



# Syndemic Infectious Diseases Bureau: Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Unit

**CDPH Board of Health Meeting**  
August 16, 2023

**Ashley M. Becht, MPH, CPH**  
Director of Disease Investigations

**Sylvia Dziemian**  
Program Director



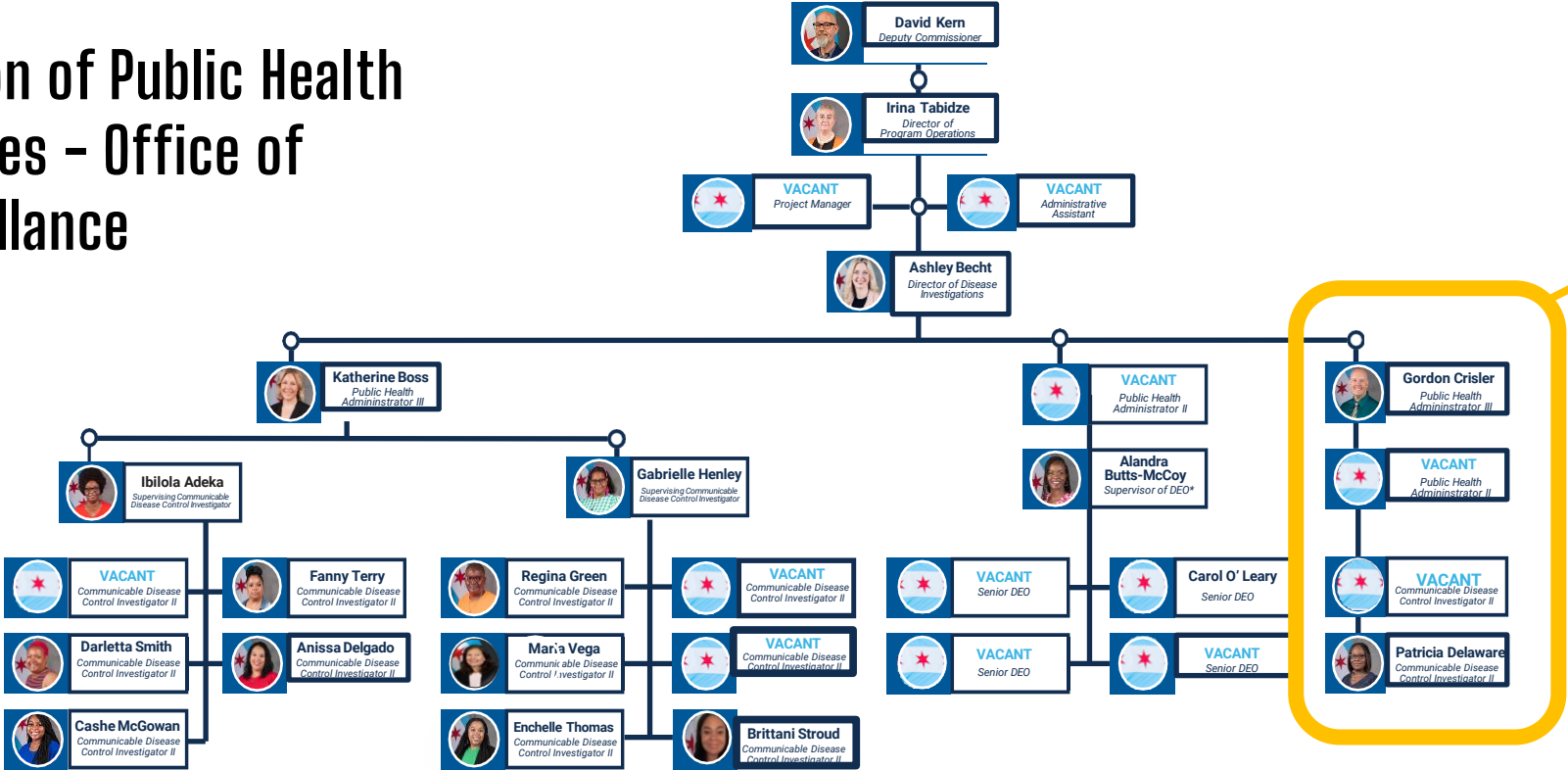
# Presentation Highlights

- **Who we are...**
  - Viral Hepatitis Team & Service Background
- **Who we serve...**
  - Epidemiology of Adult Viral Hepatitis in Chicago
- **What we do...**
  - Transitional Timeline of Key Surveillance Activities
  - Prevention & Community-Driven Activities

# Syndemic Infectious Disease Bureau



## Division of Public Health Services - Office of Surveillance



**Viral Hepatitis Desk**

- Current Viral Hepatitis Team Staff & Support:**
- Principal Investigator – Sylvia
  - Director of Disease Investigations – Ashley
  - PHA III – Gordon
  - PHA II\* – Emily
  - PHA II\* – Asha
  - CDC PH Advisor (Data Manager) – Lisa
- \*contractor

**PS21-2103-CoAg**  
 Cooperative Agreement – Components 1, 2 and 3  
 Division of Viral Hepatitis (DOVH)  
 CDC

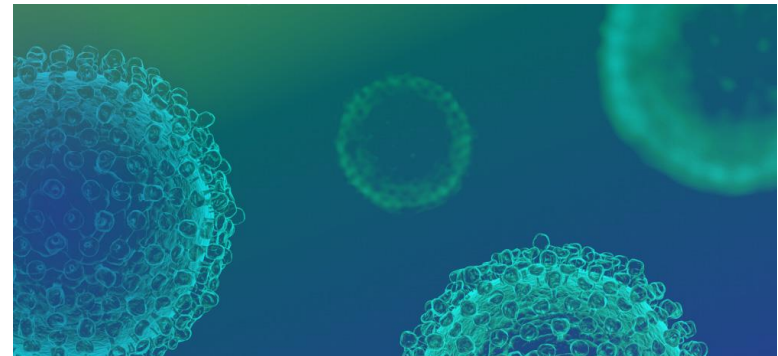


# CDPH Adult Viral Hepatitis Funding Sources

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
  - **Total budget: \$544,100**
    - Component 1: 200,000
    - Component 2: 115,000
    - Component 3: 229,100
  - Staff salaries
  - Office supplies and general operations
  - Trainings and professional development
  - Delegate agency budget
- **Additional Support**
  - In-kind City of Chicago funding
  - SID Bureau budgets with overlapping goals and initiatives

# ★ CDPH Adult Viral Hepatitis Activities

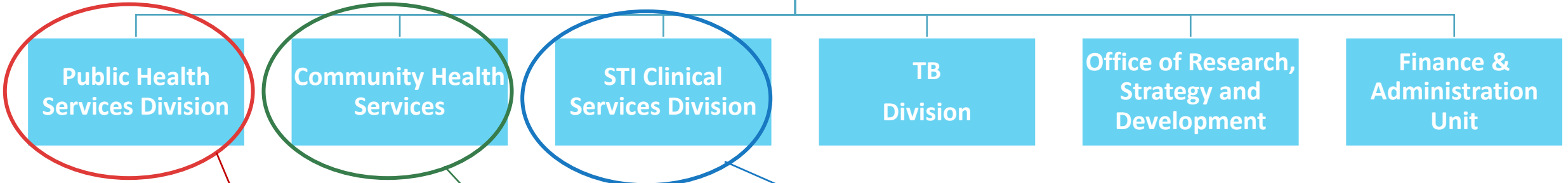
- **Guided by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) three focus areas**
  - **Component 1:** Surveillance, Outbreak, Monitoring and Response
  - **Component 2:** Prevention
  - **Component 3:** Special Projects (new)
    - Prevention, diagnosis, and treatment related the infectious disease consequences of drug use
- **Viral hepatitis activities include collaborations with multiple bureaus, desks and offices**
  - Syndemic Infectious Diseases (SID) Bureau
  - Disease Control (DC) Bureau
    - Communicable Diseases
    - Immunizations
  - Behavioral Health Bureau
    - Office of Substance Use



# SID Bureau – Adult Viral Hepatitis Activities Across Divisions



Syndemic ID Bureau

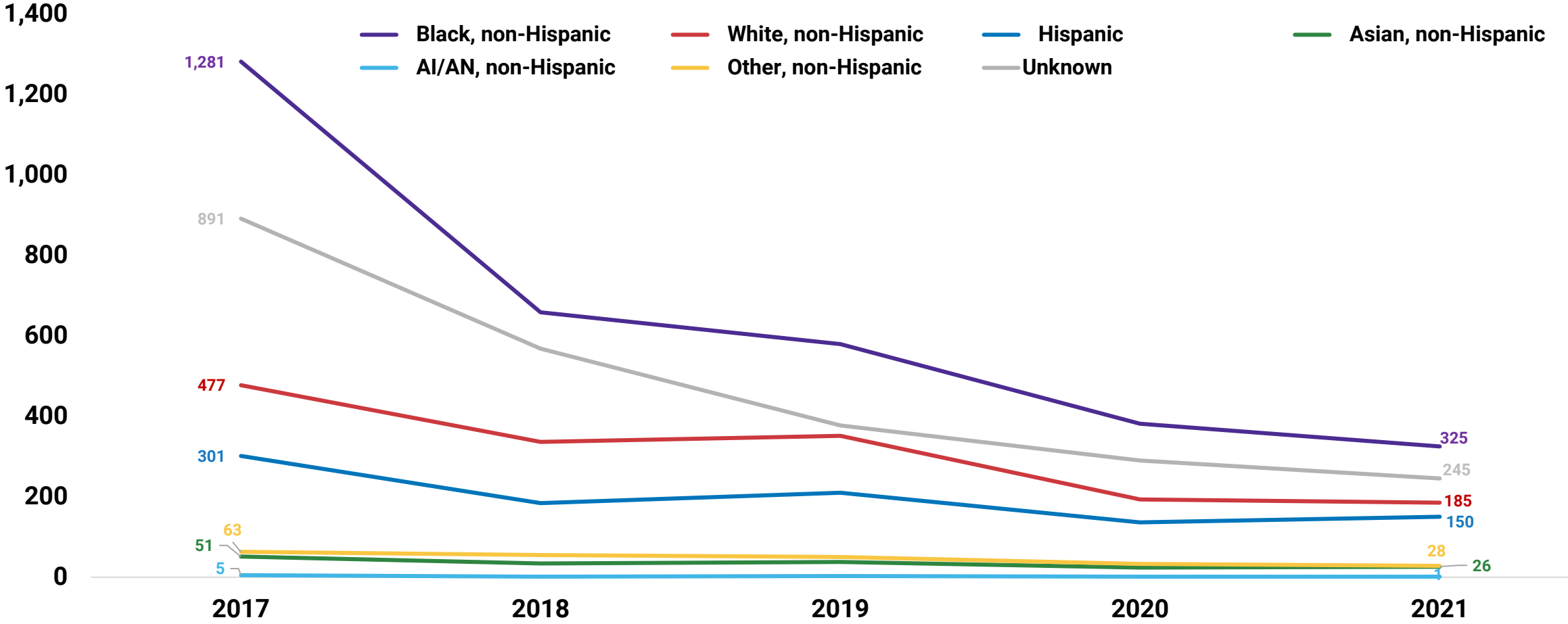


**Viral hepatitis surveillance & case management** activities, including **lab and provider outreach/education**, are housed within PHS. Goal is to expand to **partner service & linkage to care interventions** in 2024.

Leverage our existing **community partnerships** & funded delegate agencies for expanded **community education, harm reduction services & coalition building**.

As part of our new PrEP protocol in the clinics, services have expanded to **offer viral hepatitis screening** & HAV and HBV **vaccinations** in all CDPH clinics.

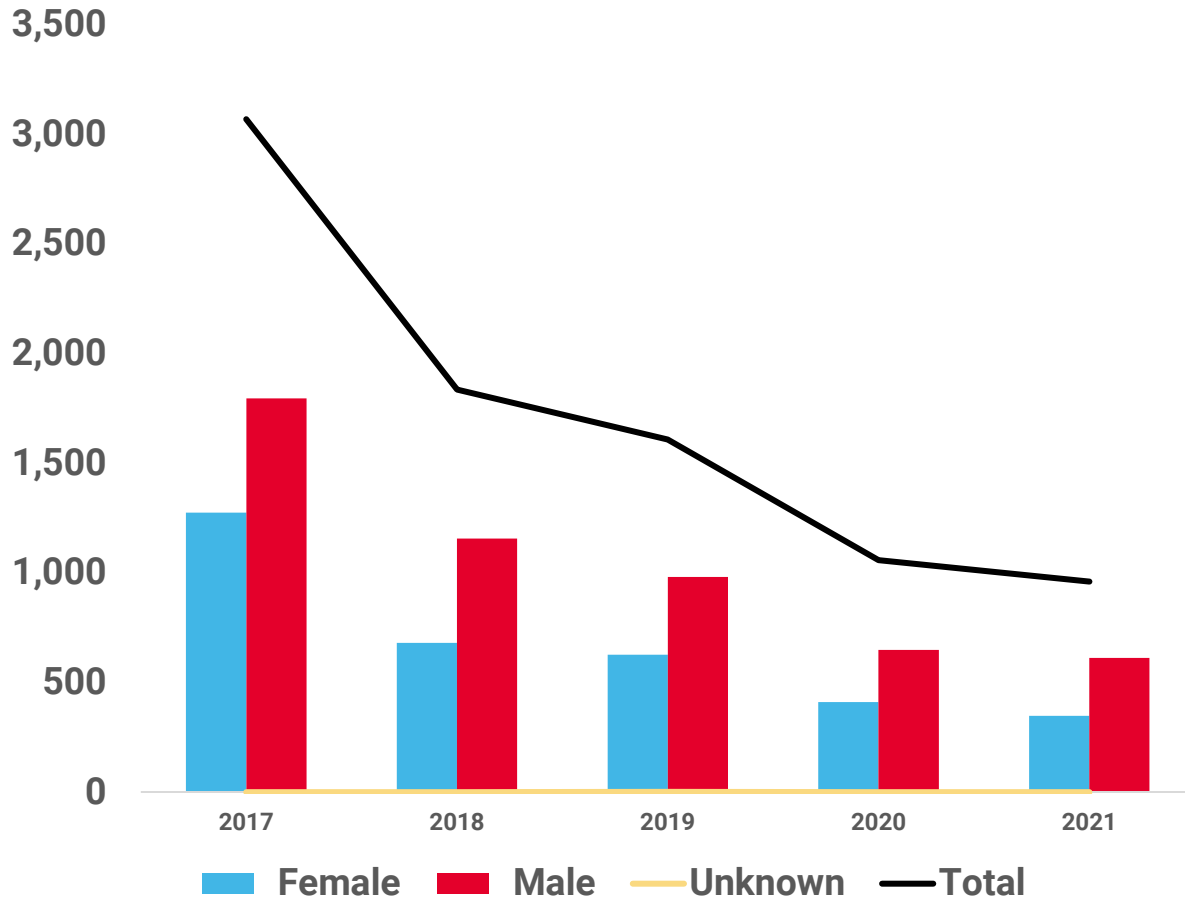
# Hepatitis C Cases by Year of Diagnosis & Race/Ethnicity, Chicago, 2017 - 2021



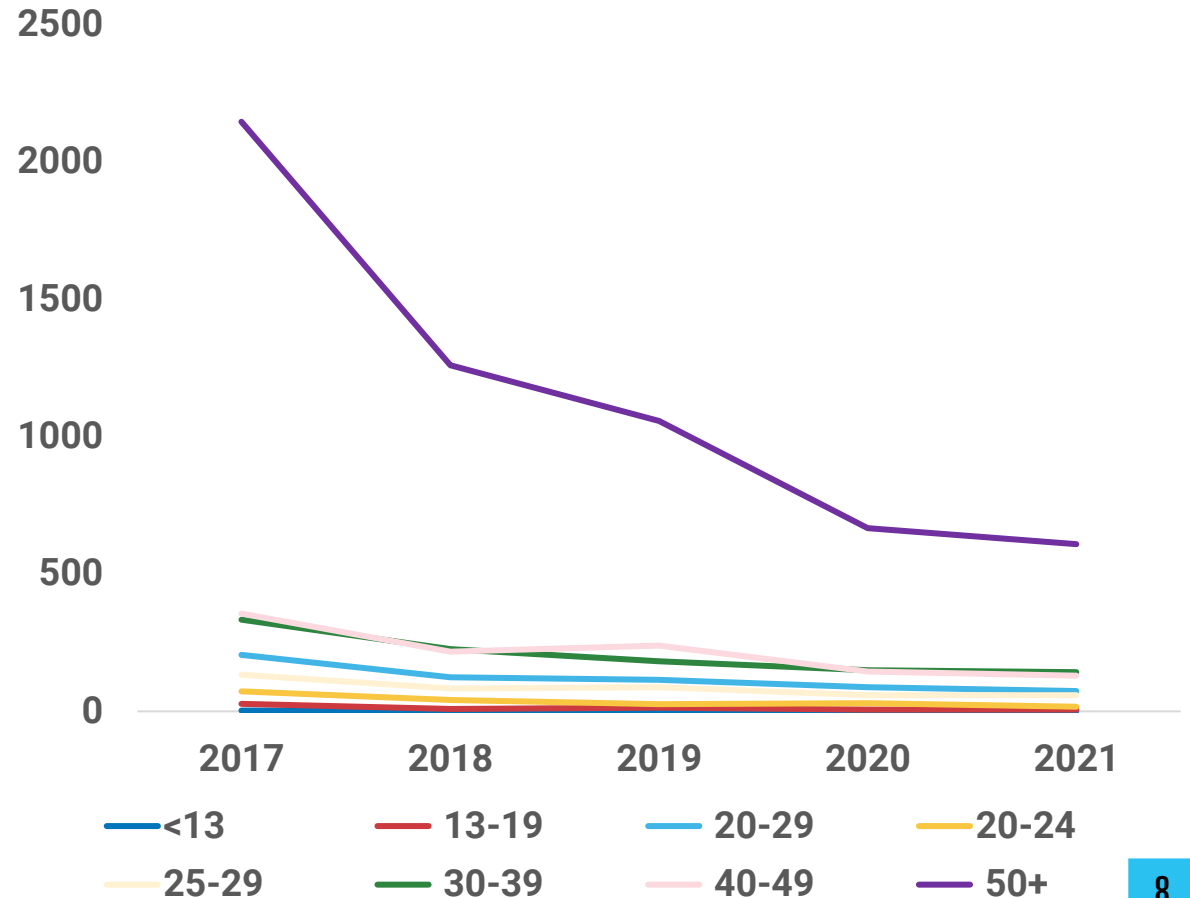
# Hepatitis C Cases by Year of Diagnosis and Gender/Age Group, Chicago, 2017 - 2021



Gender



Age Groups

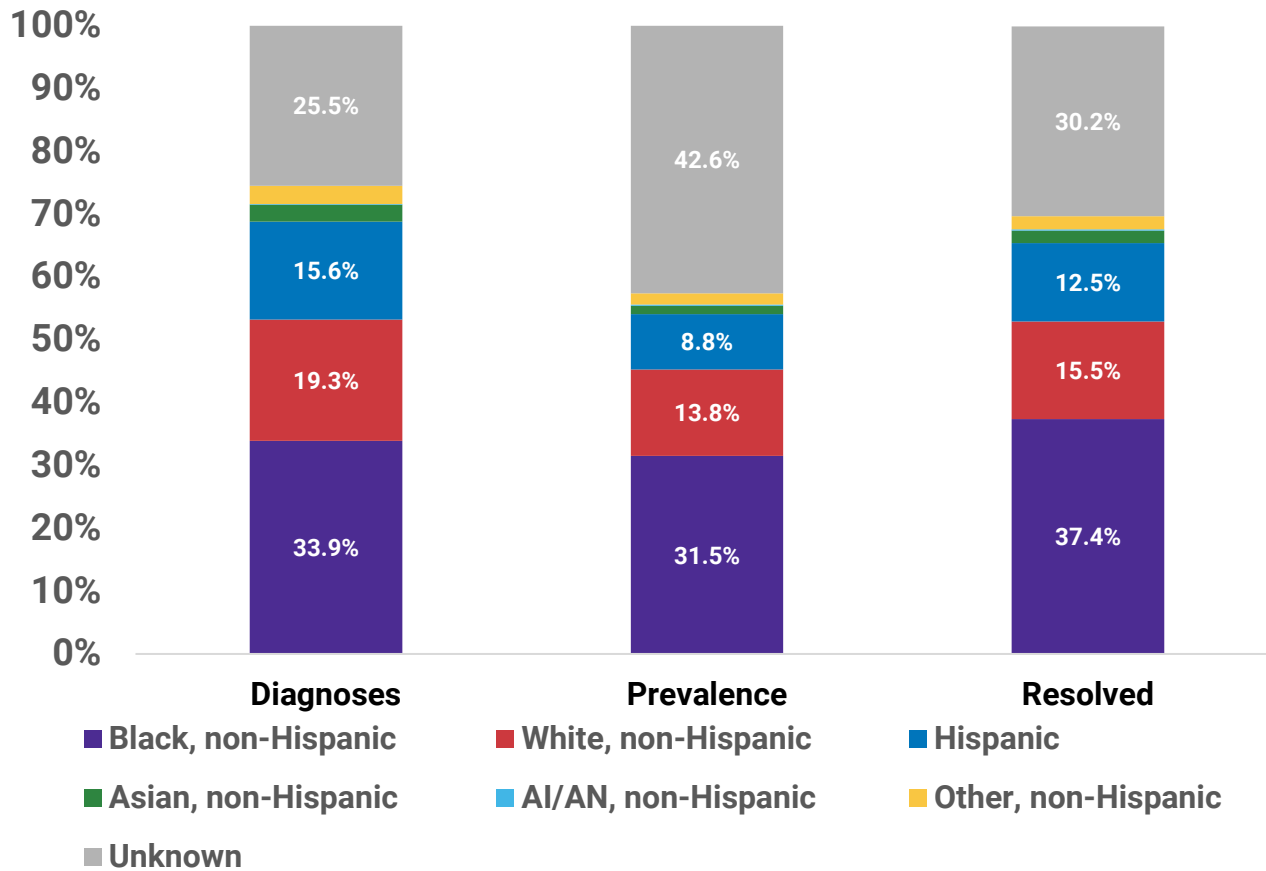




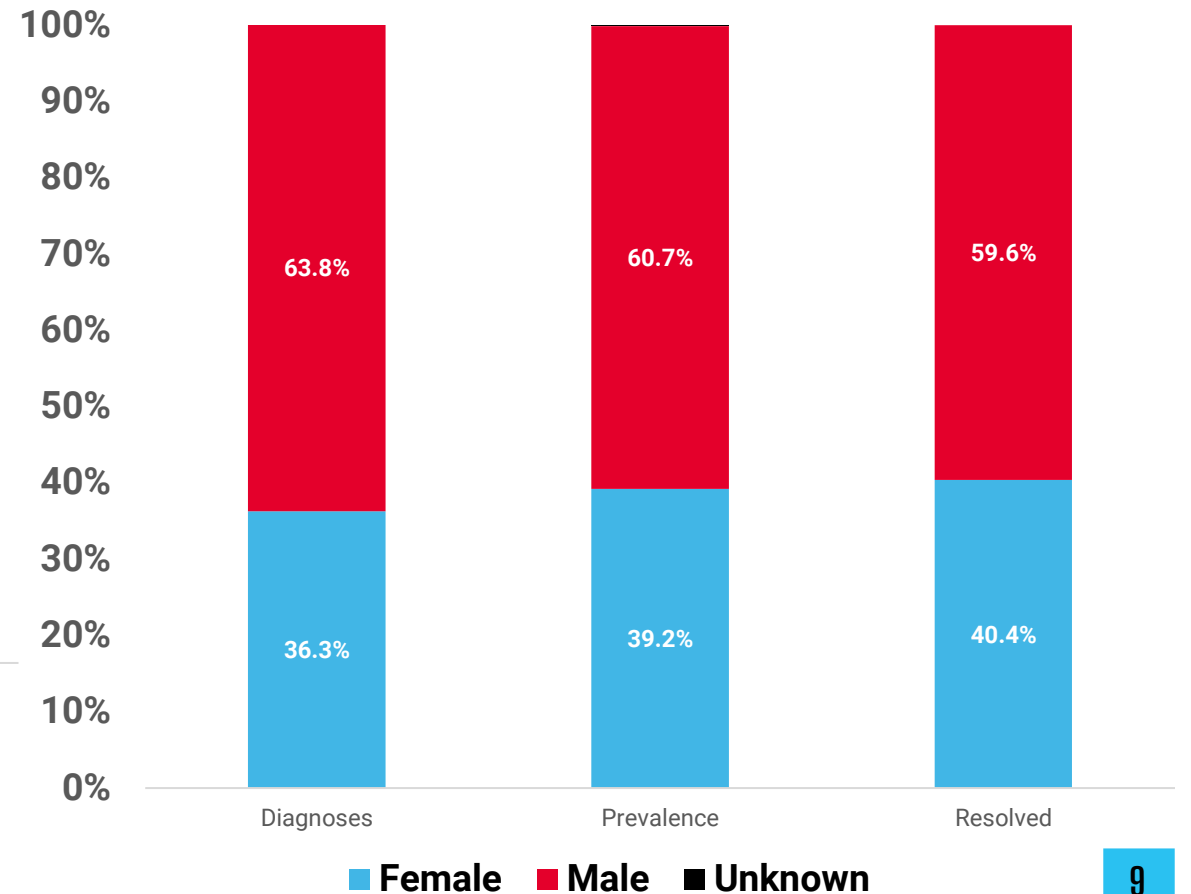
# Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology in Chicago



Newly Reported Diagnoses, People Living with HCV and Resolved Infections by Race/Ethnicity, Chicago, 2021



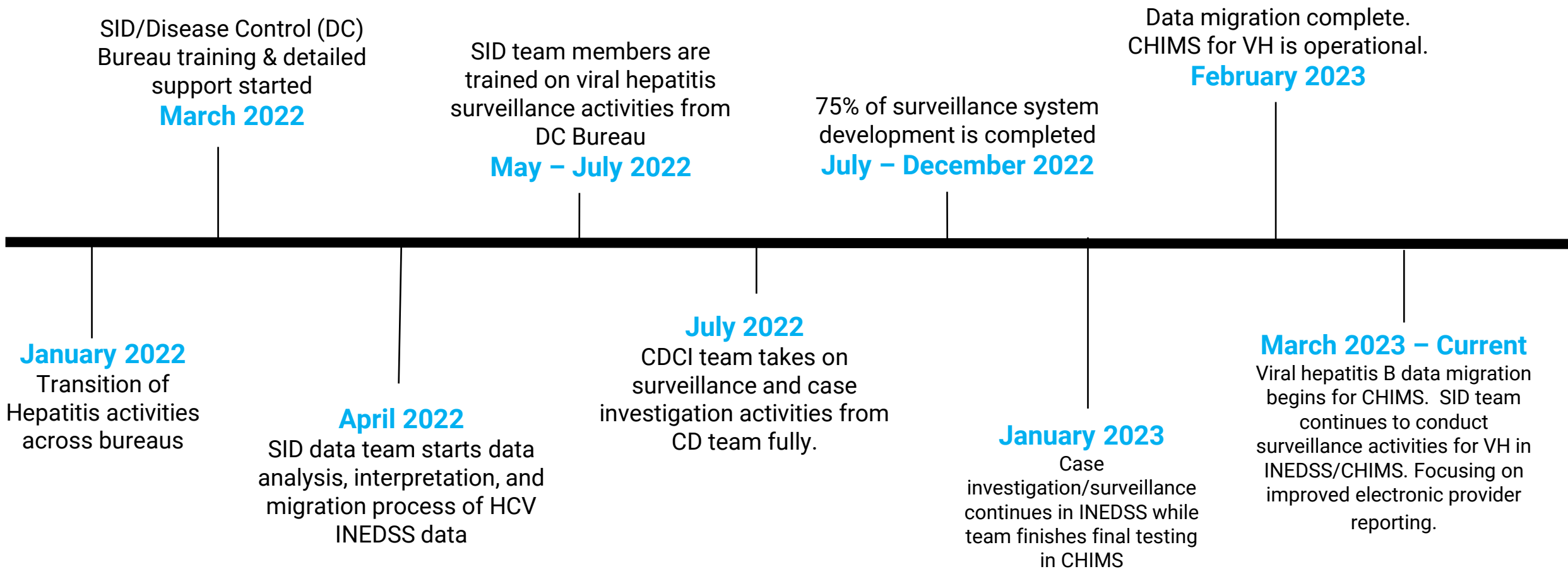
Newly Reported Diagnoses, People Living with HCV and Resolved Infections by Birth Sex, Chicago, 2021



Note: Groups may not total 100% due to rounding. Use caution when interpreting data based on less than 20 events; percent is unreliable. ^AI/AN refers to American Indian/ Alaskan Native.



# 2022 – 2023 Surveillance Transition: Training, System Development, & Data Migration



# Prevention & Community-Driven Activities for Viral Hepatitis



## KEY PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

### Component 2 Activities

Hospital & Provider Assessments

Community Coalition Efforts

Provider Education & Engagement

## What kind of outcomes are we hoping to achieve?

- Improved screening outcomes & education among Chicago providers
- Improved treatment outcomes & retention in care
- Local coalition building to leverage resources across the Chicago viral hepatitis and syndemic landscape

# Prevention & Community-Driven Activities for Viral Hepatitis



## KEY COMMUNITY-DRIVEN ACTIVITIES

### Component 3 Activities

Rapid Health Services Assessment

Funding a delegate agency to deliver impactful services

Strong focus on people who inject drugs

Services for People Who Use Drugs\*

## What kind of outcomes are we hoping to achieve?

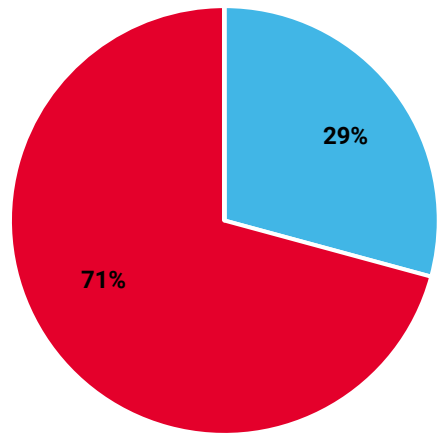
- A better understanding of the current viral hepatitis healthcare delivery system in Chicago
- Increased VH screening
- Improved treatment outcomes & retention in care
- Overarching goal is to **add** to the delivery of services and to syndemically approach viral hepatitis as a disease and condition

*\*Division of CHS funding initiative*

# Services for People Who Use Drugs (PWUD)

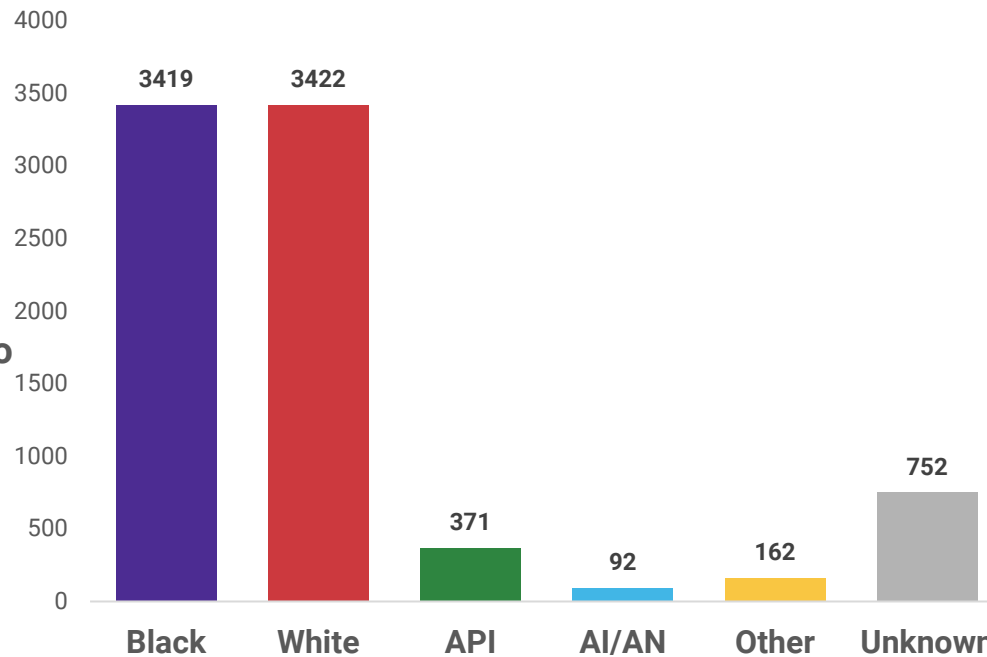


Screened for HCV by Ethnicity



■ Hispanic/Latino ■ Non-Hispanic/Latino

Screened for HCV by Race



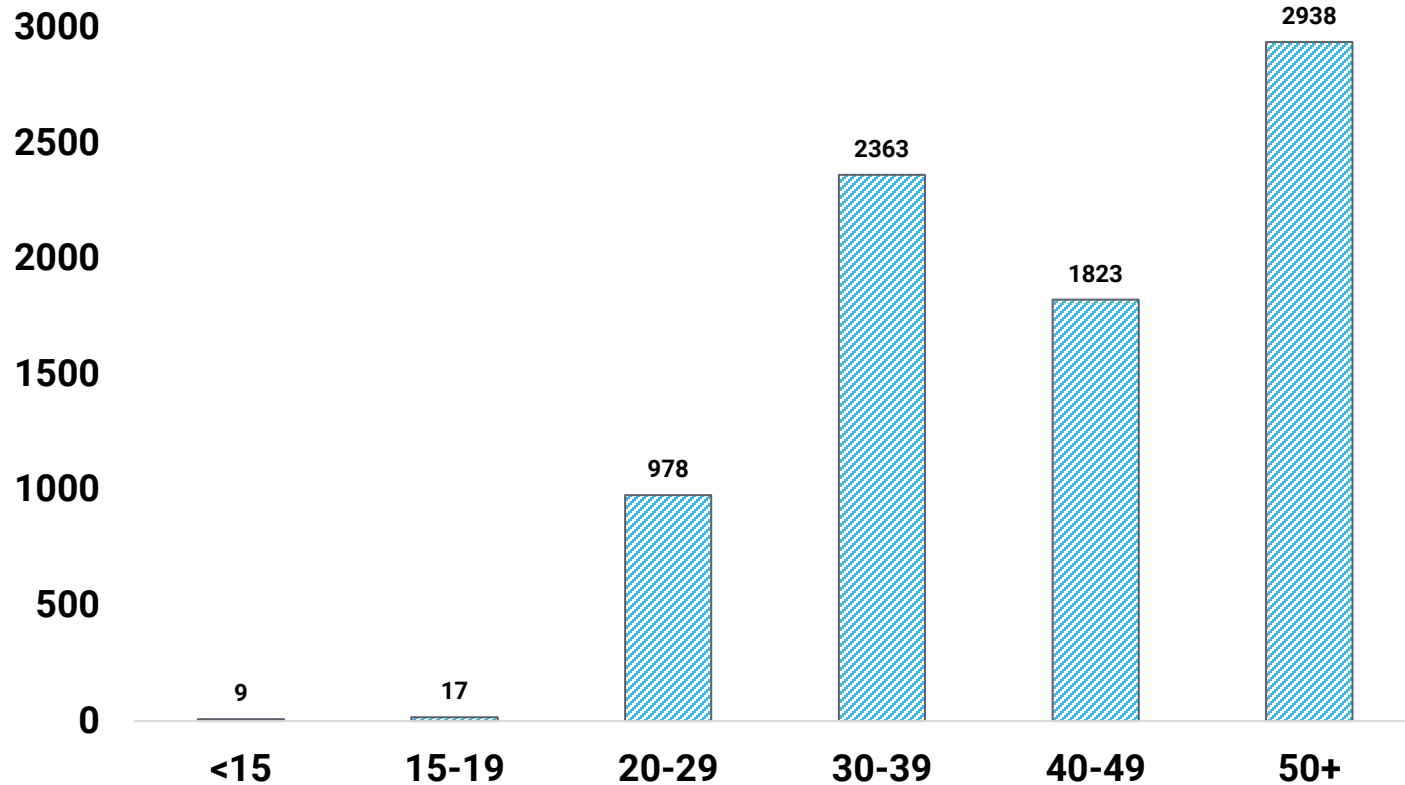
- **8128** Screened for HCV
- **60.6%** among gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM)
- **18.0%** among heterosexuals
- **2.0%** among people who inject drugs(IDU) and MSM/IDU
- **19.4%** Other risk factor, including unknown and perinatal transmission

Note: Groups may not total 100% due to rounding. Use caution when interpreting data based on less than 20 events; percent is unreliable. ^AI/AN refers to American Indian/ Alaskan Native. API refers to Asian/Pacific Islanders.

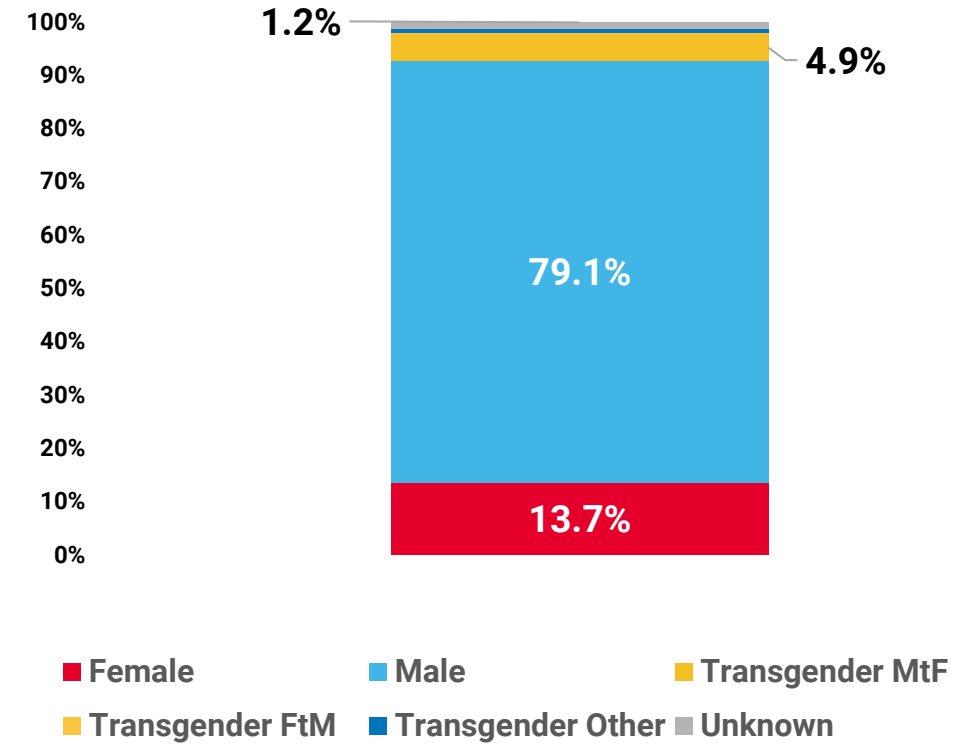
# Services for People Who Use Drugs (PWUD)



Screened for HCV by Age Group



Screened for HCV by Current Gender



Priority populations: Black MSM, Latino MSM, Transgender of Color, Black Female, 50+ y.o



## Next Steps

- Continue to integrate viral hepatitis activities into SID Bureau operations.
- Collaborate with internal and external stakeholders.
- Build staffing as work evolves.
- Create viral hepatitis elimination plan.
- Work with SID Bureau delegate agencies to further work on infectious disease consequences of drug use.



# Acknowledgements

## **Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Team**

Emily Harris, Gordon Crisler, Patricia Delaware, Asha Randolph, Alandra Butts-Mccoy,  
Taylor Holly, Taylor Guidry, Alexandra Gagner, Saul Ayala

**Irina Tabidze, MD, MPH**

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Medical Director, Tuberculosis Program

**David Kern**

Deputy Commissioner, Syndemic ID Bureau







# Thank You!

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