

# **SLOVENIA** COUNTRY

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# **VHPB BALKAN MEETING** *LESSONS LEARNT, BEST PRACTICES AND FUTURE CHALLENGES*



# DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Lecturer: Abbvie, Bayer, Gilead, Merck, Sandoz
- Manuscript preparation: Abbvie, Gilead, Merck
- Travel/accommodational meeting expences: Abbvie, Gilead, Merck

No conflict of interest regarding this presentation

**SLOVENIA**

**1992-2022**

**30 years**

**Introduction of testing for HCV**

**SLOVENIA**

**1997-2022**

**25 years**

**National strategy for  
the management of hepatitis C**

**SLOVENIA**  
**2007-2022**

**15 years**  
**National strategy**  
**for the management of HCV infection**  
**in PWID**

# SLOVENIA

## NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HCV INFECTION

National Viral  
Hepatitis Expert  
Board

1997

National  
Strategy  
for the  
Management  
of HCV  
Infection

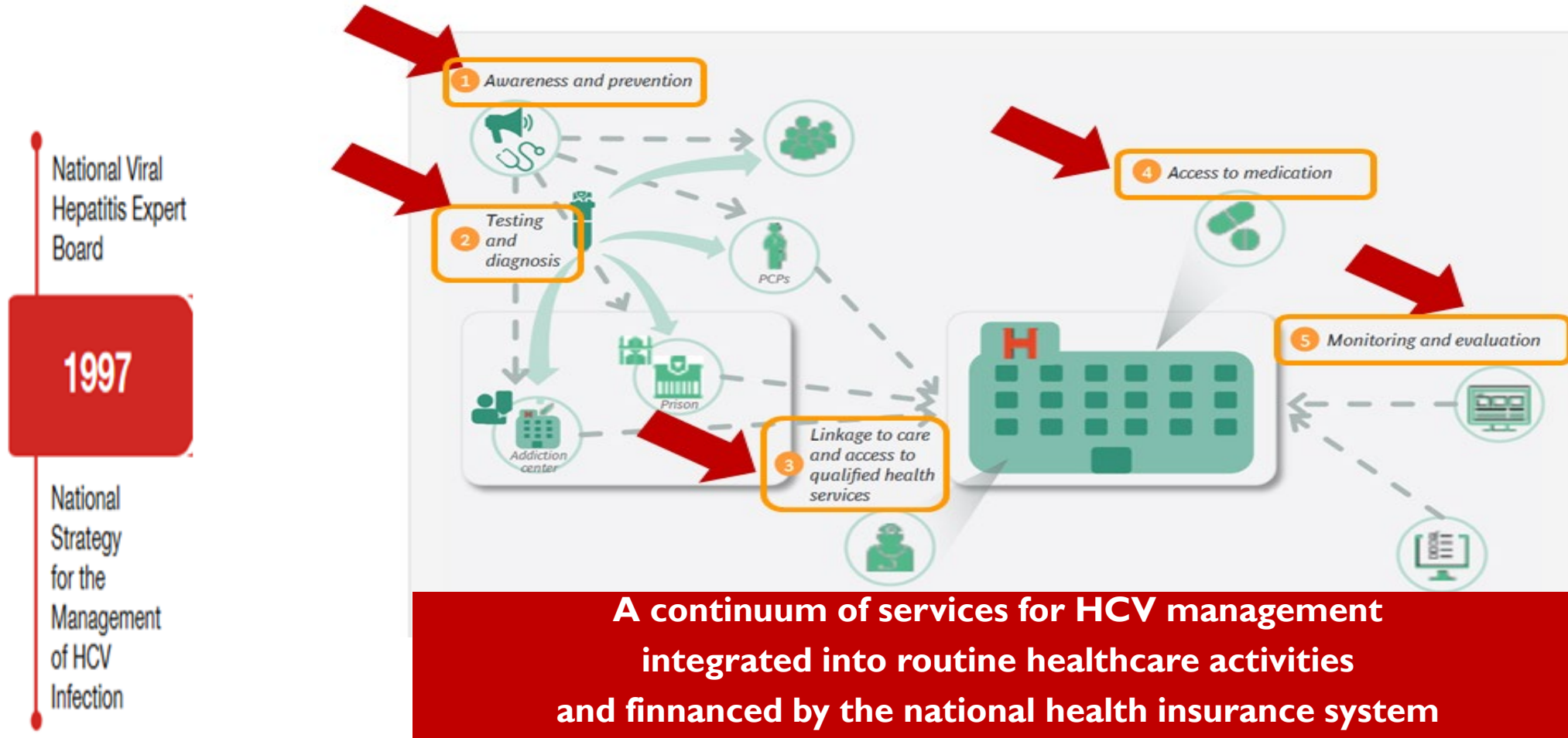


Matičič M et al. ISIS 1999; 8: 49-51.

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.

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## NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HCV INFECTION





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## NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF HCV INFECTION

### 5 centers for HCV treatment



### Treatment for everybody since 1997

- All SOC treatment available and accessible
- National Health Insurance System
- NO restrictions for treatment
- PWID: Never declined from treatment

### National register of all the treated patients (since 1997)

National Viral  
Hepatitis Expert  
Board

1997

National  
Strategy  
for the  
Management  
of HCV  
Infection



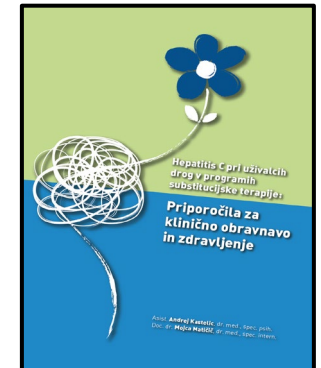
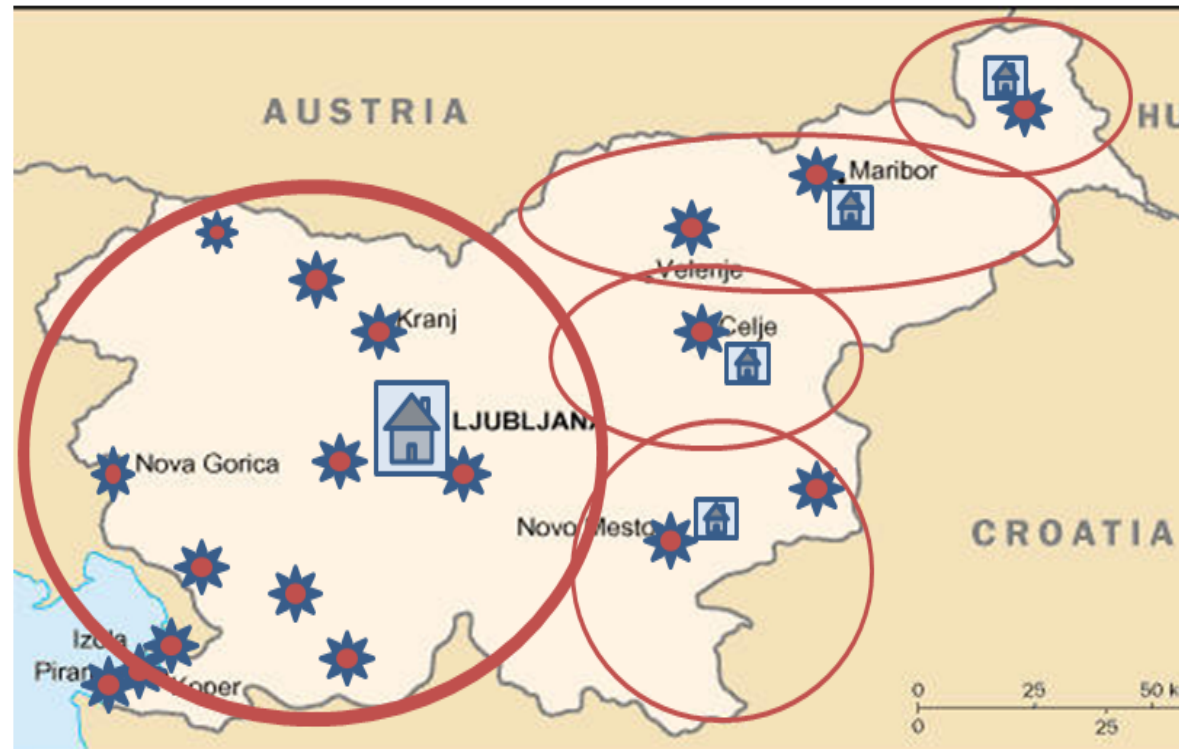


# SLOVENIA

## NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR HCV MANAGEMENT IN PWID



**INTEGRATED :** 18 Centers for treatment and prevention of drug addiction  
5 Centers for treatment of viral hepatitis

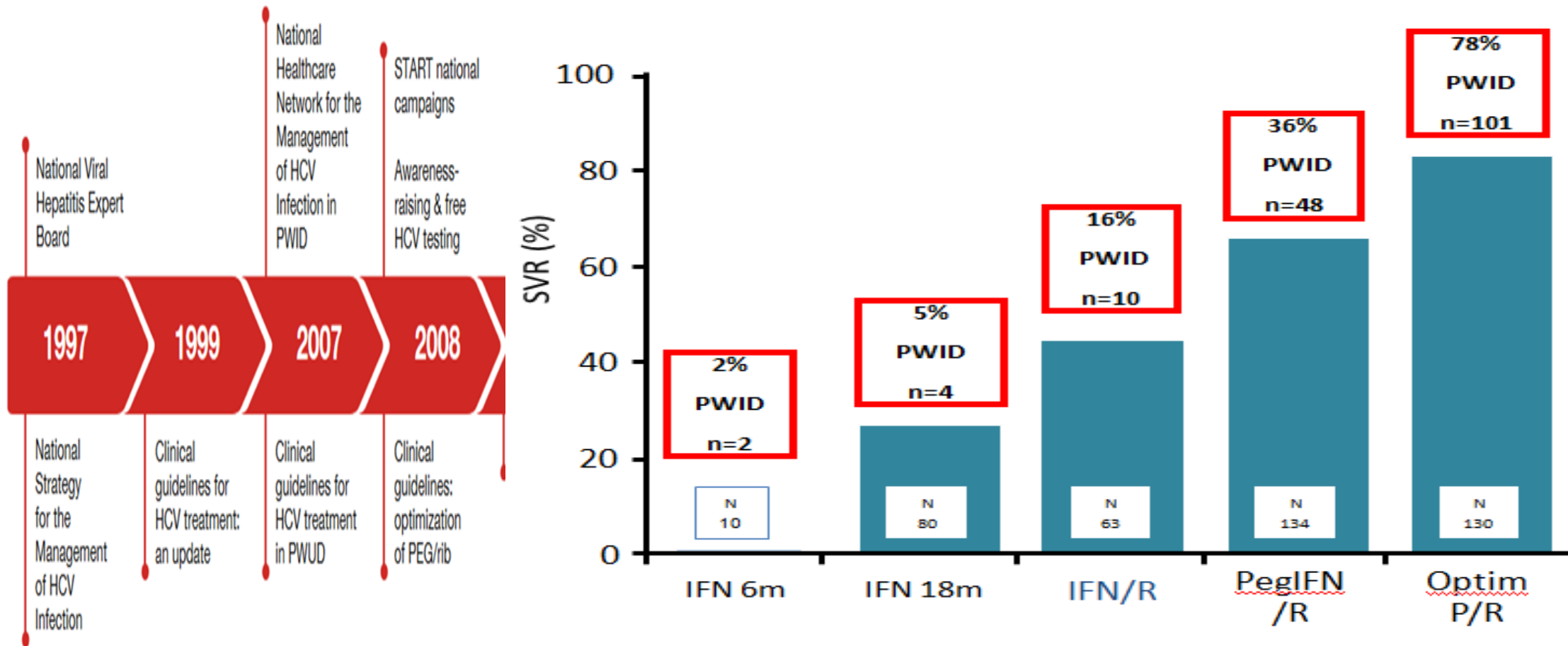


Maticic M et al. BMC Infect Dis 2014; 14(Suppl 6): 12-3. Maticic M, Kastelic A. Zdrav Vestn 2009; 78: 529-39.

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.

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## HCV TREATMENT EFFICACY WITH IFN-BASED TREATMENT



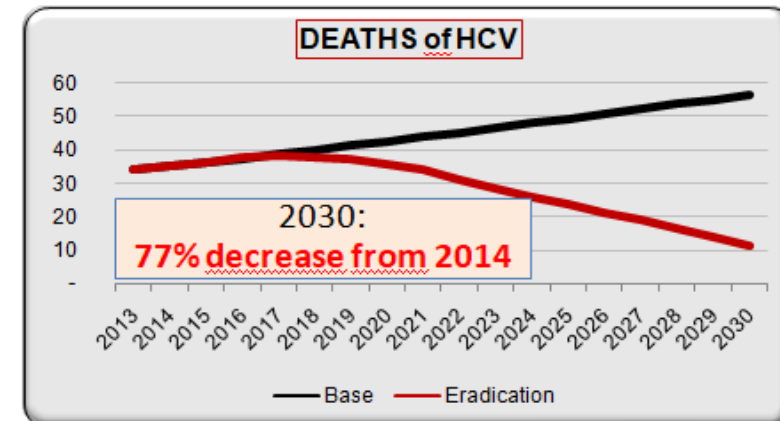
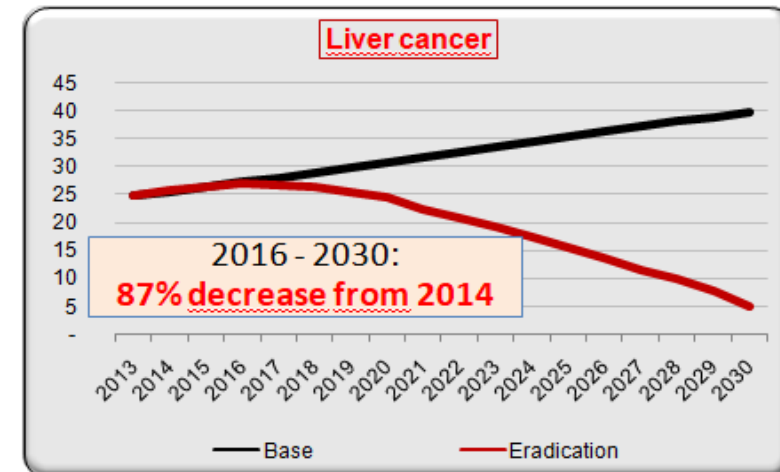
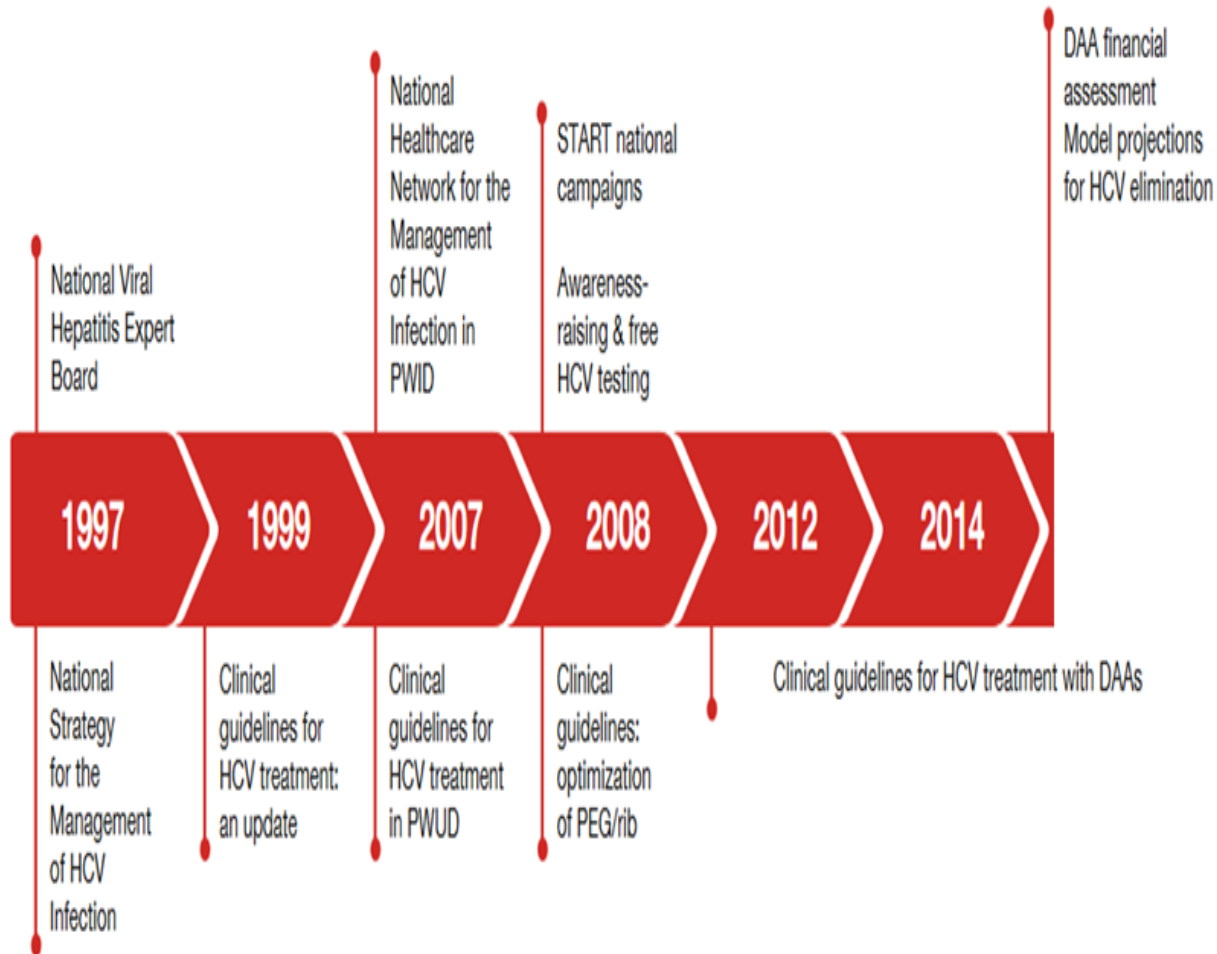
Lesnicar G et al. ECCMID 1995. Brinovec V et al. Hepatogastroenterology 2002.

Brinovec V et al. Hepatogastroenterology 2004. Maticic M, Selič-Kurincič T, et al. Suchtmed 2013; 15: 245. Selic-Kurincic T, et al. Intervirology 2013.

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.

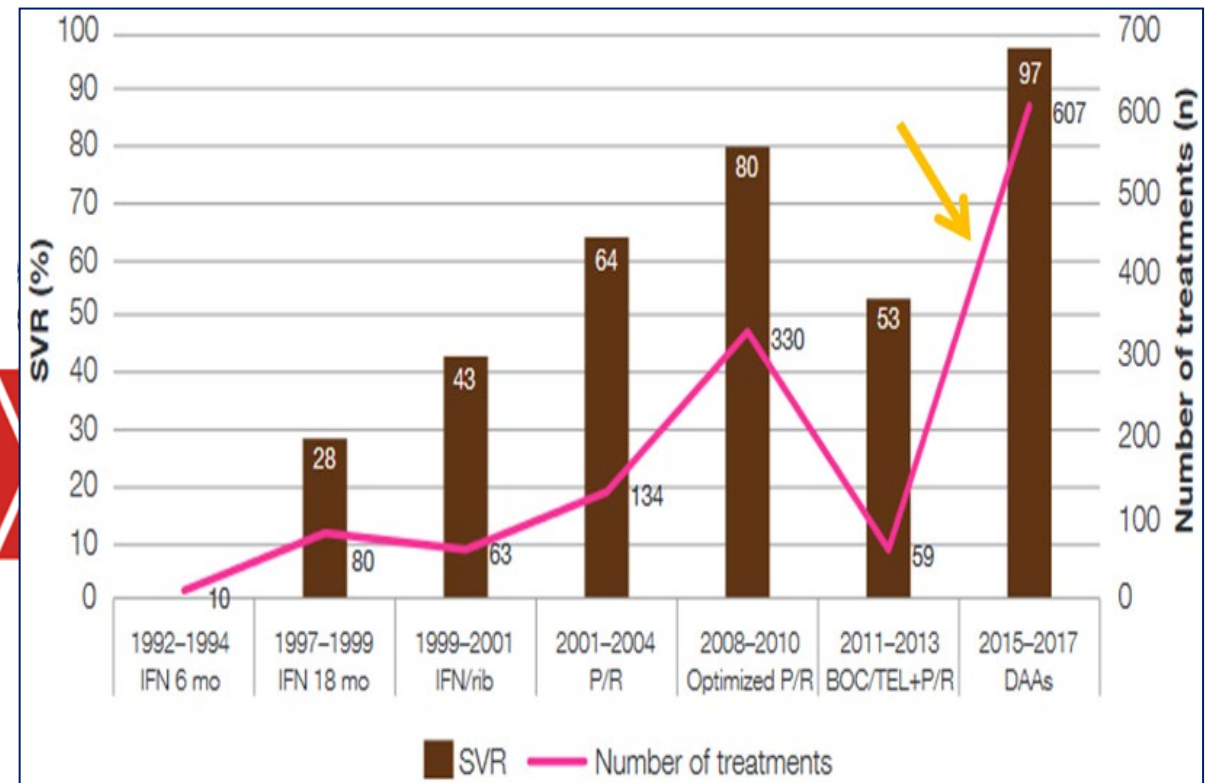
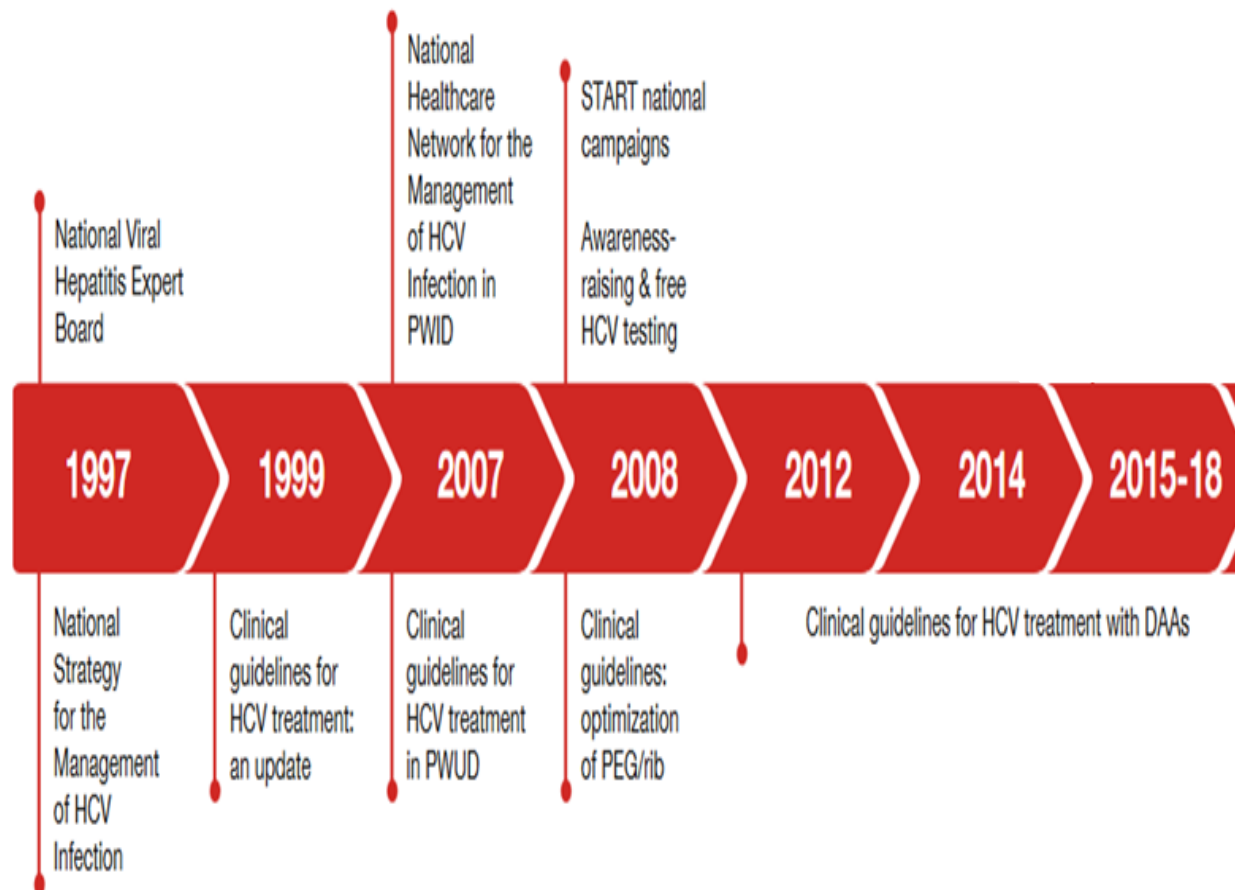
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## MODEL PROJECTIONS FOR HCV ELIMINATION WITH DAA



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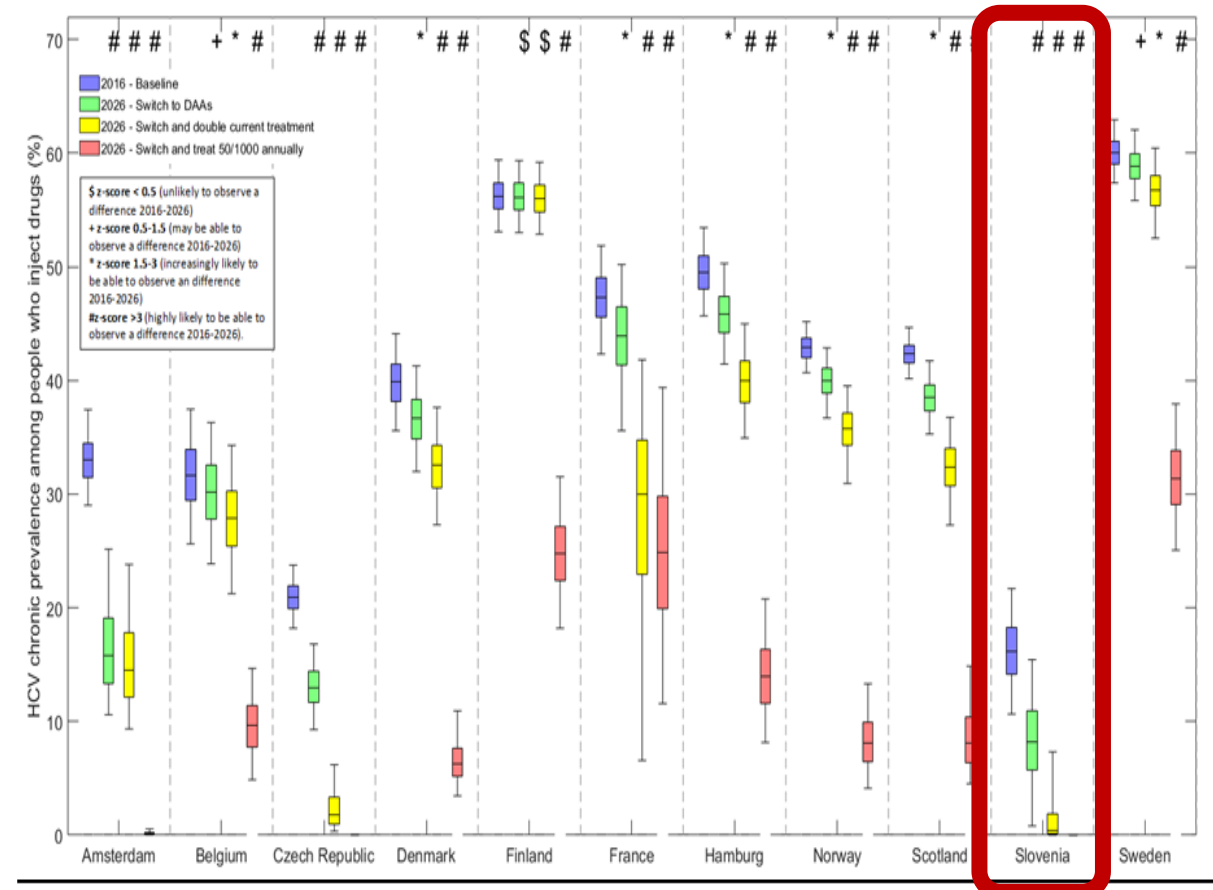
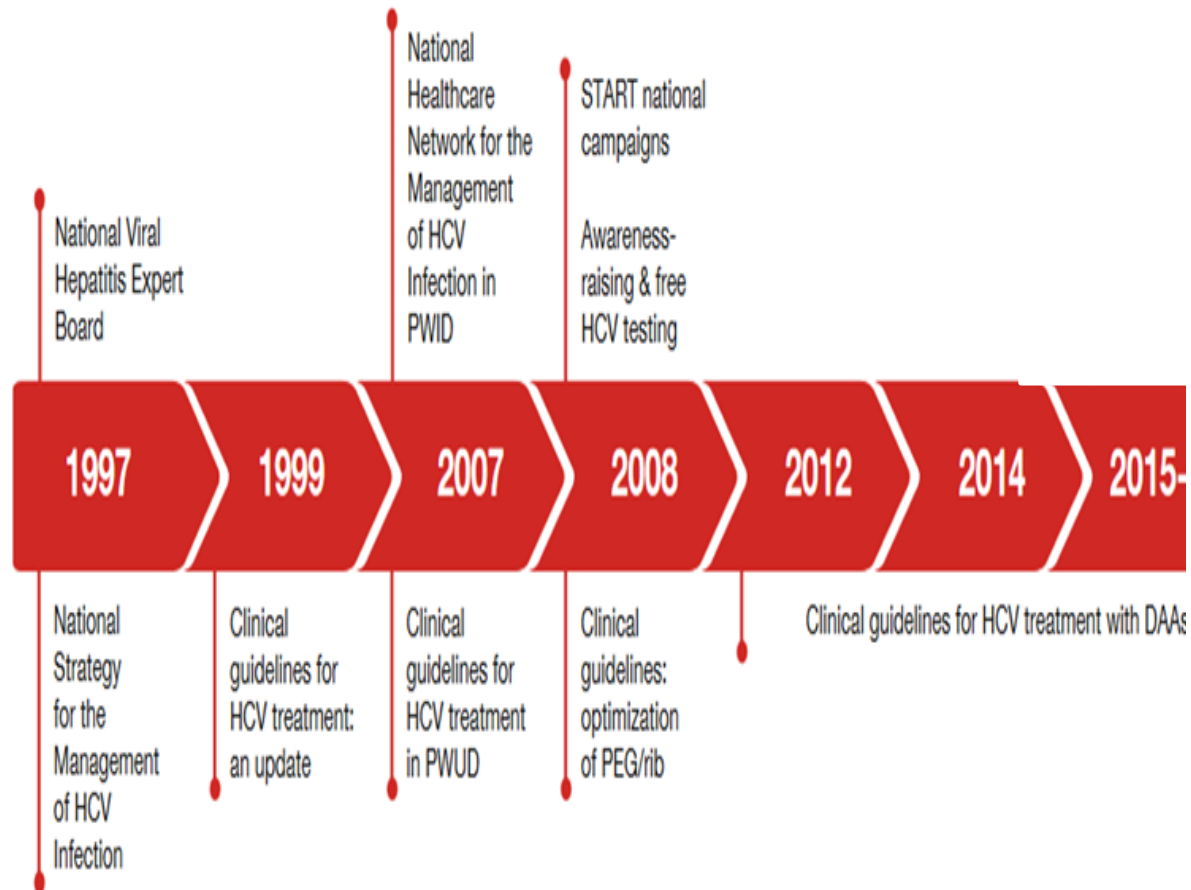
## HCV TREATMENT EFFICACY WITH DAA



Lesnicar G et al. ECCMID 1995. Maticic M, Selič-Kurinčič T, et al. Suchtmed 2013; 15: 245. Brinovec V et al. Hepatogastroenterology 2002. Selič-Kurinčič T, et al. Intervirology 2013. Brinovec V et al. Hepatogastroenterology 2004. Maticic M, et al. SEEC 2014. Maticic M, et al. 3rd CEE Viral Hep Co-infect HIV. Ljubljana 2017. Poster. Maticic M et al. EASL/ILC. Vienna April, 2019. Poster. WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.

# SLOVENIA

## IMPACT OF DAA TREATMENT ON HCV TRANSMISSION IN PWID – A MODEL PROJECTION





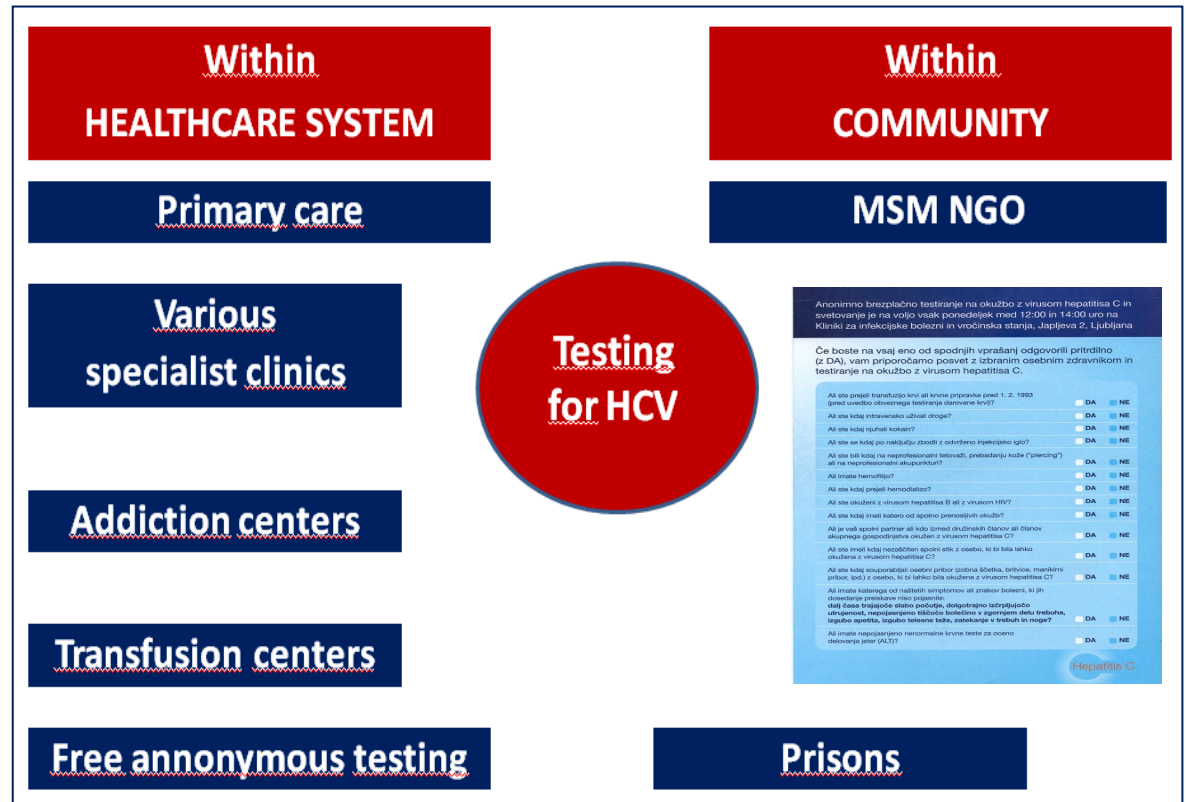
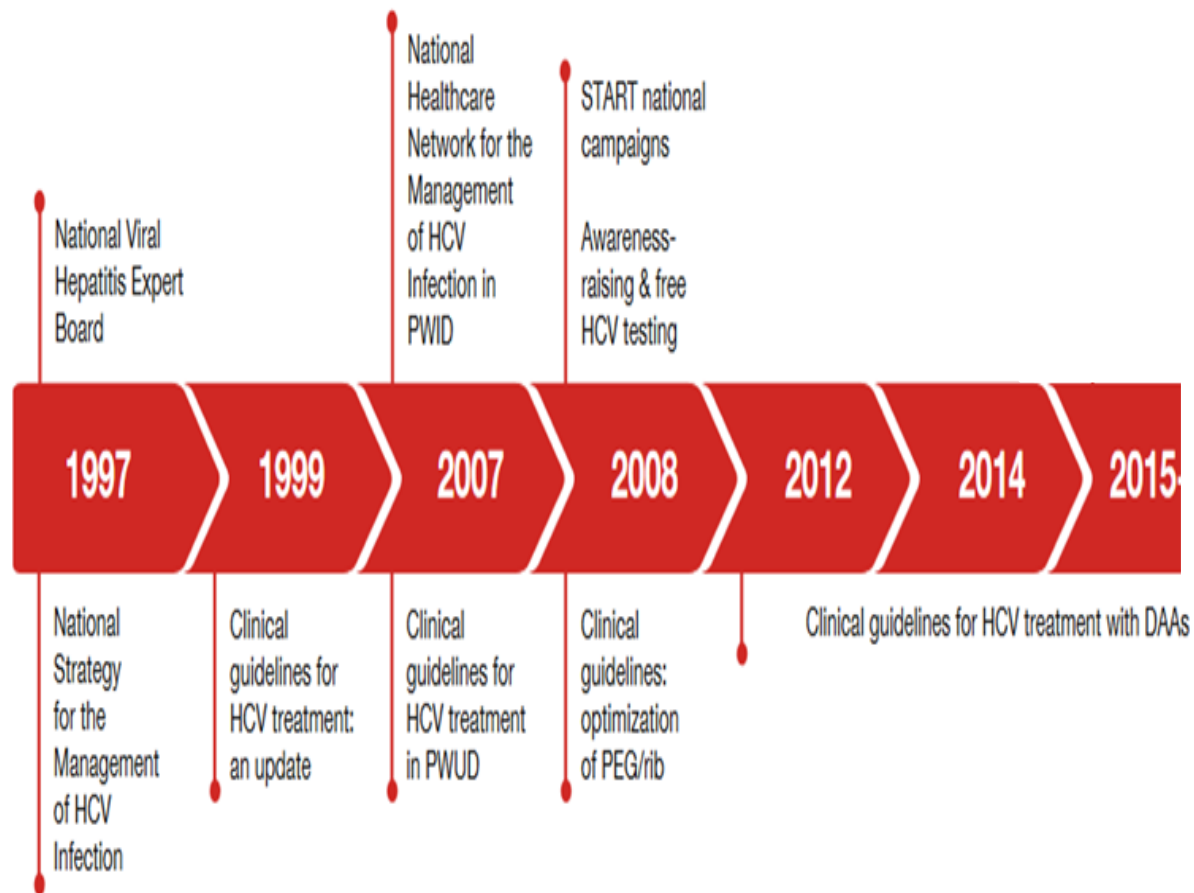
# HEP-Y

Spletna aplikacija za prepoznavanje in informiranje o hepatitisih

Ali ste okuženi z virusom hepatitisa?

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## EXPANDED HCV TESTING



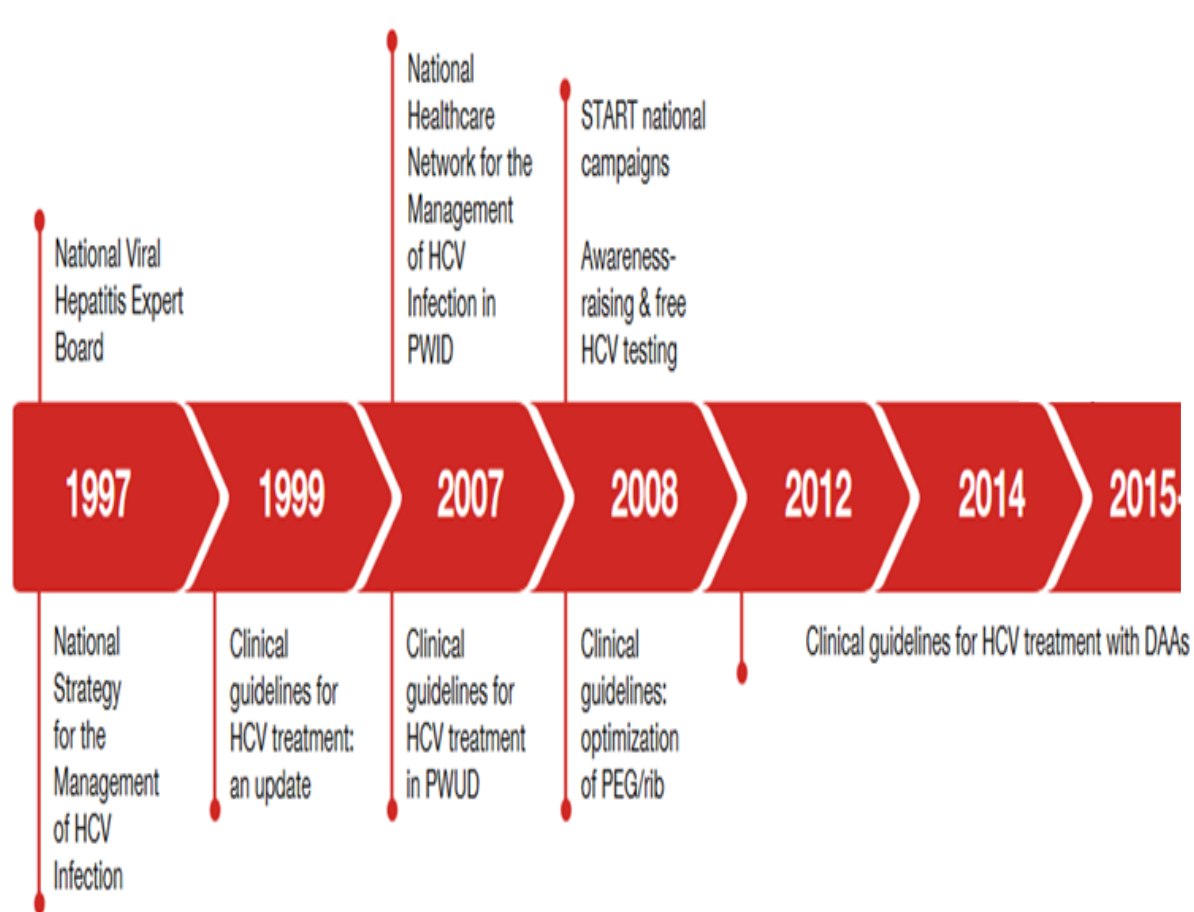
Blood Transfusion Centre of Slovenia. Annual Reports, 2018, 2019, 2020. Legebitra. Annual Report on STI testing in MSM, 2019. National Viral Hepatitis Expert Board. Annual Report. Ljubljana, September 2021.

WHO. Compendium of good practices in the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region, Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe; 2020.



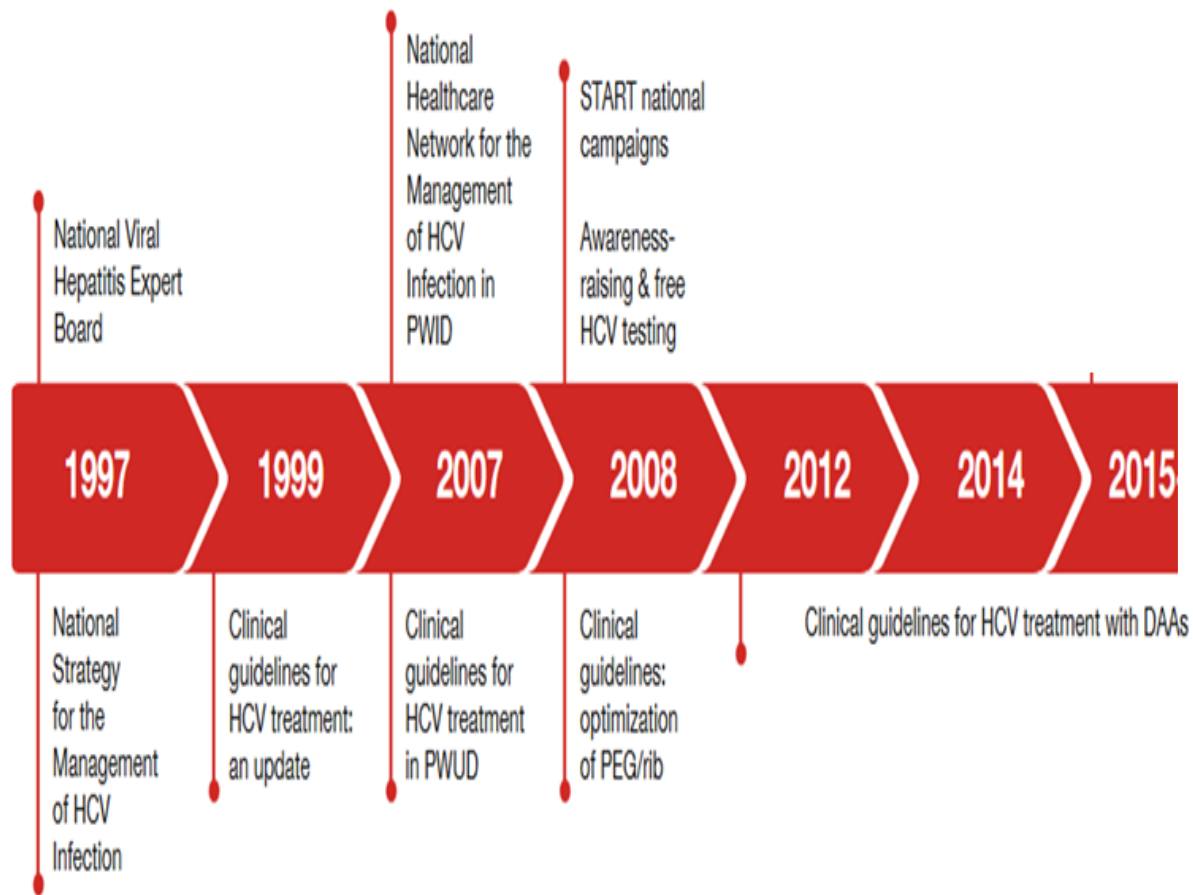
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## HCV TESTING WITHIN COMMUNITY - MSM



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## ACTIVE CASE FINDING OF HCV INFECTED

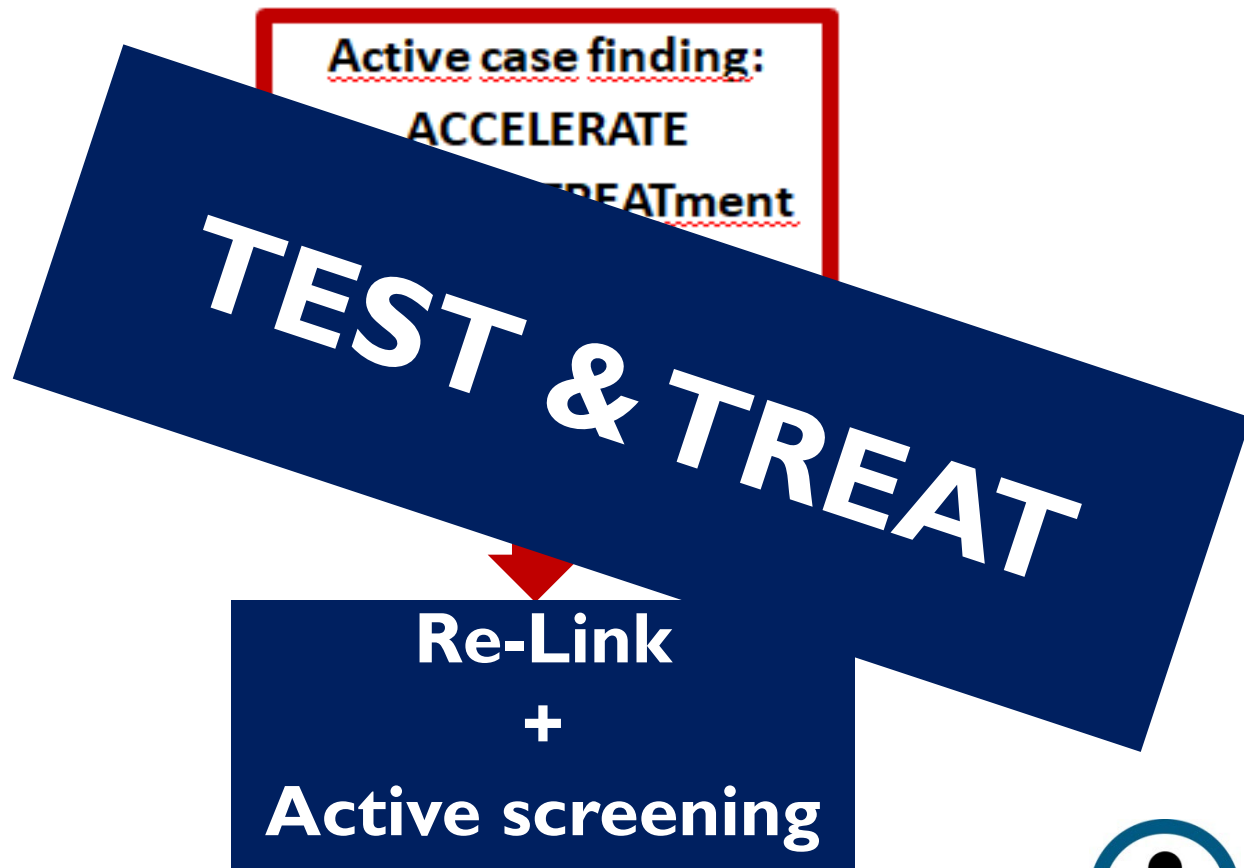
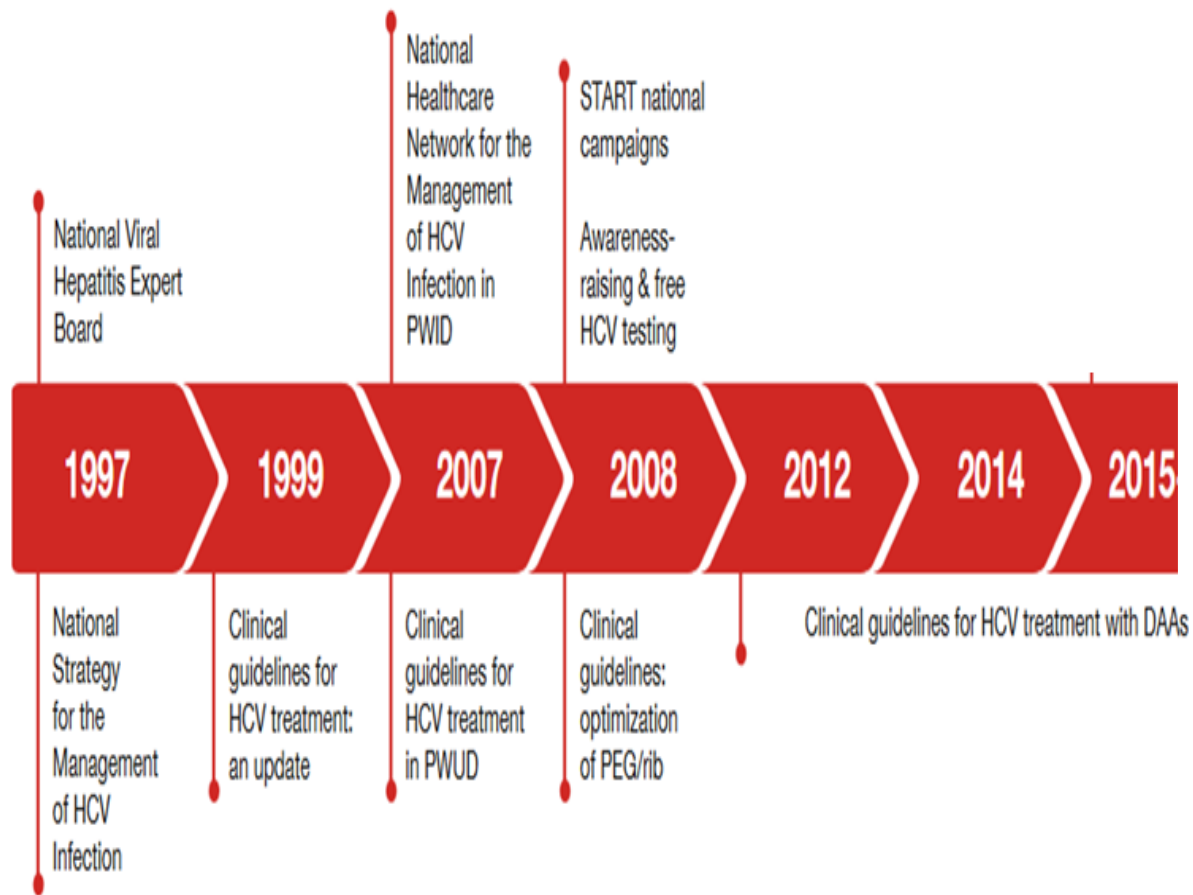


**Active case finding:**  
**ACCELERATE**  
**TESTing & TREATment**

**Re-Link**  
**+**  
**Active screening**

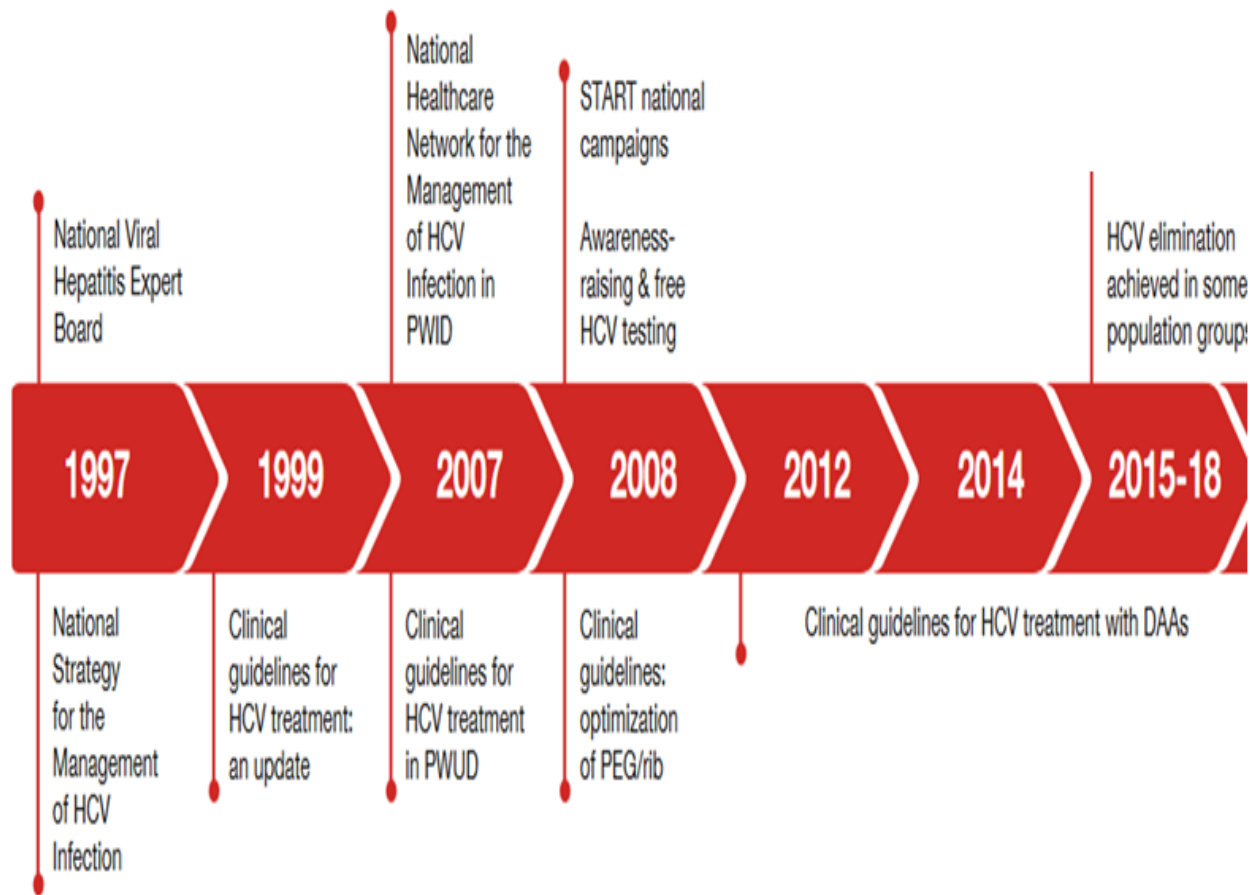
# SLOVENIA

## ACTIVE CASE FINDING OF HCV INFECTED

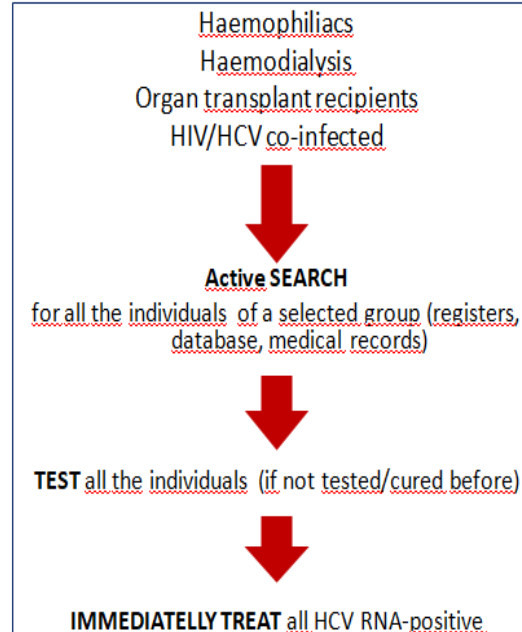


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## ACTIVE CASE FINDING OF HCV INFECTED



### WITH regular medical supervision

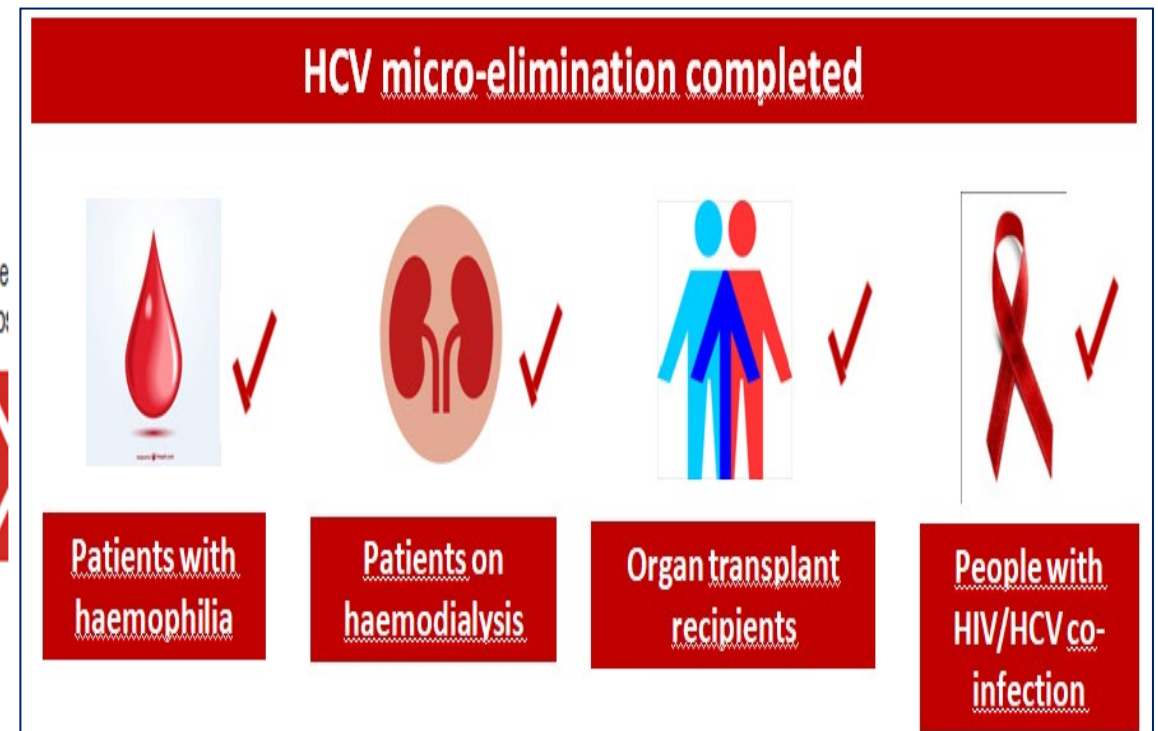
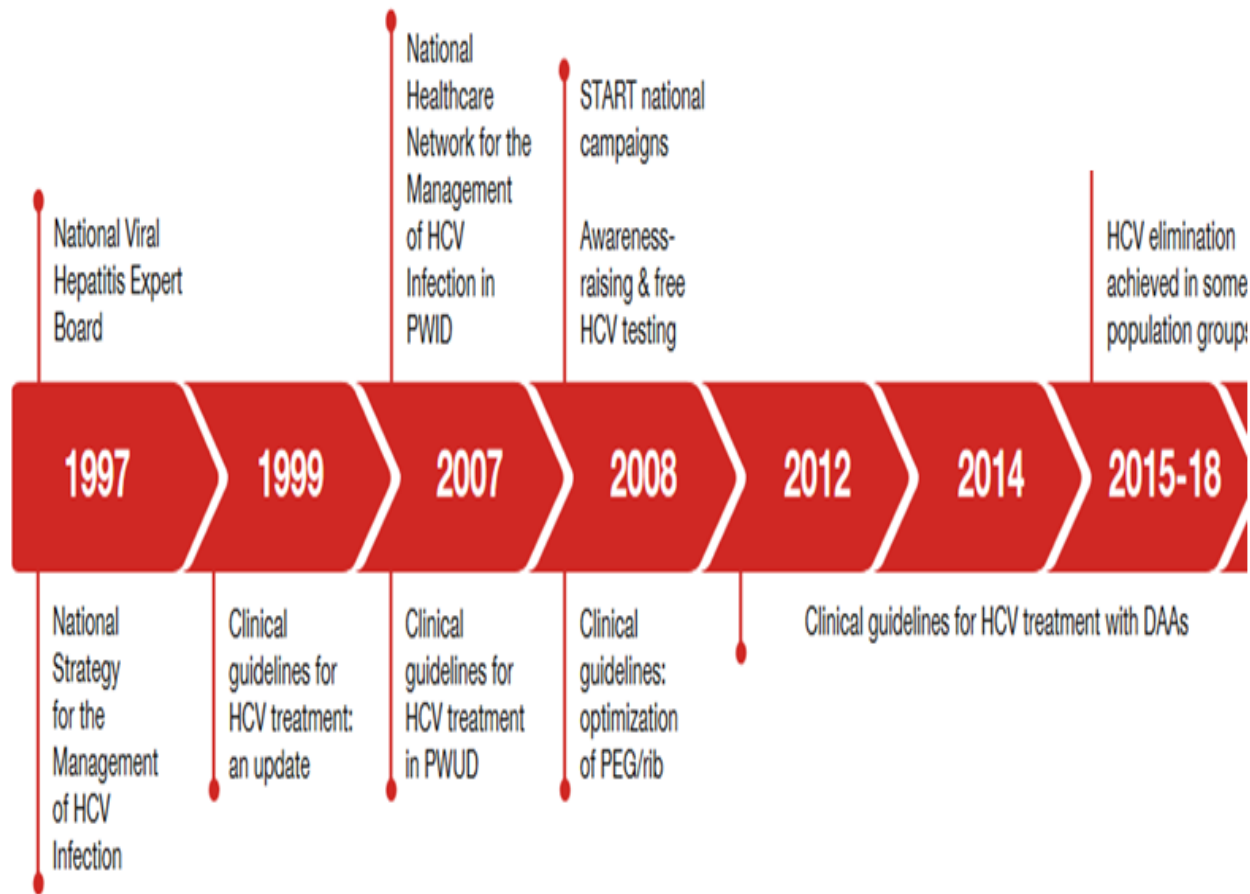


### WITHOUT regular medical supervision



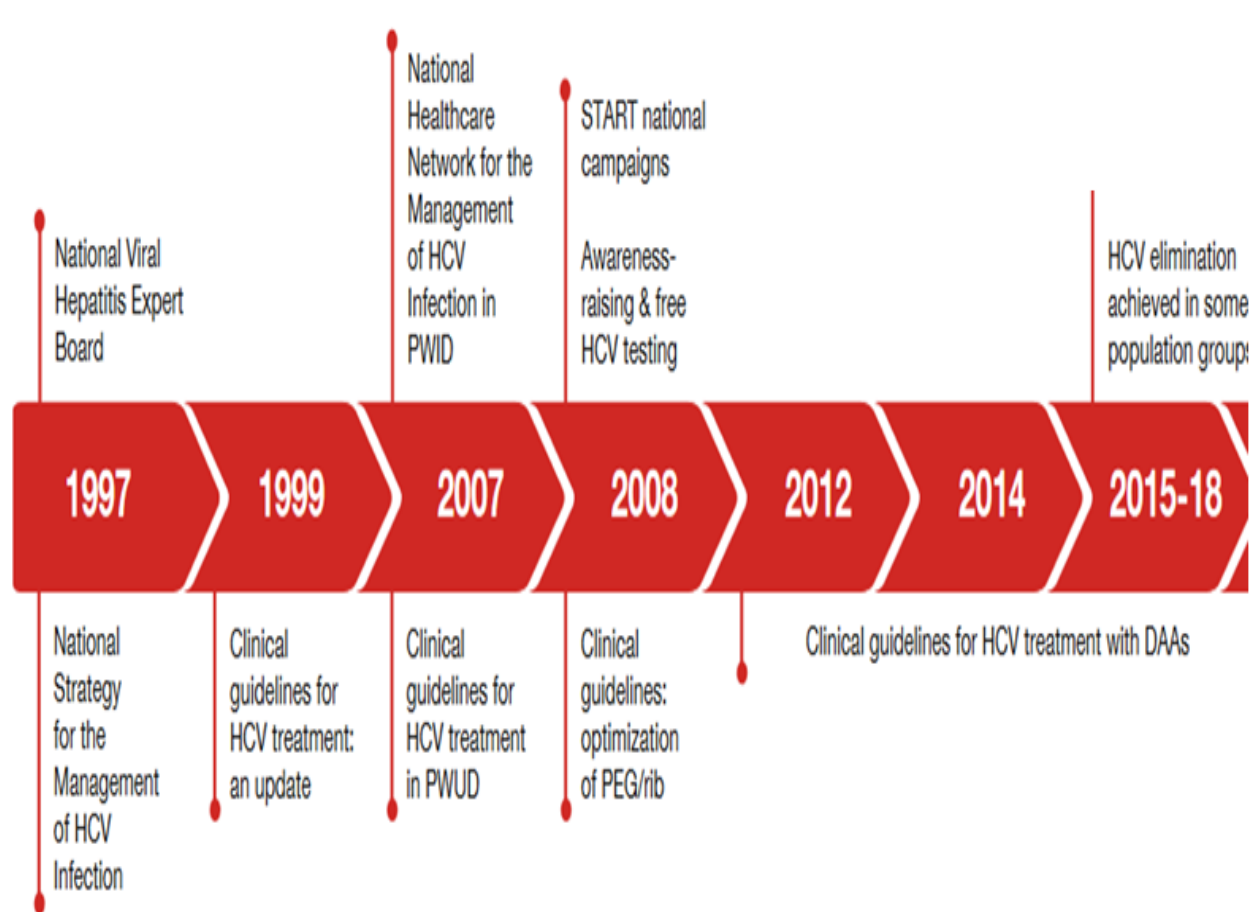
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## HCV MICRO-ELIMINATION COMPLETED

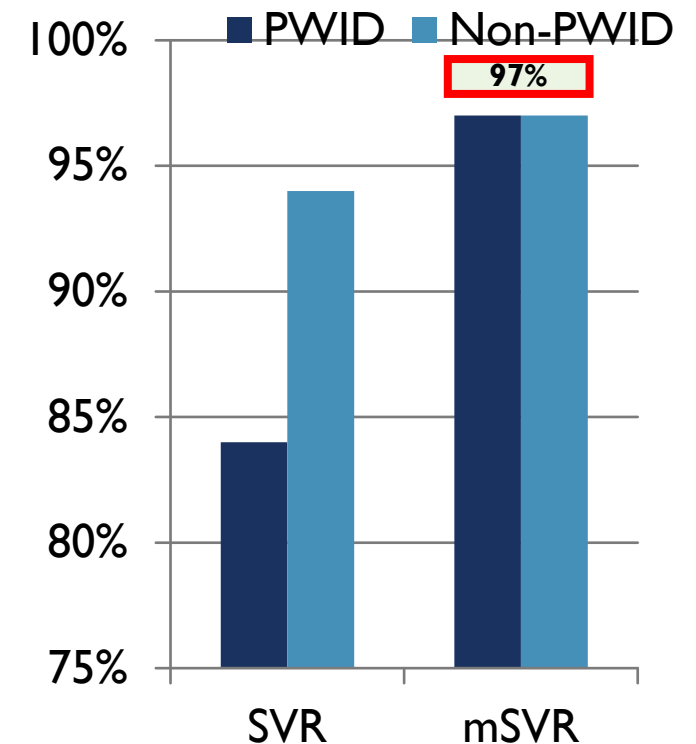


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## HCV MICRO-ELIMINATION IN PWID?



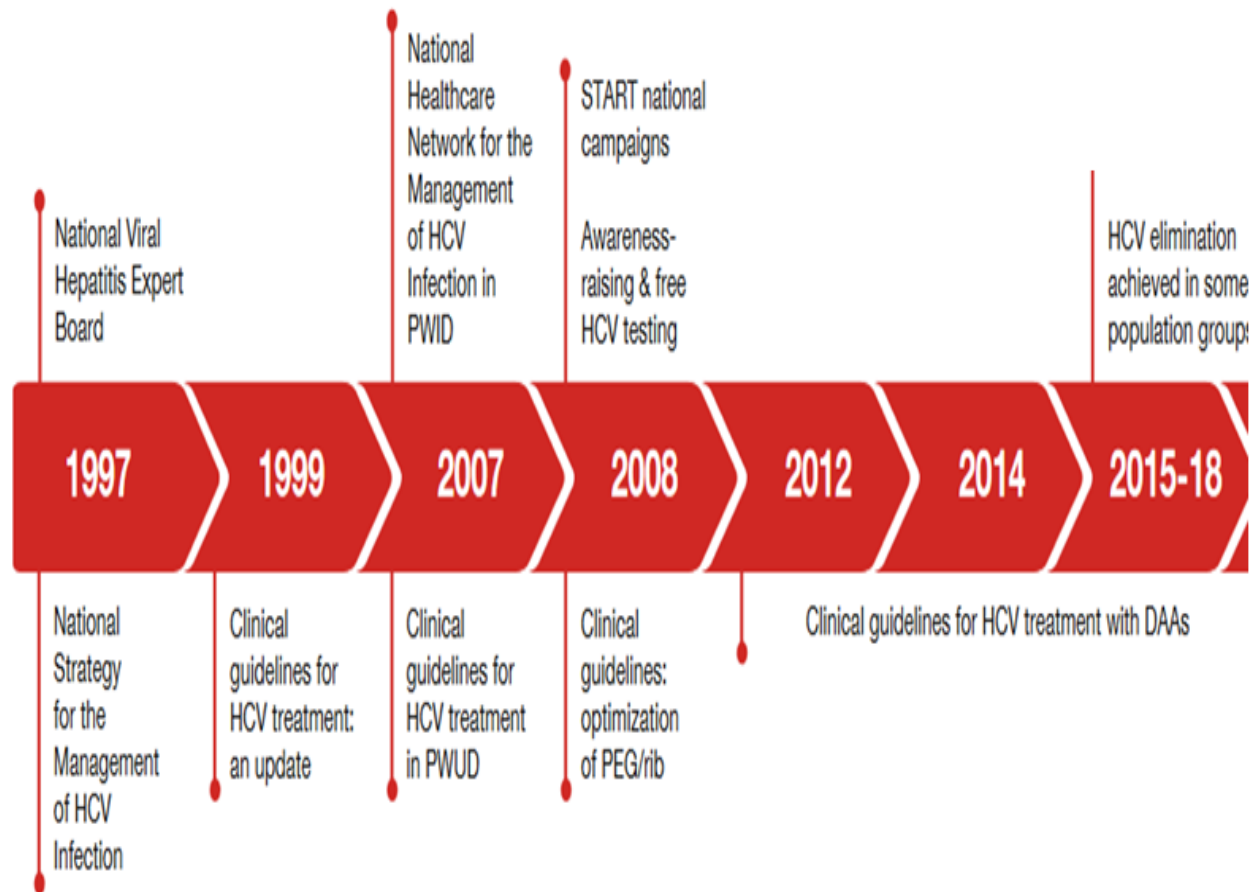
**DAA treatment:**  
 PWID: n=173  
 Non-PWID: n=210



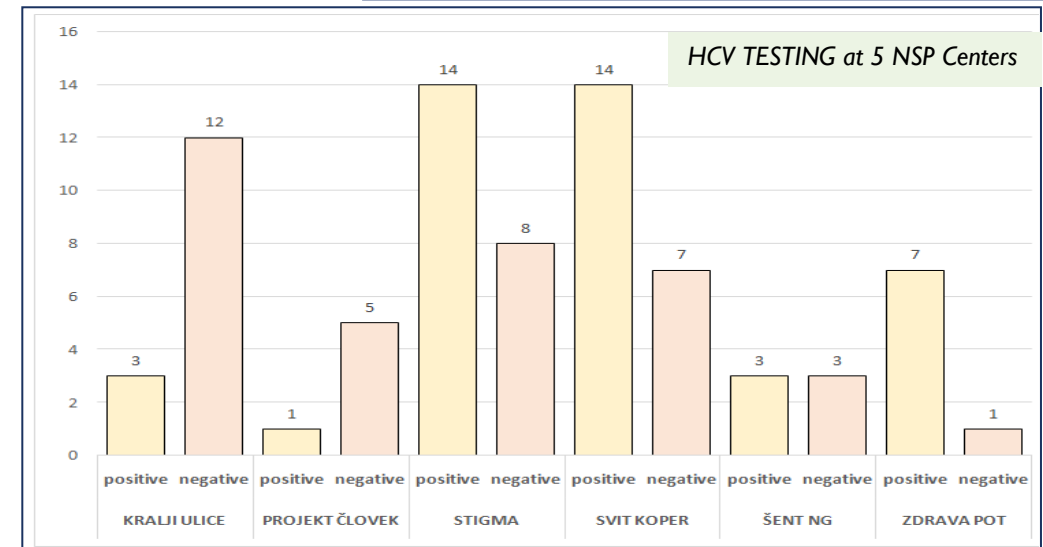


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## HCV MICRO-ELIMINATION IN PWID?



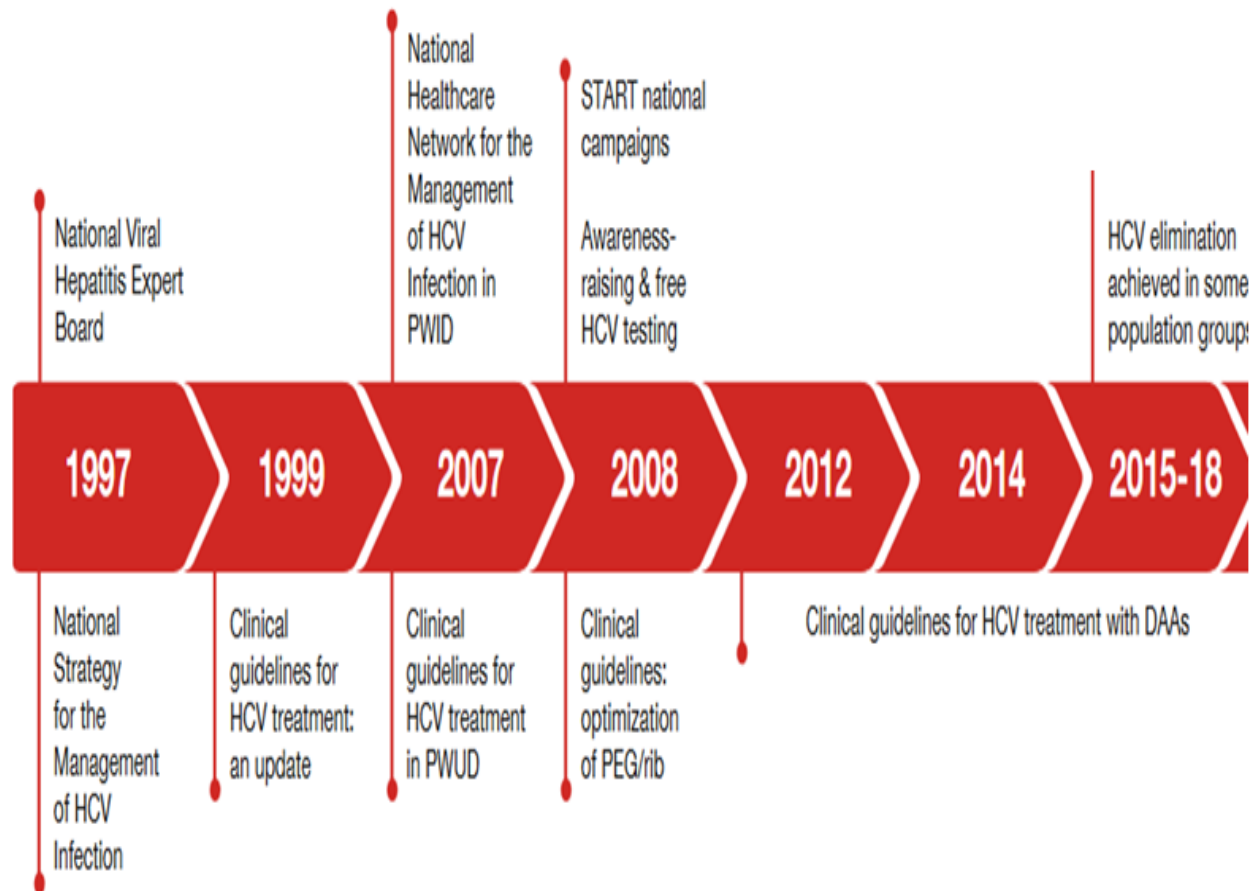
### PWID in NSP



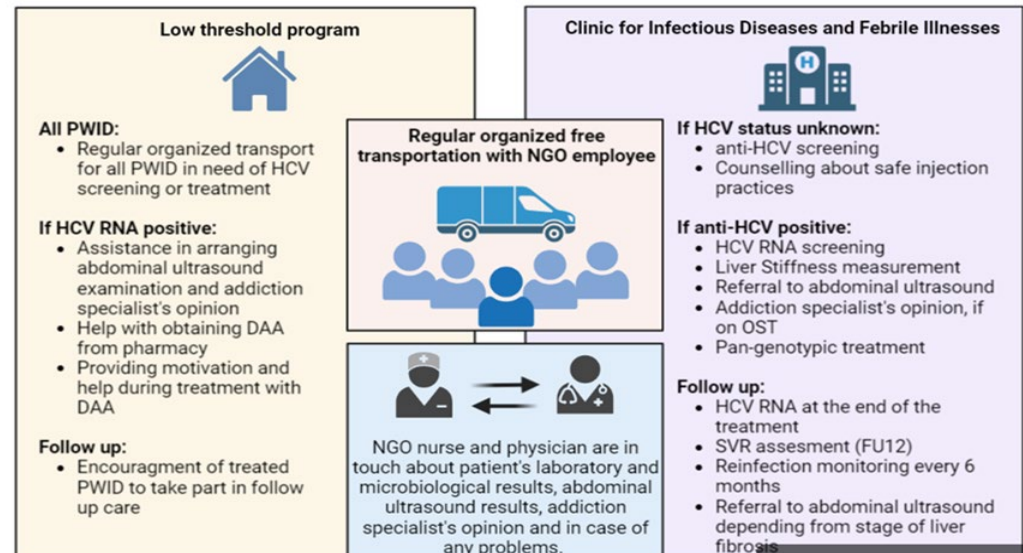


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## HCV MICRO-ELIMINATION IN PWID?

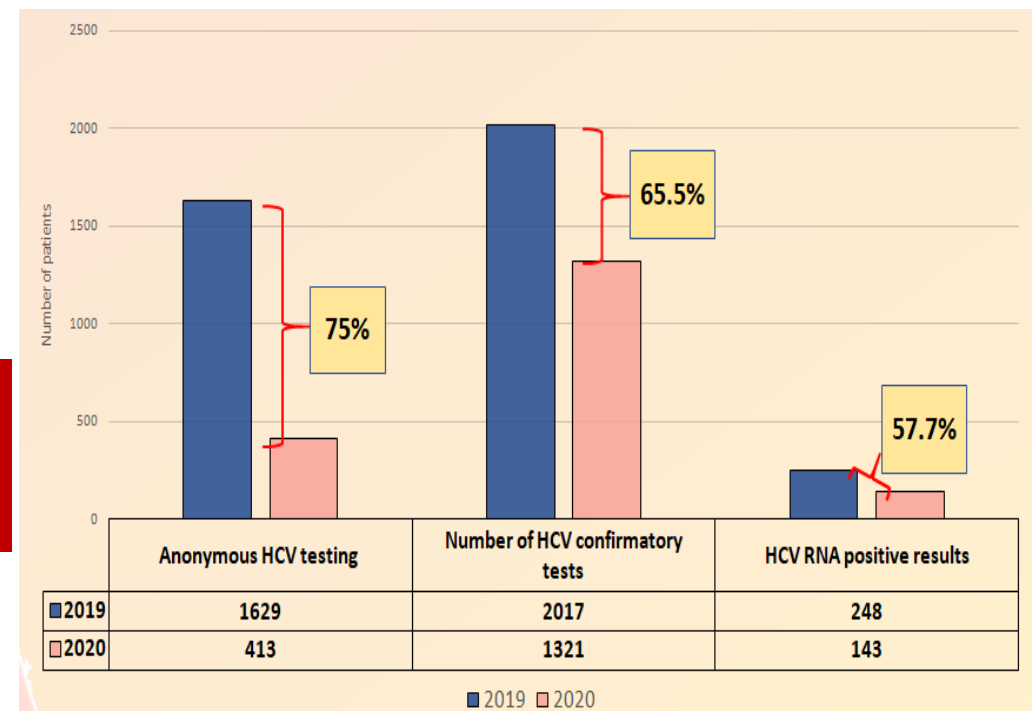
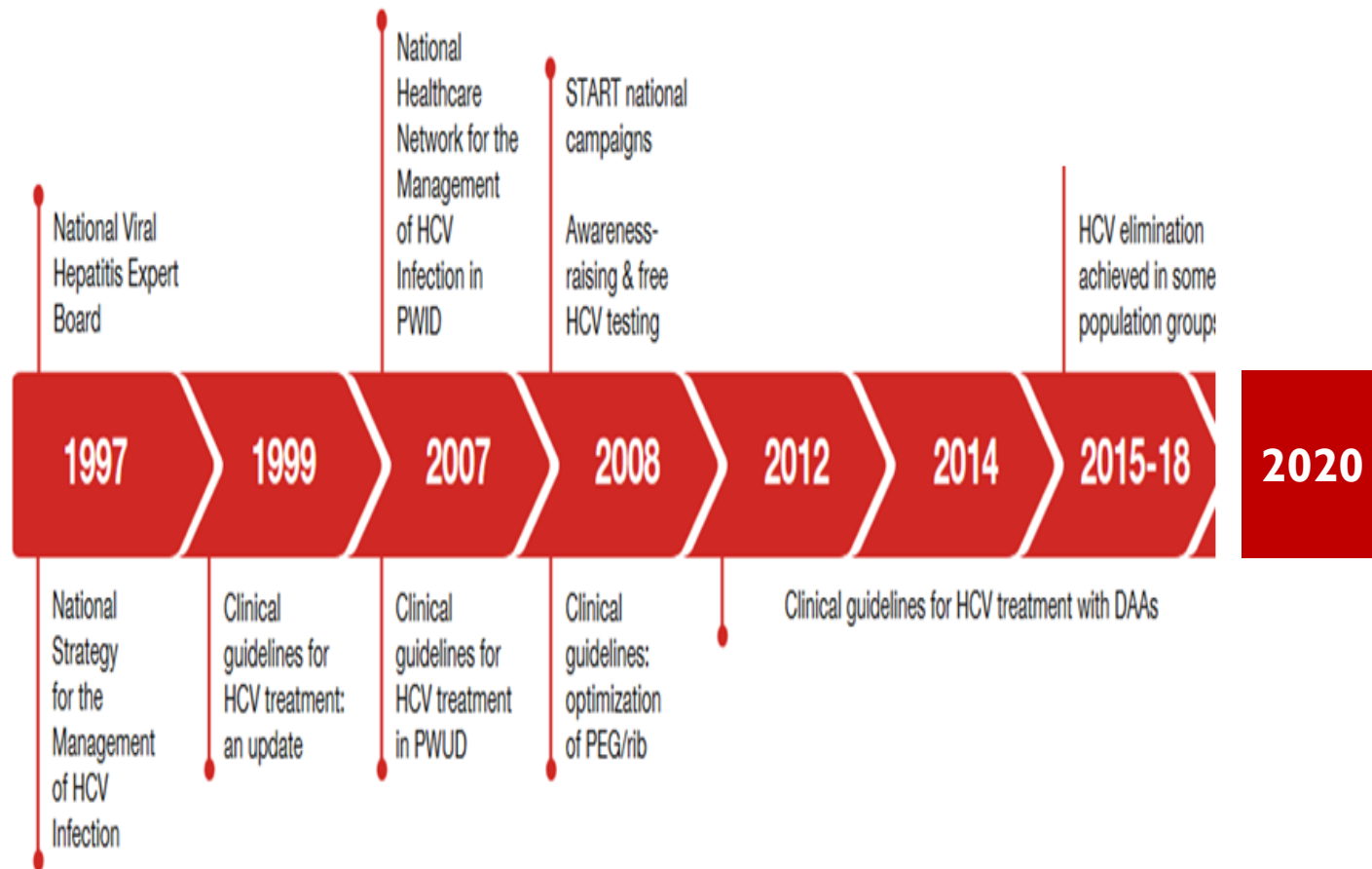


### PWID in NSP



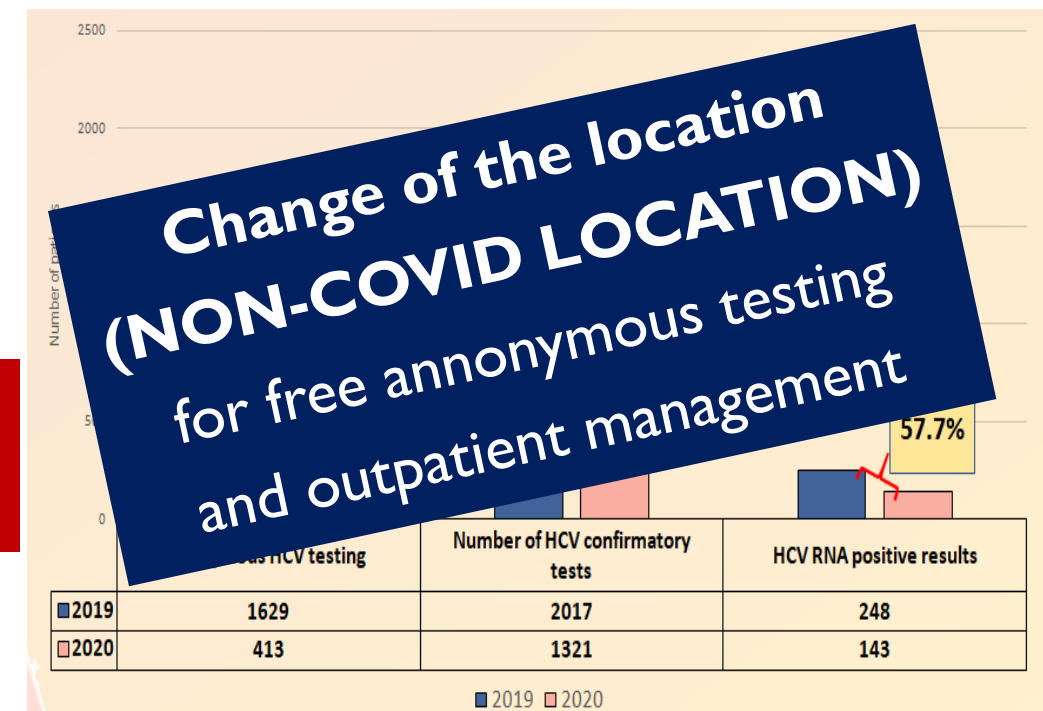
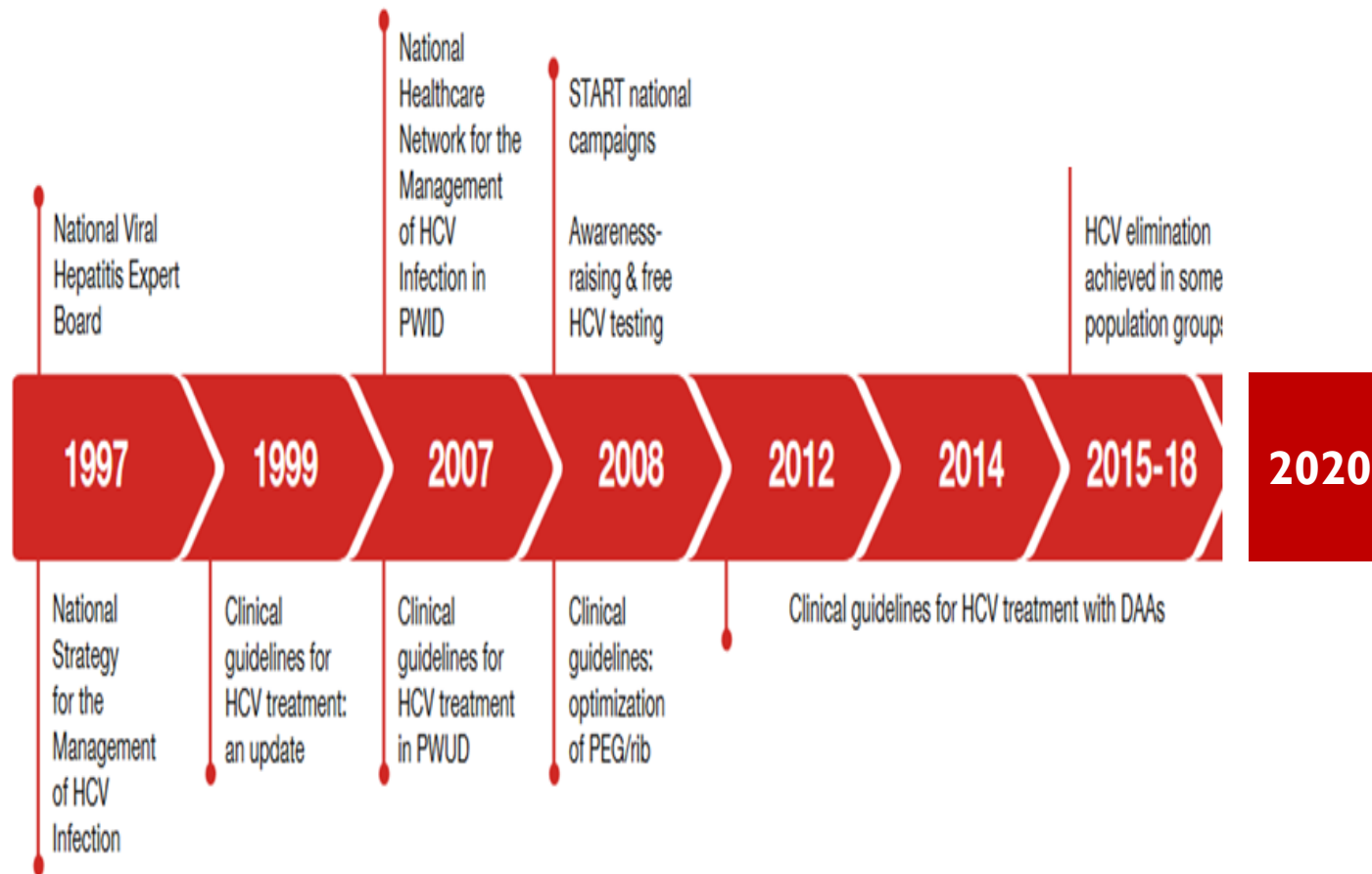
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## INFLUENCE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON HCV TESTING



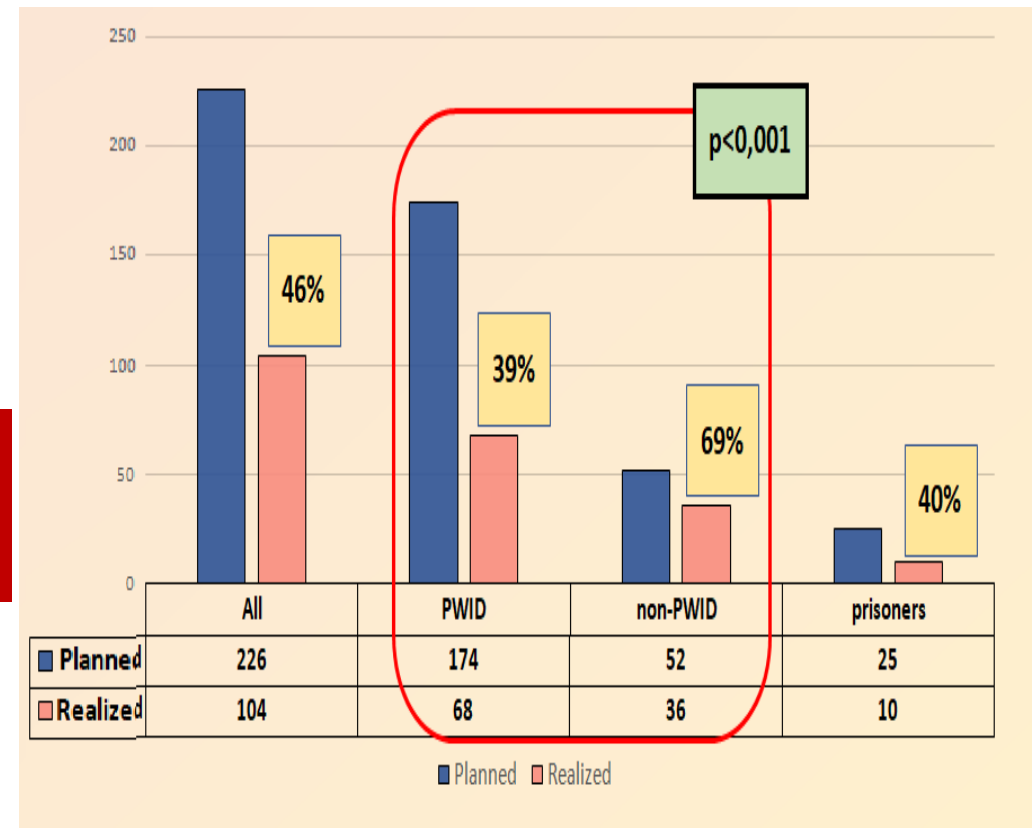
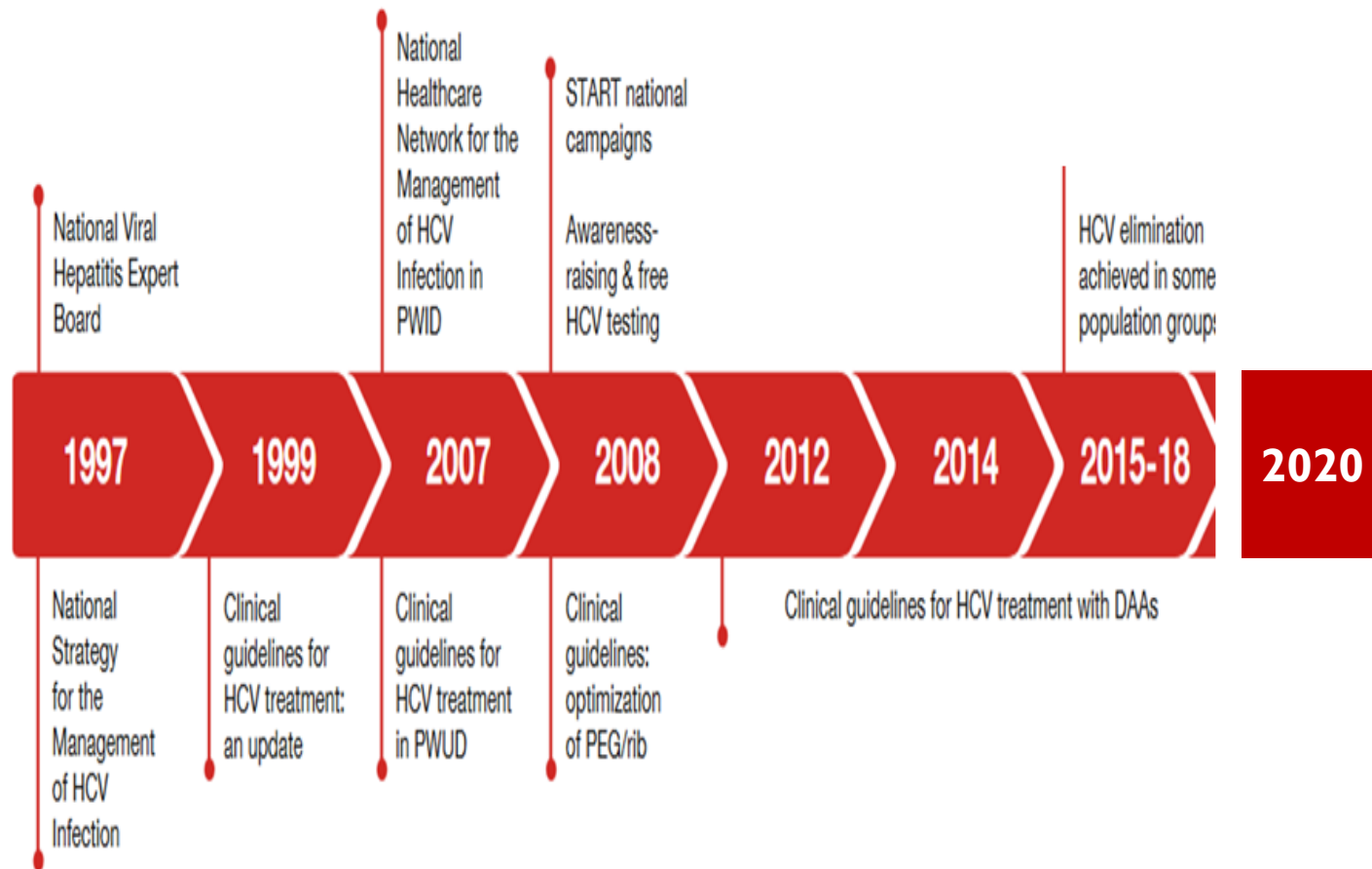
# SLOVENIA

## INFLUENCE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON HCV TESTING



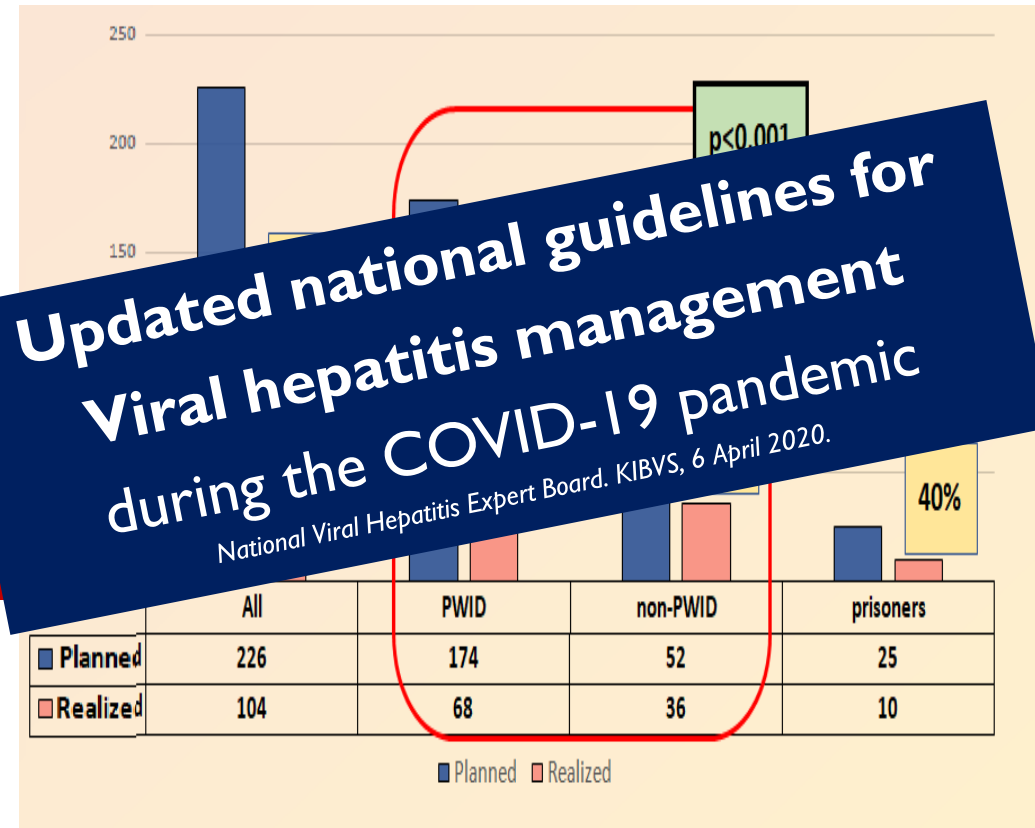
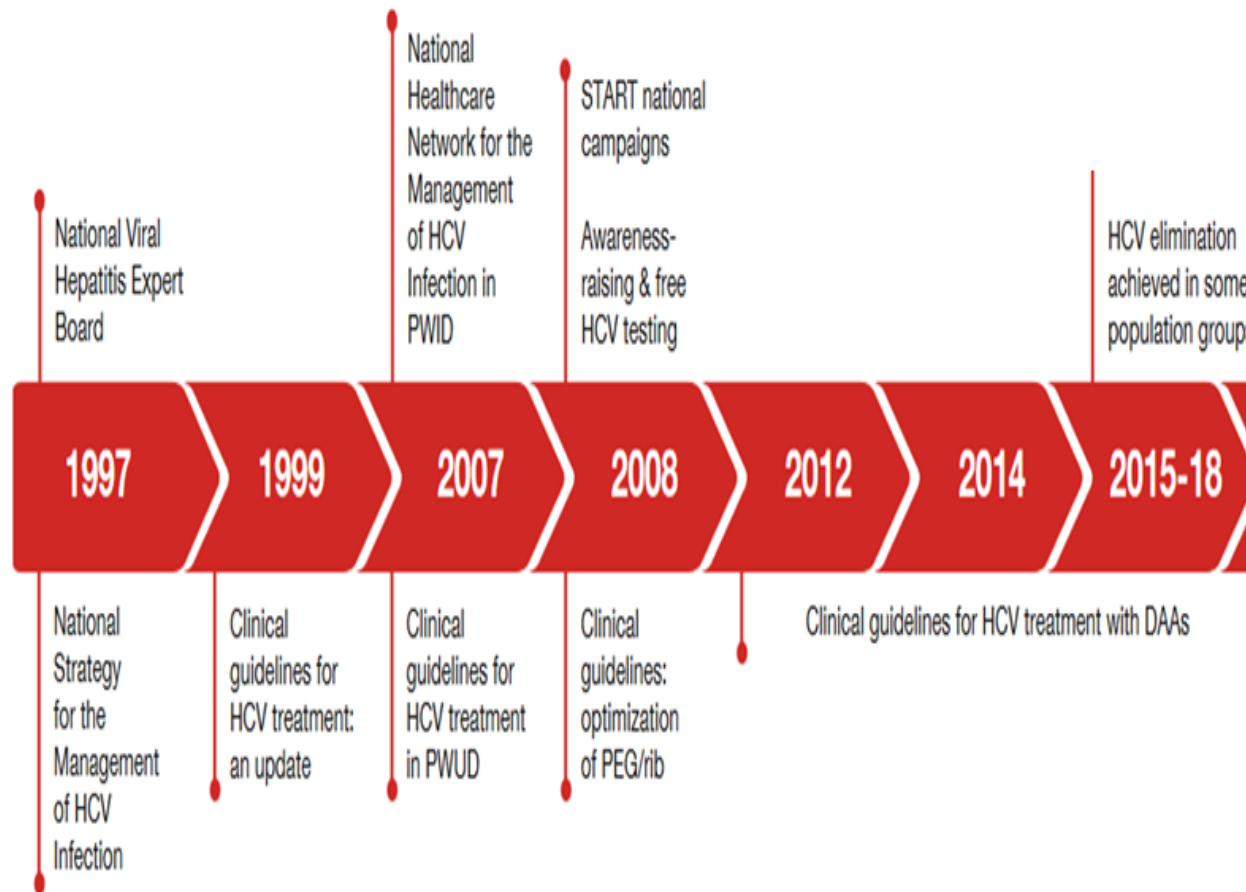
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## INFLUENCE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON HCV TREATMENT



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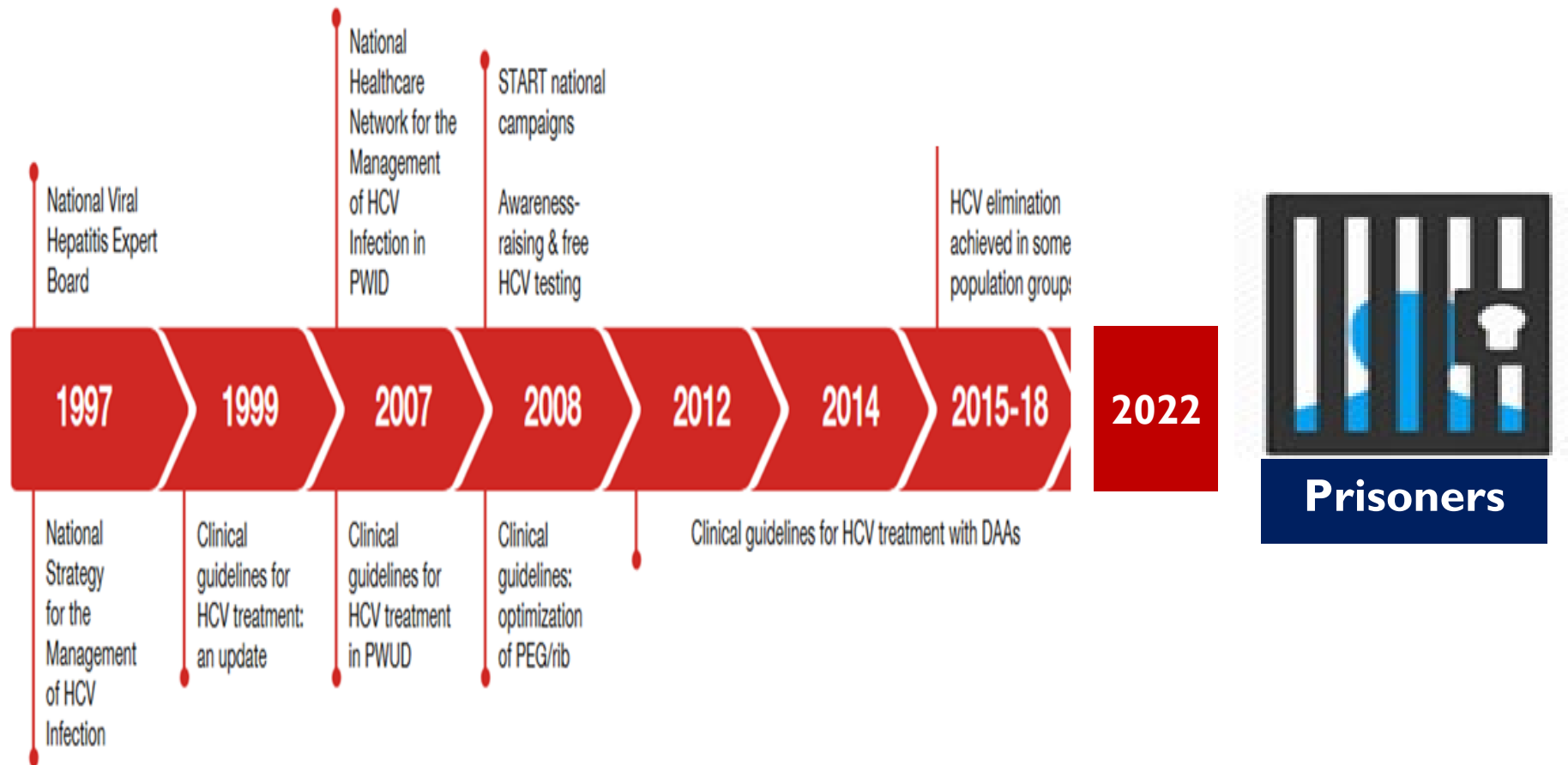
## INFLUENCE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON HCV TREATMENT





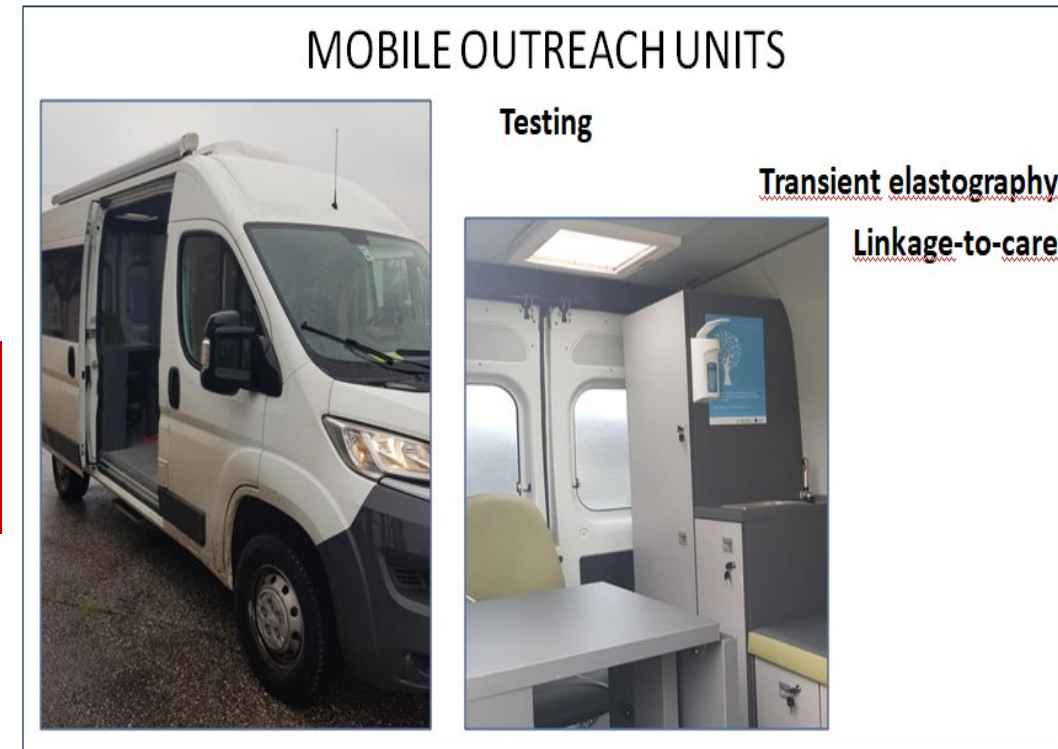
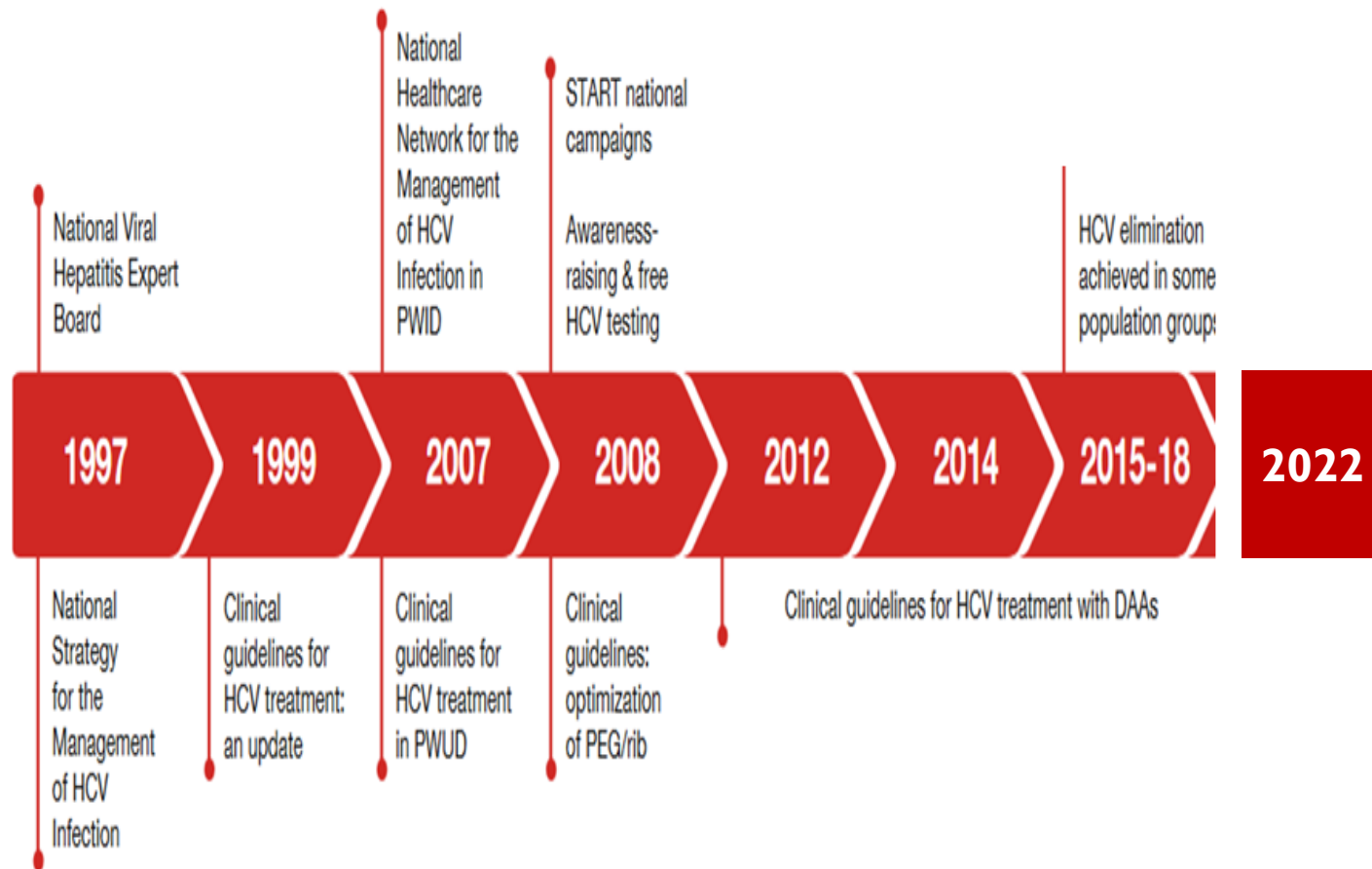
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## HCV MICRO-ELIMINATION IN PRISONERS?



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## HCV MICRO-ELIMINATION IN MARGINALISED POPULATIONS

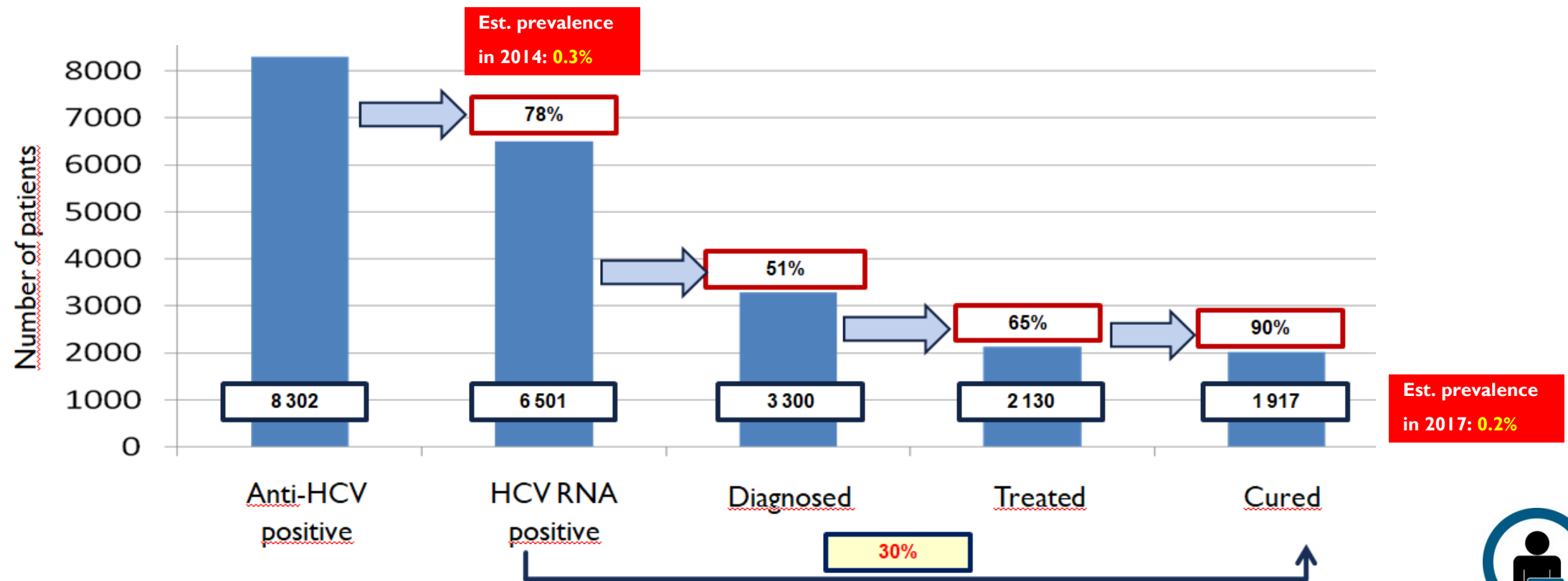




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## HCV BURDEN - 2014

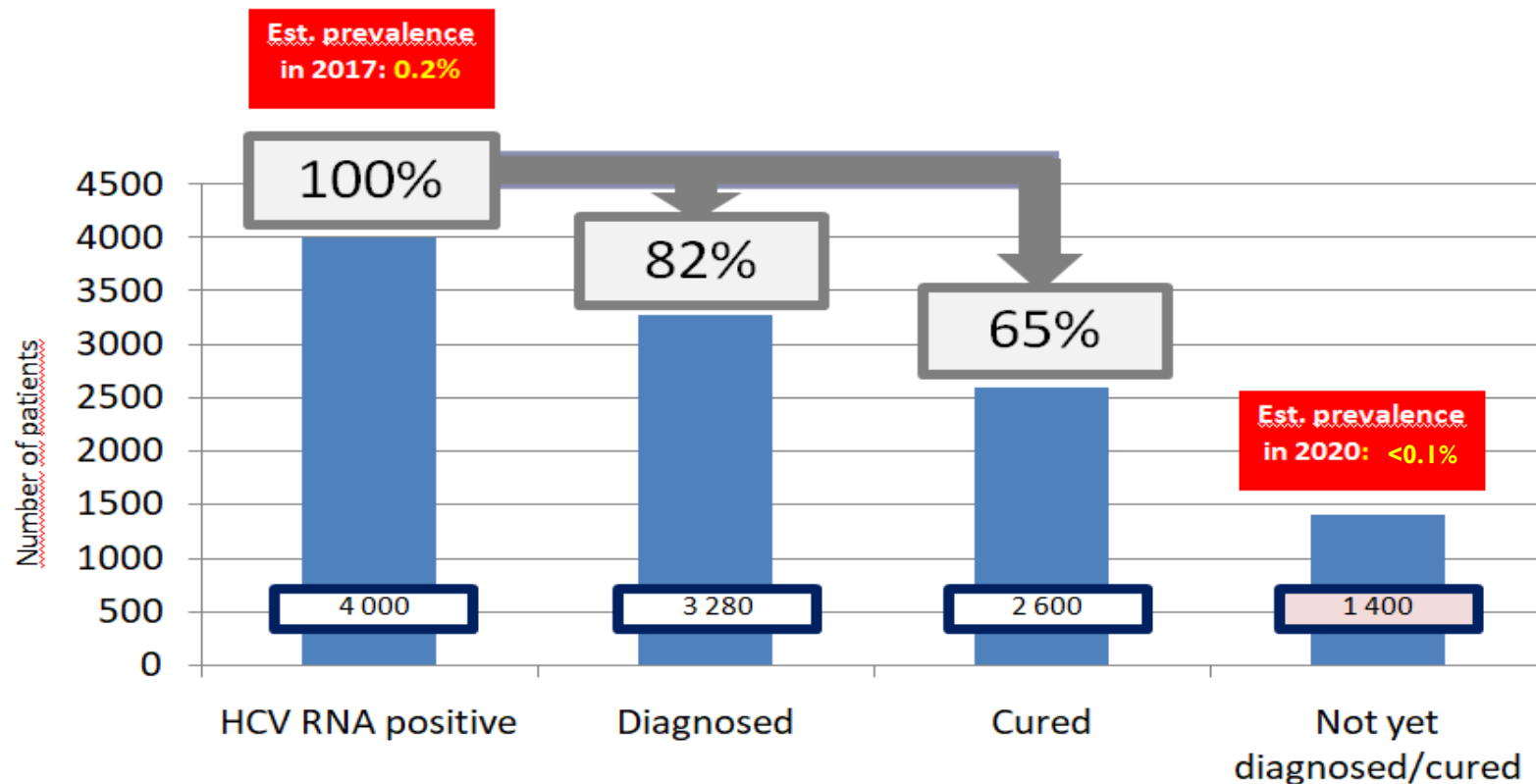
**A Cascade-of-Care (1997-2014): est. HCV RNA prevalence 0.3%**



# SLOVENIA

## CURRENT IMPACT: DAA - THE GAME CHANGER

**A Cascade-of-Care (2017-2020): est. HCV RNA prevalence < 0.1%**



# SLOVENIA

## CONCLUSIONS – LESSONS LEARNED

- HIT EARLY & HIT HARD
- IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO START

# AKNOWLEDGEMENT

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THANK YOU