

Increased HIV Case Detection through Integration of HIV Testing in Georgian Hepatitis C Elimination Program Screening Activities

Presenting author: Davit Baliashvili

National Center for Disease Control and Public Health



National Center for Disease Control & Public Health

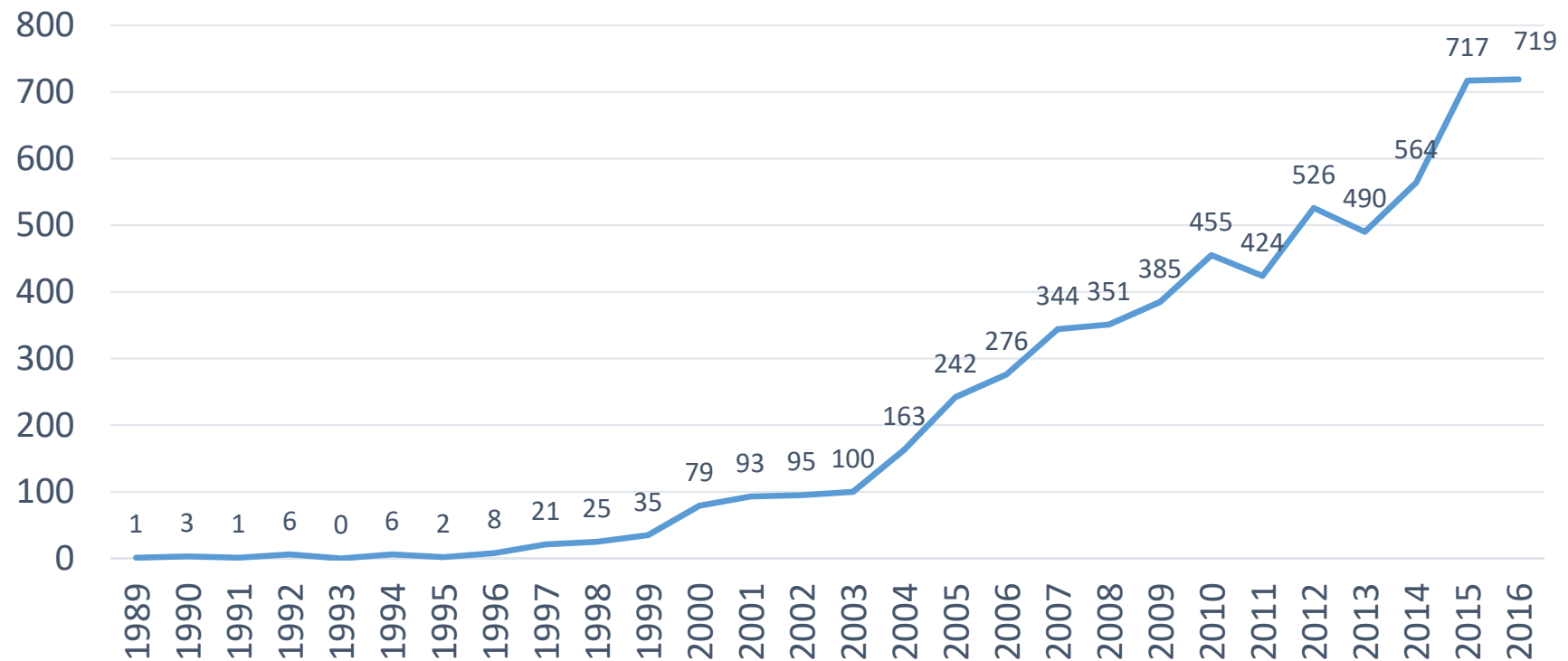
www.ncdc.ge

Outline

- Overview of HCV and HIV epidemiology
- Objective
- Methodology
- Results of combined HCV/HIV screening
- Conclusions



Number of Registered HIV Cases by year



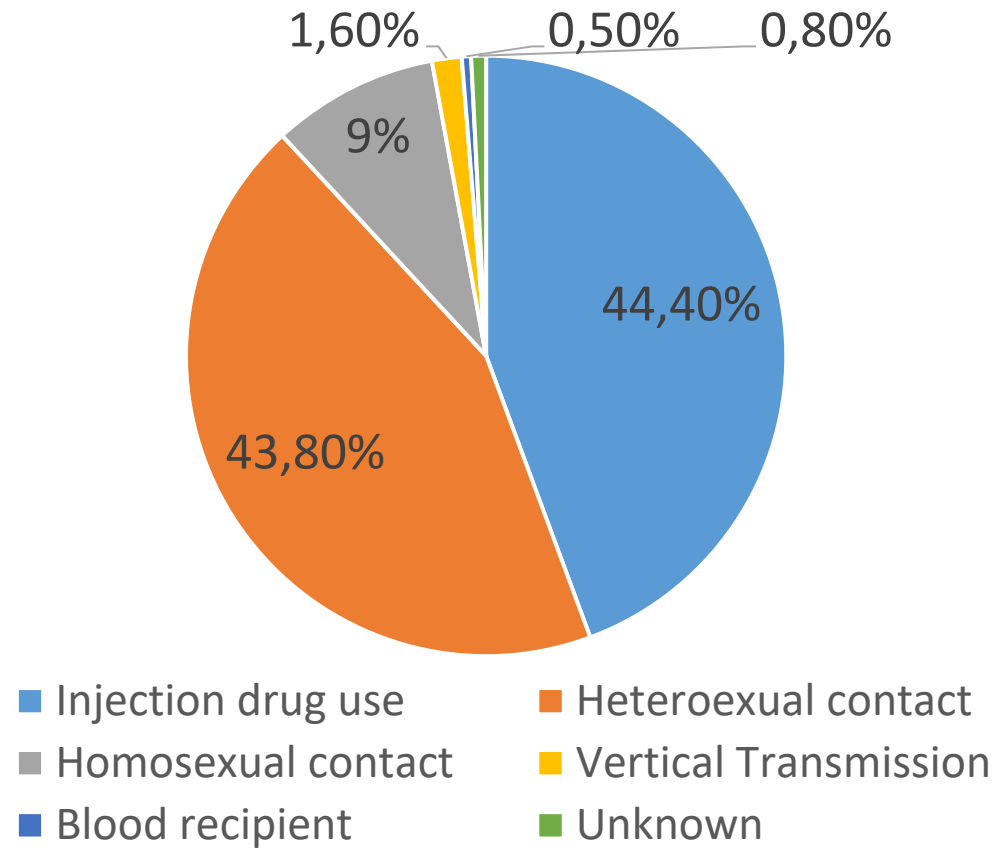
Source: Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center



National Center for Disease Control & Public Health

www.ncdc.ge

Routes of Transmission



Source: Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center

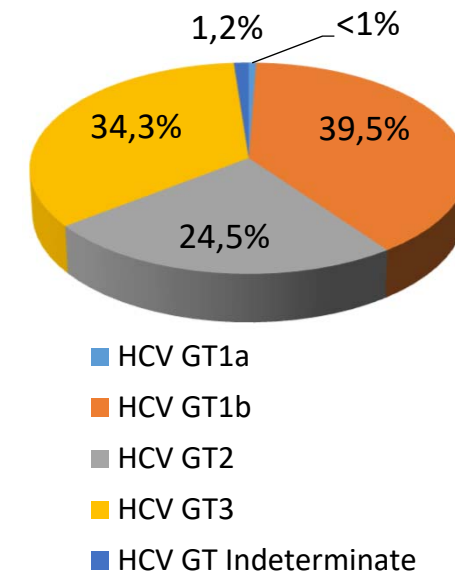


HCV Prevalence in Georgia

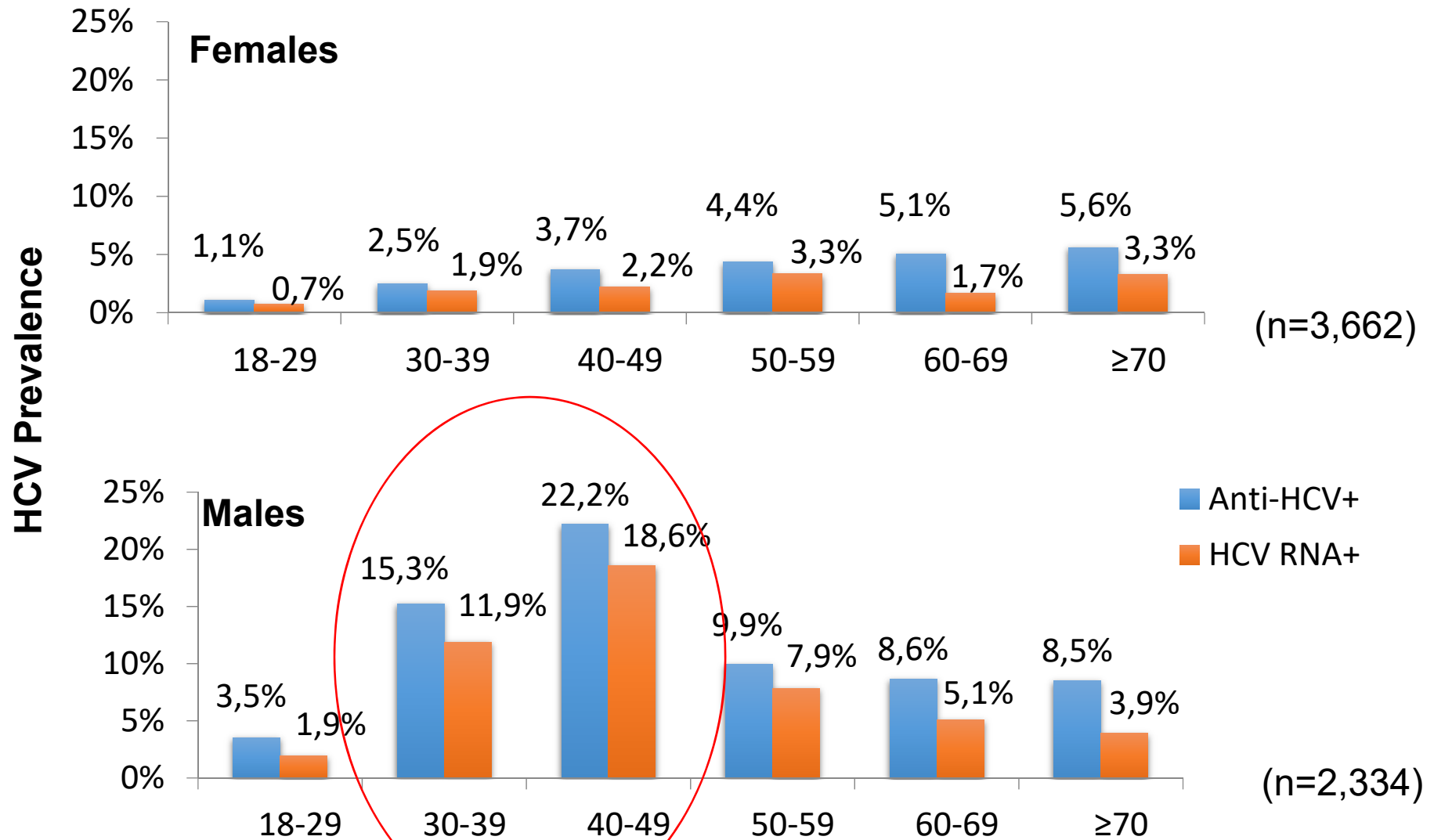
**National Population-based seroprevalence survey
2015**
Conducted by NCDC and CDC, Atlanta (n=6011)

Characteristic	n	%	Estimated # nationwide ≥18 years
Anti-HCV+ Prevalence	425	7.7%	208,800
HCV RNA+	311	5.4%	150,300

HCV Genotype Distribution



HCV Prevalence by Age and Gender



Georgian 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
 - ✓ **95%** of those diagnosed are treated
 - ✓ **95%** of those treated are cured



HCV Elimination Strategy

Target: 90%



Strategy 1 – Promote Advocacy, Awareness and Education, and Partnership for HCV-associated resource mobilization

Strategy 2 – Prevent HCV Transmission

Strategy 3 – Identify Persons Infected with HCV

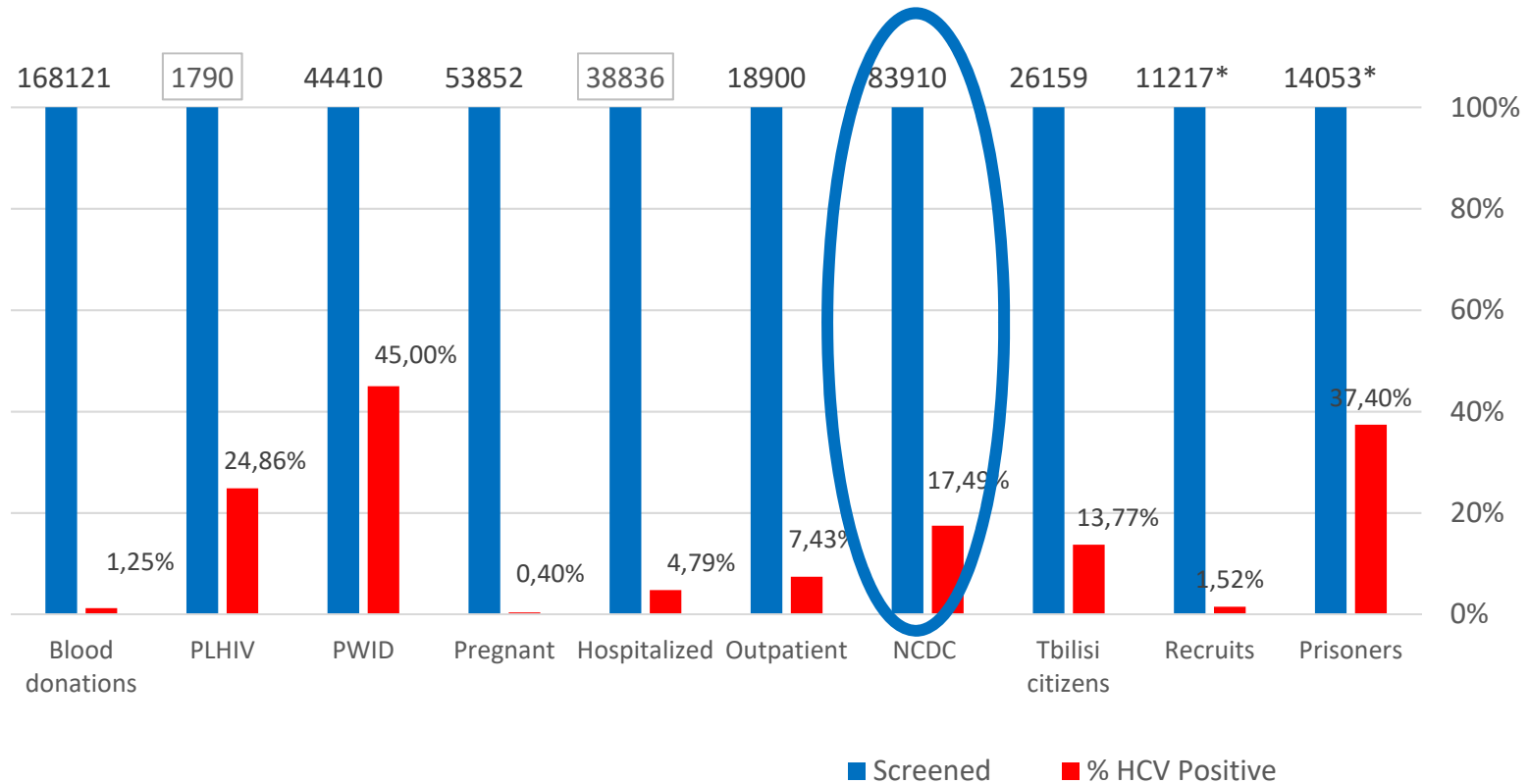
Strategy 4 – Improve HCV Laboratory Diagnostics

Strategy 5 – Provide HCV Care and Treatment

Strategy 6 – Improve HCV Surveillance



HCV Screening in different programs 2015-2016



**data is available through September 30, 2016*



Combined HCV-HIV Screening for General Population

Objective: To increase HCV and HIV case detection in general population by combined testing strategies

- ❖ Starting from November, 2015, any citizen of Georgia can obtain free HCV testing at the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) and its regional branches.
- ❖ Every person willing to be tested for HCV was offered free HIV test as well.



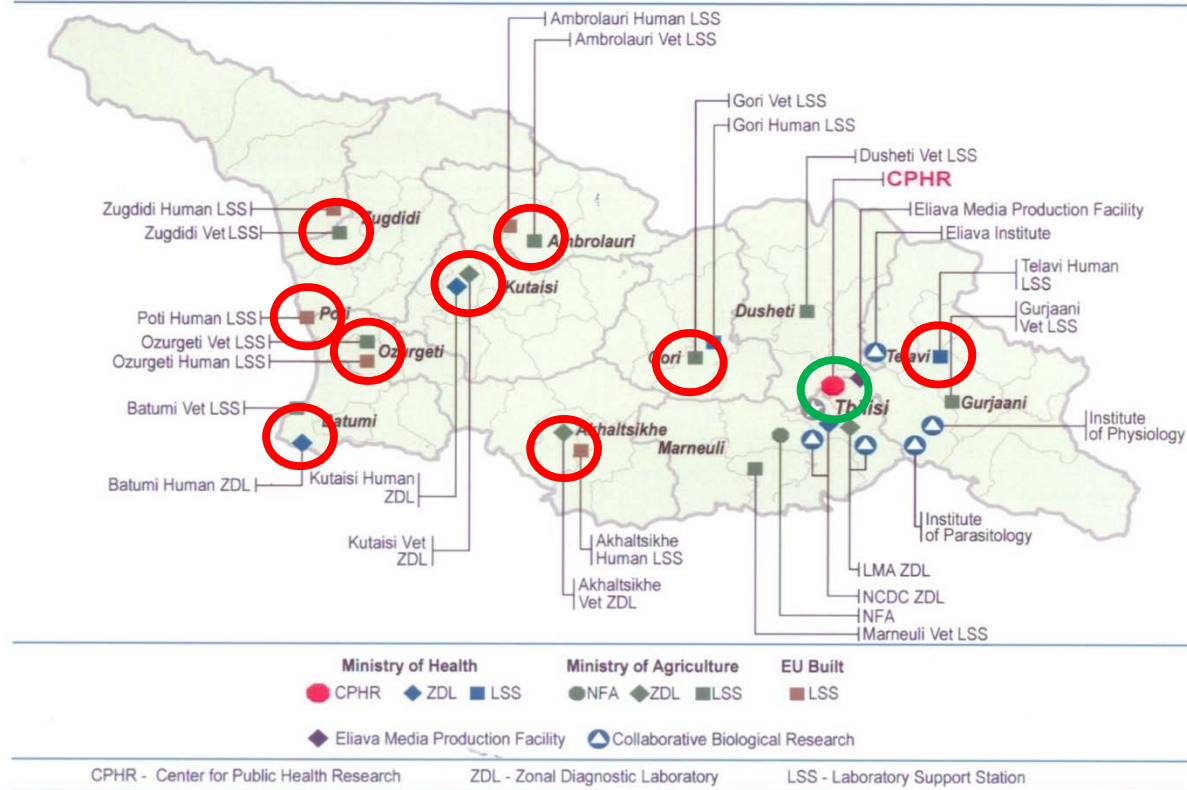
Methodology

- ❖ Both HIV and HCV testing are performed by rapid immunochromatographic tests.
- ❖ RT-PCR for viral load was used for confirmation of active HCV disease
- ❖ Immunoblot was used for HIV confirmation.



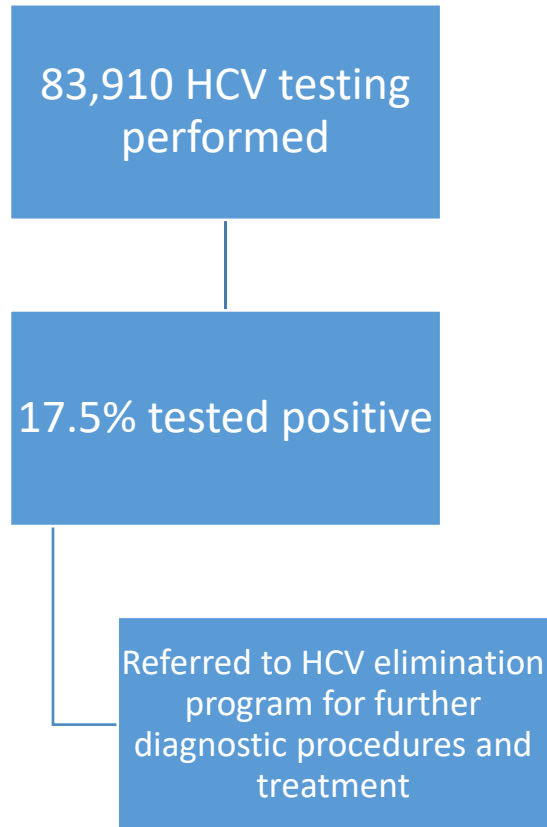
Lab Network of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health

Georgia CBEP Sites

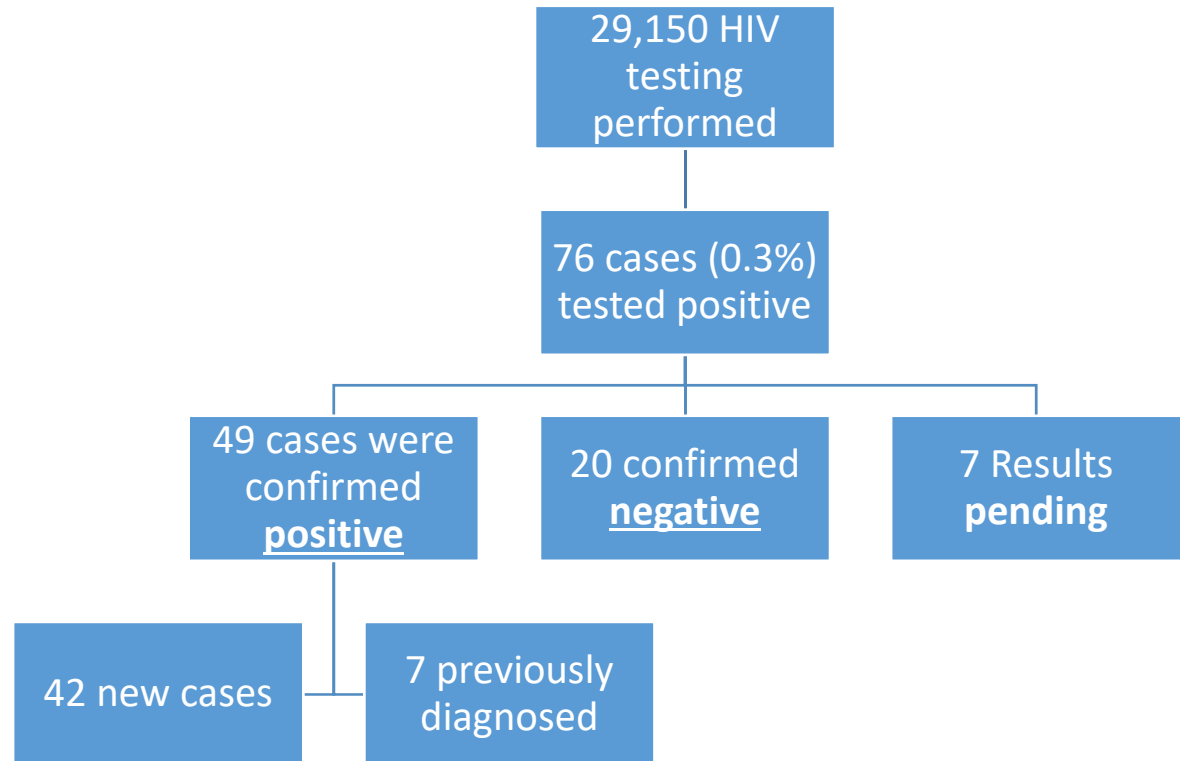


Results

HCV

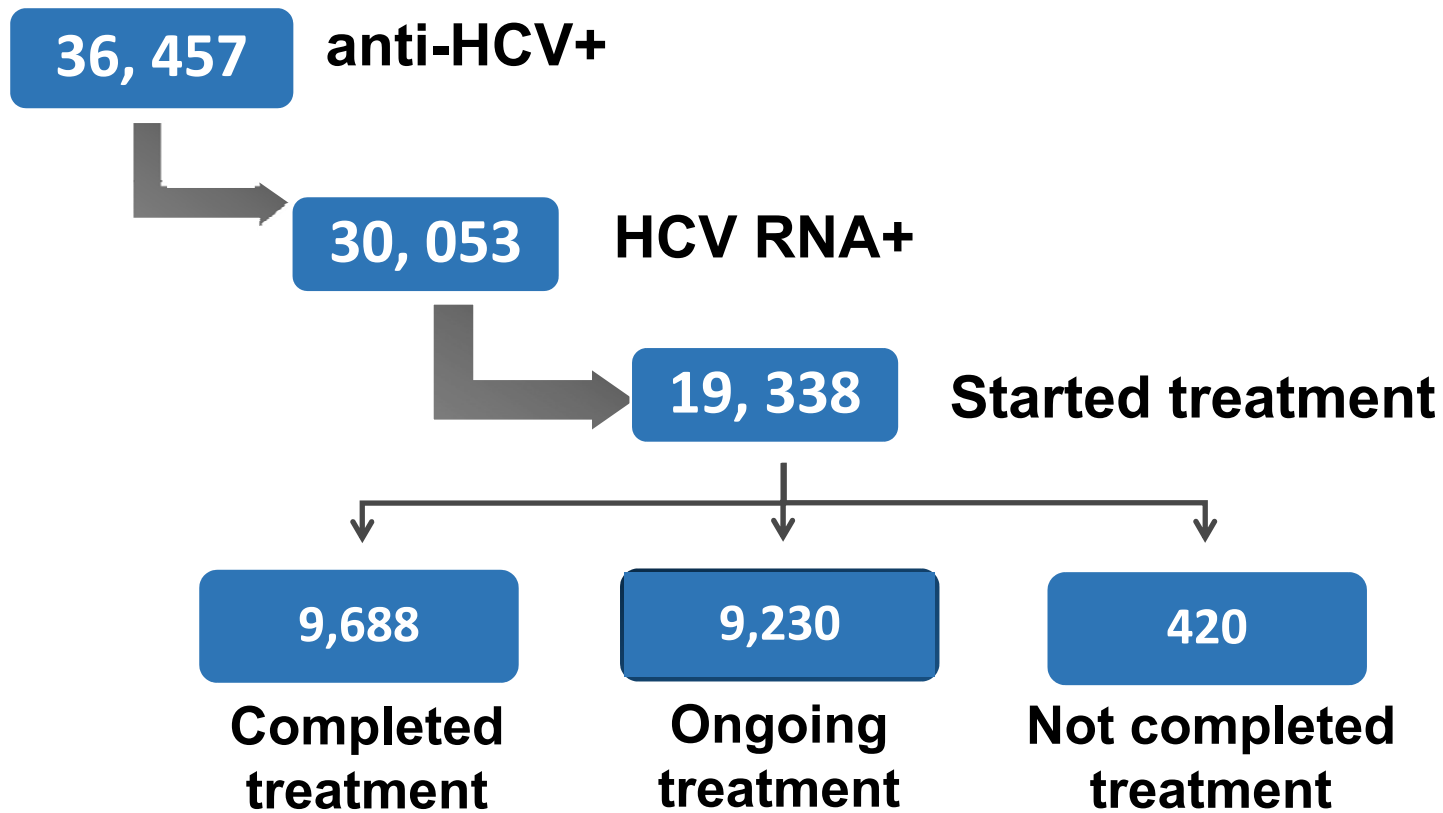


HIV



HCV Care Cascade

April 28, 2015 - Sep 30, 2016



Source: Provisional Data, Georgia Hepatitis C Treatment Program



Conclusions

- Preliminary results from combined testing indicates that HIV prevalence in general population remains low.
- Considering the low prevalence of HIV in Georgia, extra cases found by the combined screening approach was significant contributing factor for early detection of HIV cases.
- Nationwide HCV elimination program appears to be an effective mechanism that can be used to increase case detection of HIV in Georgia
- Integration of HIV testing within HCV screening activities should be maintained and further expanded.



Acknowledgements

Co-authors:

- Maia Tsereteli
- Maia Alkhazashvili
- Khatuna Zakhashvili
- Amiran Gamkrelidze

NCDC:

- Ketevan Stvilia

Infectious Diseases, AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center:

- Nino Badridze
- Otar Chokoshvili

