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Periodic incentives increase clinic attendance and hepatitis C testing but not treatment initiation among people who inject drugs: Evidence from a five-year retrospective program evaluation

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Acknowledgements

Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge that we are meeting on unceded Aboriginal land and pay my respects to Elders past and present. I extend that respect to the Awabakal people on whose land this work was conducted, and all Aboriginal people present here today.

Acknowledgement of affected communities

I also acknowledge and thank you to the people with lived experience of viral hepatitis who participated in the program presented today.

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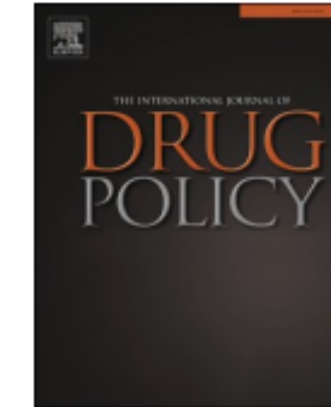


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Effectiveness of periodic incentives on clinic attendance and hepatitis C testing and treatment for people who inject drugs: A five-year retrospective program evaluation

Carly Mallise^{a,b,c,*} , Danika Tremain^d, Maya Lindsay^a, Nathan Ryder^e, Kate Fisher^e, Benjamin Moran^a, Christophe Lecathelinais^a, Joanna Measure^{c,e}, Jason Grebely^f, Alison Marshall^f, Adrian Dunlop^{b,g}, Sally Woodward^e, Judith Byaruhanga^{a,b,c}, Jodi Tyne^d, Annette Slater^a, Melanie Kingsland^{a,b,c}

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Disclosures

No disclosures of interest to declare in conduct of this project.

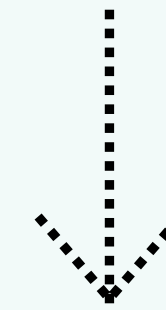


Opportunity: BBV/STI care for people who inject drugs

Needle and Syringe Program (NSP)
Primary Outlet
Operated by Drug and Alcohol Services



Sexual Health Service
BBV/STI services

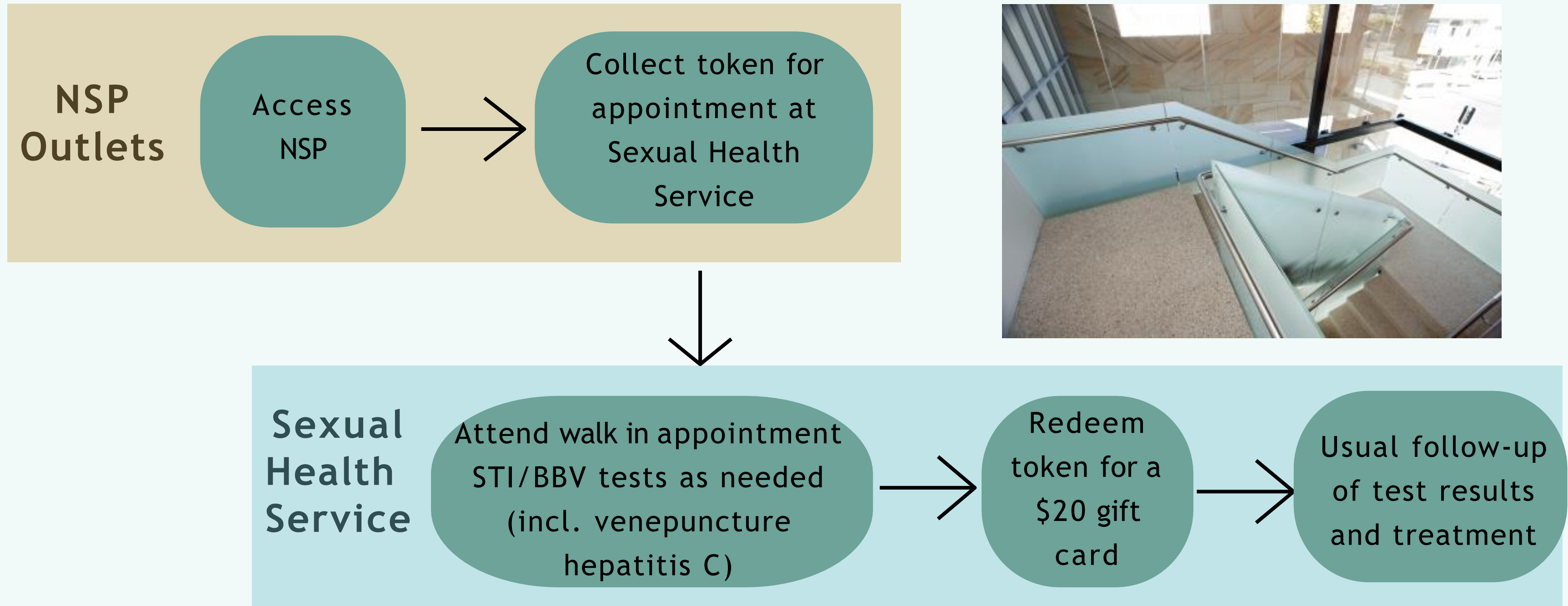


Outreach clinic
walk-in BBV/STI
services

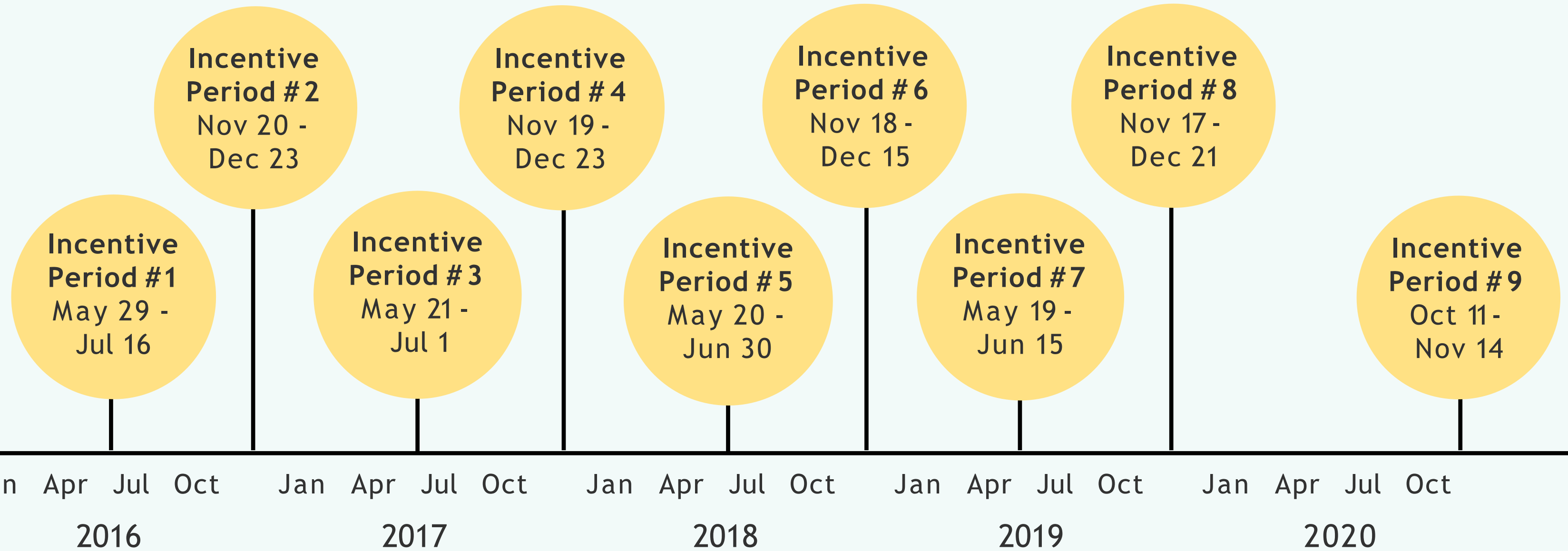
Secondary NSP
Operated from
ACON Hunter



NSP to Sexual Health Incentive Model



Implementation Timeline



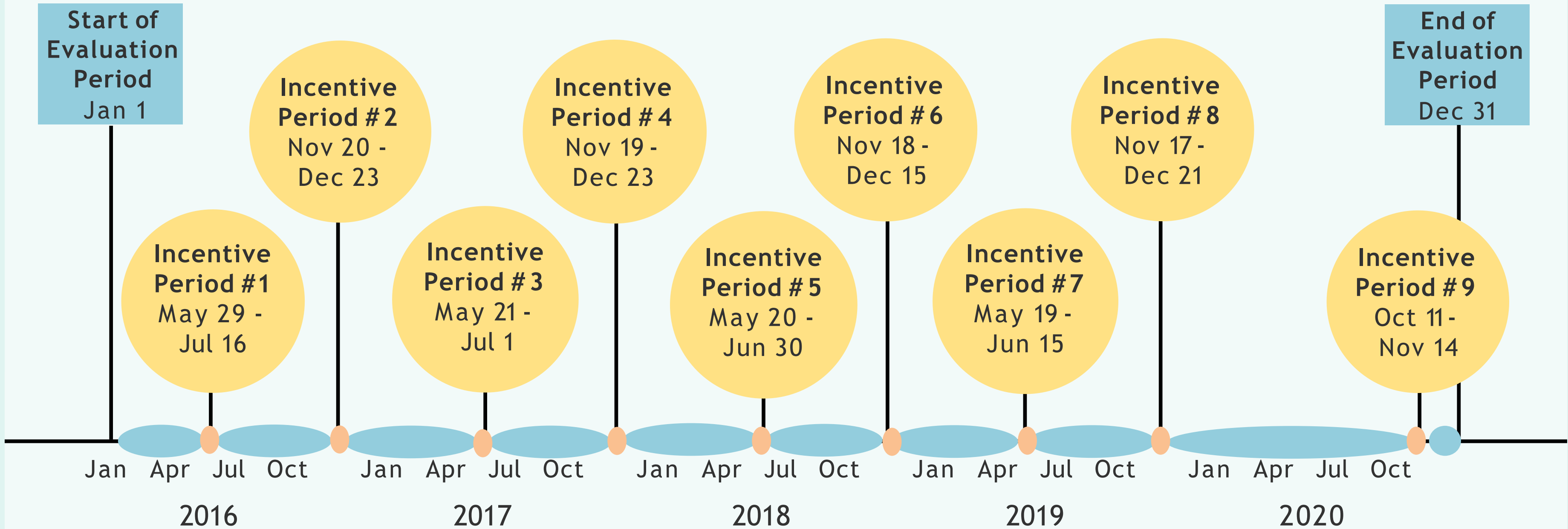
- 2324 tokens given to people at NSP
- 1090 tokens redeemed for \$20 voucher following clinic appointment



Was this model supporting increasing service attendance and care for people who inject drugs?



Evaluation Timeline



Incentive	47 weeks
No incentive	206 weeks



Evaluation aims

Impact of
incentive model
on services for
people who
injected drugs



1

Clinic
appointment
attendance

2

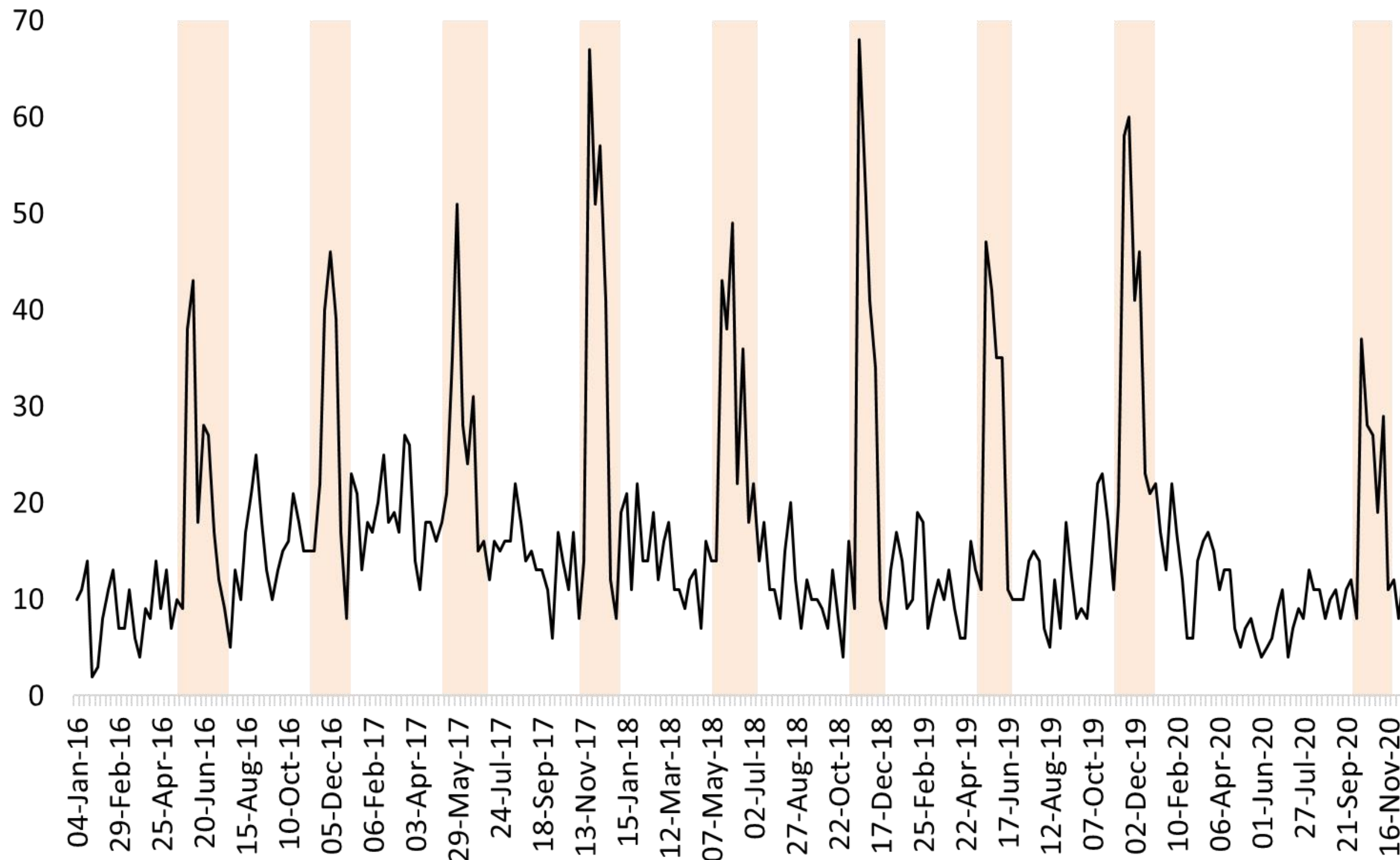
Hepatitis C
testing

3

Hepatitis C
treatment
initiation

Appointments attended by people who inject drugs

Number of Appointments Attended



Mean number people per week:

- Non-incentive periods: 12.7
- Incentive periods: 35.9

IRR: 3.01 (95%CI 2.74-3.31) P<0.001

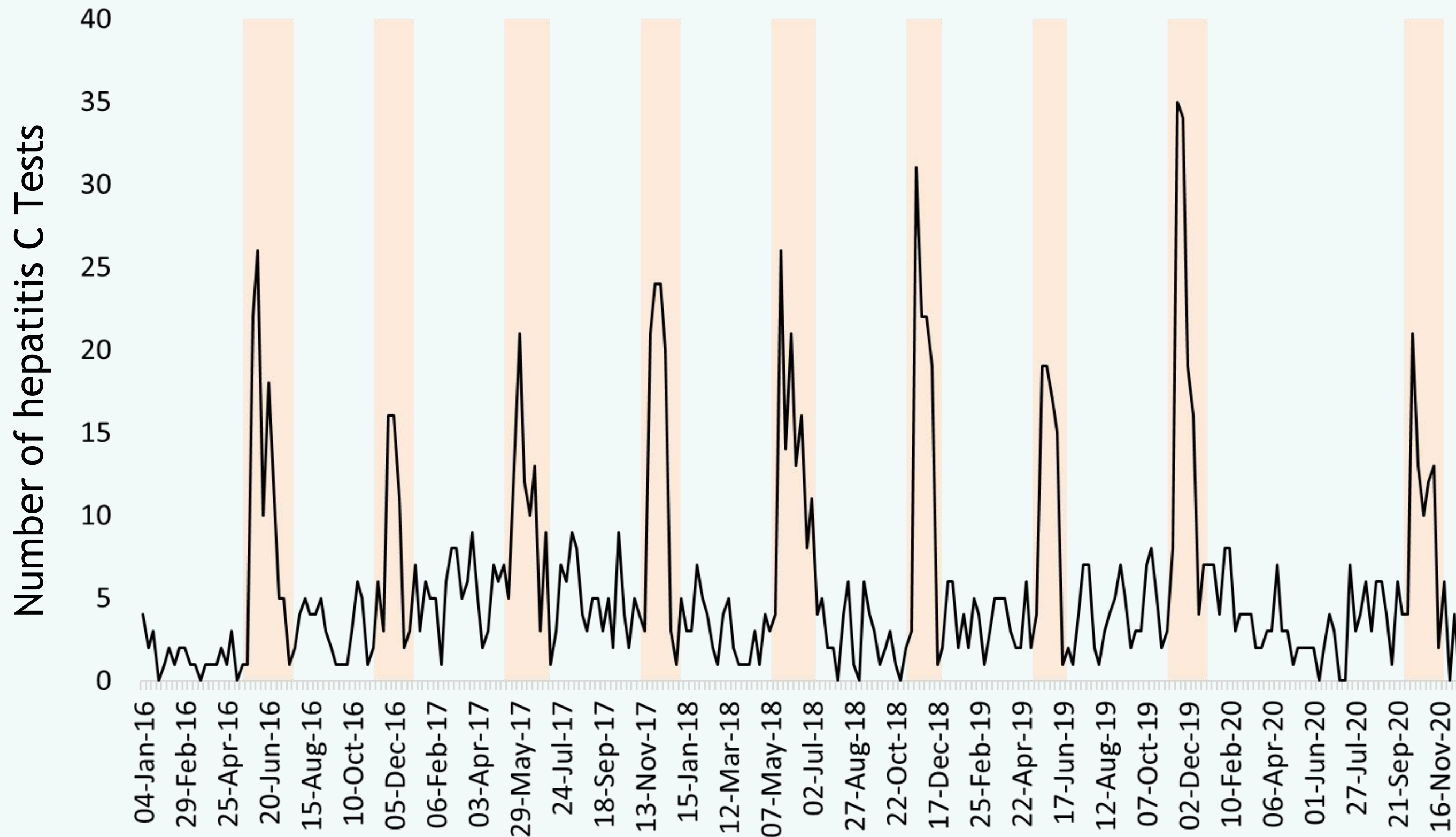


Impact for sub-groups of people who inject drugs

Clinic appointment attendance (mean people/week)

Group	Non-incentive periods	Incentive periods	IRR (95% CI) p-value
New clients	1.5	8.8	6.51 (5.52-7.68) <0.001
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	1.4	6.0	4.49 (3.75-5.36) <0.001
Females	2.6	9.9	4.04 (3.50-4.66) <0.001
40-49 years	3.9	13.3	3.59 (3.16-4.07) <0.001

Hepatitis C tests for people who inject drugs



Mean number people having hepatitis C test per week:

- Non-incentive periods: 4
- Incentive periods: 16

IRR: 5.02 (95%CI 4.28-5.90) P<0.001



Impact for sub-groups of people who inject drugs

Hepatitis C tests conducted (mean people/week)

Group	Non-incentive periods	Incentive periods	IRR (95% CI) p-value
New clients	0.9	5.5	7.22 (5.75-9.08) <0.001
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	0.5	2.9	6.80 (5.10-9.07) <0.001
Females	0.8	4.7	6.53 (5.15-8.27) <0.001

Current Hepatitis C infection

Period	Number people hepatitis C infection (as % of those tested)
Non incentive	43 (5.3%)
Incentive	138 (14.5%)

Hepatitis C Treatment Initiation

Period	Number people hepatitis C infection (as % of those tested)	% people who initiated treatment
Non incentive	43 (5.3%)	44%
Incentive	138 (14.5%)	24%

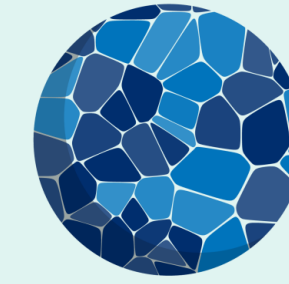
- *Higher % people new to clinic*
- *May be a barrier to coming back for further appointments for treatment*

Key Actions and Takeaways

1. Incentives provided at NSPs may support people to attend clinic appointments and have hepatitis C tests - especially for key subgroups
2. Incentives of this kind may not be enough to support people to initiate hepatitis C treatment in this context
3. Further action is needed to determine if other types of support or incentives of different amounts/at different times are effective in increasing hepatitis C treatment initiation

Thank You

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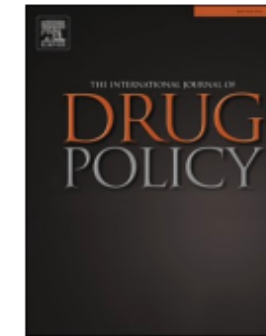
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