

# THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON HEPATITIS C CASCADE-OF-CARE IN SLOVENIA: RESULTS OF A NATIONAL STUDY

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CLINIC FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND FEBRILE ILLNESSES

LJUBLJANA

SLOVENIA

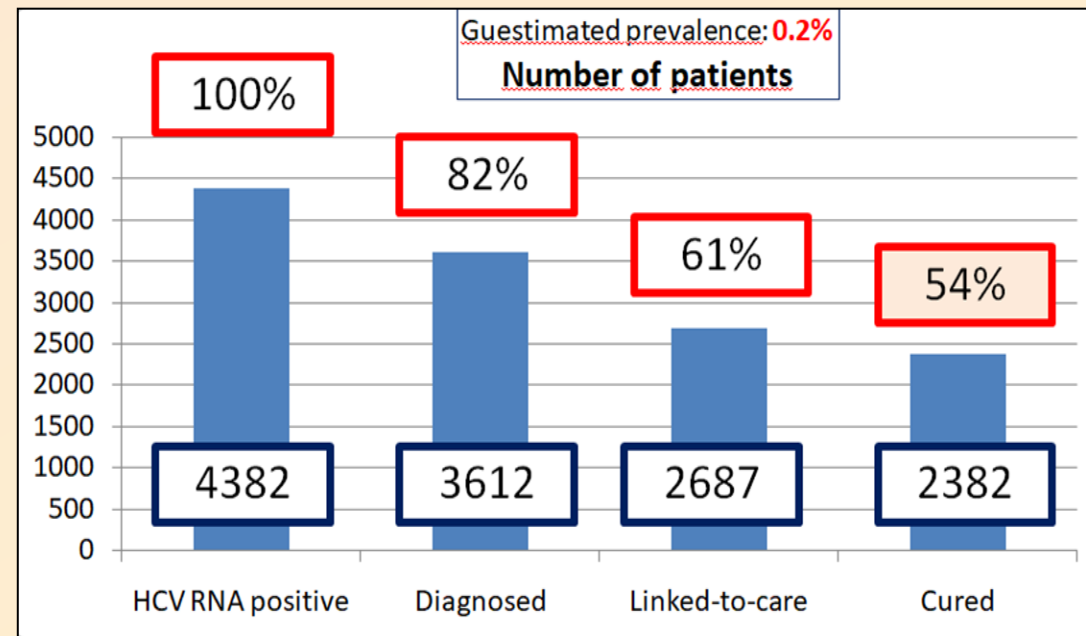
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# Disclosure of Interest Statement

No pharmaceutical grants were received in the development of this study.

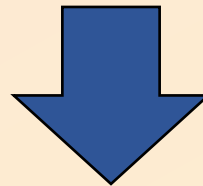
# BACKGROUND

- **SLOVENIA:** a population of 2 million
- Management of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection organized systematically in five medical centres
- In January 2020 Slovenia on track to achieve HCV elimination by 2030



# BACKGROUND

- The COVID-19 epidemic in Slovenia declared on March 12, 2020
- Prompt adjustment of the national guidelines for HCV care
- Five hospitals managing all HCV-infected patients in Slovenia were transformed to COVID-19 hospitals



## **AIM OF THE STUDY:**

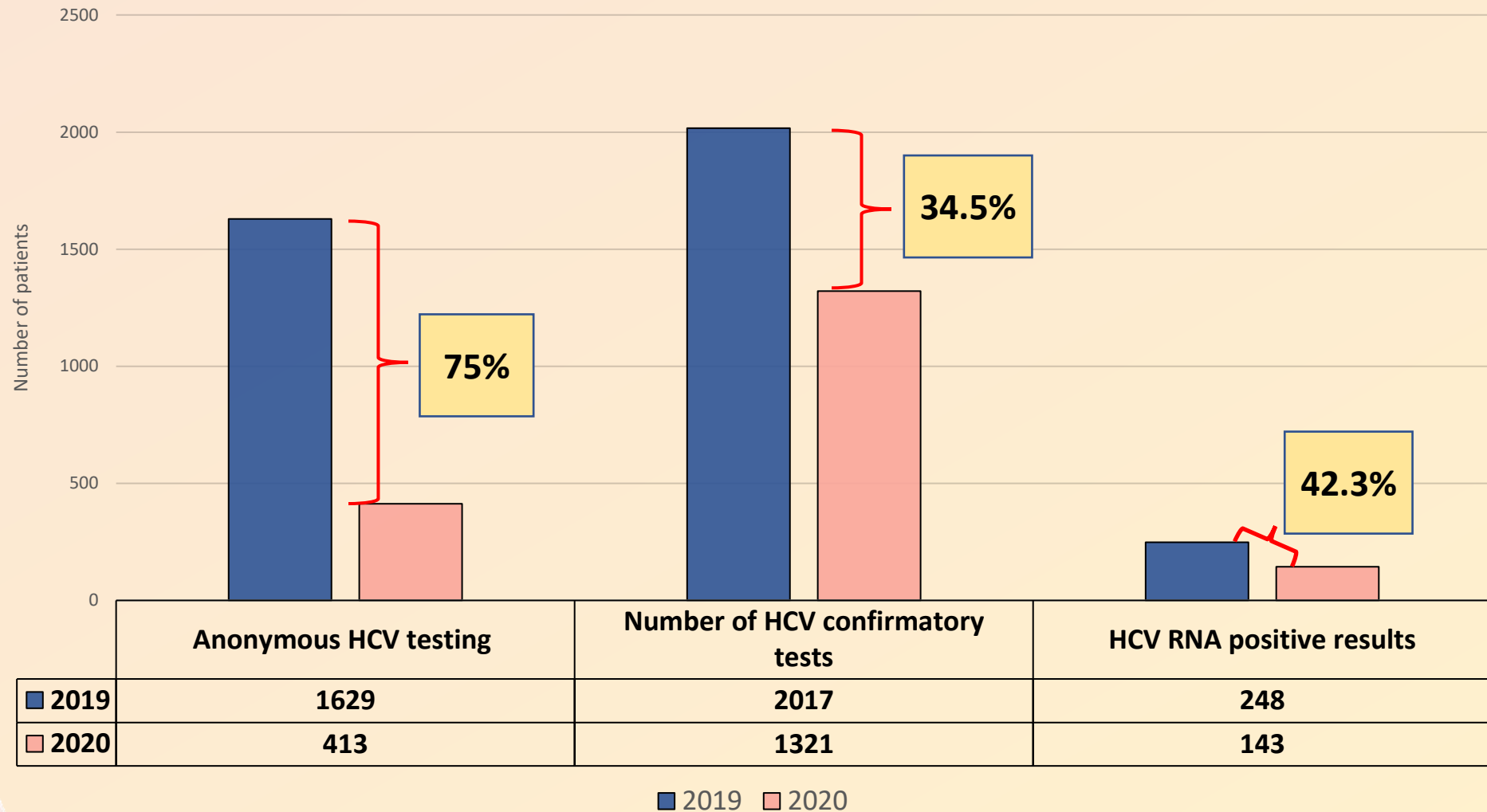
Evaluation of the possible impact of COVID-19 epidemic on hepatitis C cascade-of-care in Slovenia in vulnerable populations on the national level in 2020

# METHODS

- Included: all medical centres for HCV management in the country (N=5)
- A 28-question survey on annual HCV cascade-of-care and HCV management separately for the years 2019 and 2020
- Respondents: all the specialists for the management of HCV-infected patients (N=19)
- Obtained data was further statistically analysed using a chi-square test

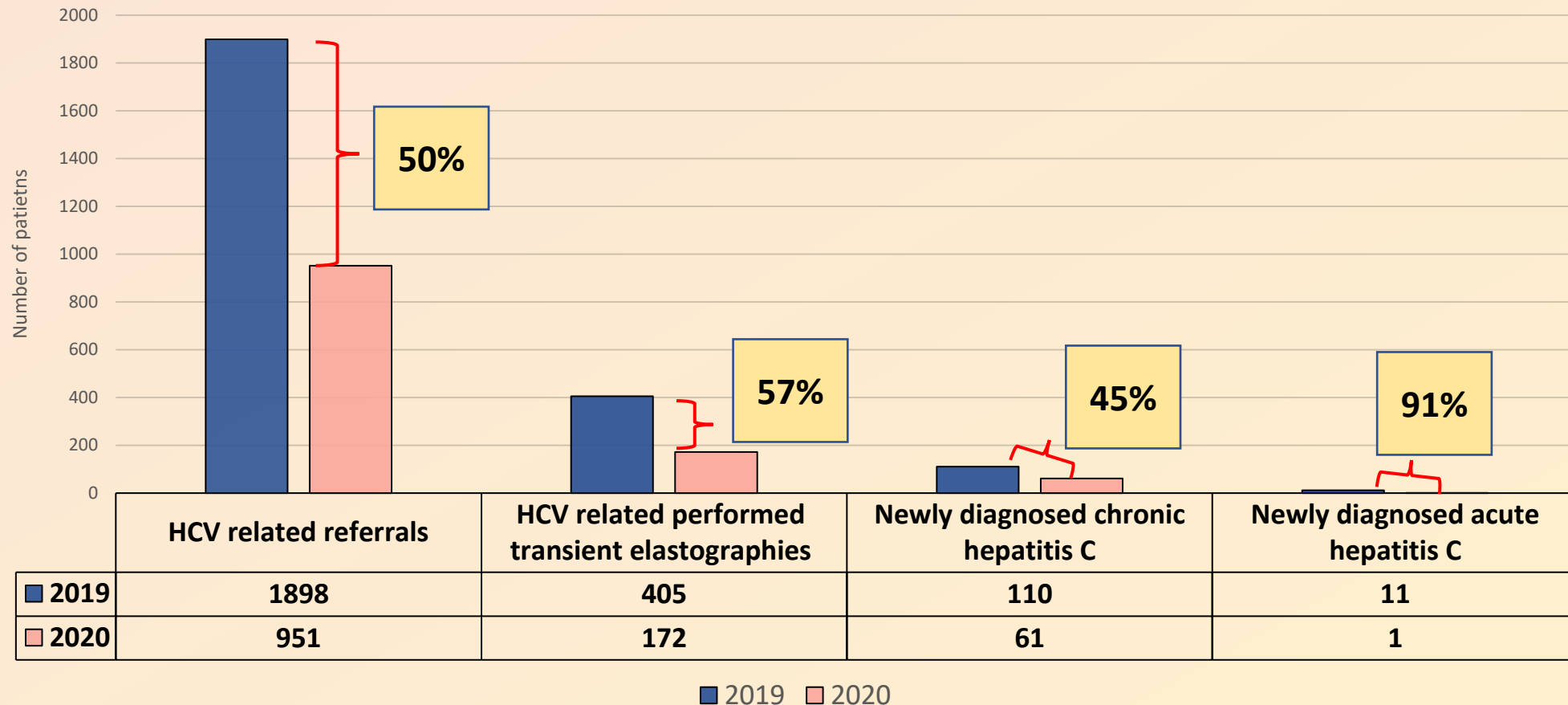
# RESULTS

## The impact of COVID-19 on testing and diagnosis of HCV



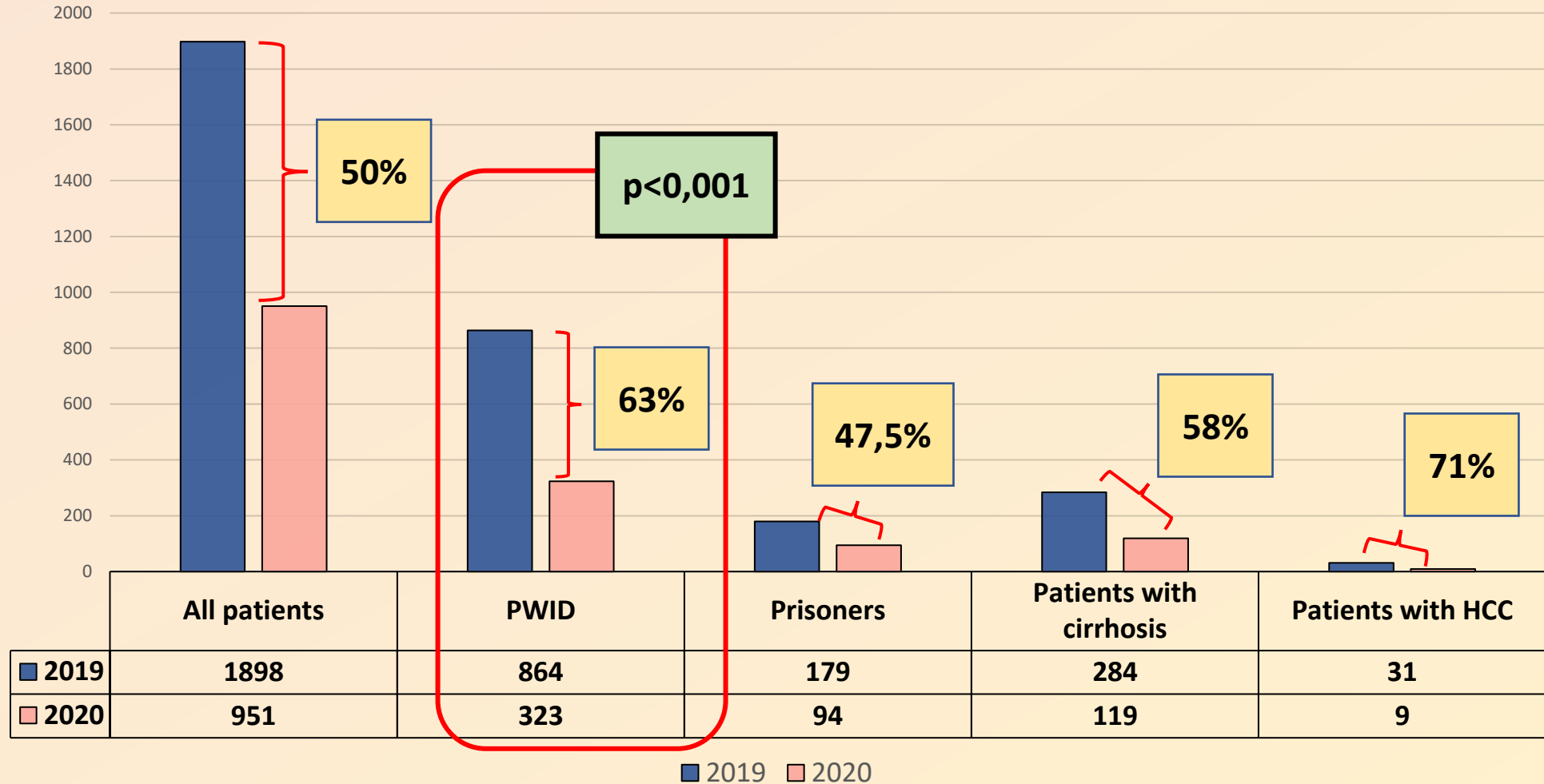
# RESULTS

## The impact of COVID-19 on diagnosis, referral and staging of HCV infection



# RESULTS

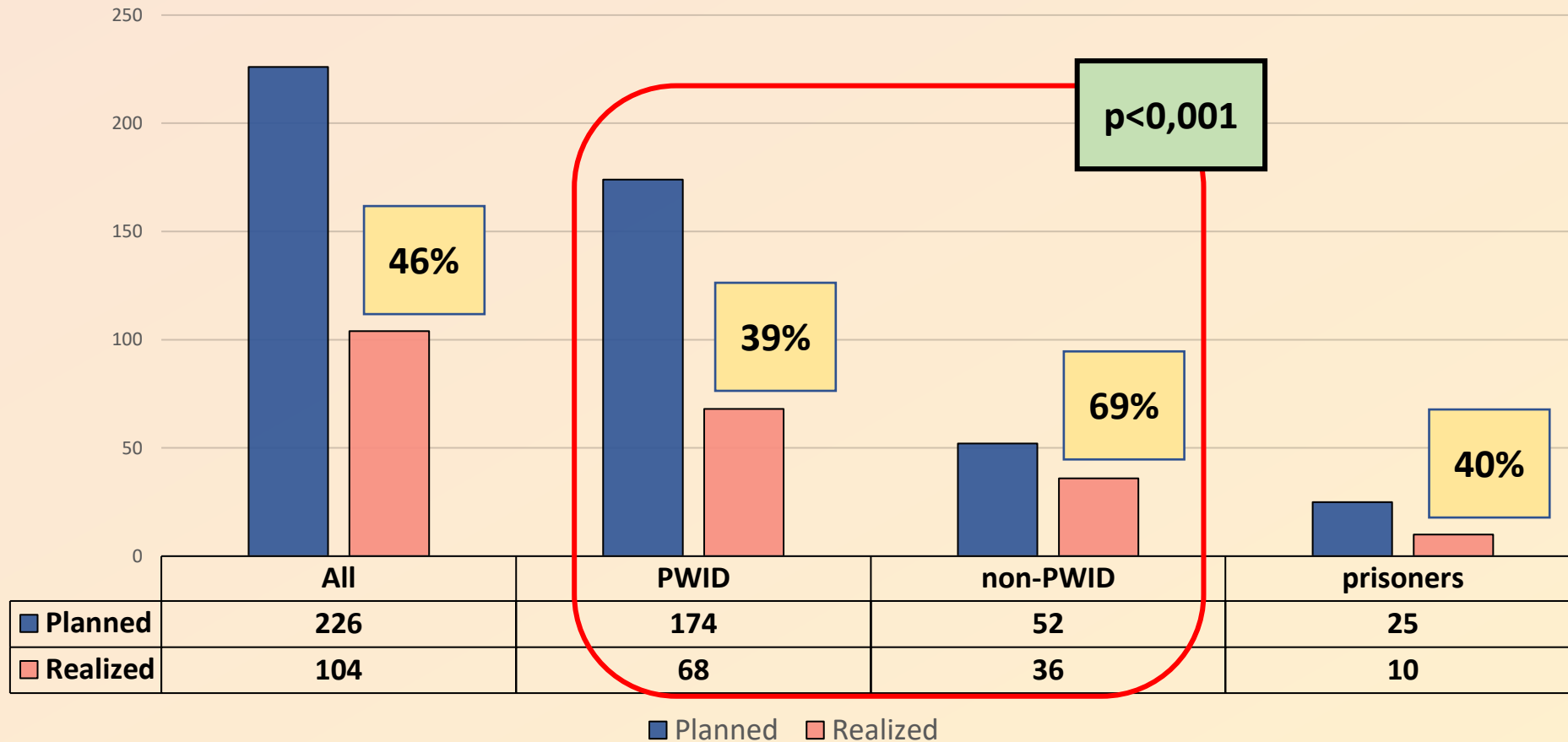
## The impact of COVID-19 on the number of HCV referrals





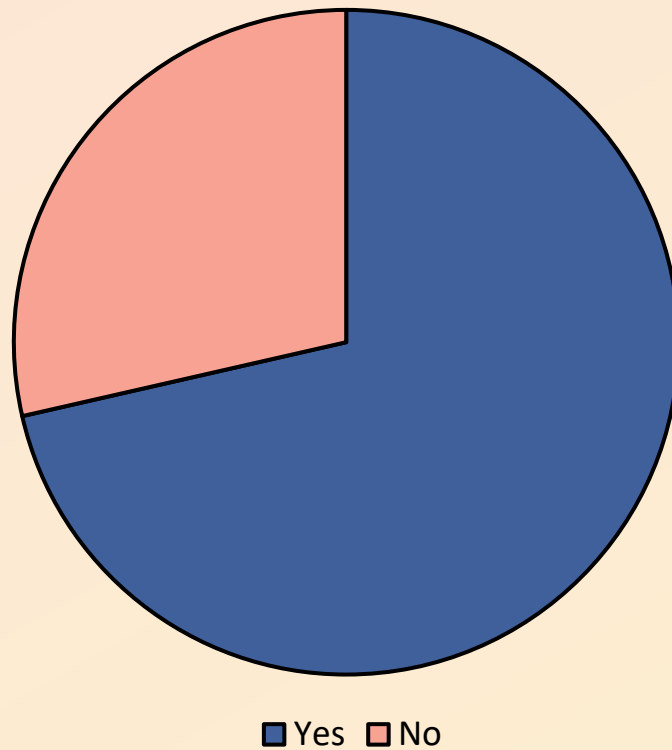
# RESULTS

## Planned and realized treatments of HCV in year 2020

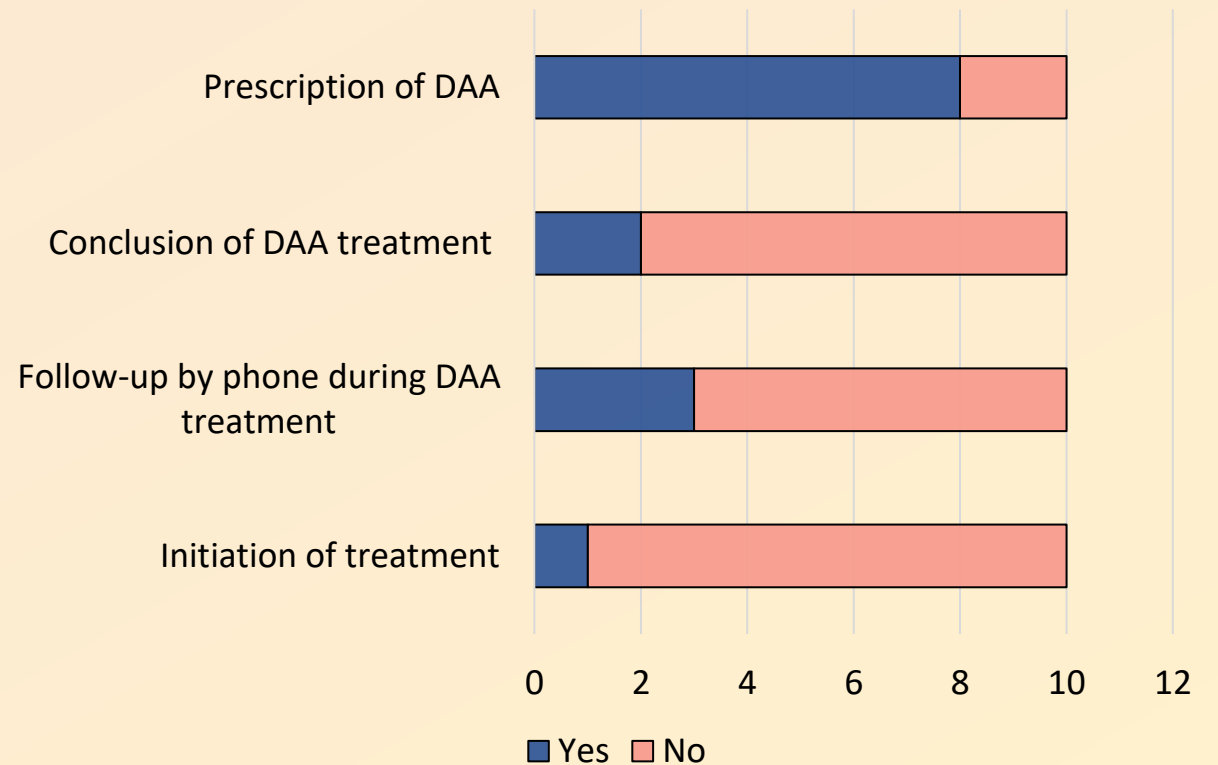


# RESULTS

**The use of telemedicine instead of classical management of HCV patients in 2020 (N=14)**



**The use of telemedicine during DAA treatment of HCV patients in 2020 (N=14)**



# CONCLUSION

- In 2020 the COVID-19 epidemic presented a significant negative impact on all the steps of HCV cascade-of-care in Slovenia
- Vulnerable populations like PWID and prisoners were particularly affected
- Further studies are needed to evaluate the impact of these findings on HCV disease burden in the context of HCV elimination goal in Slovenia

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