HCV Screening and Linkage to Care among Pregnant Women and Children in Georgia

5th Hepatitis C Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting

Science Symposium

Nov 18-20, 2019

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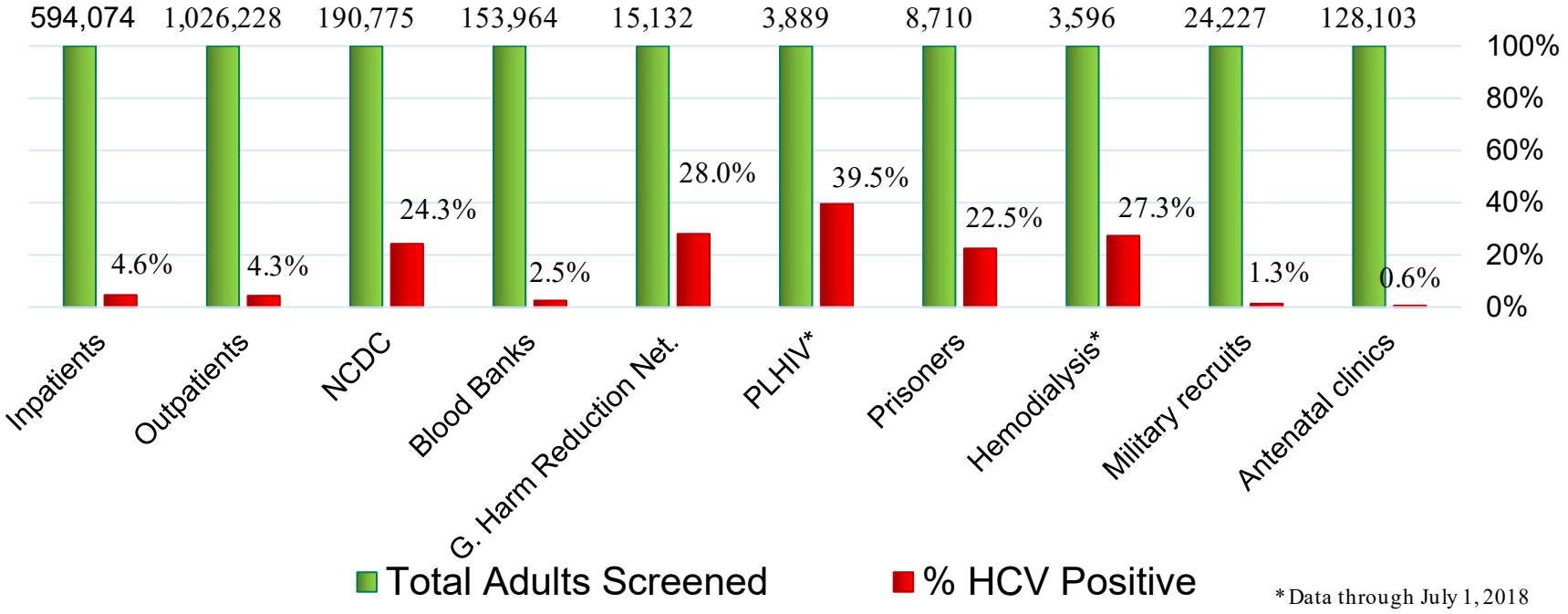
Division of Viral Hepatitis

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

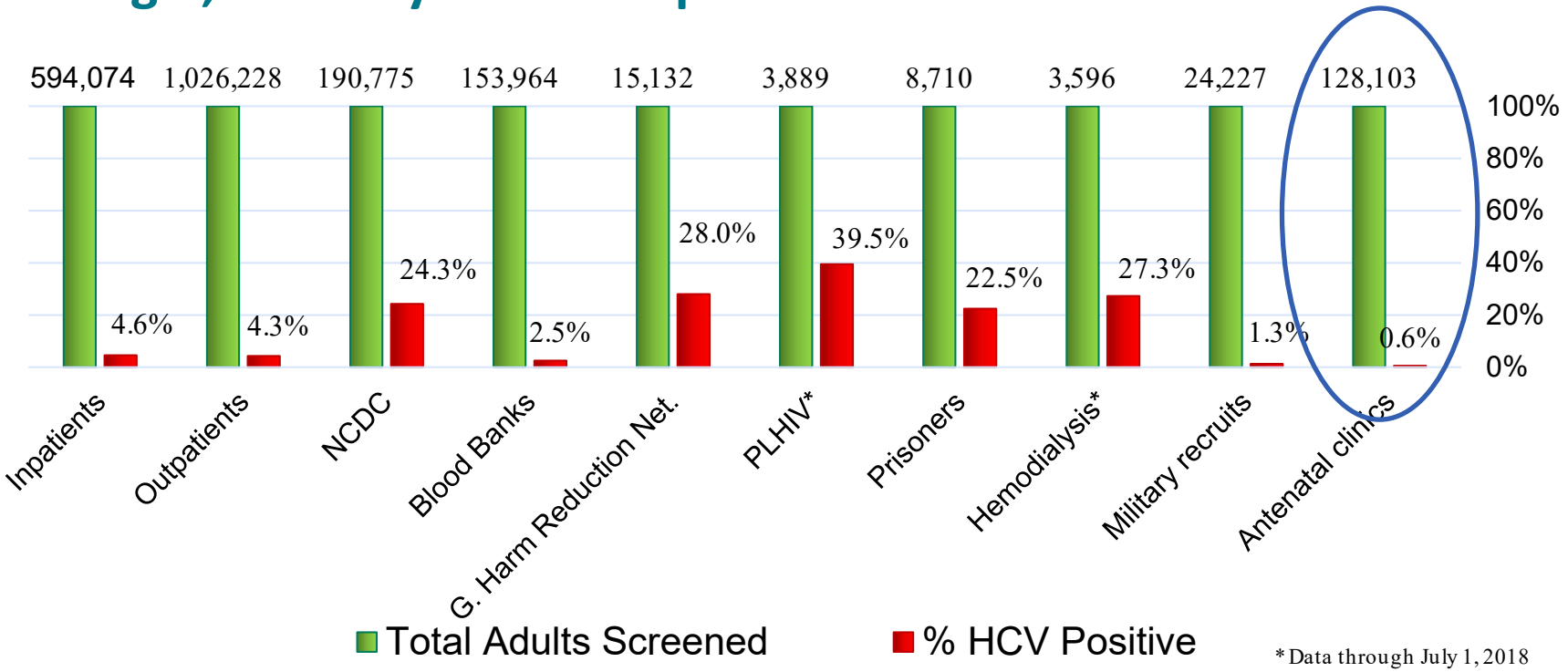
Background

National HCV Screening among Selected Adult Populations, Georgia, January 2015 – September 2019



*Data through July 1, 2018

National HCV Screening among Selected Adult Populations, Georgia, January 2015 – September 2019



*Data through July 1, 2018

Antenatal HCV Screening among Pregnant Women

- Universal access to prenatal care
- April-October, 2015
  - No mandatory screening for HCV antibody
- November, 2015 - present
  - Mandatory HCV screening during 1st trimester of pregnancy in addition to the screenings for HIV, HBV, and Syphilis
- January, 2018
  - HCV Core Antigen (HCV cAg) introduced for viremia testing after positive screening
- No recommended HCV curative treatment for pregnant women

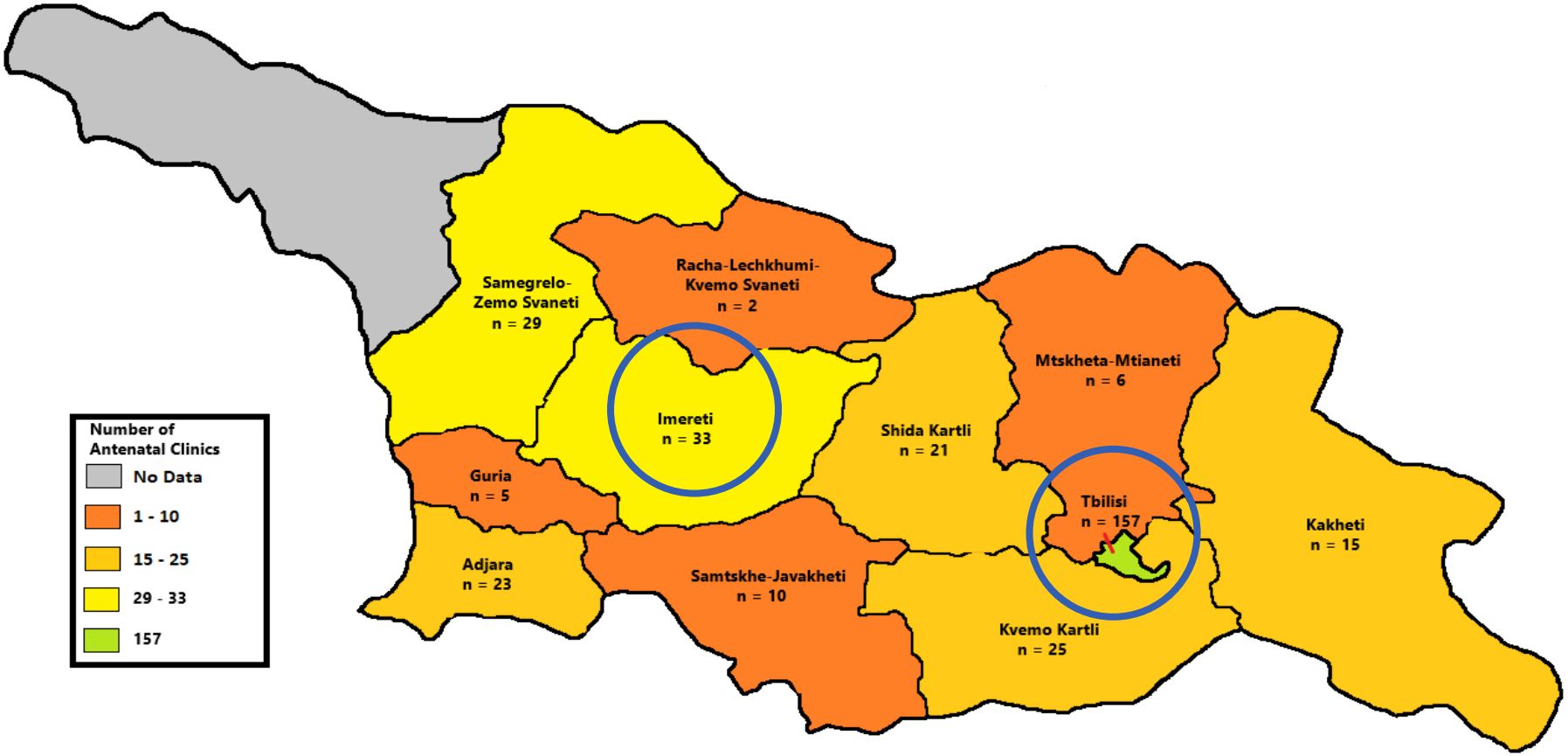
HCV Screening among Children

- November, 2016
  - Screening for anti-HCV for all hospitalized patients (including children)

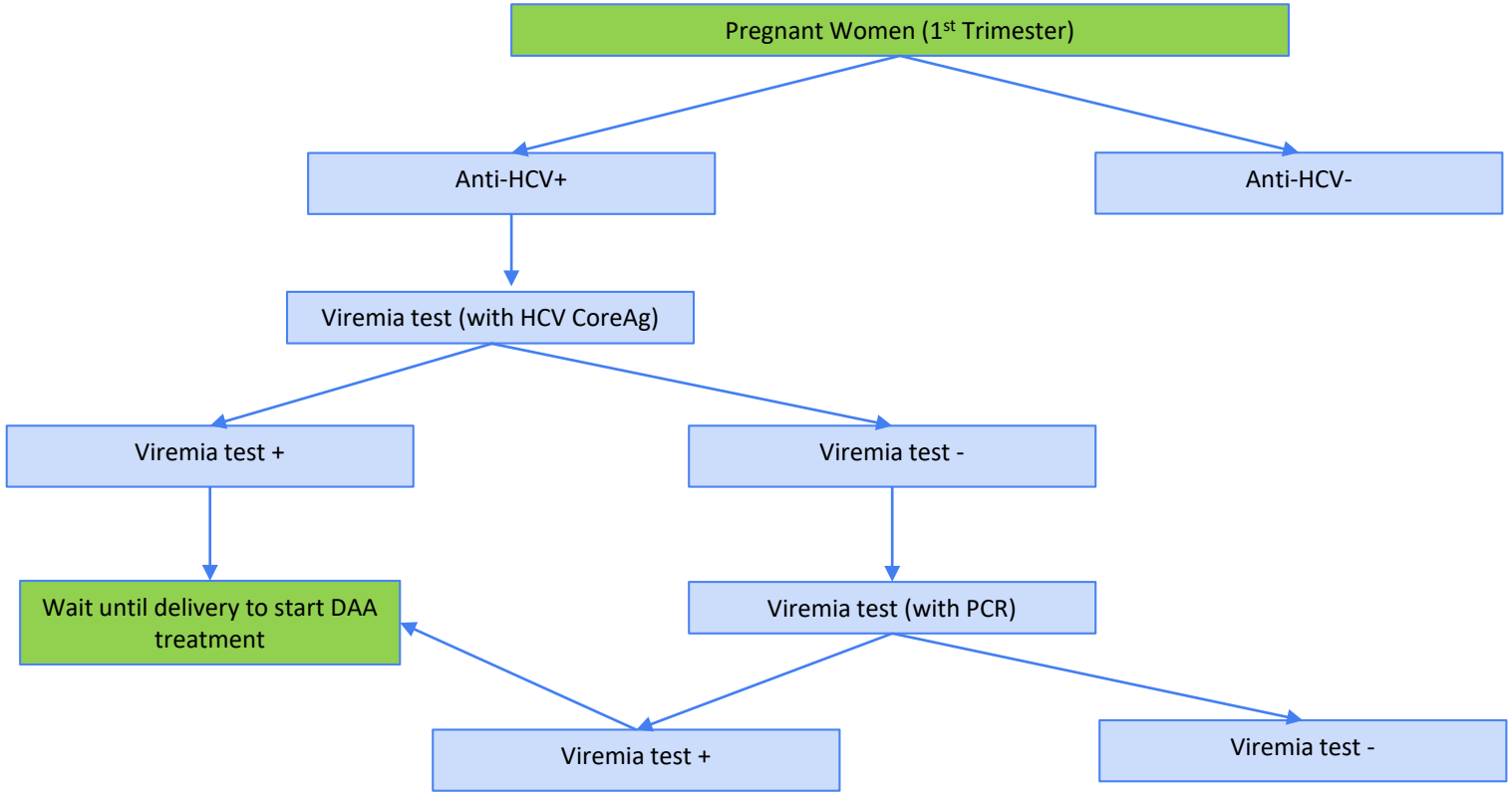
- May, 2017
  - Recommended HCV screening of children born to infected mothers at age 18 months

- No recommended HCV curative treatment for children <12 years

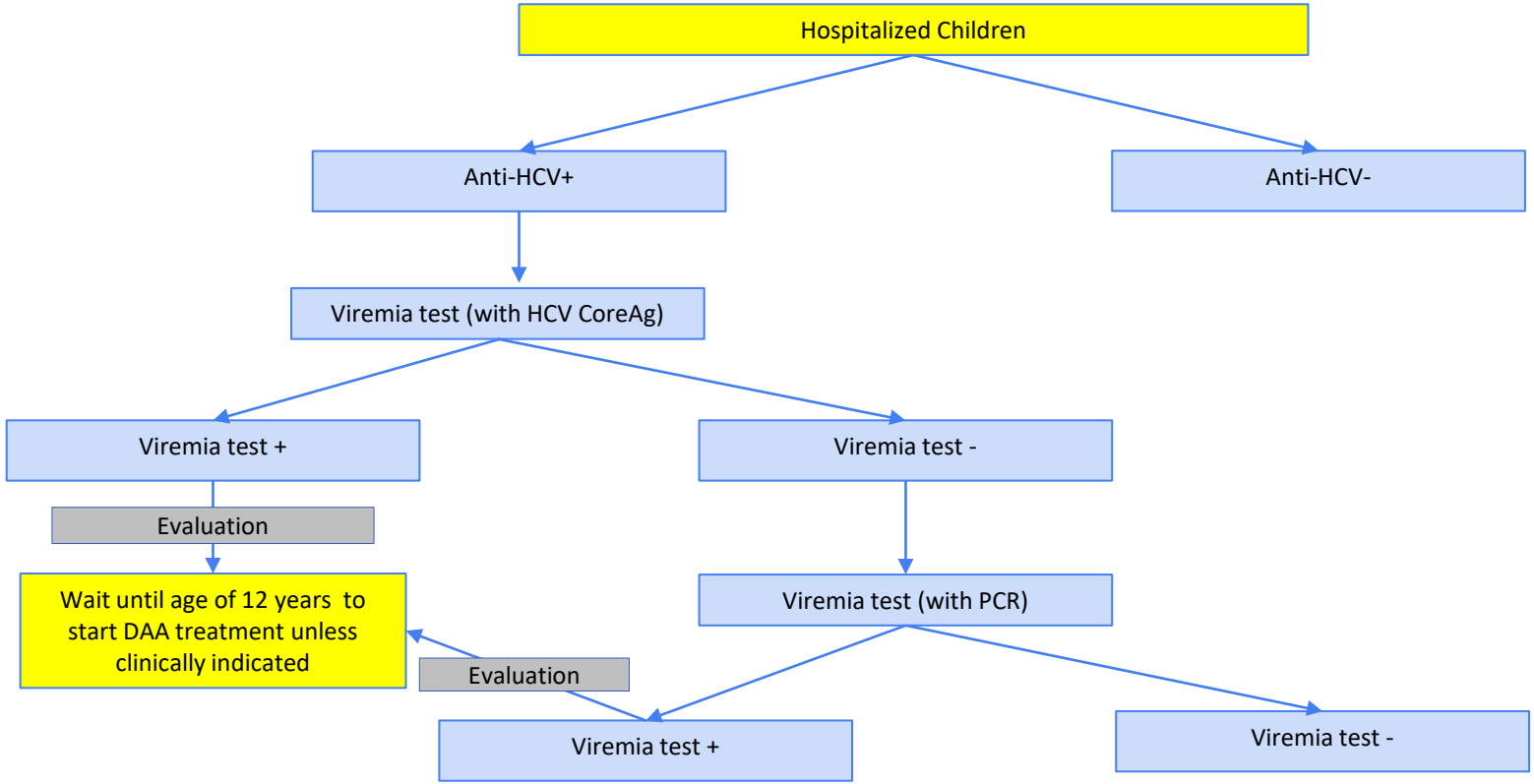
Regional Distribution of Antenatal Clinics (n=326), 2015-2019



HCV Testing Algorithm among Pregnant Women



HCV Testing Algorithm among Hospitalized Children



Objectives

- To describe HCV antenatal screening and linkage to care rates among pregnant women in Georgia

- To describe HCV screening rates among children under 12 years

Objective

- To describe HCV **antenatal** screening and linkage to care rates among pregnant women in Georgia

Methods

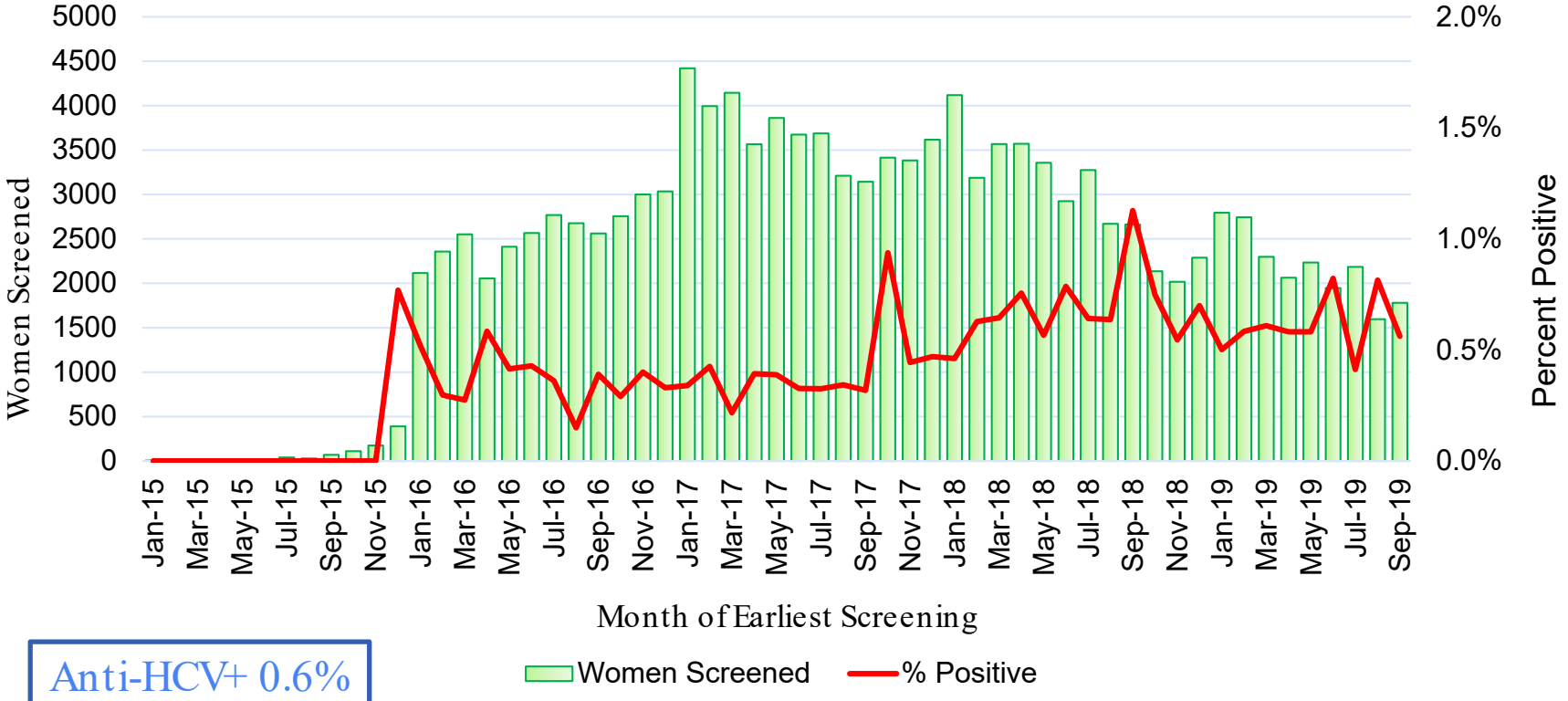
- Data sources
  - Screening registry
  - National ELIMINATION-C treatment data

- April 2015 to September 2019

- Linkage:
  - Women who were screened positive in antenatal clinics and subsequently received viremia testing and initiated treatment within the elimination program

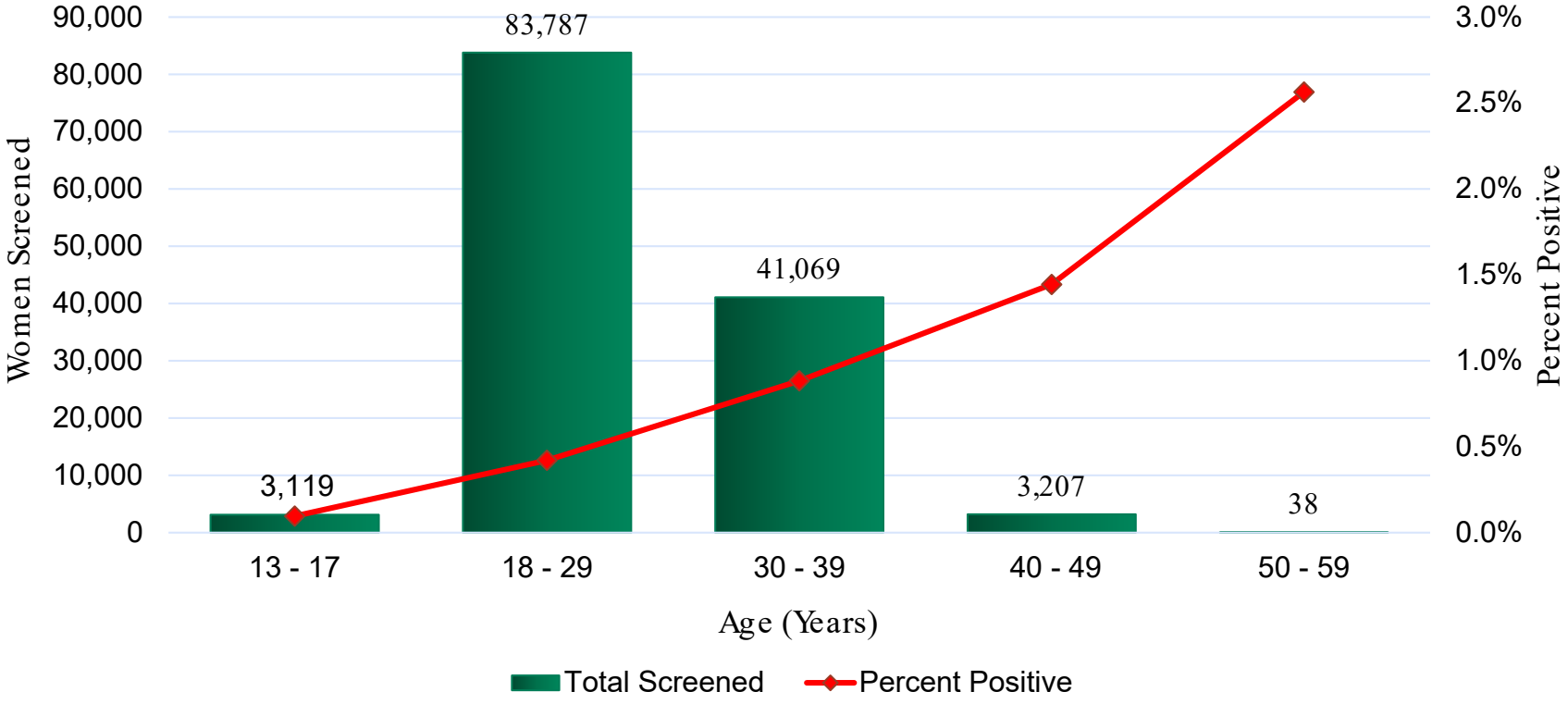
Results

Antenatal Screenings and Percent Positive, January 2015 – September 2019 (N= 131,227)



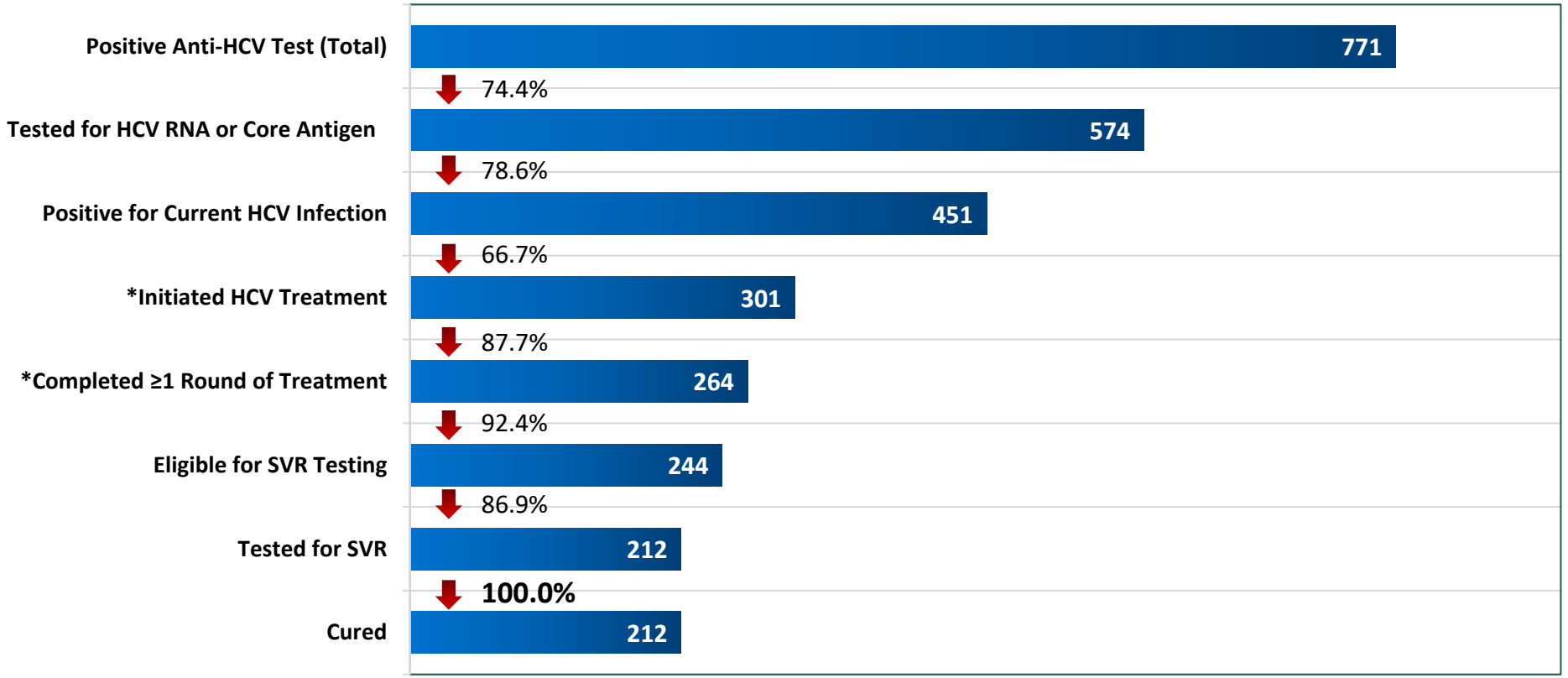
Anti-HCV+ 0.6%

Age Distribution of Antenatal Screening and Percent Positive, January 2015 – September 2019 (N= 131,227*)



*6 women had missing age

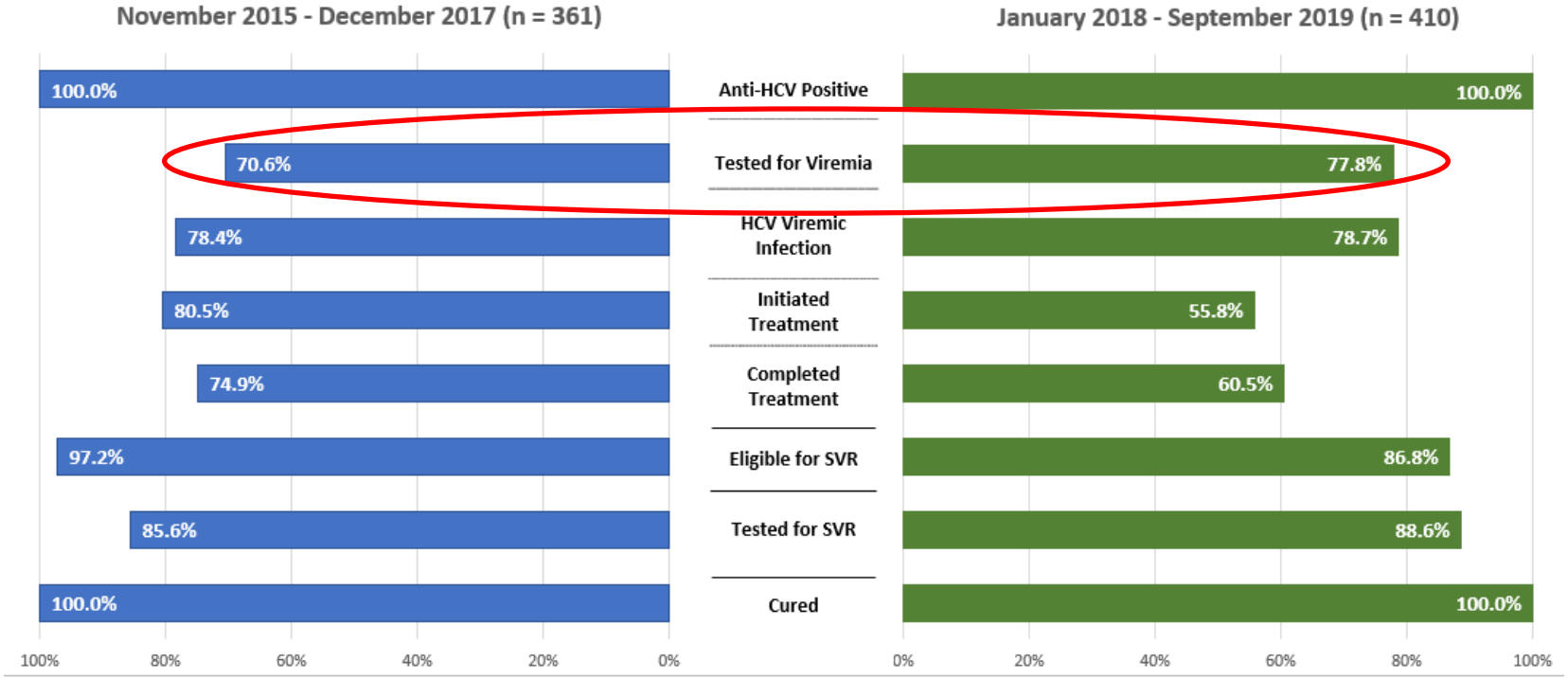
Care Cascade of Pregnant Women Screened at ANC, January 2015 – September 2019



Total Screened = 131,227

*May include women treated prior to their pregnancy and those not eligible for treatment yet

Care Cascade of Pregnant Women Before & After HCV coreAg Introduction



* November 2015 - December 2017 anti-HCV positive patients referred to specialized clinics for viremia testing; January 2018 - September 2019 anti-HCV positive patients received reflex CoreAg testing

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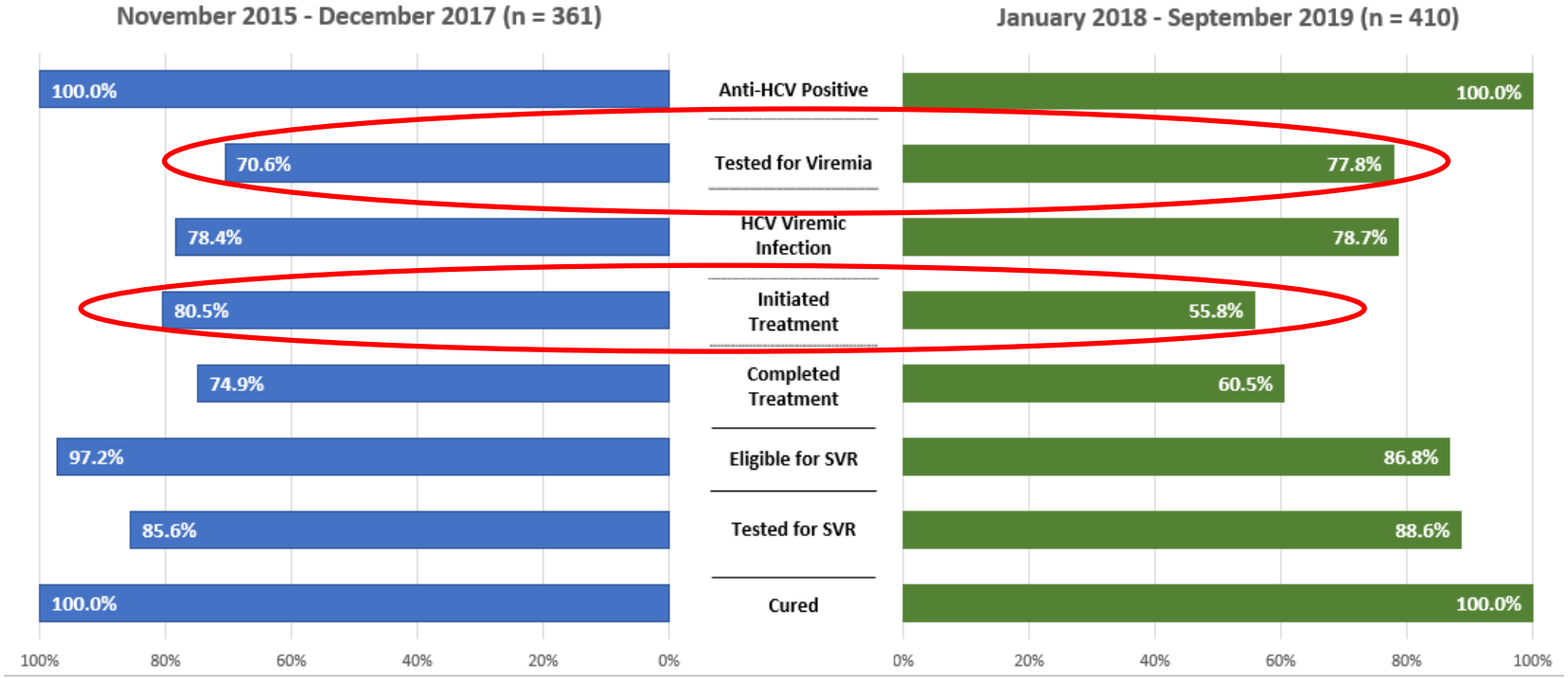
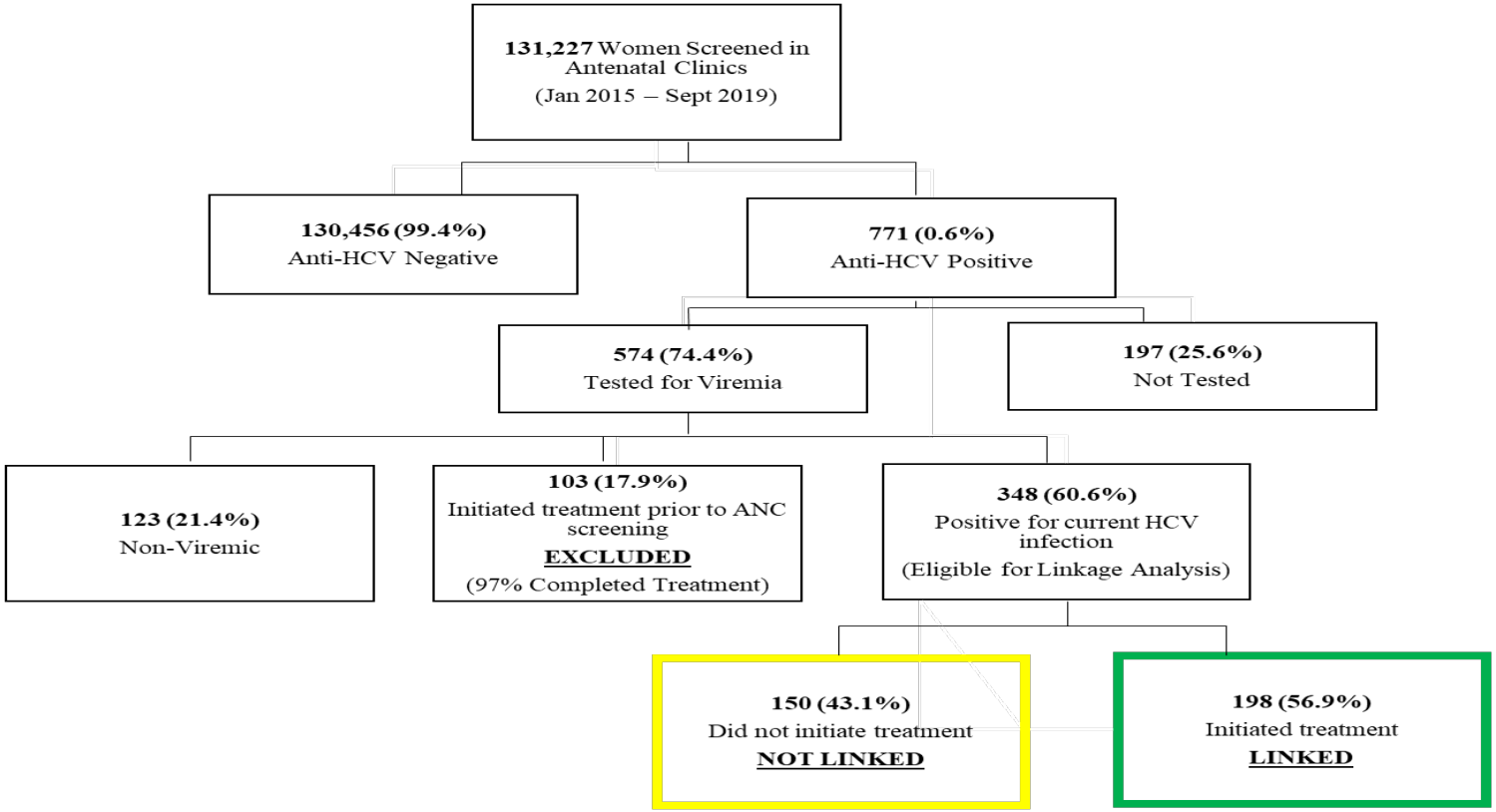


* November 2015 - December 2017 anti-HCV positive patients referred to specialized clinics for viremia testing; January 2018 - September 2019 anti-HCV positive patients received reflex CoreAg testing

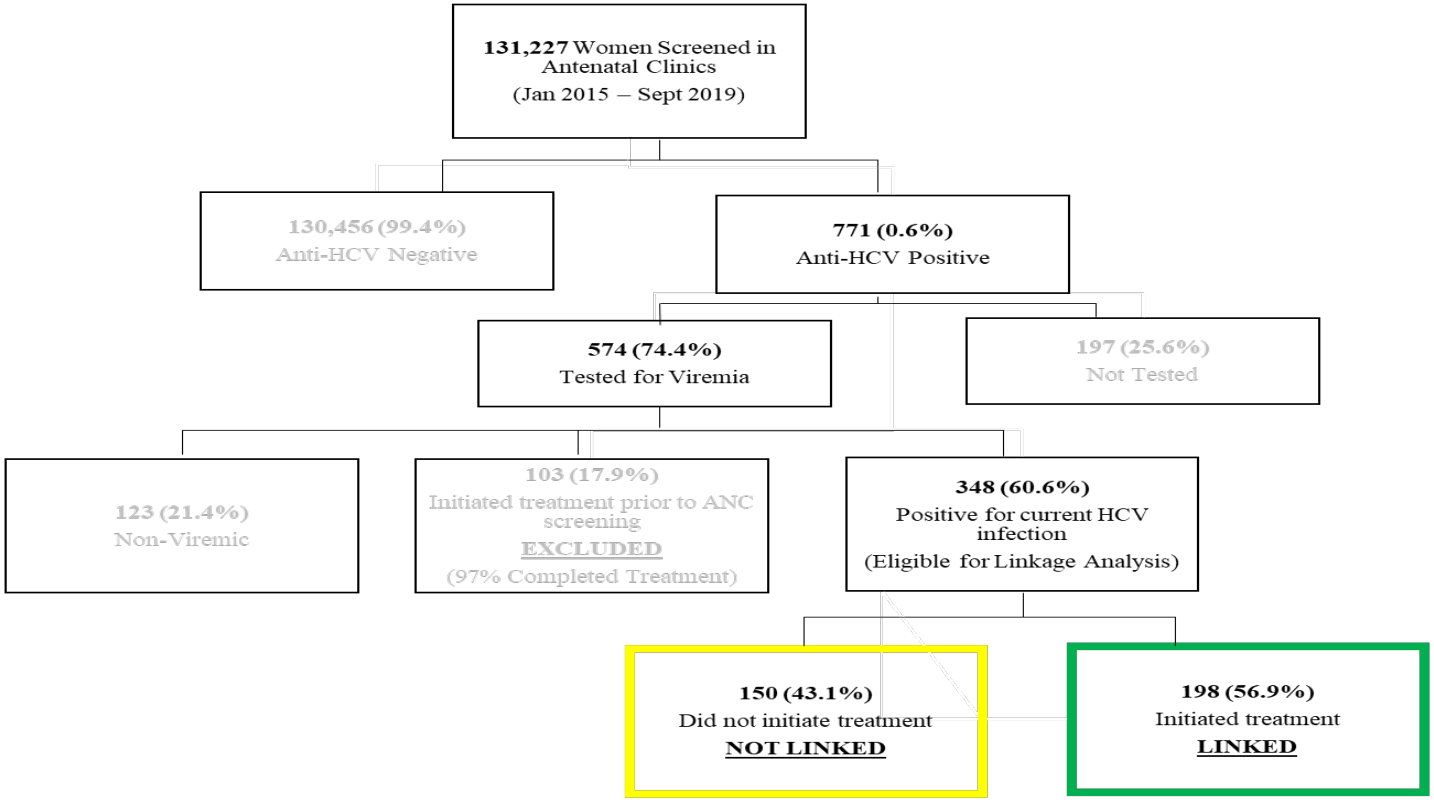
Screened Multiple Times—January 2015 - September 2019

- 19,504 (14.9%) women were screened >1 time in ANC settings (including multiple pregnancies)
- 167 women had at least 1 positive and 1 negative screening test
- 79 women screened positive multiple times

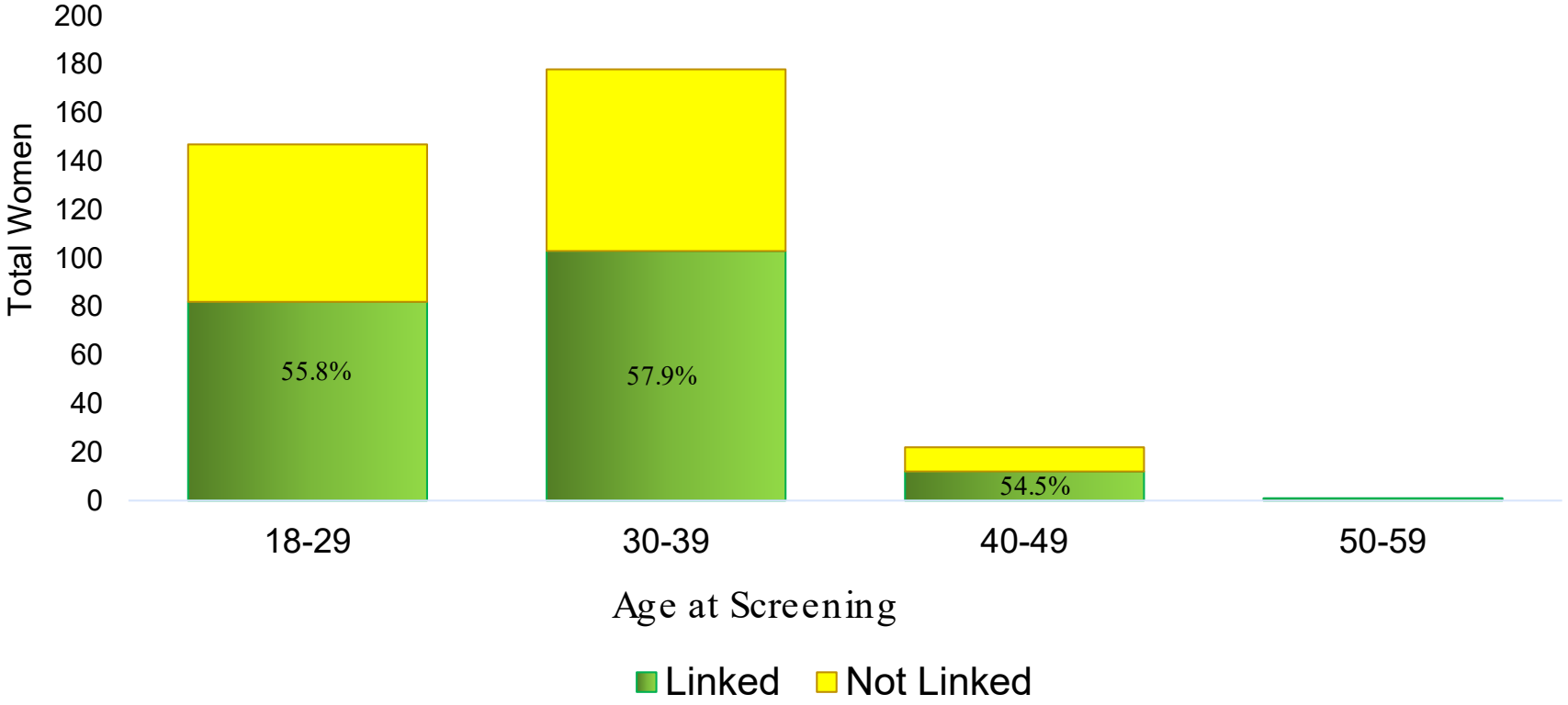
Antenatal Screening and Linkage to HCV Care, January 2015 – September 2019



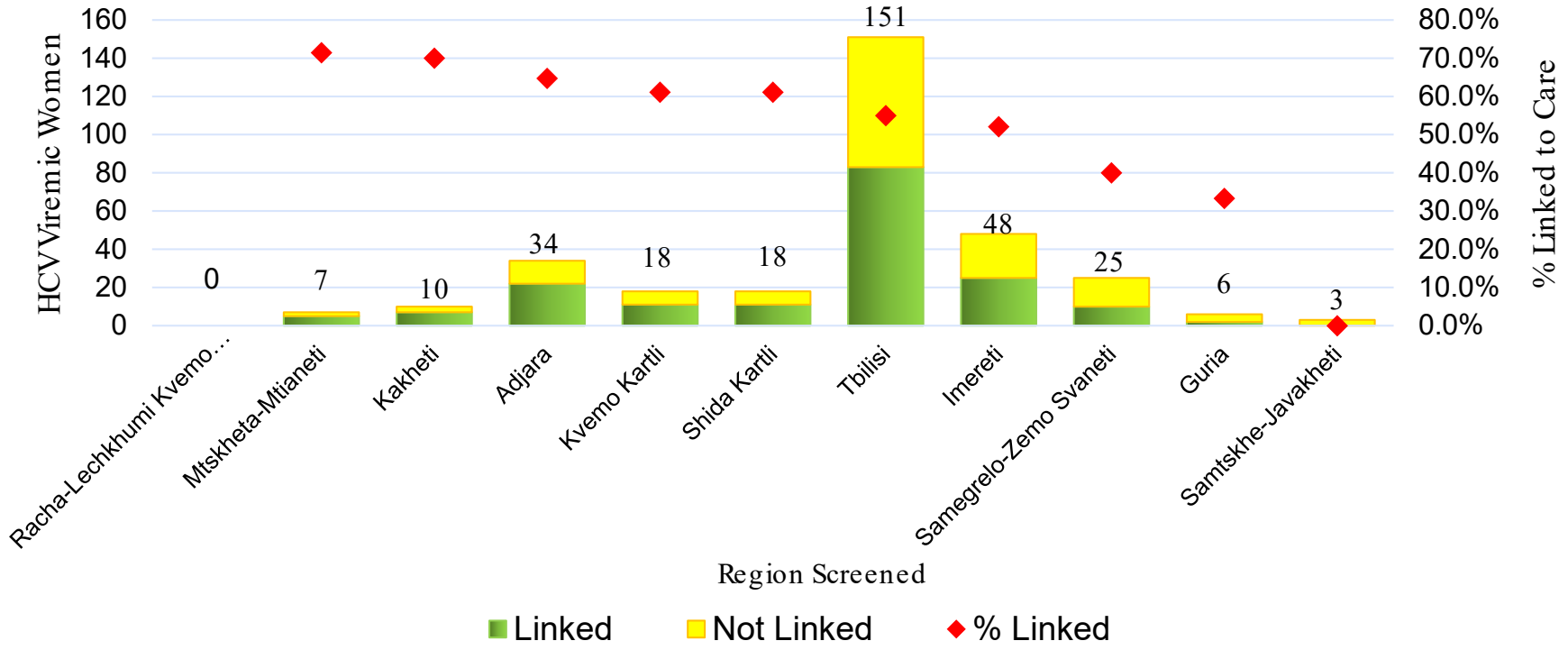
Antenatal Screening and Linkage to HCV Care, January 2015 – September 2019



Linkage to HCV Care by Age, January 2015 – September 2019



Linkage to HCV Care by Region, January 2015 – September 2019



Objective

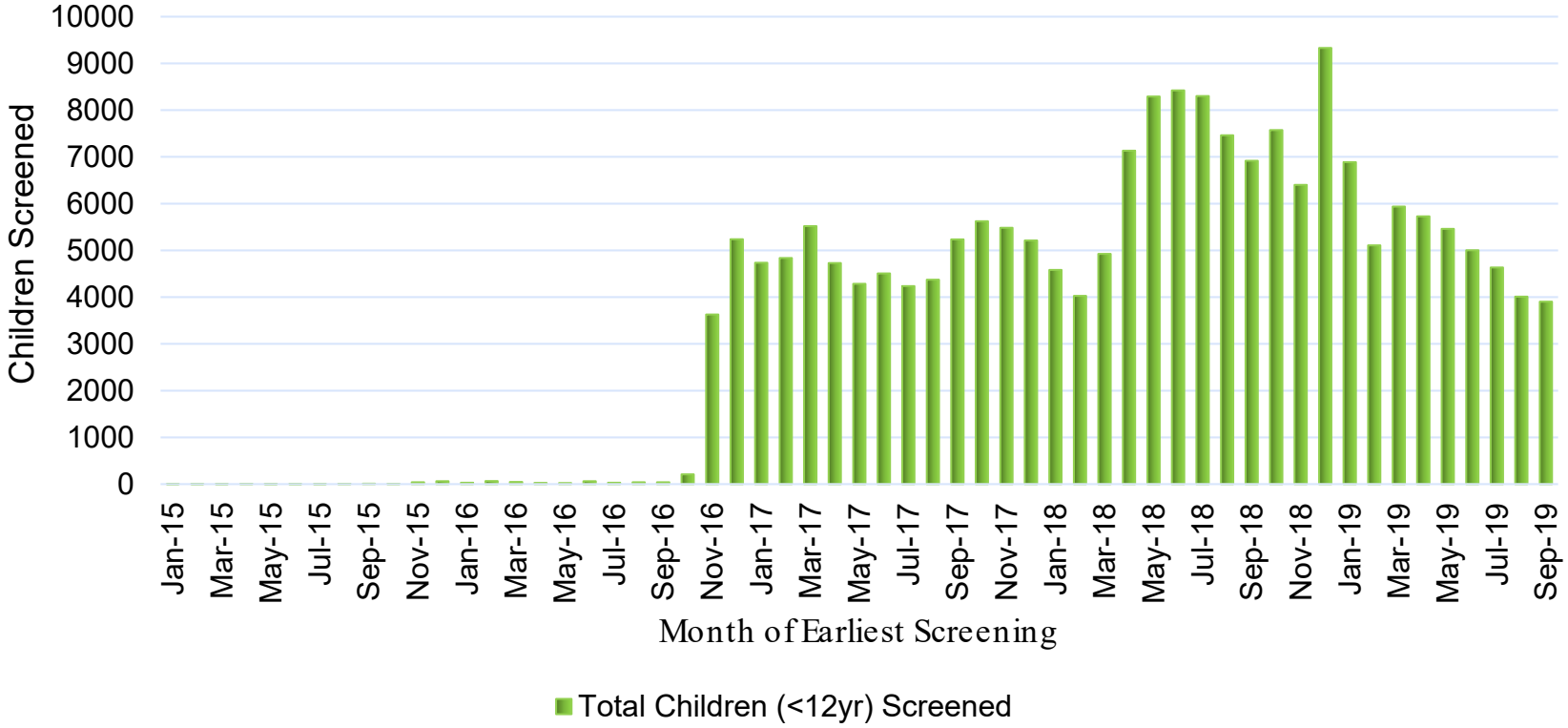
- To describe HCV screening rates among **children** under 12 years

Methods

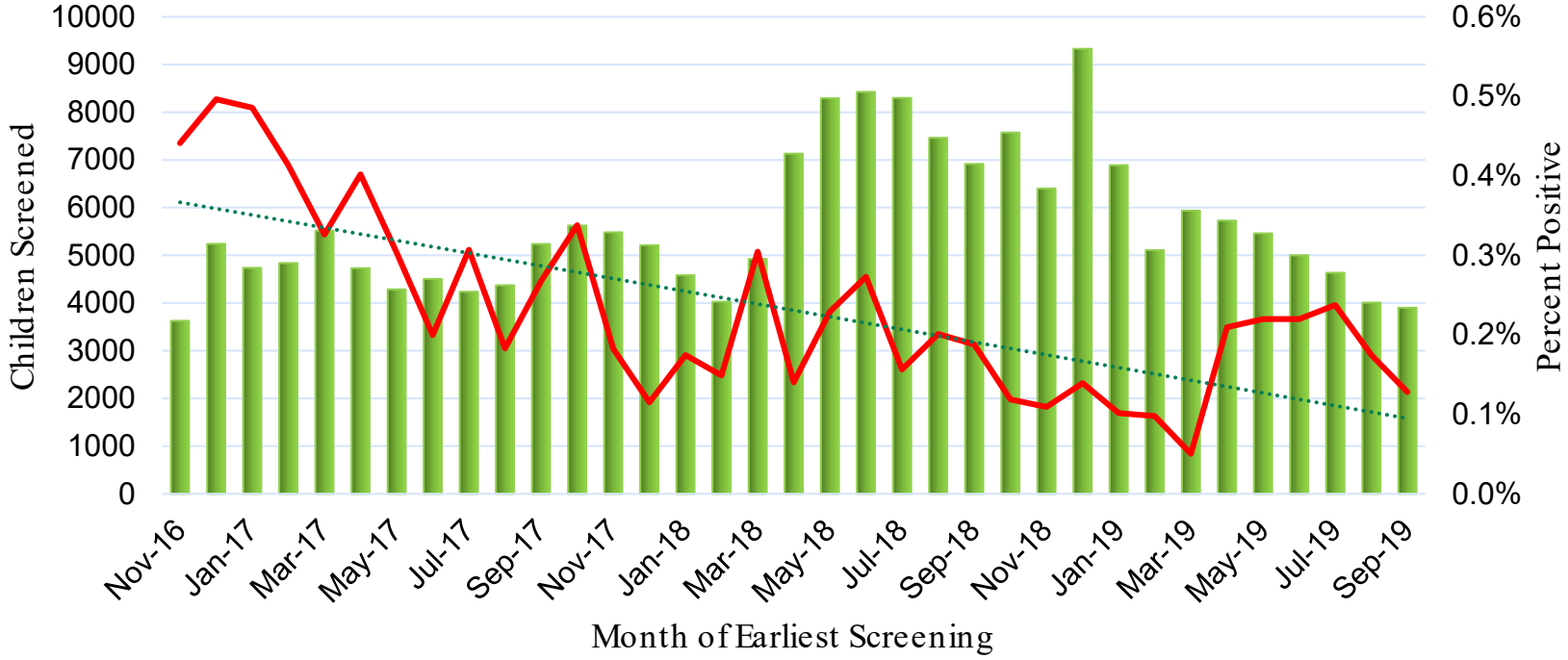
- Data sources
  - Screening registry
  - E-Health (electronic medical records)
  - National ELIMINATION-C treatment data

- November 2015 to September 2019

Children (<12 yr) Screened, January 2015 – September 2019 (N=198,379)

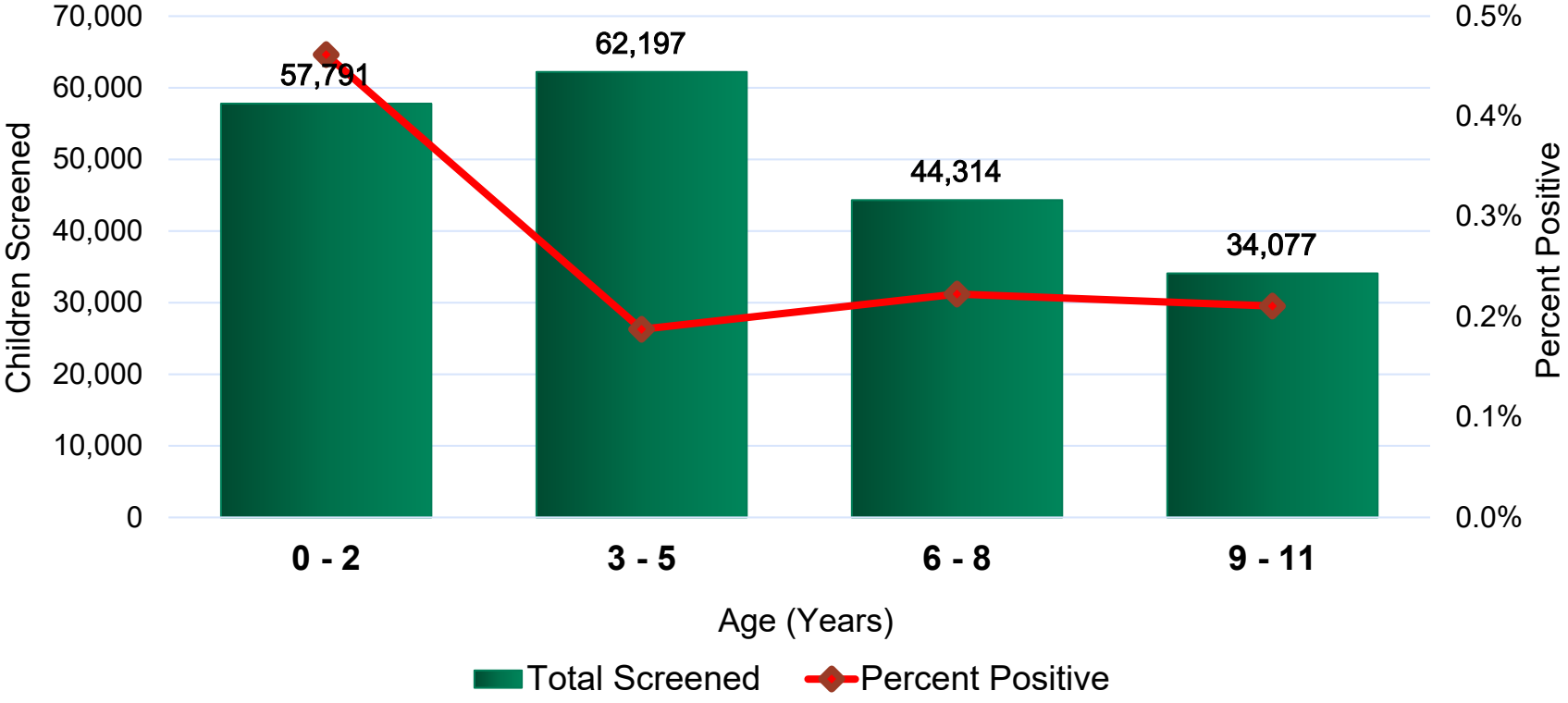


Children (<12 yr) Screened and Percent Positive, November 2016 – September 2019 (N=197,669)



Anti-HCV+ 0.2%

Age Distribution of Children (<12 yr) Screened and Percent Positive, January 2015 – September 2019 (N=198,379)



Summary

- Antenatal Screening
  - Overall anti-HCV+ prevalence among pregnant women is 0.6%
  - Anti-HCV+ rates increased with maternal age
  - Linkage to care rates vary by regions
  - CoreAg introduction resulted in increased viremia testing but decreased treatment initiation
  - 167 women with discordant ant-HCV screening results

- Children Screening
  - Overall anti-HCV+ prevalence among children (<12 years) is 0.2%
  - Anti-HCV+ rates vary between age groups with highest among aged 0-2yrs (includes passive maternal antibodies)
  - Decreasing trend of anti-HCV+ supports success of HCV elimination program

Limitations/Challenges

- Screening Registry
  - Not able to link mother-child pairs (currently)
- Data not independently verified
  - Cannot rule data entry errors for women ages, especially 50-59 years
- No information available on type of rapid test used by the facilities
- No information available on post HCV test counselling
- No follow up of children born to HCV-infected mothers

Conclusions & Next Steps

- Low anti-HCV prevalence among pregnant women screened in antenatal care and among children aged <12 years
- Study of mothers-child pairs
- Analyze
  - Discordant results
  - Screened multiple times because of multiple pregnancies
- Needs a program to follow up children of HCV-infected mothers

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.