

Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment in Wisconsin Jails

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Agenda

- Hepatitis C in Wisconsin
- Testing and treatment
- Pre-release navigation and resources
- Future collaborations

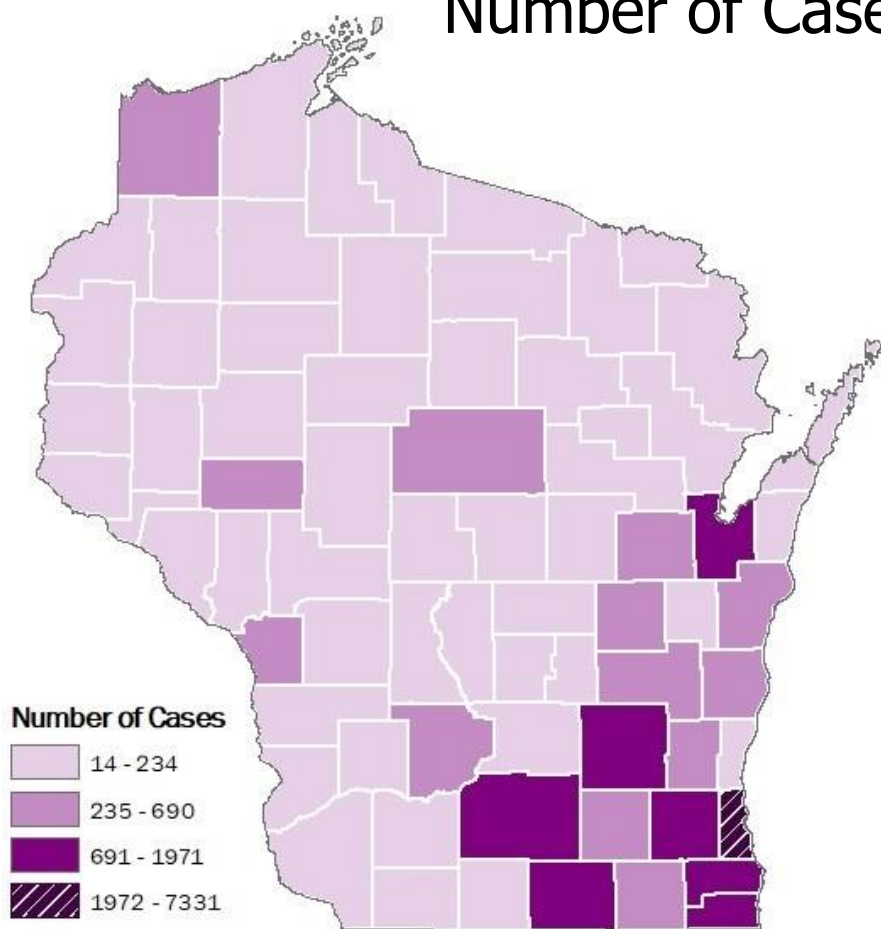
DHS has identified justice-involved populations as a key area of focus for hepatitis C elimination planning.

Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)

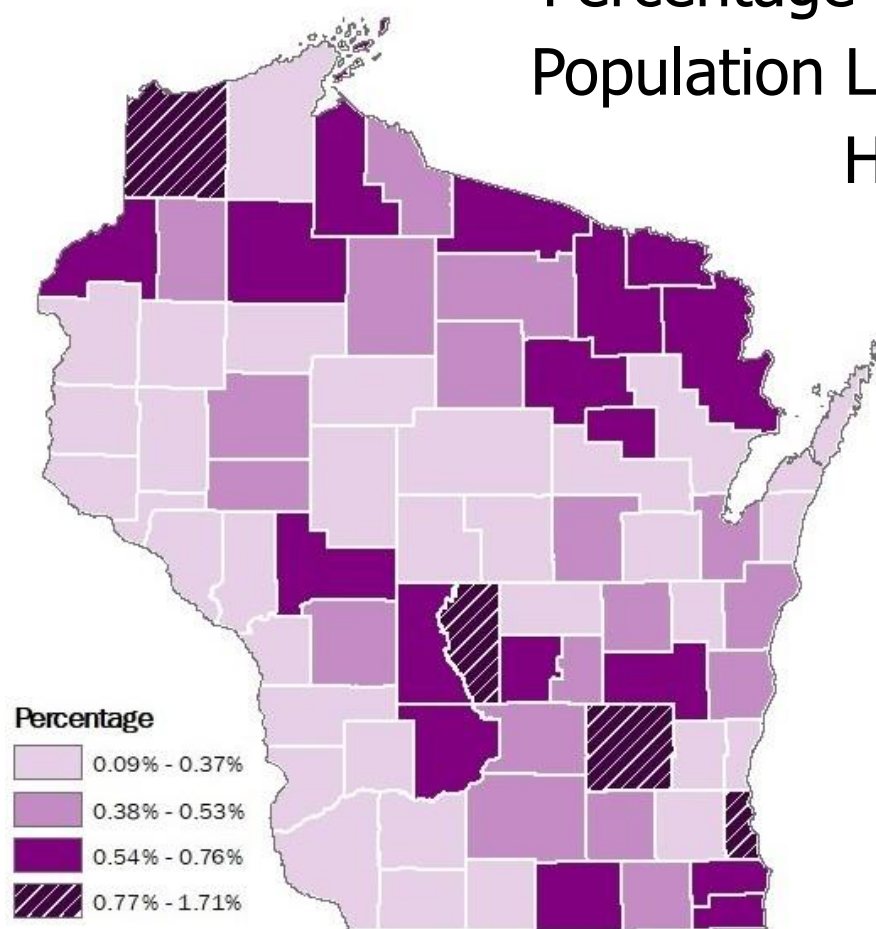
- Bloodborne virus
- Remains infectious outside body for 21-30 days
- Most impacted populations are baby boomers and people who use drugs
- Causes cirrhosis, cancer, and liver failure if not treated

Most hepatitis C cases reside in southeastern Wisconsin, but prevalence rates are also high in northern Wisconsin.

Number of Cases

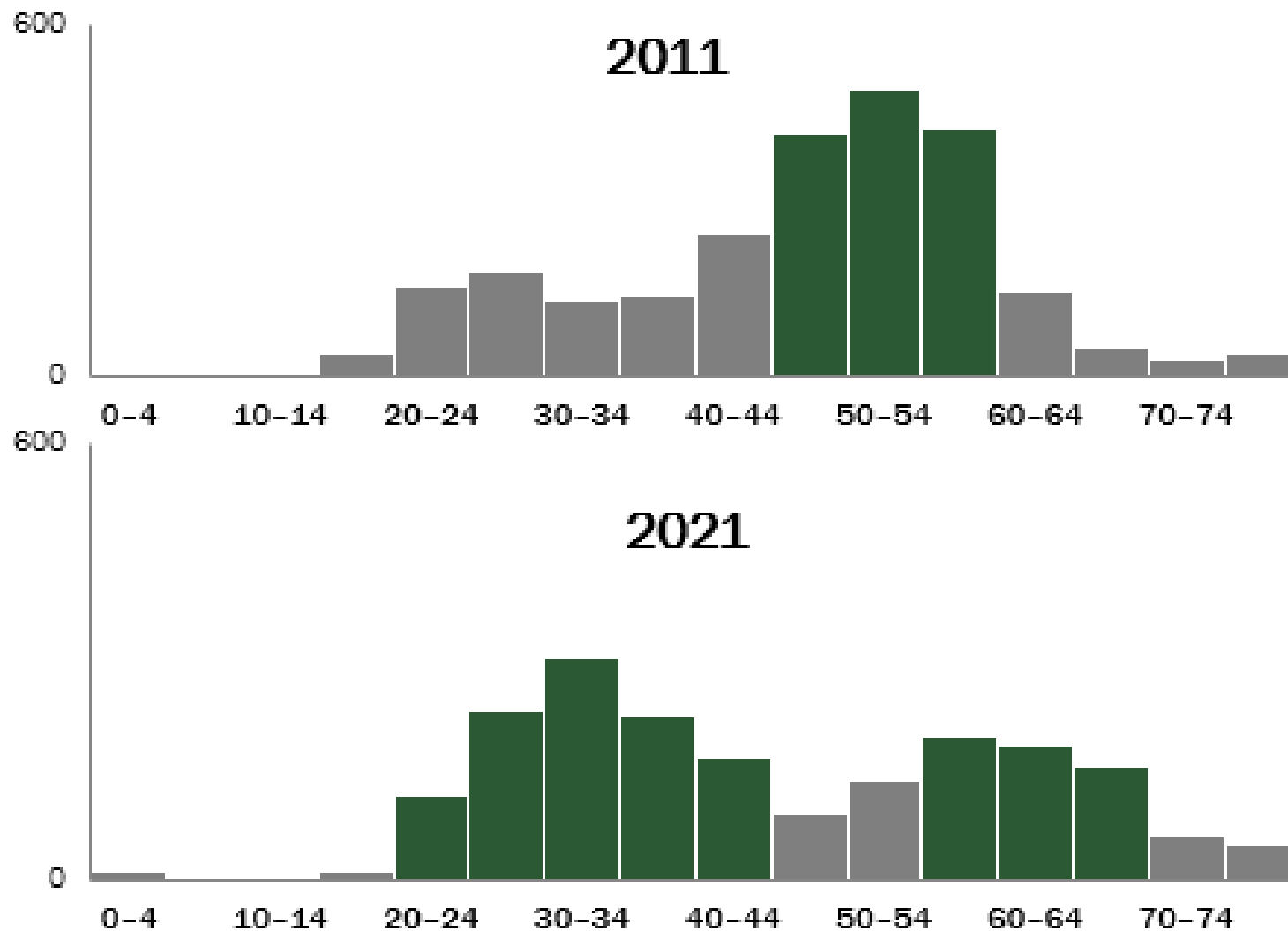


Percentage of County Population Living with Hepatitis C



*DOC cases not included

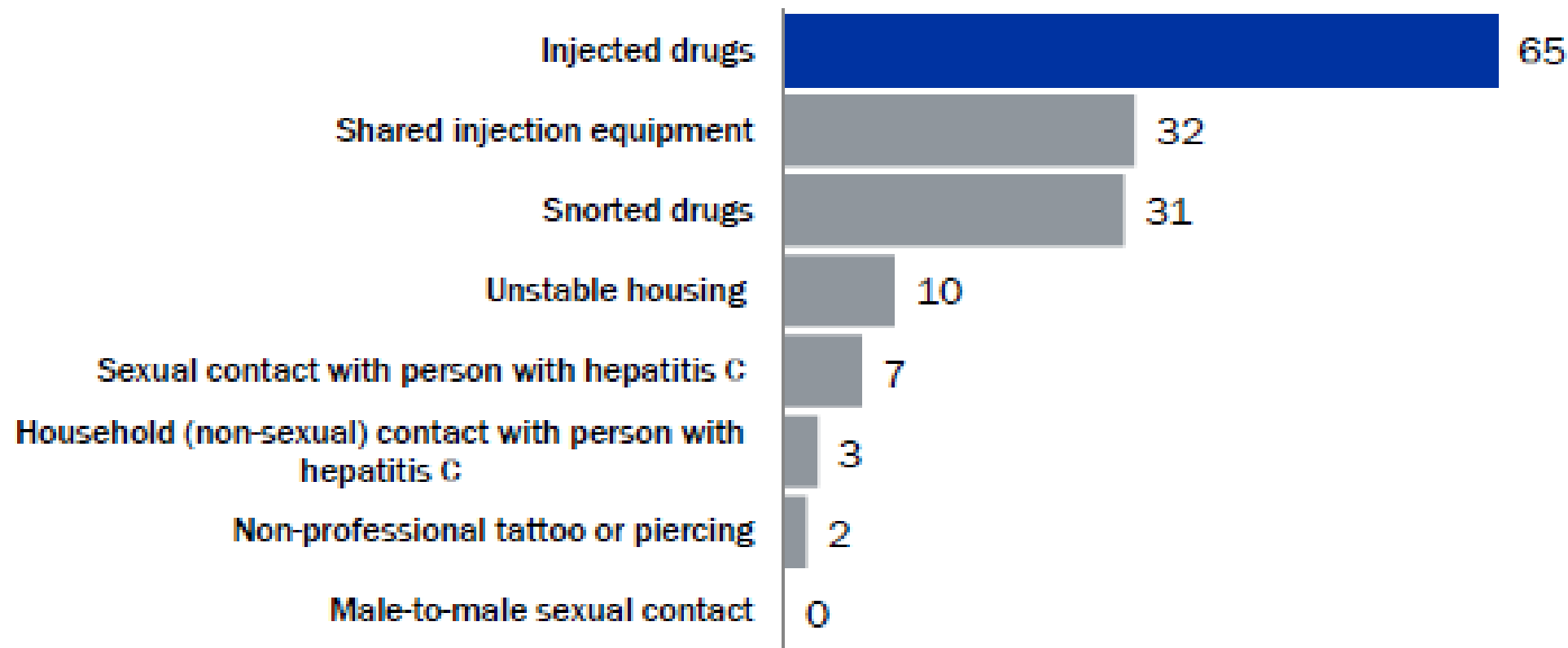
There has been a demographic shift in hepatitis C diagnoses from 2011 to 2021.




Exposure Factors Among Acute Cases

Injection drug use was the most commonly reported risk factor among people with acute hepatitis C.

Number of acute hepatitis C cases that reported each risk behavior or exposure, Wisconsin, 2021



Hepatitis C in Carceral Settings

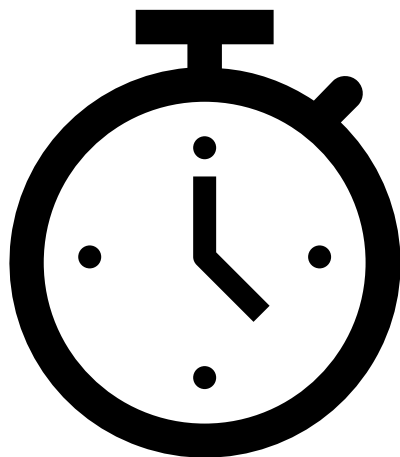
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- People who are incarcerated have a hepatitis C infection rate 10x higher than the general public.
 - 30% of people with HCV spend at least part of the year incarcerated.
 - Chronic hepatitis C costs the U.S. \$10 billion annually.
 - DHS has a long-standing partnership with Wisconsin DOC to test and treat for hepatitis C.



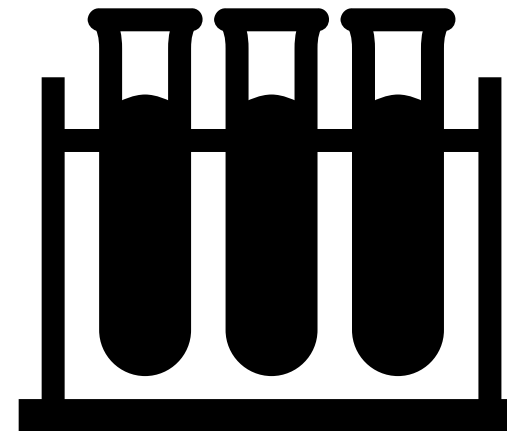
Identifying hepatitis C infections can help keep law enforcement safe if there is a workplace exposure.

Hepatitis C Testing

Rapid Testing



Confirmatory Testing



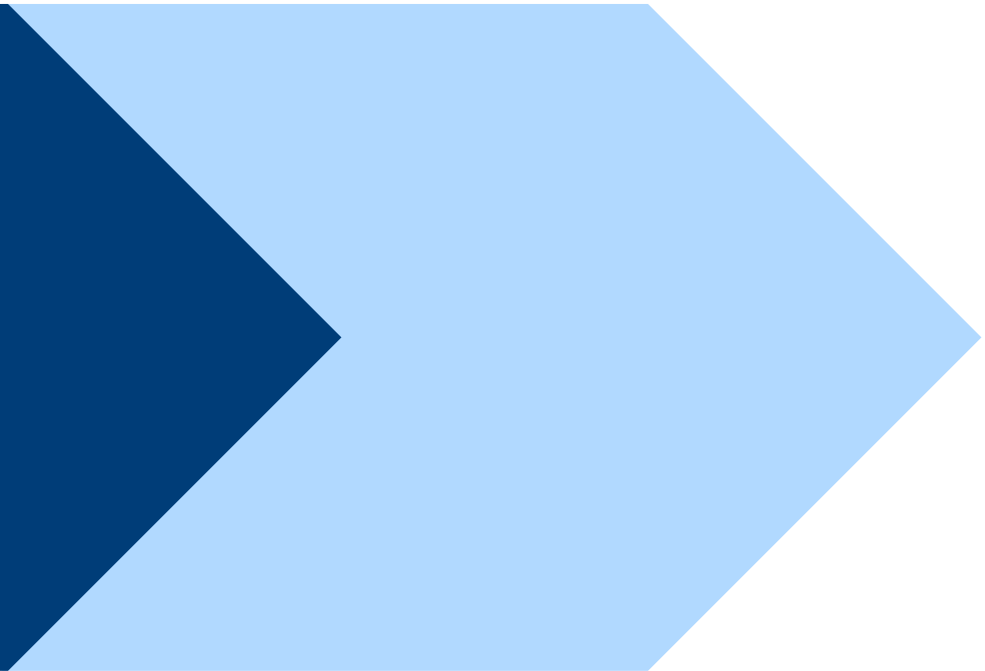
Hepatitis C Treatment

**HCV is curable
with anti-viral
medication.**

**Treatment
takes 8-12
weeks.**

**The medication
used has few
side effects.**

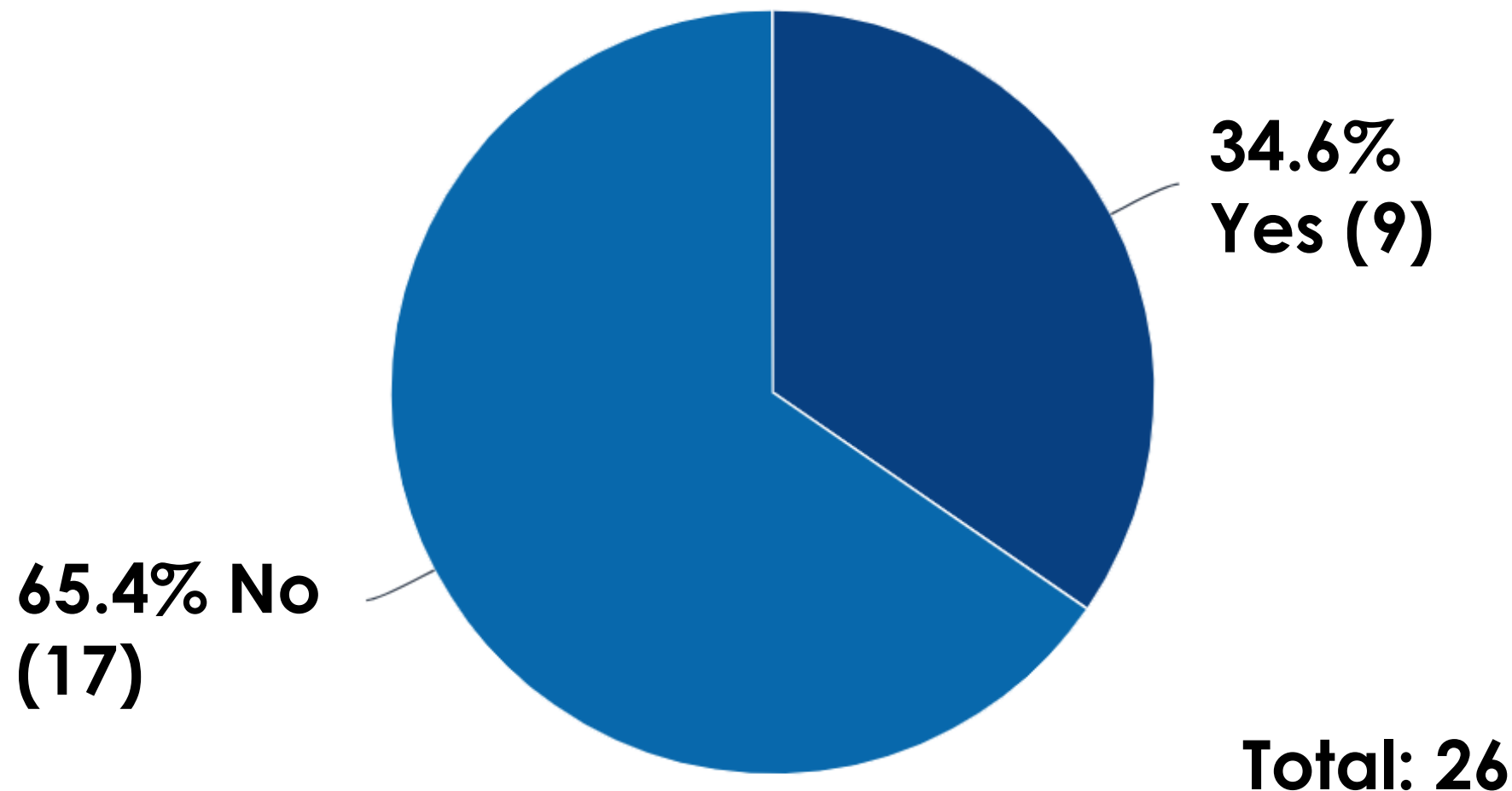
Pre-release Navigation and Resources

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- Information sheets for health services staff
 - Resource lists for inmates
 - Workflow that works best for your facility

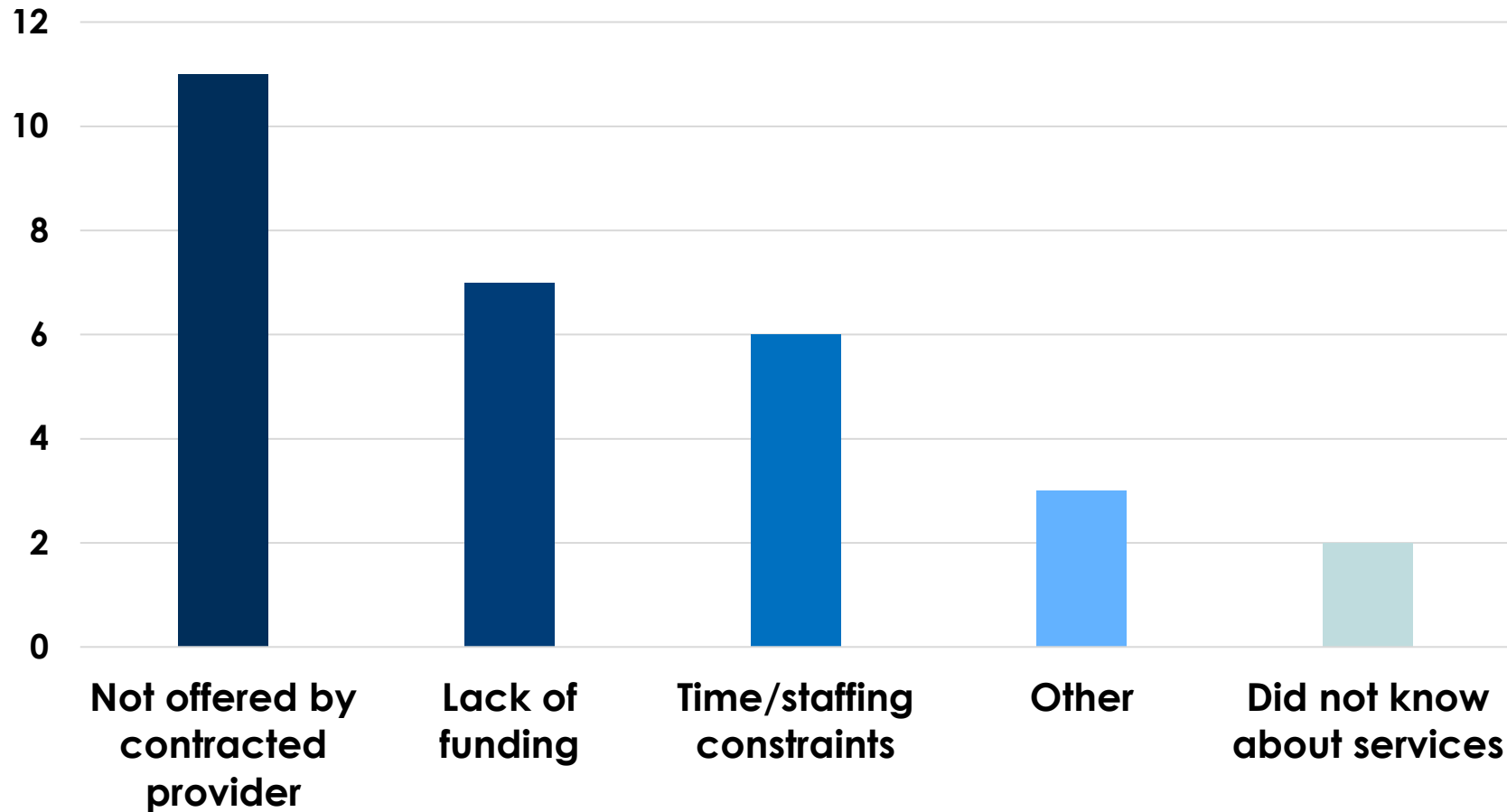
DHS is committed to new and ongoing collaborations with community partners to participate in hepatitis C elimination planning.

Preliminary Survey Results (09/05/2023)

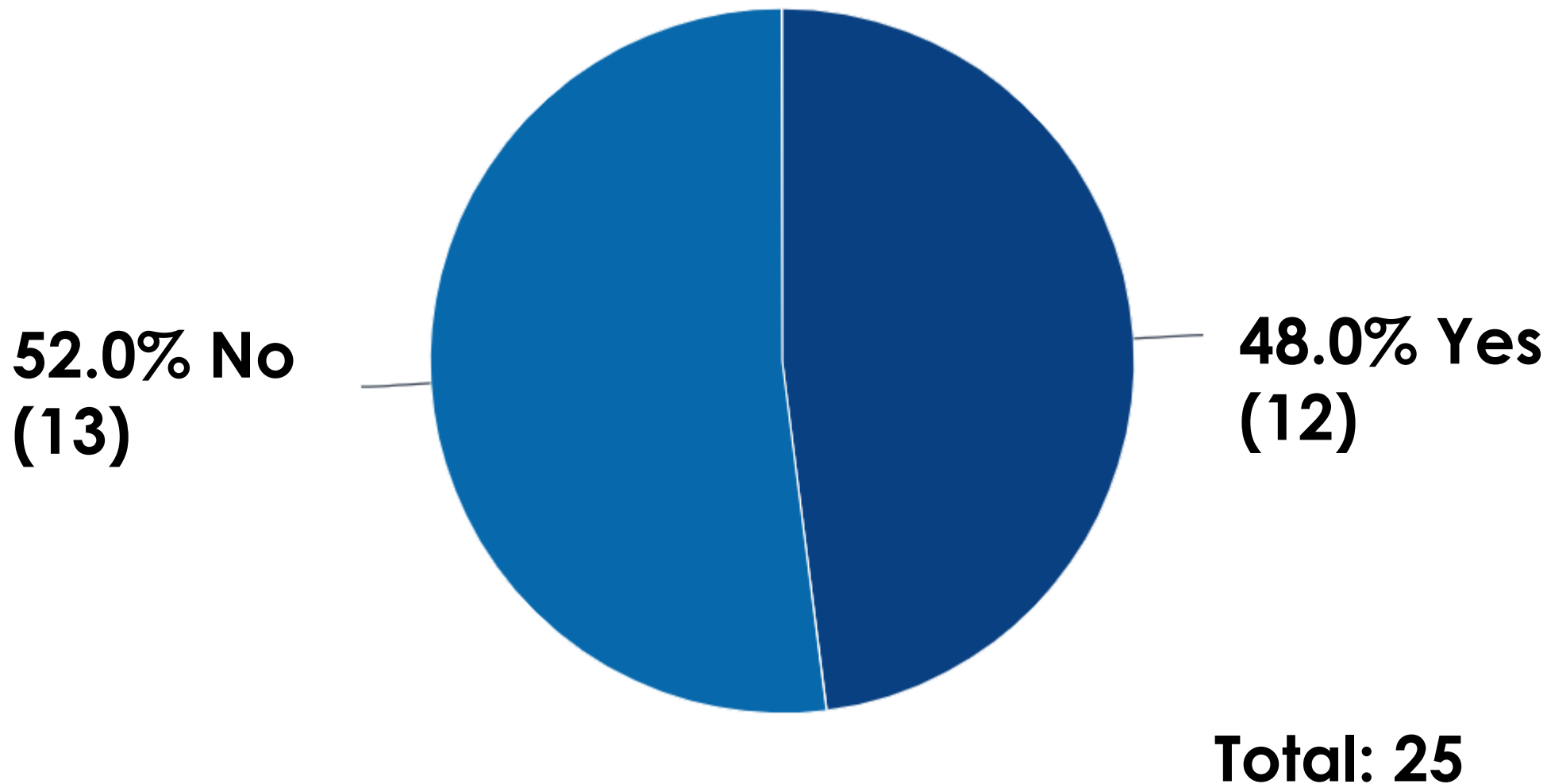
Is hepatitis C testing currently offered to people in custody?



What are the barriers preventing testing?



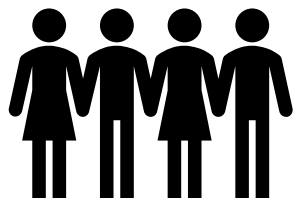
Is hepatitis C treatment offered?



Top 3: Why is hepatitis C treatment not offered?

- Financial restrictions (61.5%)
- Hepatitis C treatment not a service offered by the contracted healthcare provider or agency (53.8%)
- Facility does not house people for the duration needed to complete hepatitis C treatment (38.5%)

Future Collaborations



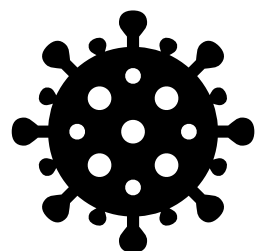
**Hepatitis C elimination workgroups
and meetings**



HCV trainings for health services units



**Discuss HCV testing and treatment with your
health services contractor**



**Meet with the Hepatitis C Disease
Intervention Specialist for more information**

Elimination Planning

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Sources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2023). *Data and Statistics, Correctional Health*. [Data and Statistics about Correctional Health | CDC](#)
- OraSure Technologies (2023). *OraQuick® HCV Rapid Antibody Test*. [OraQuick Hepatitis C Test \(orasure.com\)](#)
- Stepanova & Younossi (2017). *Economic Burden of Hepatitis C Infection*. [Economic Burden of Hepatitis C Infection - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services (2021). *Hepatitis C: Data*. [Hepatitis C: Data | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

Questions?

Thank you!

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