5th HEPATITIS C TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP TAG Meeting

CHALLENGES TO HCV MICRO-ELIMINATION IN HIV/HCV CO-INFECTION IN GEORGIA

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Eliminate Hepatitis C As a Major Public Heath Threat

Global elimination targets

10.0 **NEW INFECTIONS** 9.0 **DEATHS** NEW INFECTIONS AND DEATHS (IN MILLIONS) 8.0 7.0 **HEPATITIS B + C** 6.0 5.0 4.0 30% 90% 3.0 REDUCTION REDUCTION 2.0 1.0 65% 10% REDUCTION REDUCTION 0.5 2015 2020 2025 2030

Micro-elimination









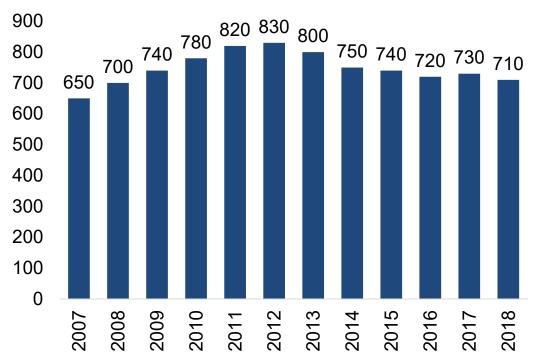
WHO. Global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis 2016-2021.

Lazarus et al. J Hepatol. 2017;67:665-666

HIV in Georgia

	%	Estimated #
anti-HIV+	0.4%	9 400

Estimated # of New HIV Infections



Model of HIV Care

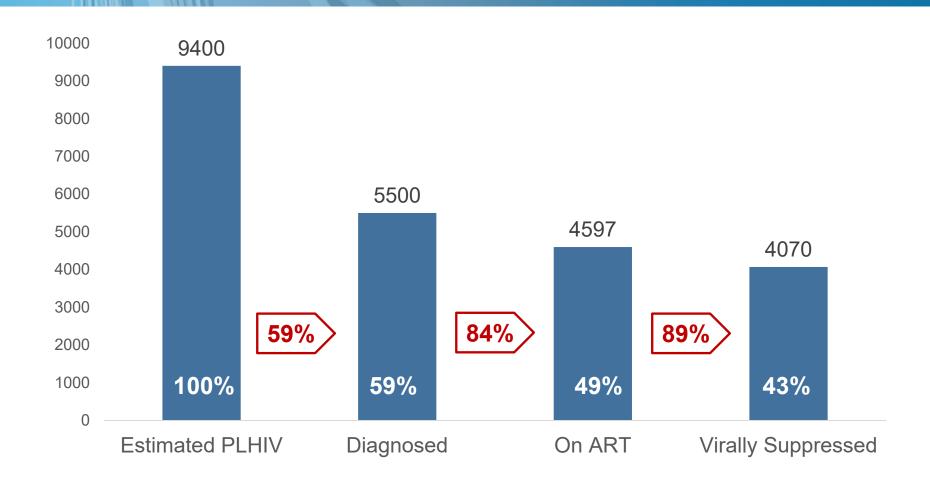
Free outpatient and inpatient services

Universal access to antiretroviral therapy

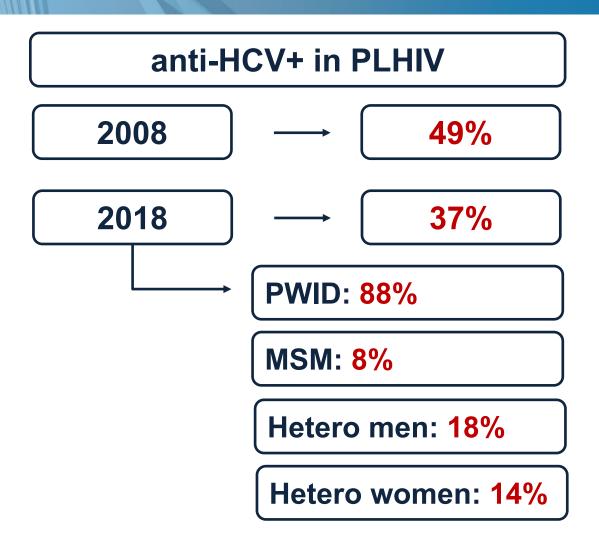
Integrated viral hepatitis care

anti-HCV, HCV RNA, Genotype, Fibrosis, DAAs

HIV Cascade in Georgia, 2018

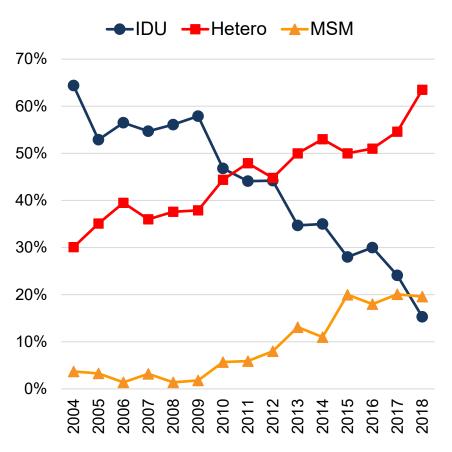


Epidemiology of HCV in PLHIV

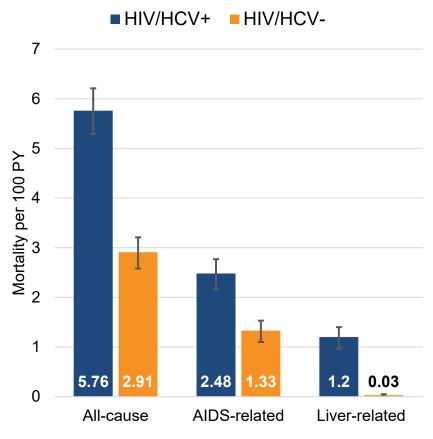


Changing Epidemiology of HCV/HIV

Decrease in IDU-related cases

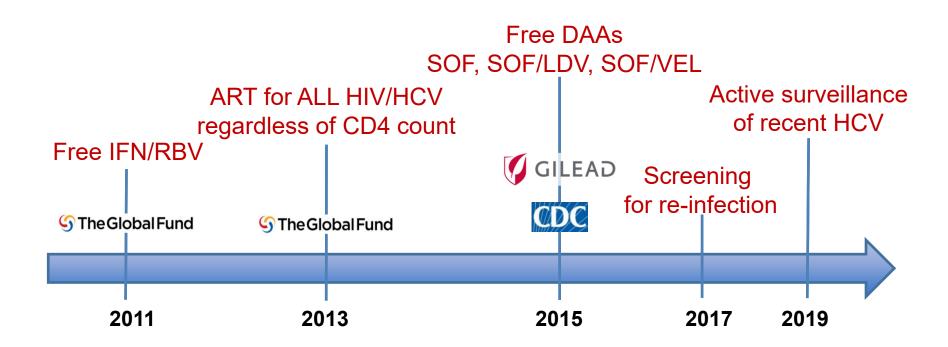


Higher Mortality in HIV/HCV



Chkhartishvili et al. Int J STD AIDS 2019.

Milestones on the Road to Micro-elimination



Approach to Micro-elimination

Stage 1

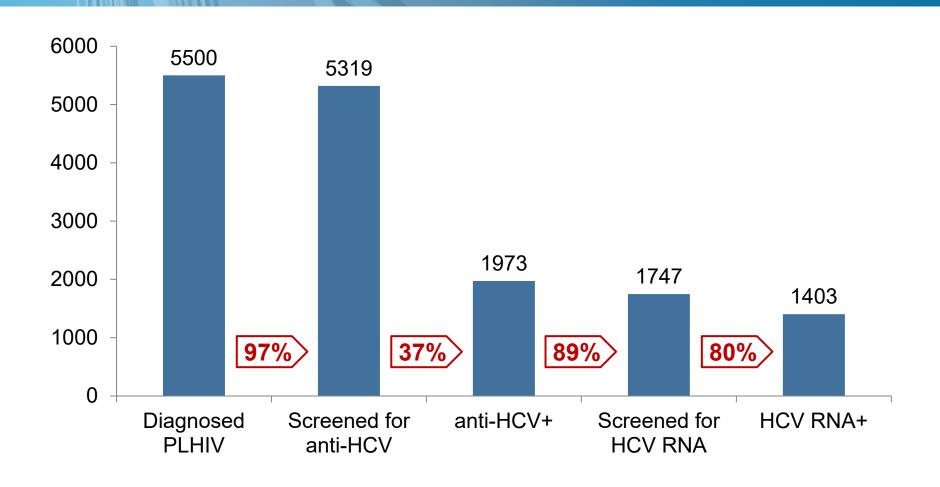
 Micro-elimination among HIV positive persons who are aware of their HIV status

Stage 2

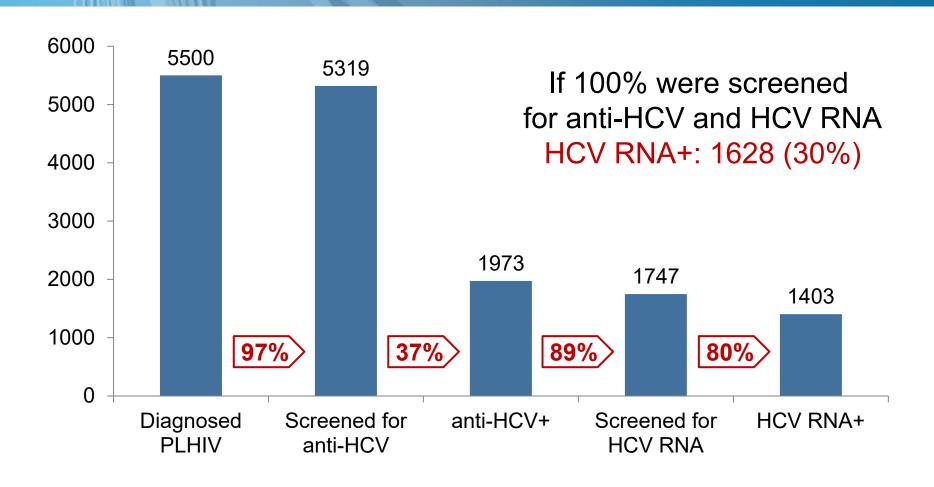
 Micro-elimination among total HIV population – currently aware + not aware of their HIV status

Stage 1: Micro-elimination among HIV positive persons who are aware of their HIV status

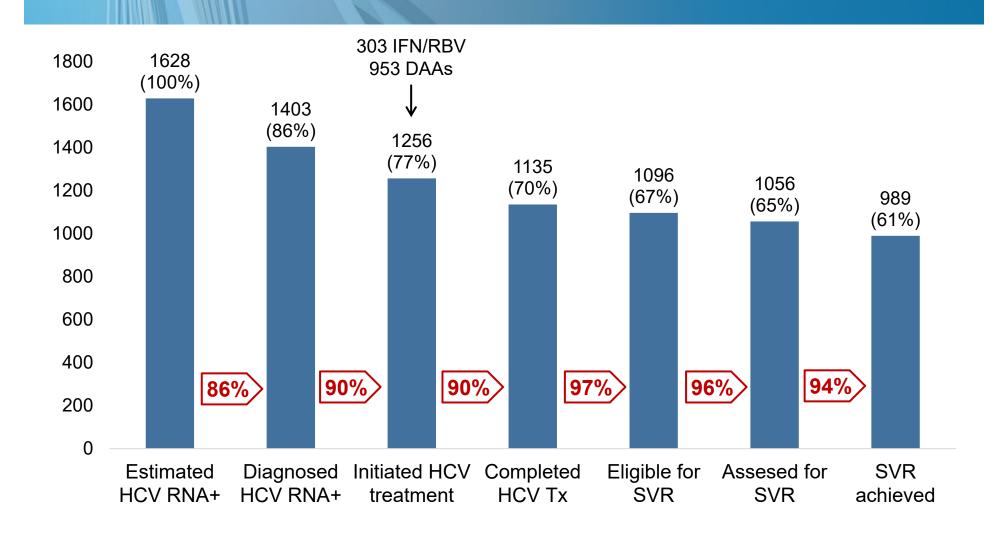
HCV Diagnostic Cascade Among PLHIV Aware of Their HIV Status



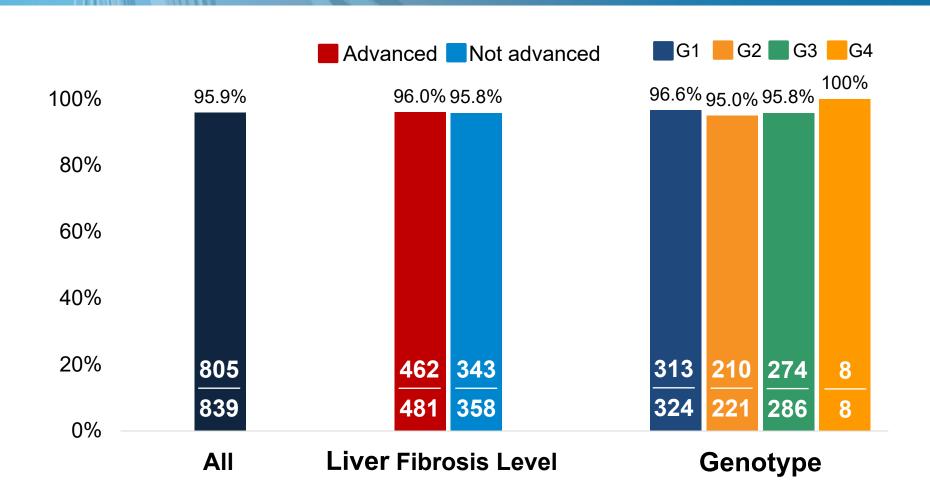
HCV Diagnostic Cascade Among PLHIV Aware of Their HIV Status



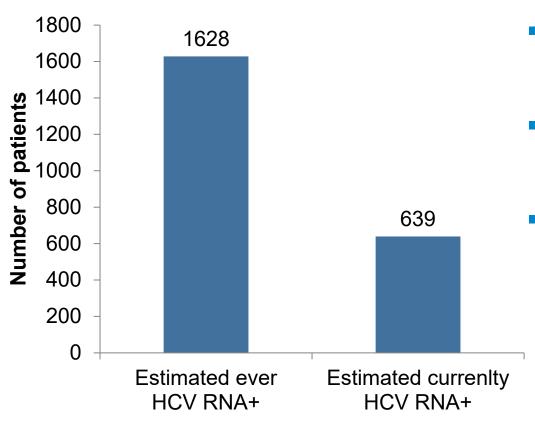
HCV Care Cascade Among PLHIV Aware of Their HIV status



Per-protocol SVR Rates of DAAs In PLHIV



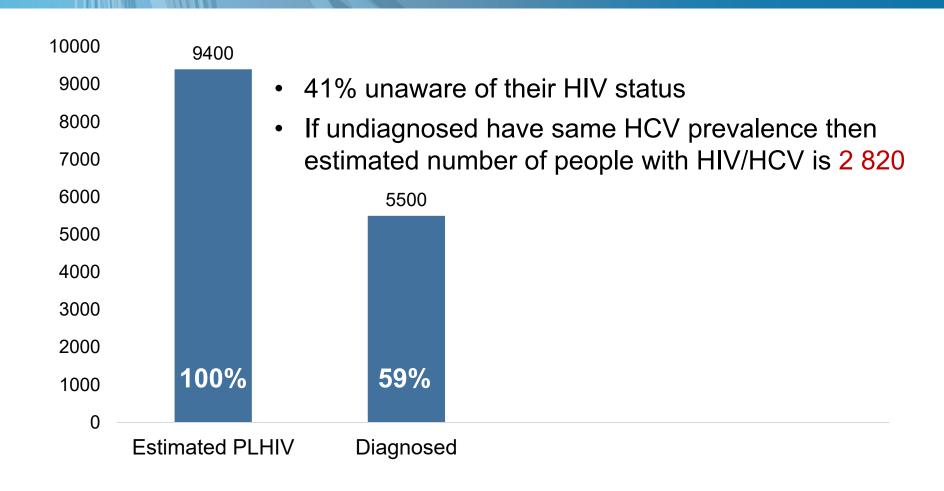
Impact: Reduction in Viremic Infections Among PLHIV Aware of Their HIV Status



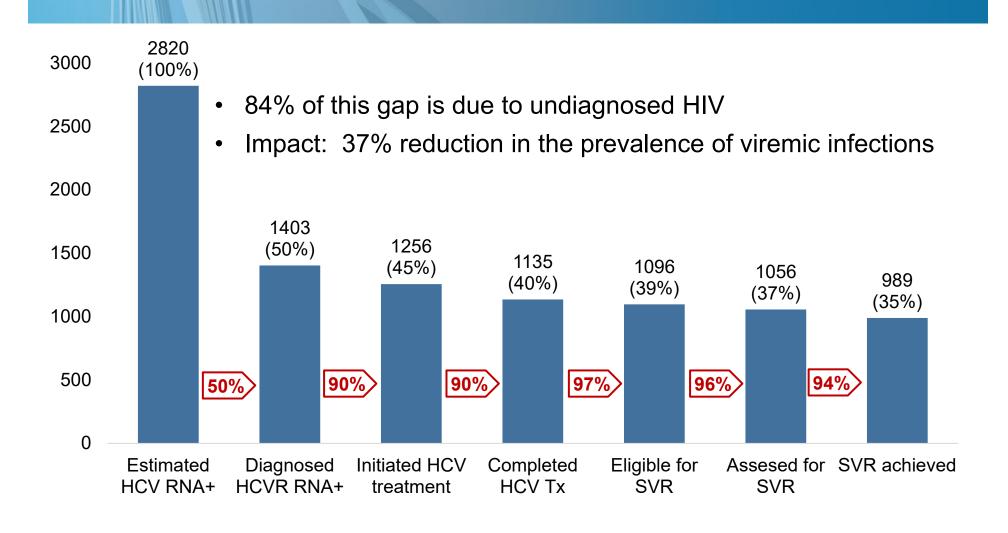
- 2.5-fold decrease in viremic infections
- Prevalence decreased from 30% to 12% -- 61% reduction
- Action point: ensure at least 95% engagement in each stage of diagnostic and care cascades



Defining Number HCV RNA+ Among Total PLHIV: Aware + Unaware of Their HIV Status



HCV Care Cascade Among Total PLHIV: Aware + Unaware of Their HIV Status



Improving HIV Diagnosis

- 188,142 persons tested and 672 (0.4%) diagnosed with HIV in 2018
- Insufficient HIV testing coverage of key populations at risk

• PWID: 36%

MSM: 55%

• FSW: 63%

Integrated HIV/HCV testing

- Integrated model of HCV, TB and HIV screening in primary healthcare initiated in 2018, and this needs to be expanded to other settings with high diagnostic yield
- Universal HIV screening of HCV+ persons enrolled in the national hepatitis C elimination program -- not all HCV care provider sites screen HCV patients for HIV

Georgia GAM Report 2019. Georgia HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan for 2019-2022. Khonelidze et al. Abstract PS-071. EASL 2019.

Summary

- Georgia is on track of micro-elimination among diagnosed HIV/HCV co-infected patients
- Undiagnosed HIV is the major challenge on the road to micro-elimination in total HIV population
- Filling the gap in diagnosis will be critical for achieving the goal
- Active surveillance of recent HCV infections (first infections and re-infections) → Early treatment of recent infections

Acknowledgements











Regional AIDS Centers in Kutaisi, Batumi, Zugdidi and Sokhumi



Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center

