



## Characterisation of populations with hepatitis C to improve access to antiviral therapy programs: a population-based linkage study

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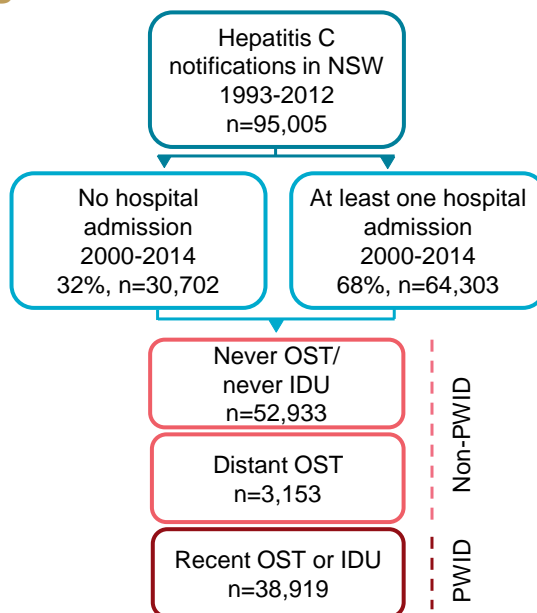
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### Background & Methods

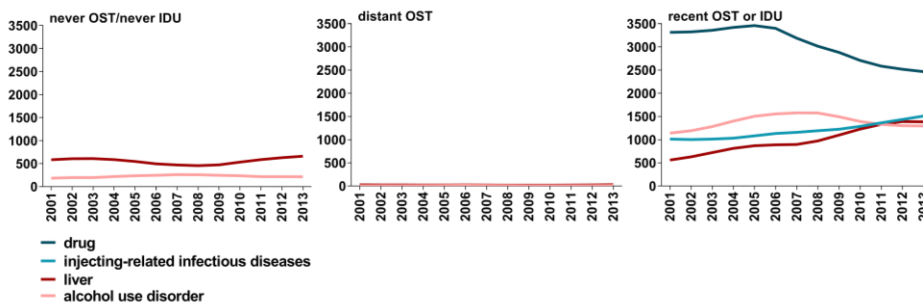
- The aim of this study was to define populations of PWID with hepatitis C, and evaluate common co-morbidities among PWID and non-PWID populations
- NSW hepatitis C notifications 1993-2012 were linked to OST data 1985-2014 and hospital admission data 2000-2014 (*by NSW Centre for Health Record Linkage*)
- PWID populations were defined on the basis of receipt of OST and IDU-related admissions

## Results



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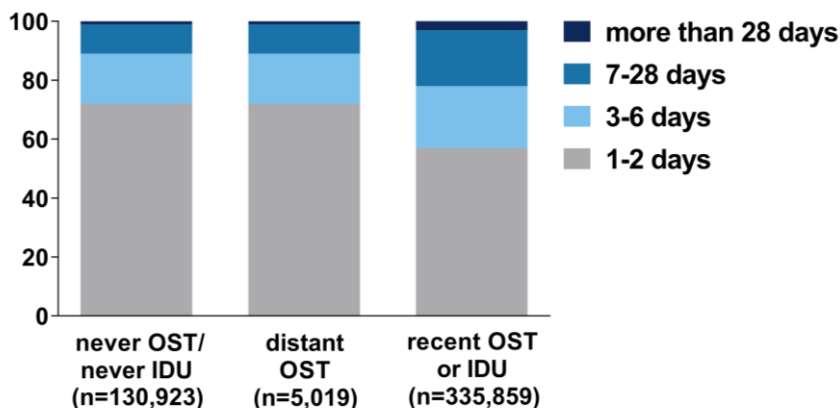
Numbers of cause-specific hospital admissions among NSW people with a hepatitis C notification 1993-2012, n=64,303



- Among PWID, numbers of injecting-related infectious diseases- and liver-related admissions increased from 1,045 and 516 in 2001 to 1,548 and 1,271 in 2013, respectively

## Results

Distribution of multi-day hospital admissions among NSW people with a hepatitis C notification 1993-2012, n=64,303



- Among PWID, 44% of episodes were three days or longer

## Conclusions

- The burden of liver disease and injecting-related infectious disease is increasing among PWID in NSW
- Challenges to hepatitis C elimination as a global health concern among PWID include poor access to health services, sub-optimal hepatitis C testing, linkage to care and treatment uptake
- Hospitalisation presents an opportunity for enhanced hepatitis C screening and linkage to care