



QUIHN HEP C TESTING & TREATMENT CLINICS: GOING VIRAL ACROSS QUEENSLAND

AUTHORS

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*The QuiHN harm reduction team comprises of peer & harm reduction staff, & nurse practitioners living & working across Queensland.

BACKGROUND

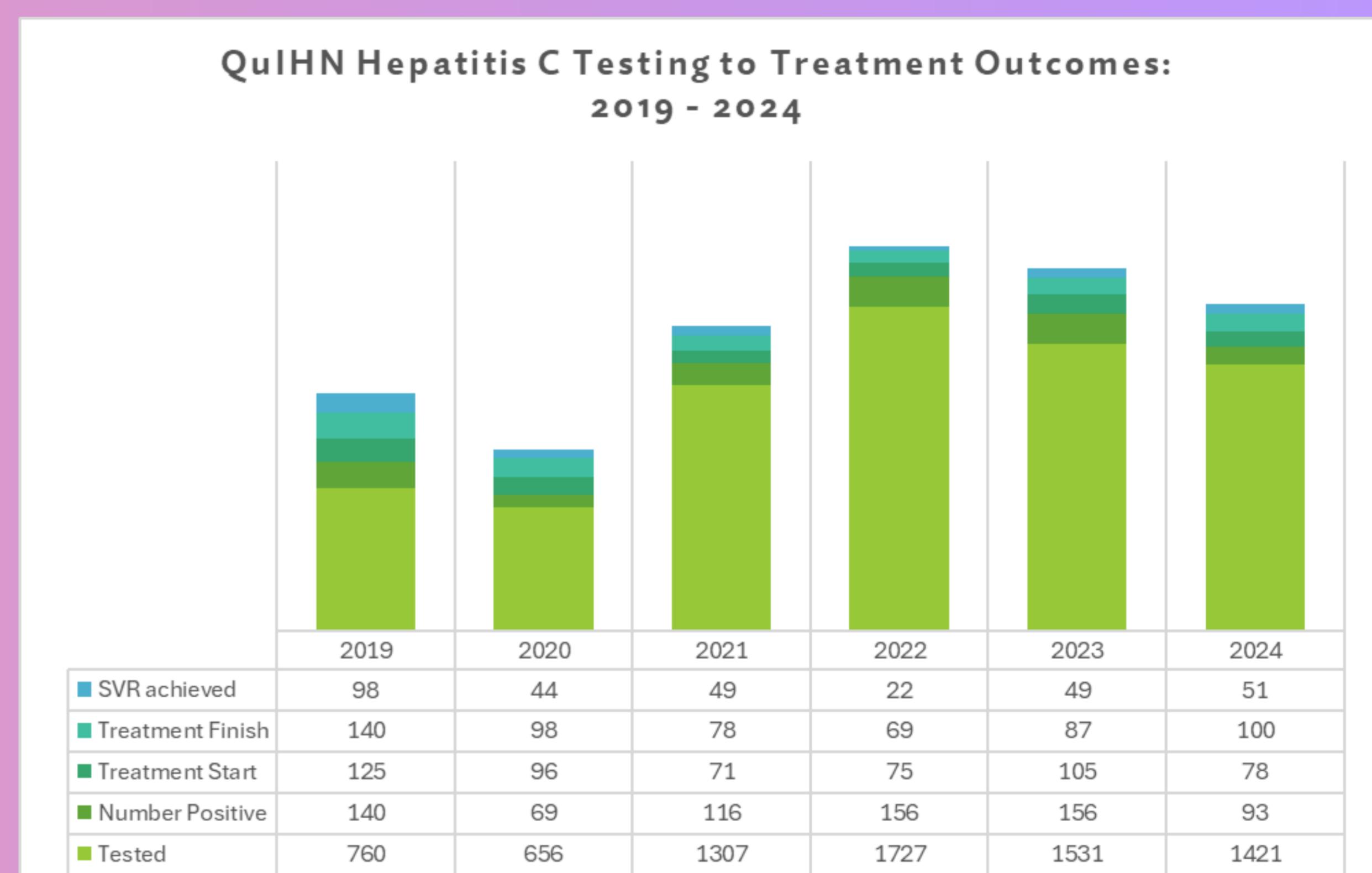
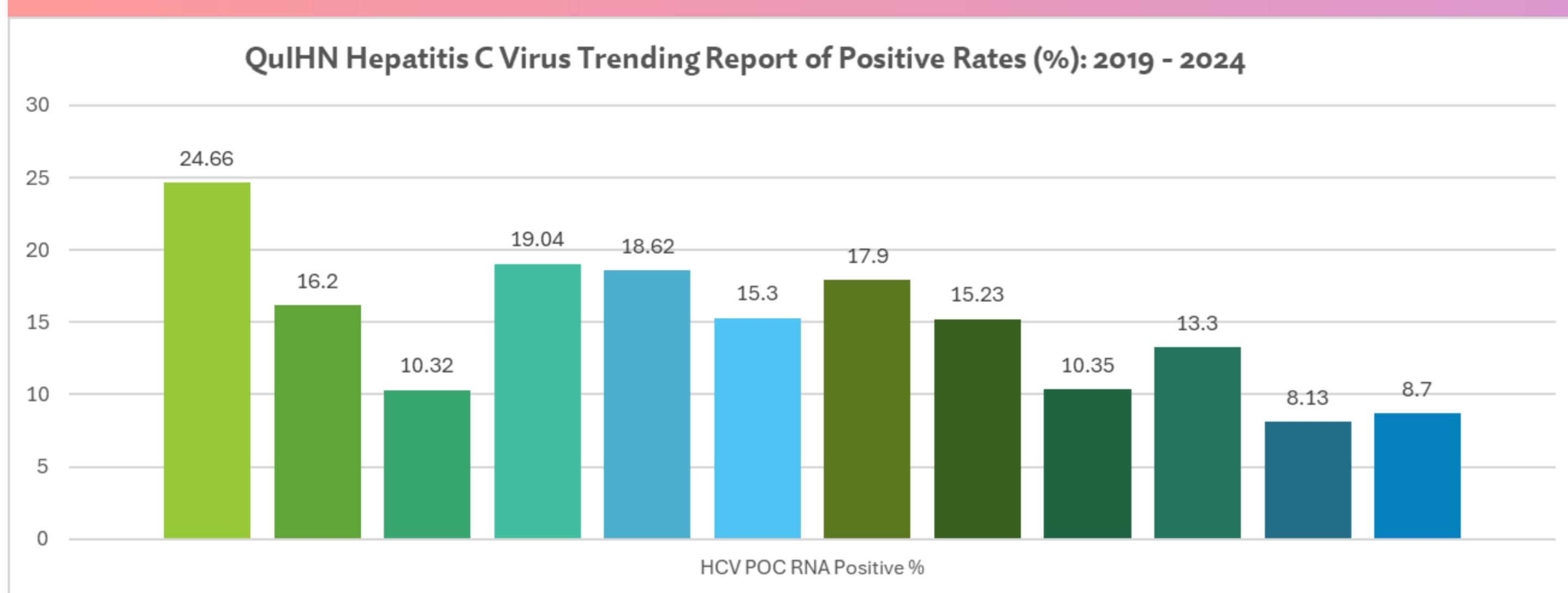
QuiHN is a non-government peak organisation providing harm reduction, therapeutic and GP/NP alcohol and drug services in Queensland. Since 2016, QuiHN have run specialist Hepatitis C harm reduction based, peer case management, nurse practitioner fixed site, telehealth and outreach clinic based services. We include incentives, prison transition support/linkage to community services, sexual health screening, and point of care testing for Hepatitis C, HIV and Syphilis. In 2023, we expanded services to regional and remote Queensland in our efforts to lead Hepatitis C elimination for Queenslanders who inject drugs.



OUTCOMES

Expanding access to regional and remote Queensland communities, along with implementing point of care testing, increased access to Hepatitis C testing and treatment. Service data indicates Hepatitis C testing numbers increased annually. Increased testing rates & treatment initiation, meant our overall Hepatitis C rates of detection lowered from 24.66% in 2019 to 8.7% by the end of 2024. Annual treatment commencement numbers has remained stable from 2019, averaging 91/year. From 2016, the accessibility of peer, harm reduction staff and Nurse Practitioner-led strategies has resulted in over 1,000 HCV treatment commencements. SVR testing conducted with 65.4% of those treated has resulted in 96.3% of people tested achieving HCV cure.

RESULTS



CONCLUSION

QuiHN's multi-disciplinary team focusing on the strengths of peer & harm reduction case management, in close partnership with Nurse Practitioners, providing outreach across multiple communities in Queensland has demonstrated the positive impact of improved access & equity to Hepatitis C testing and treatment.

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AFFILIATIONS

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**SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE
WHO USE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL
THROUGHOUT QUEENSLAND**