




Opportunities for Engaging Patients in Care along the Hepatitis C Cascade of Care

Michael Traeger, **Alisa Pedrana**, Anna Wilkinson, Fran Bramwell, Dean Membrey,
Long Nguyen, Carol El-Hayek, Joseph Doyle, Jess Howell, Alexander Thompson,
Rebecca Guy, Basil Donovan, Mark Stoové, Margaret Hellard

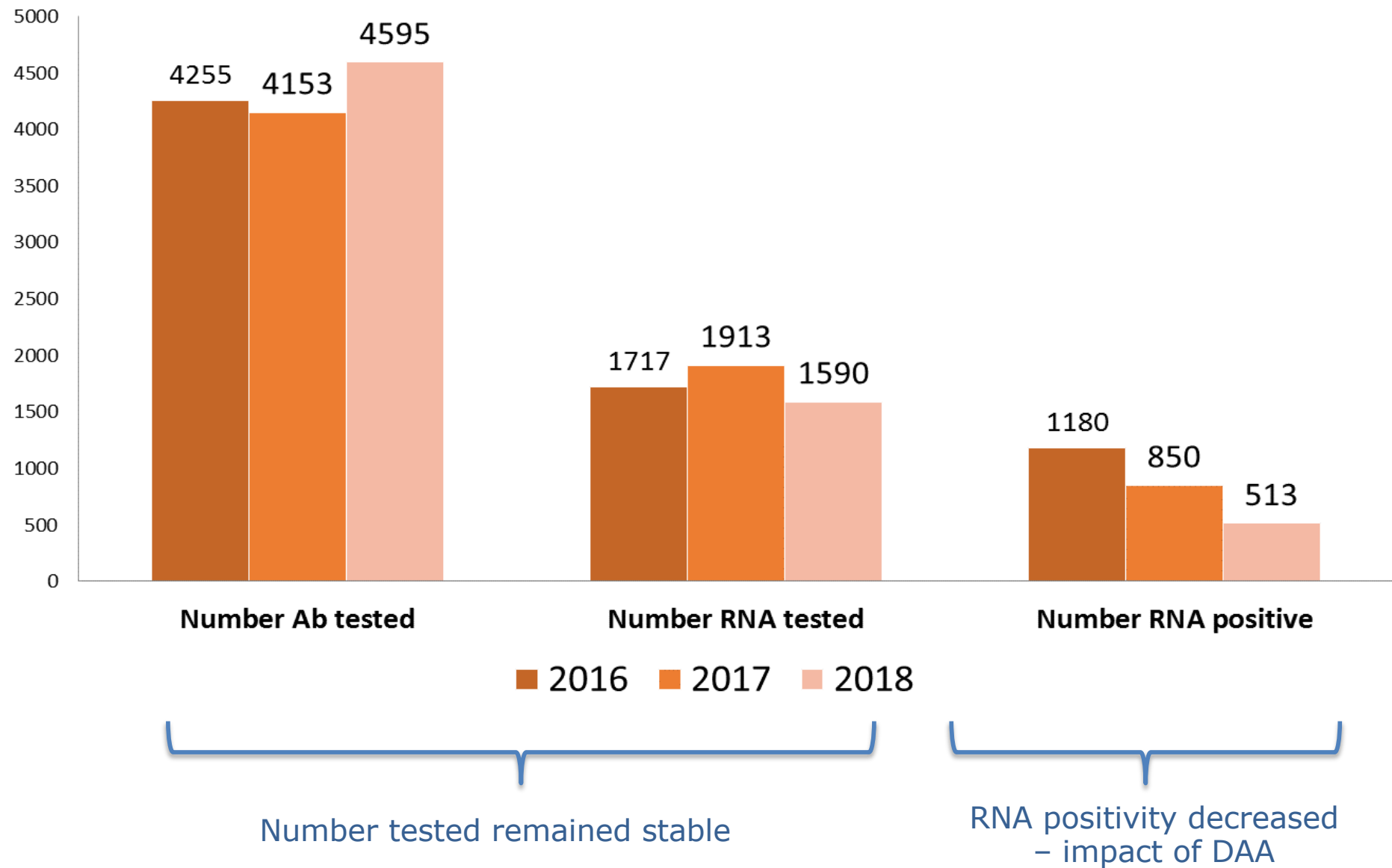
Introduction

- Australian hepatitis C elimination strategies focus on testing and treatment uptake among people who inject drugs (PWID)
- Number of individuals initiating treatment has plateaued since 2017
- We describe HCV testing and linkage to treatment among patients attending health services in Victoria, Australia post-DAA introduction

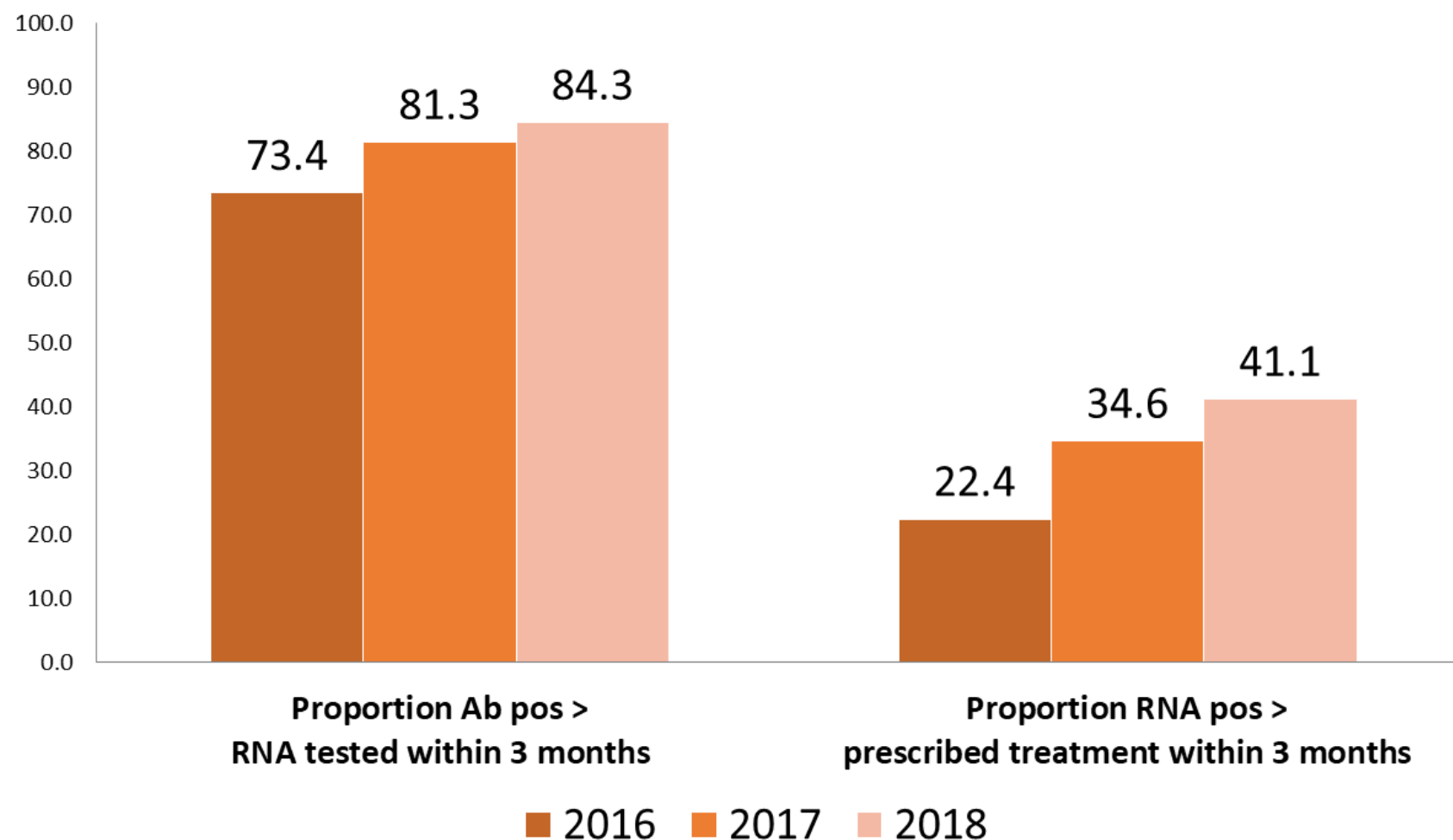
Methods

- Data were extracted from 17 clinics in Victoria, Australia via  ACCESS
- Clinics provide services targeting PWID (including NSP, OST)
- We calculated the number of patients HCV tested from 2016 – 2018
- Describe progression through the cascade of care and linkage to treatment

Hepatitis C Testing among service engaged PWID



Follow-up RNA testing and treatment uptake



- Proportion receiving follow-up RNA testing increased
- Proportion receiving treatment within 3 months increased
- Relatively low level of treatment uptake

Conclusions

- Number of patients receiving hepatitis C testing remained relatively stable from 2016 – 2018, but RNA positivity declined likely due to treatment
- Proportion of patients having follow-up/reflexive Ab-RNA testing increased
- Proportion of RNA positive patients linked to treatment increased, however the absolute number being treated annually decreased
- Less than half of patients who tested RNA positive in 2018 were prescribed treatment within 3 months
- To sustain treatment impact, efforts to increase HCV testing are needed and service level coverage indicators can be useful to monitor progress