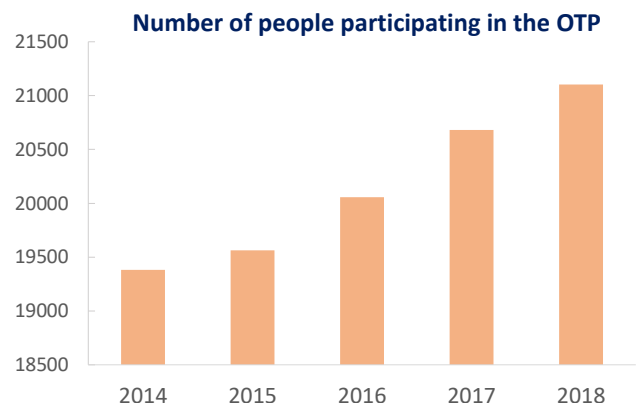
- Meeting the needs of people who inject drugs (PWID) is central to achieving elimination
- Enhanced Data Collection systems and research findings improve understanding of the barriers faced by priority populations to tailor service responses
- ETHOS Engage, an observational cohort study by the Kirby Institute focusing on PWID found treatment uptake was lower among PWID who were:
  - homeless
  - not currently receiving opioid substitution therapy
  - injecting more than daily within the last month
- NSW Health needs to be active in responding to the needs of populations facing barriers to DAA treatment

## PREVENT



Health

- **Needle Syringe Program (NSP)** – statewide focus to enhance services offered to include access to hepatitis C testing and treatment and peer support
- **Opioid Treatment Program (OTP)**
  - Number of clients enrolled in the OTP continues to increase (>21,000 in 2018)
  - Newly TGA registered long acting depot buprenorphine being scaled across NSW treatment services



Data source: National Opioid Pharmacotherapy Statistics Annual Data 2014-2018

## Next steps



Health

- Enhance and innovate models of care and services in partnership with patients and our NGO partners (Hepatitis C Council and NUAA) e.g. DBS, HIPE, peer outreach
- Scale testing and treatment in priority settings
- Support translational research and policy relevant evidence-generation
- Use and refine data for system planning and measuring success
- Continue to collaborate with clinicians, community, researchers and others

