



Progress and Challenges of the HCV Elimination Program in Georgia 2015-2019

Tamar Gabunia, First Vice Minister

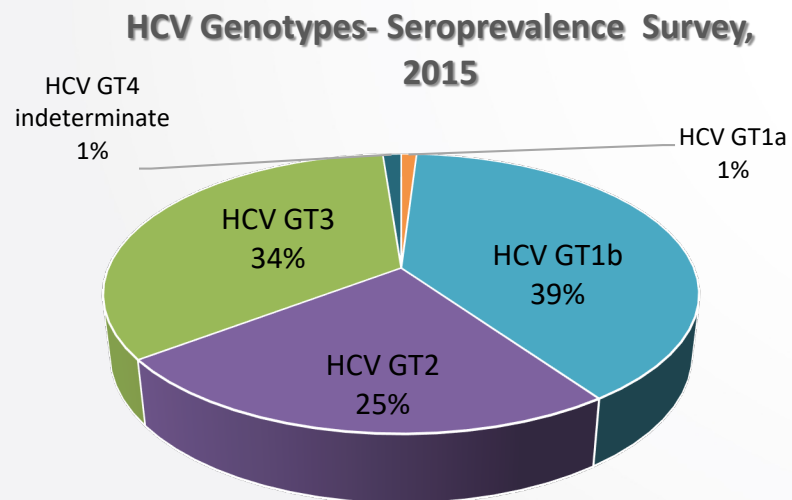
**Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the
Occupied Territories, Labor, Health, and Social Affairs**

Tbilisi, Georgia; 19th of November, 2019

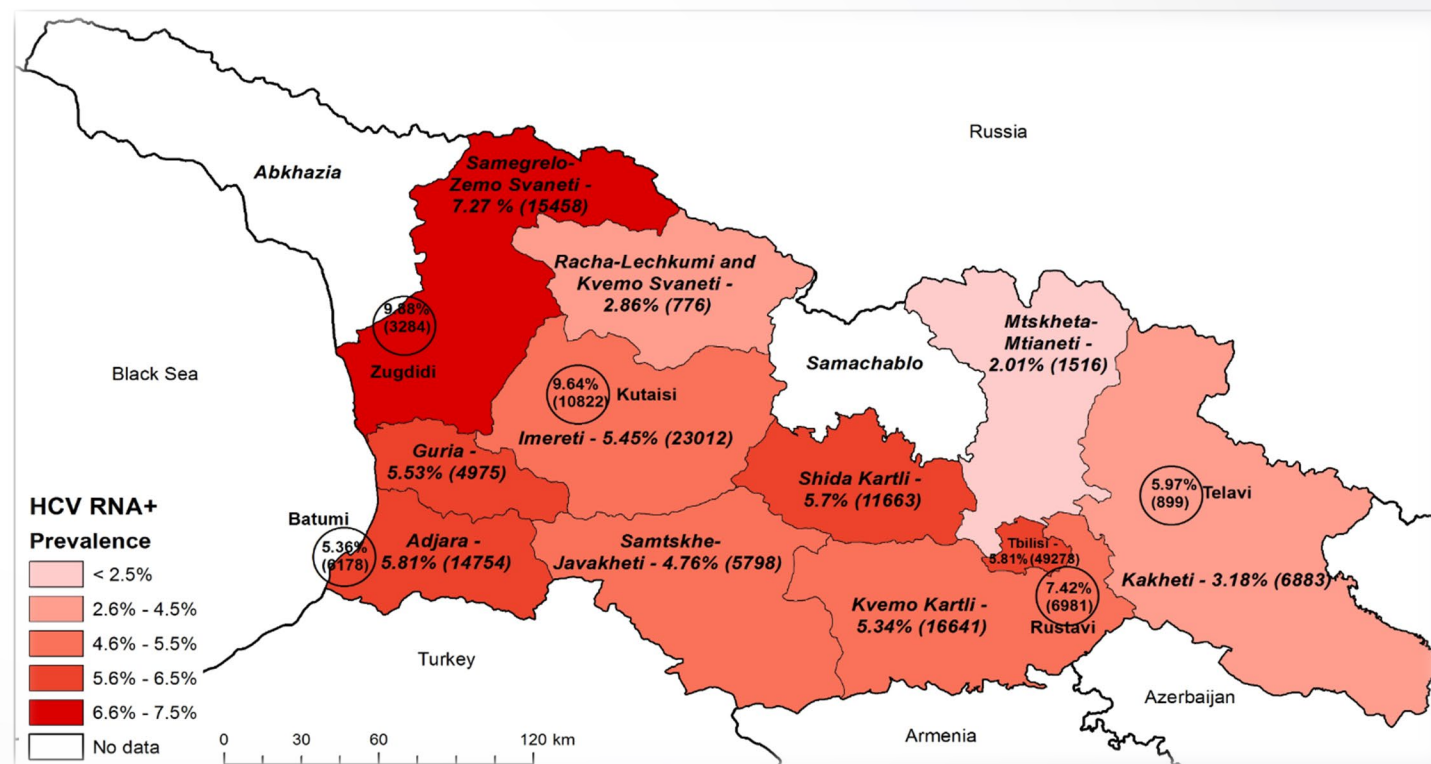


HCV Seroprevalence Survey, 2015

Characteristic	n	Weighted %	Estimated # nationwide ≥ 18 years
<u>Anti-HCV+</u>	425	7.7%	215,000
<u>HCV RNA+</u>	311	5.4%	150,000



Prevalence and Estimated Number of HCV RNA+ Individuals by Regions and Cities





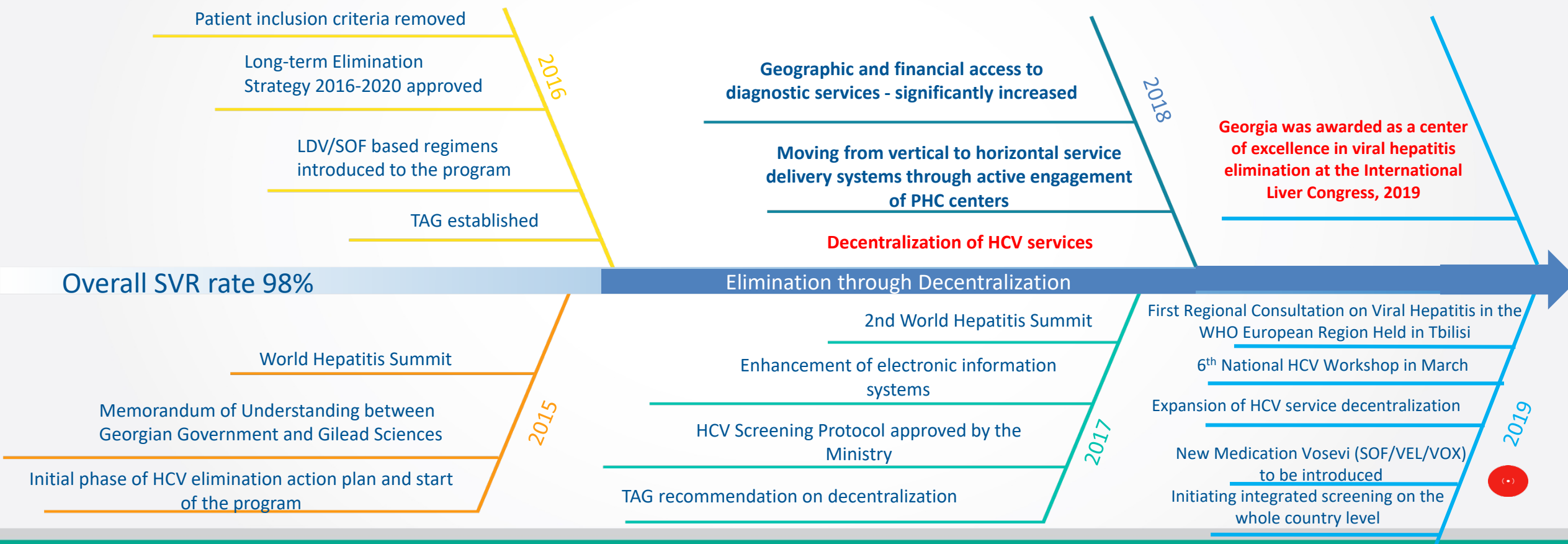
Georgian HCV Elimination Program – Best Example of Universality





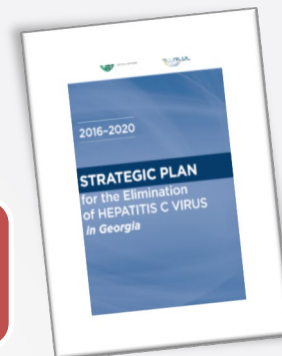
Road Towards HCV Elimination

62% (1.71million) of the adult population has been screened for HCV
62,927 people (49% of the target) are enrolled in treatment





National HCV Elimination Strategy



Goal

Elimination of HCV by ensuring prevention,
diagnostics and treatment of the disease

Targets

90-95-95

By 2020

- ✓ **90%** of people living with HCV are diagnosed
(n=135,000)
- ✓ **95%** of those diagnosed are treated (n=128,250)
- ✓ **95%** of those treated are cured (n=122,000)

Promote advocacy, awareness and education,
and partnerships for HCV associated resource
mobilization

Prevent HCV transmission

Identify persons infected with HCV

Improve HCV laboratory diagnostics

Provide HCV care and treatment

Improve HCV Surveillance



The screening groups

Anti-HCV Screening

Mandatory for service providers

Pregnant women

Blood donors

Hospitalized patients

Recruits

The state program of
"Maternal and child health"

Blood banks

Licensed hospitals

Ministry of Defense

Optional for service providers

High risk groups

Prisoners

General Population,
Ambulatory Patients,
Chronic Patients

Global Fund's Project,
the state programs for
treating HIV / AIDS and
Tuberculosis

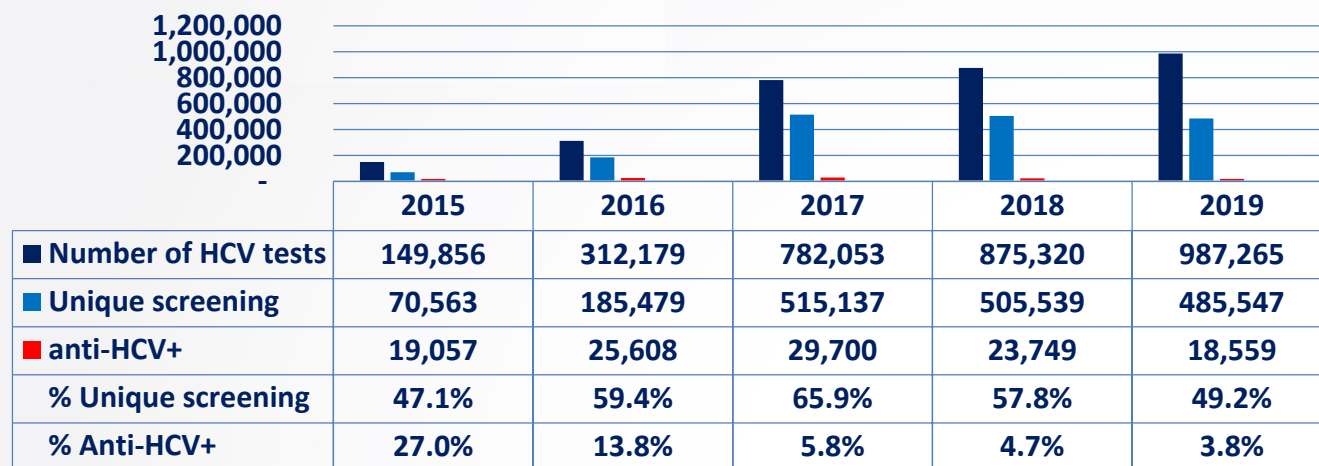
The state program of
Hepatitis C
Management

Integrated Screening (HCV/HIV/TB) in Primary Healthcare Services



HCV Screening Among the Georgian Population

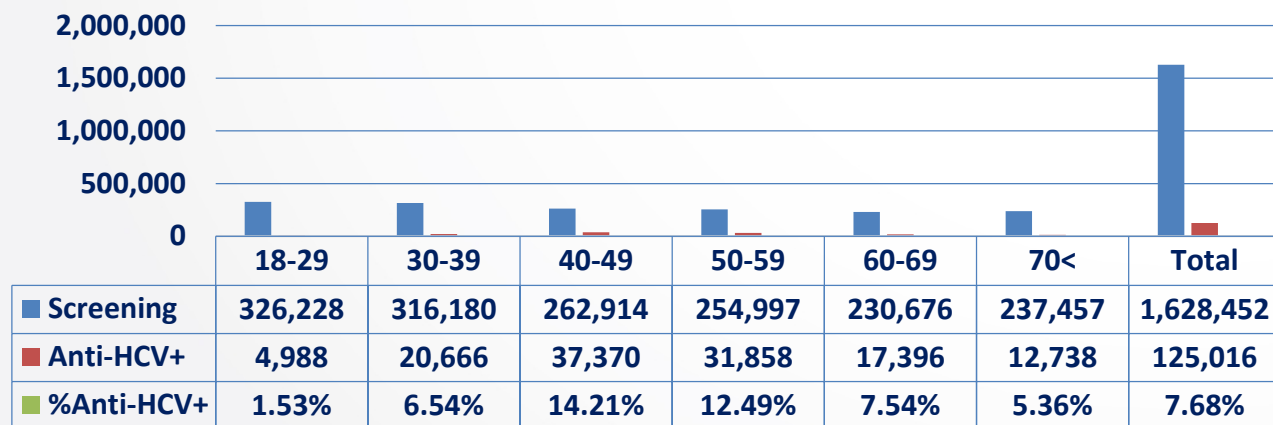
Screening by Years



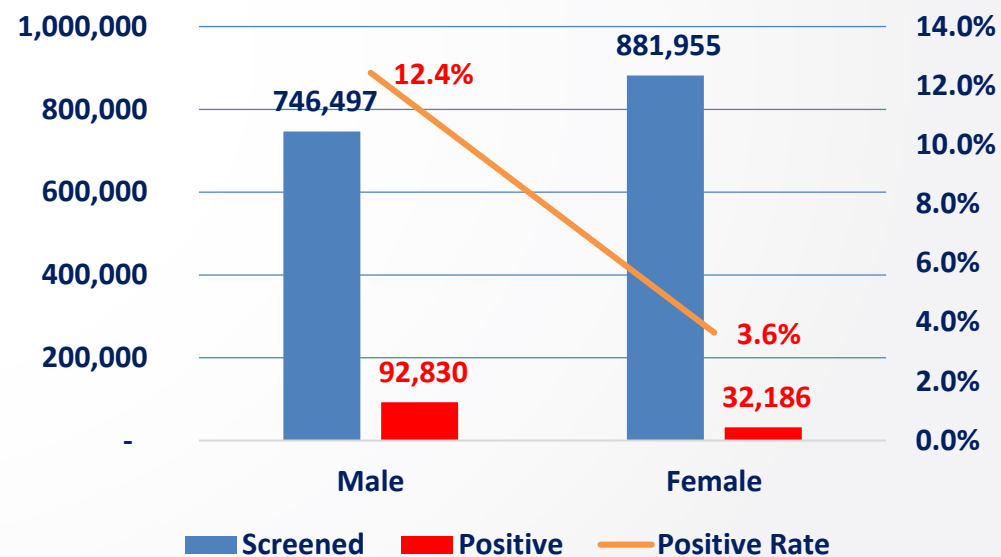
Since 2015, **over 3,3 million** screenings have been registered in the Unified Screening Registry

≈1,98 million individuals (1,7 mill.adults) have been screened with a positivity rate of **8,4%**

Screened Individuals by Age Groups (Ident.by ID number)

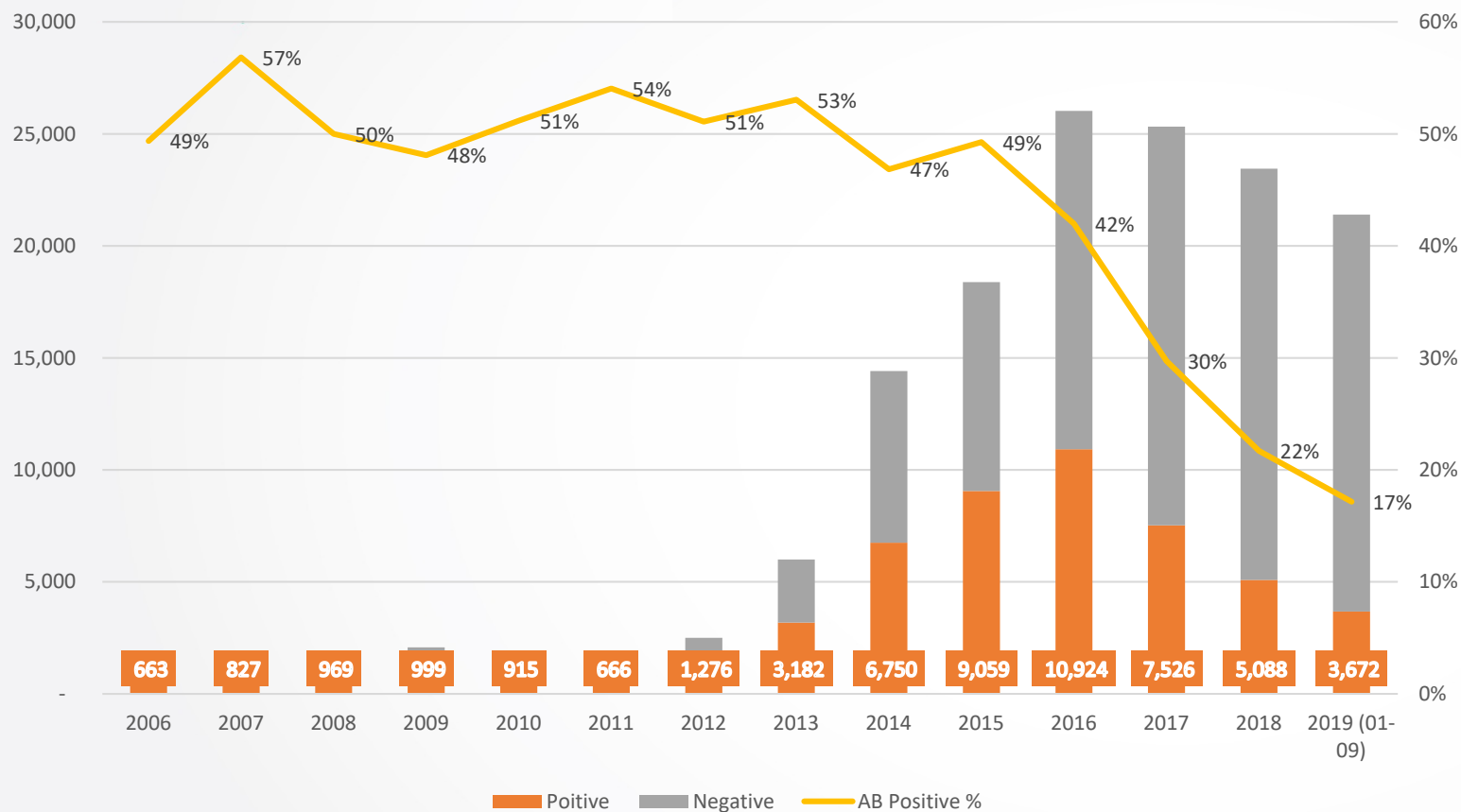


Screened Individuals by Sex





Number of HCV testing sessions among PWIDs by years



14 Harm Reduction Centers



8 Mobile Units



>80 Harm Reduction Workers



Micro-elimination in Specific Risk-Groups

	TB Patients	HIV Infected Individuals	Hemophilia Patients	OST Program Beneficiaries	Dialysis Patients	War Veterans and Their Family Members
Target Population	2 122	4 090	389	9 080	2 979	69 254
Screenings	1 985	4 008	385	7 943	2 657	35 047
Screening Coverage %	94%	98%	99%	87%	89%	51%
Of Those Positive	331	1 439	141	6 799	622	4093
Finding Screening Positives %	17%	36%	37%	86%	23%	12%



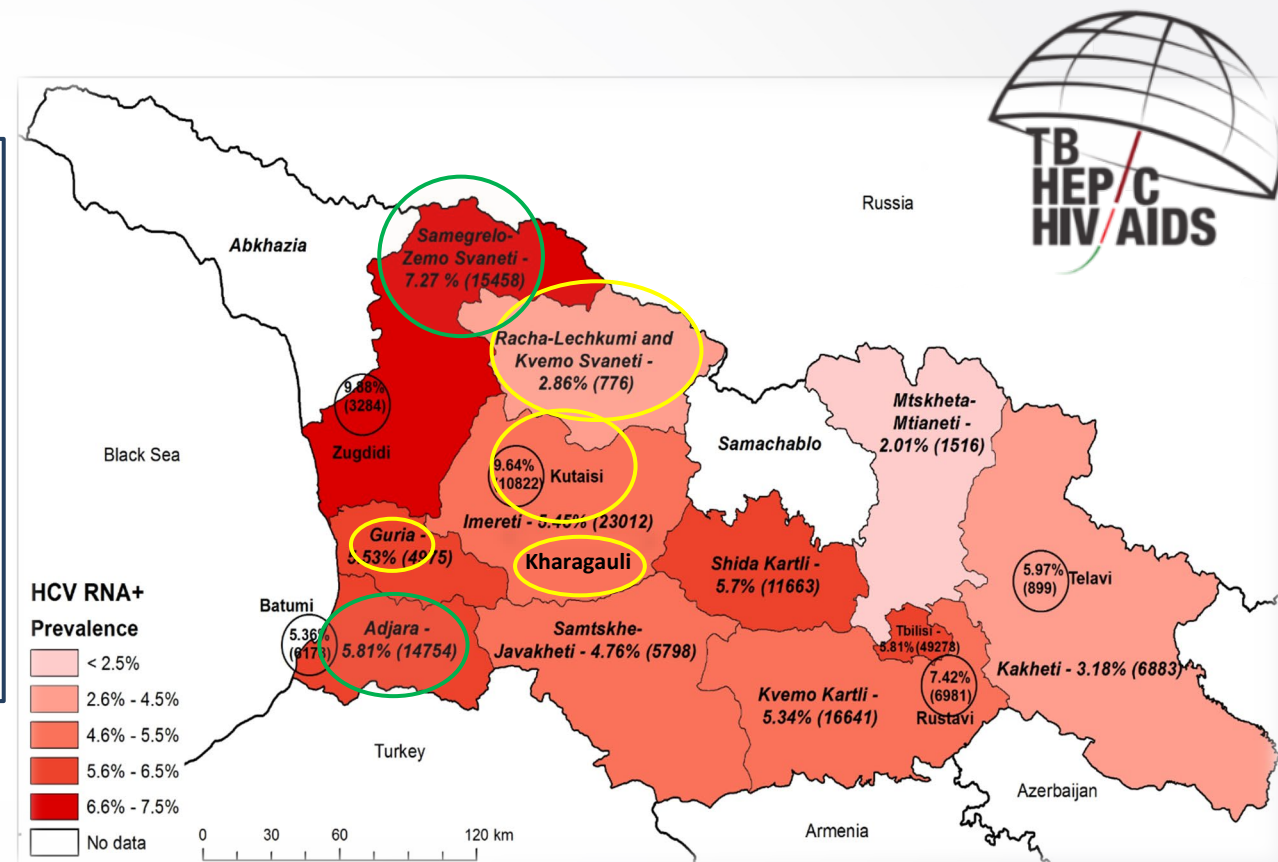
Concept: Three Diseases (HIV/HCV/TB) Under One Umbrella

- Pilot project in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti region was launched in November, 2017
- Integrated HCV/HIV/TB screening protocol approved - **Target for screening - 40% of local population**
- 454 doctors and nurses trained
- Integrated multidisciplinary service monitoring groups established
- Municipal programs supporting pilot implementation approved

In 8 months 89,602 persons were screened on HCV, HIV and TB among which

- Anti-HCV+ 2350 cases
- Anti-HIV+ 37 cases
- Presumptive TB 177 cases

- Following the Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti example, a similar project has been initiated in the Adjara region
- Guria, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti, Kutaisi, Kharagauli will be introduced to the program next





Treatment Providers



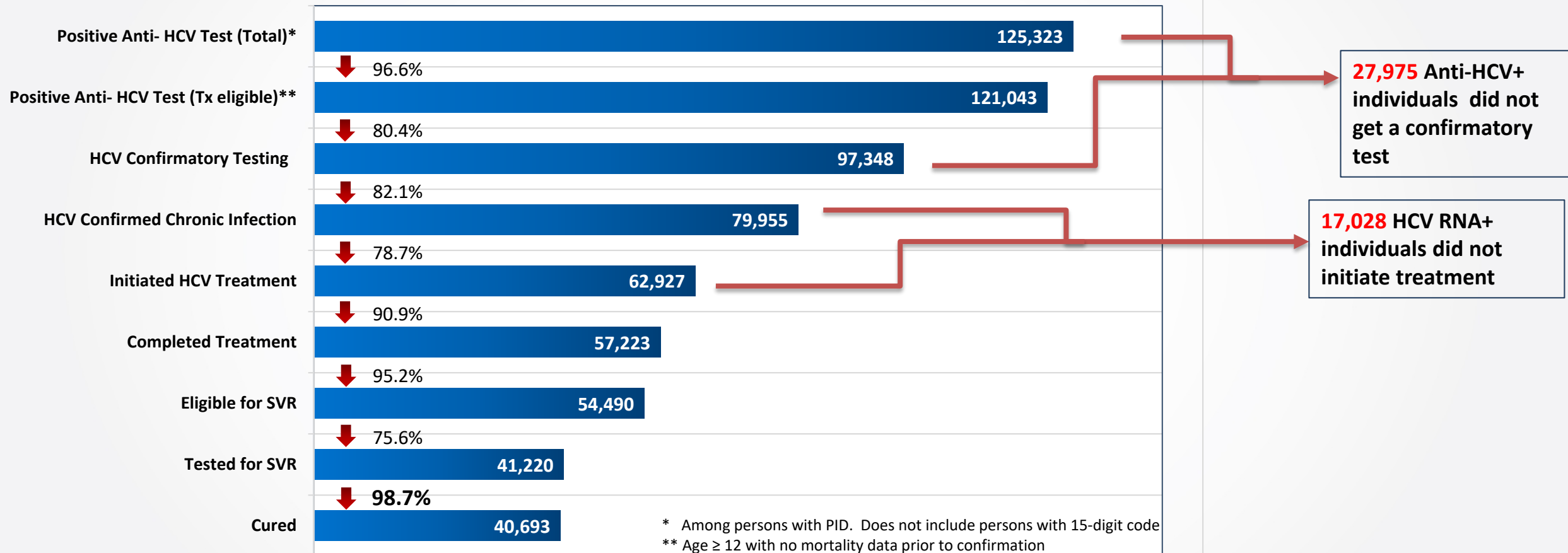
2015 - 4 sites

2018 - 42 sites

2019 - 70 sites in the decentralization process

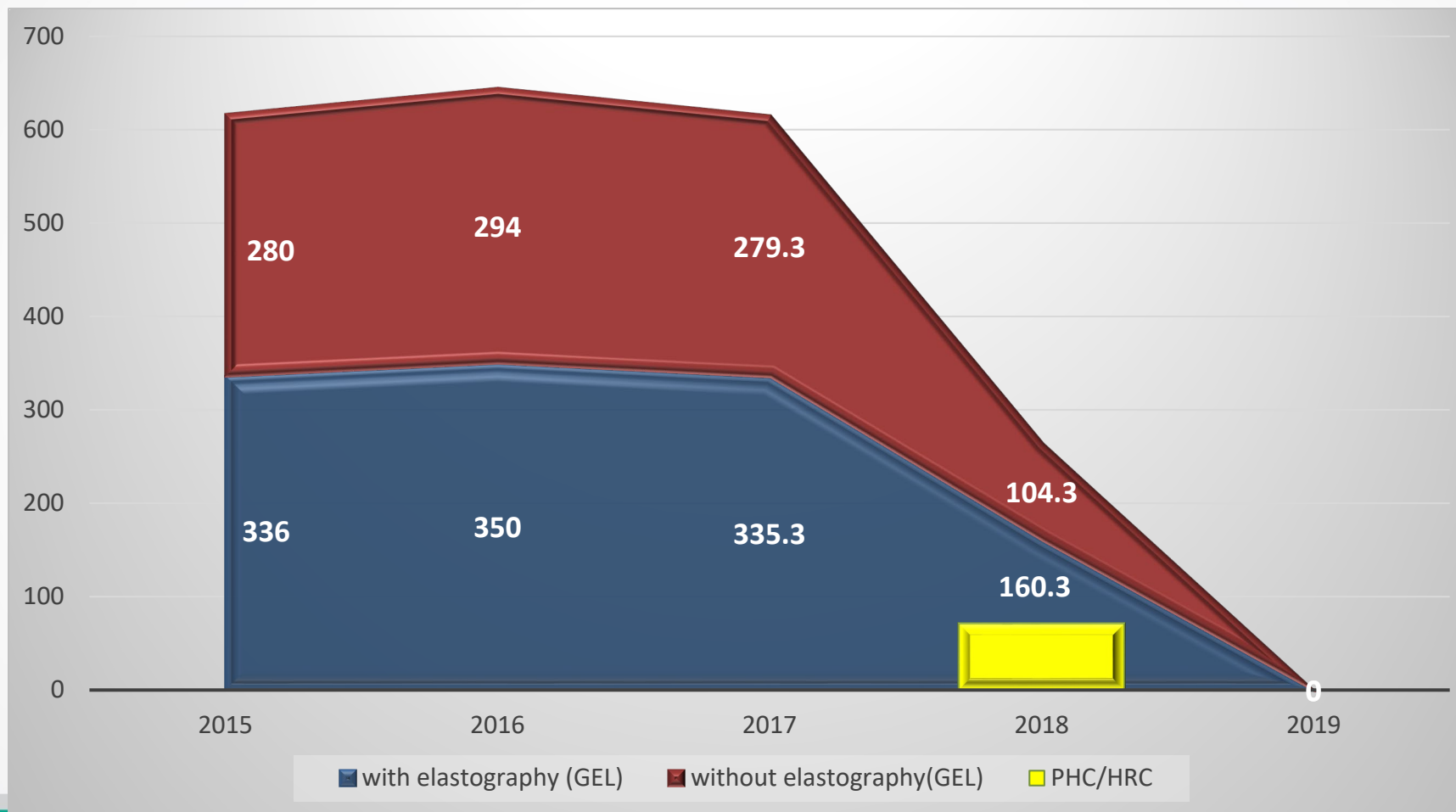


Georgia Hepatitis C Elimination Program Care Cascade, April 28, 2015 – October 31, 2019



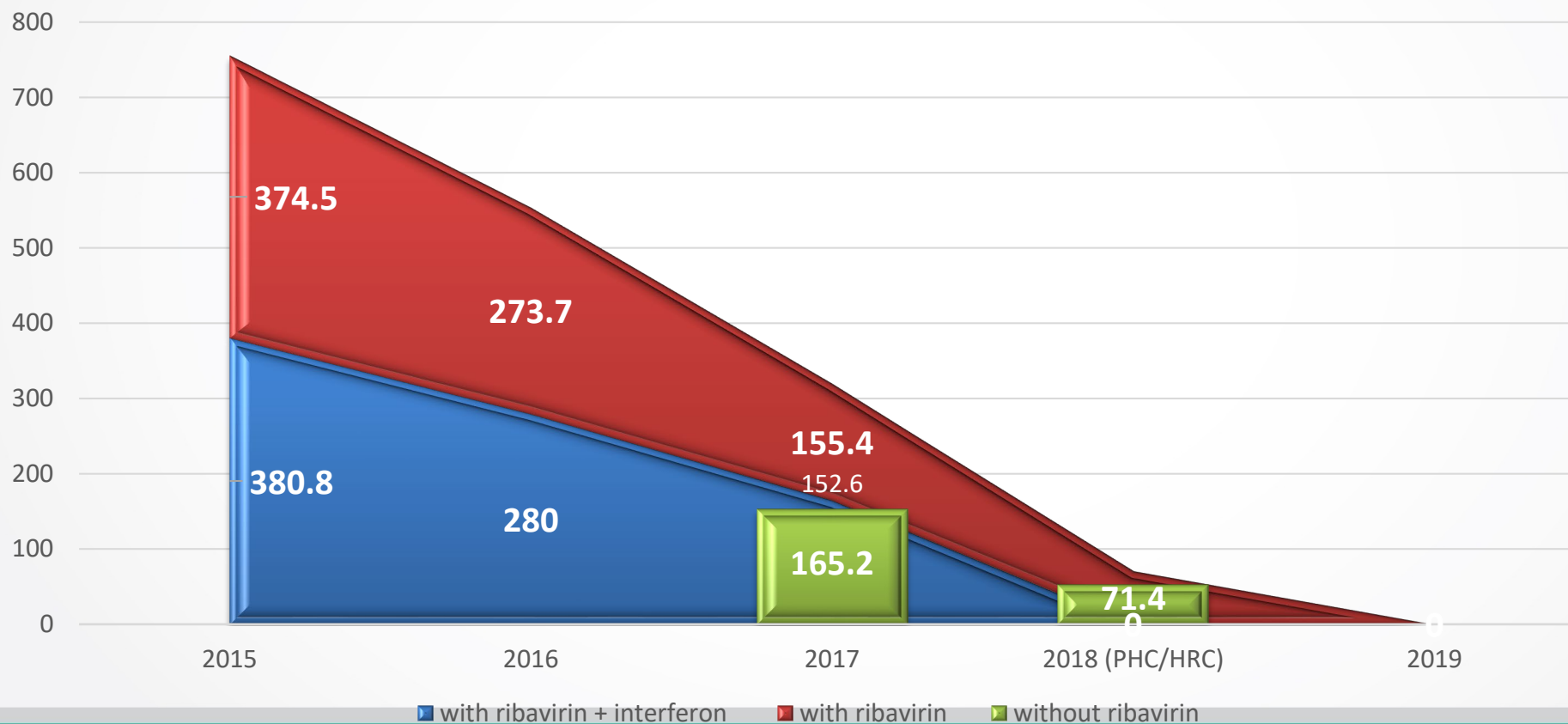


Cost of Diagnostic test before treatment initiation



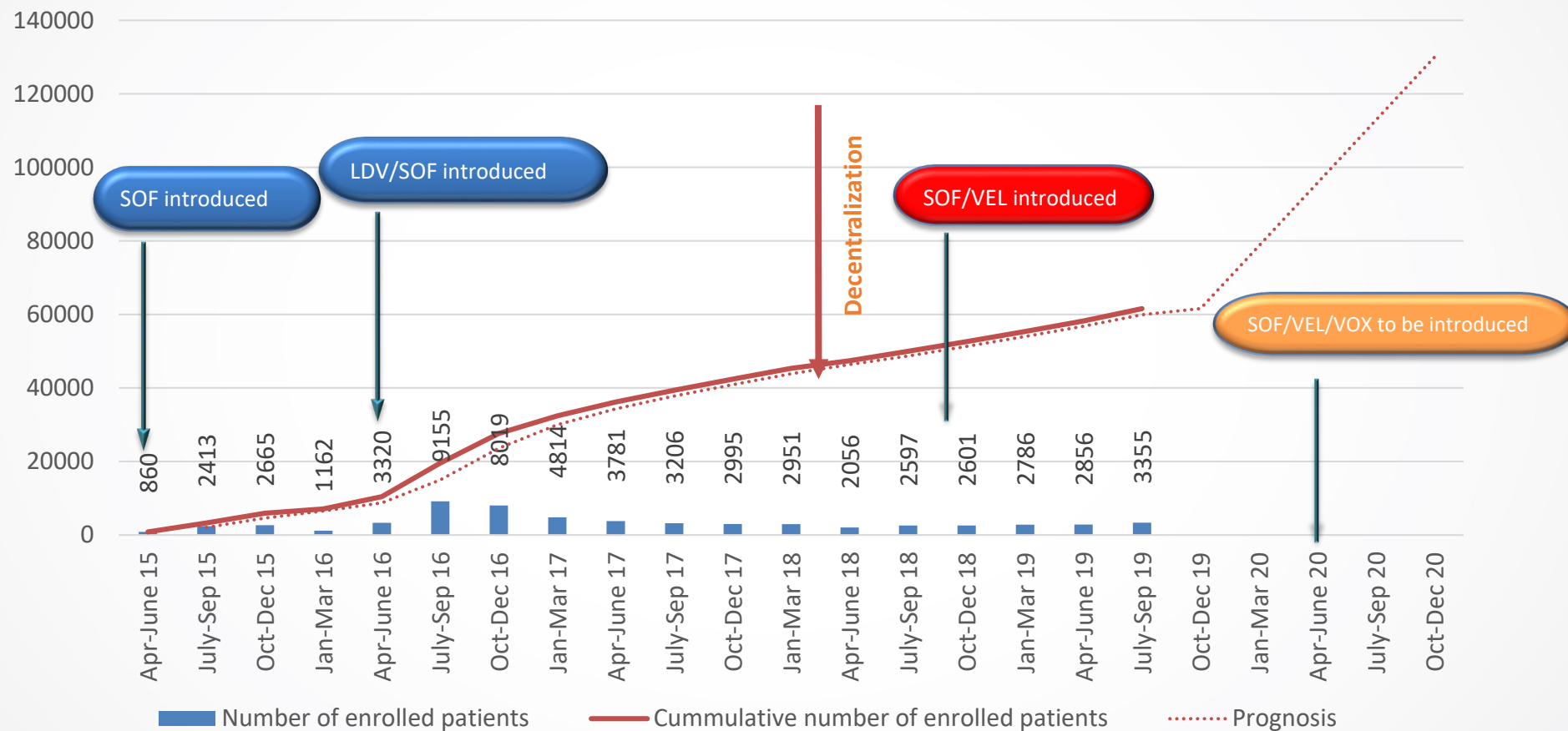


Costs for diagnostic tests for 12-week treatment monitoring





Enrollment in the HCV Treatment Program





- **79,955** adults were Diagnosed HCV RNA+ by Screening
- **17,028** HCV RNA+ individuals have not initiated treatment
- **21,3%** of cases are left to find



- **1 712 358** adults have been screened
- **1 100 000** adults are left to screen



Conclusion

- HCV Elimination program is a major driver for Health System Strengthening and advancing Public Health Agenda in Georgia, especially for HIV and TB. HCV elimination program supports the development of other key public health programs such as Safe Blood, Infection Control, Harm Reduction, etc.
- In almost 4 years of the HCV Elimination Program, Georgia has scaled up the screening and treatment services achieving impressive results - 49% treatment coverage with 98.7% cure rate
- Enhancing HCV testing and linkage to care and treatment services are critical to reaching the 2020 HCV elimination goals
- Provision of HCV screening, confirmation, care and treatment services at non-specialized settings nearer to patients' homes is critical for achieving the elimination goals: Decentralization and integration of HCV/HIV/TB services' delivery in primary care or harm reduction settings are key strategies to follow
- Lessons learned from the Georgia elimination program can inform programs in other countries striving to eliminate HCV as a public health threat.



MINISTRY OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS
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TAG Members



World Hepatitis
Alliance



The Global Fund
To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria



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