



PHD HEPATITIS C UPDATES

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POPULATION HEALTH DIVISION
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Agenda

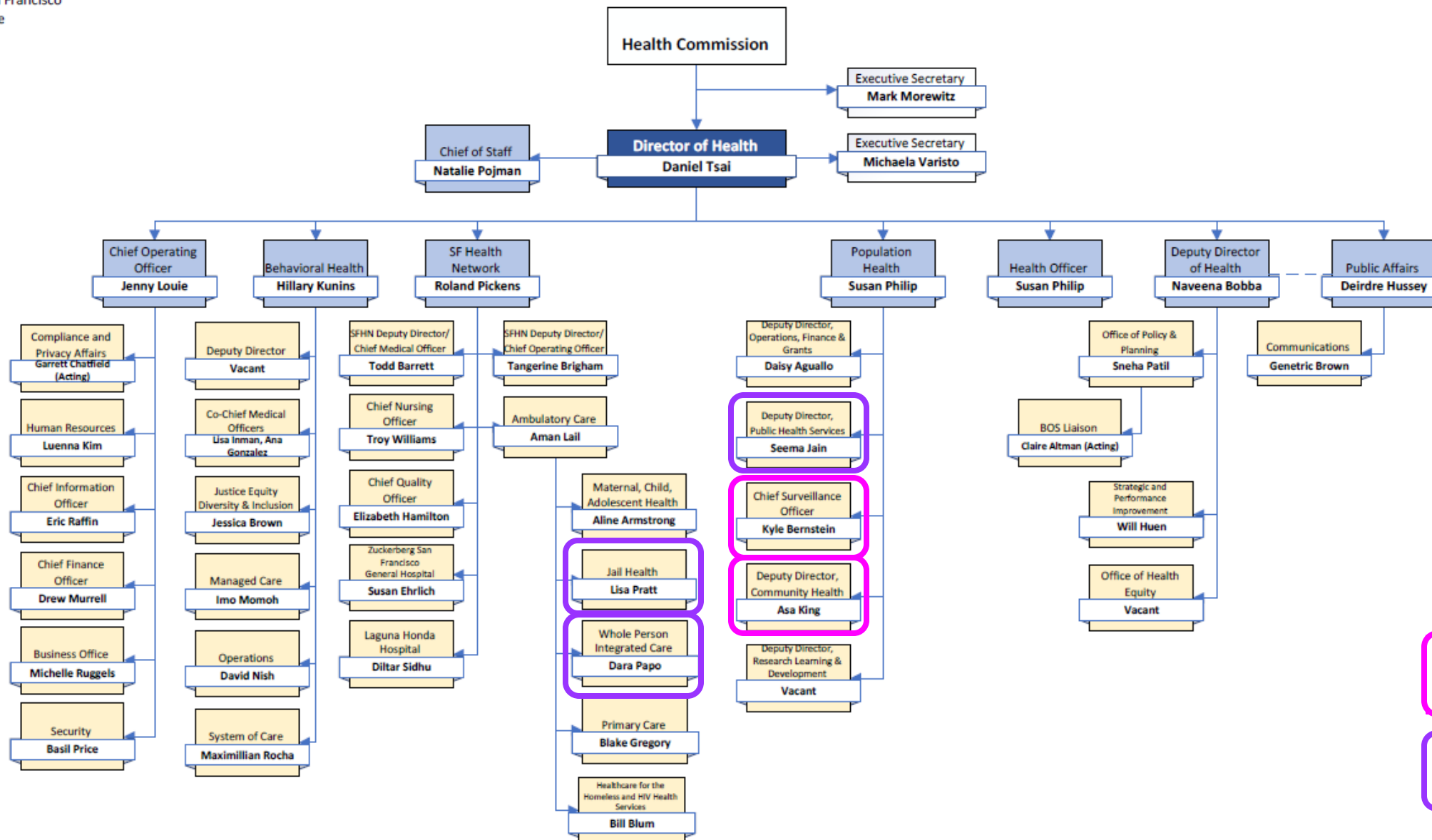
- Organizational Structure
- Overview of Hepatitis C in San Francisco
- Identifying and Addressing Care Gaps
- Supporting Highly Impacted Communities
- Recognizing Systemic Challenges and Paths Forward





City and County of San Francisco
Daniel L. Lurie
Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health
Daniel Tsai
Director of Health



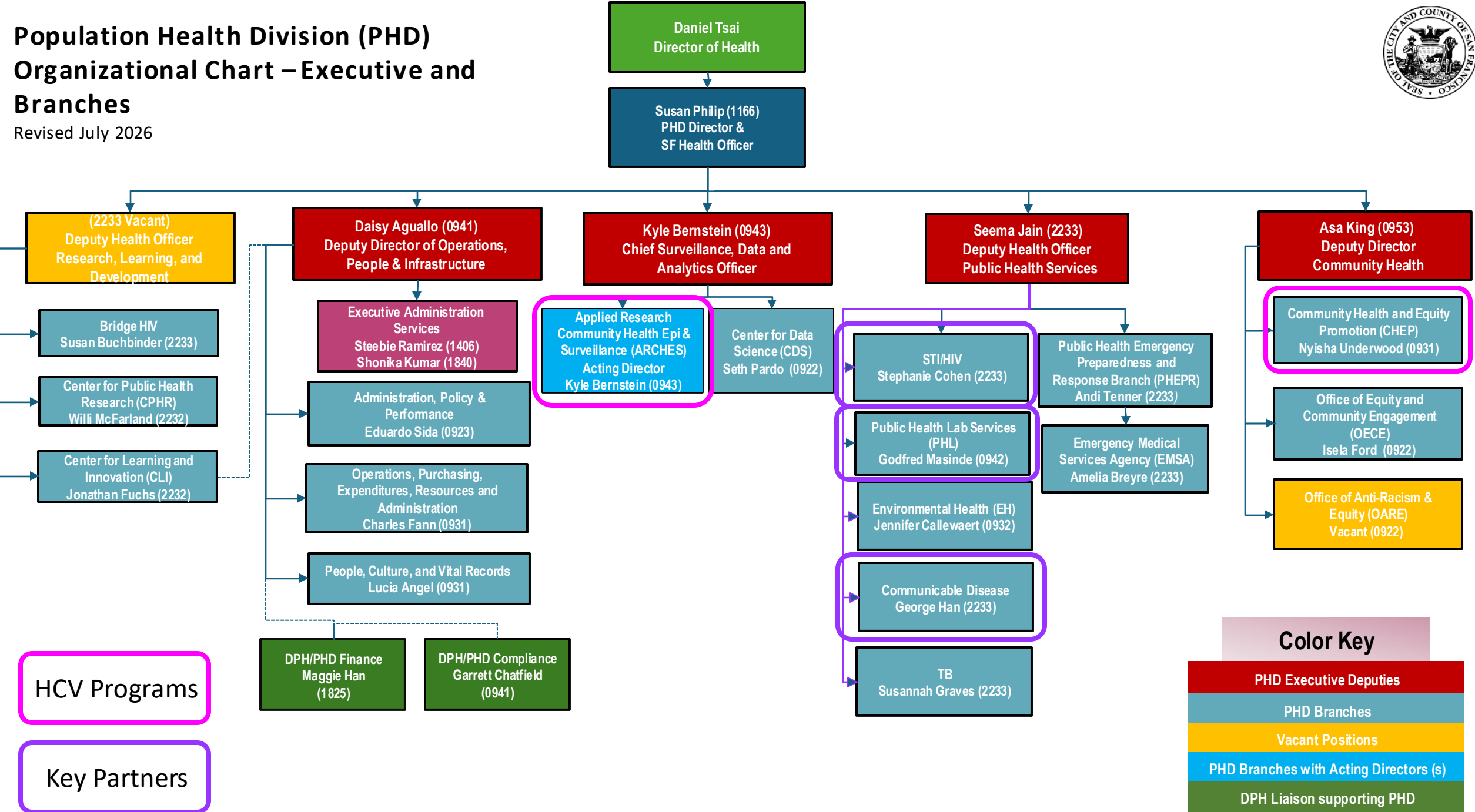
HCV
Programs

Key
Partners

Population Health Division (PHD)

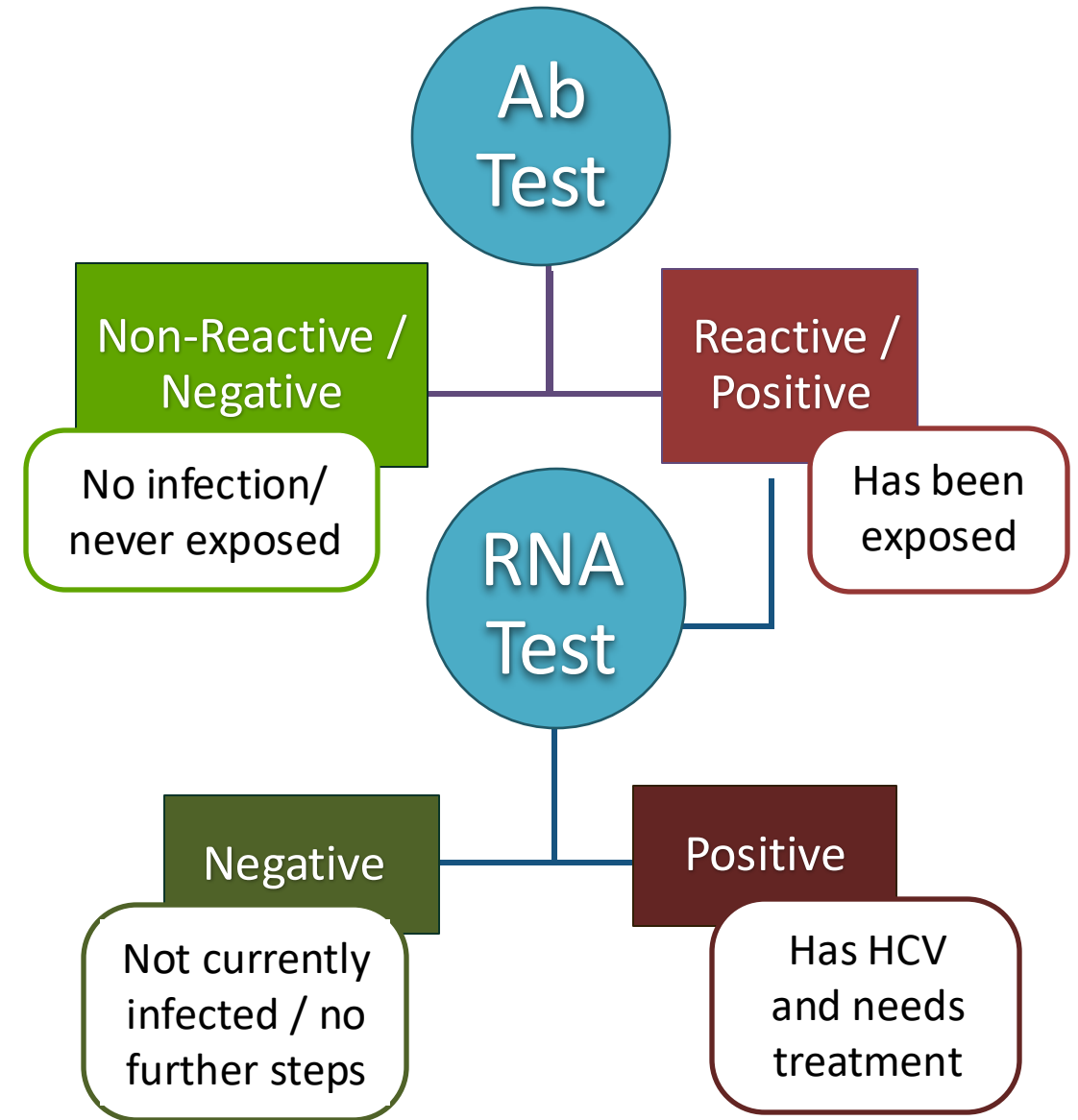
Organizational Chart – Executive and Branches

Revised July 2026



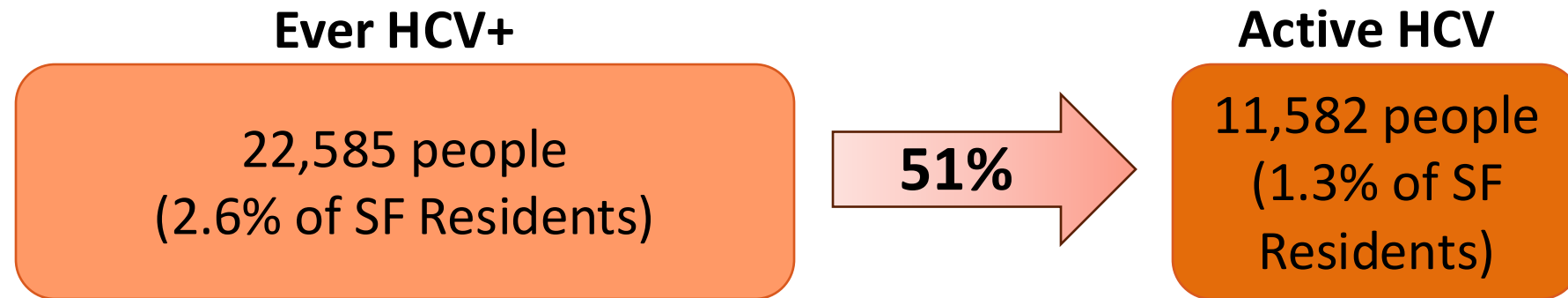
Hepatitis C Definitions

- **Ever HCV Positive**: Patient has had HCV infection at some point
 - **Antibody (Ab) Test**: Initial screening test to determine Ever HCV Positive
 - **Reactive Ab test result = Ever HCV+**
- **Active HCV**: Patient currently has HCV infection and needs treatment
 - **RNA or Viral Load Test**: Confirmatory test after a Reactive Ab test to determine Active HCV infection
- **Confirmed Chronic HCV**: HCV RNA positive cases reported to SFDPH



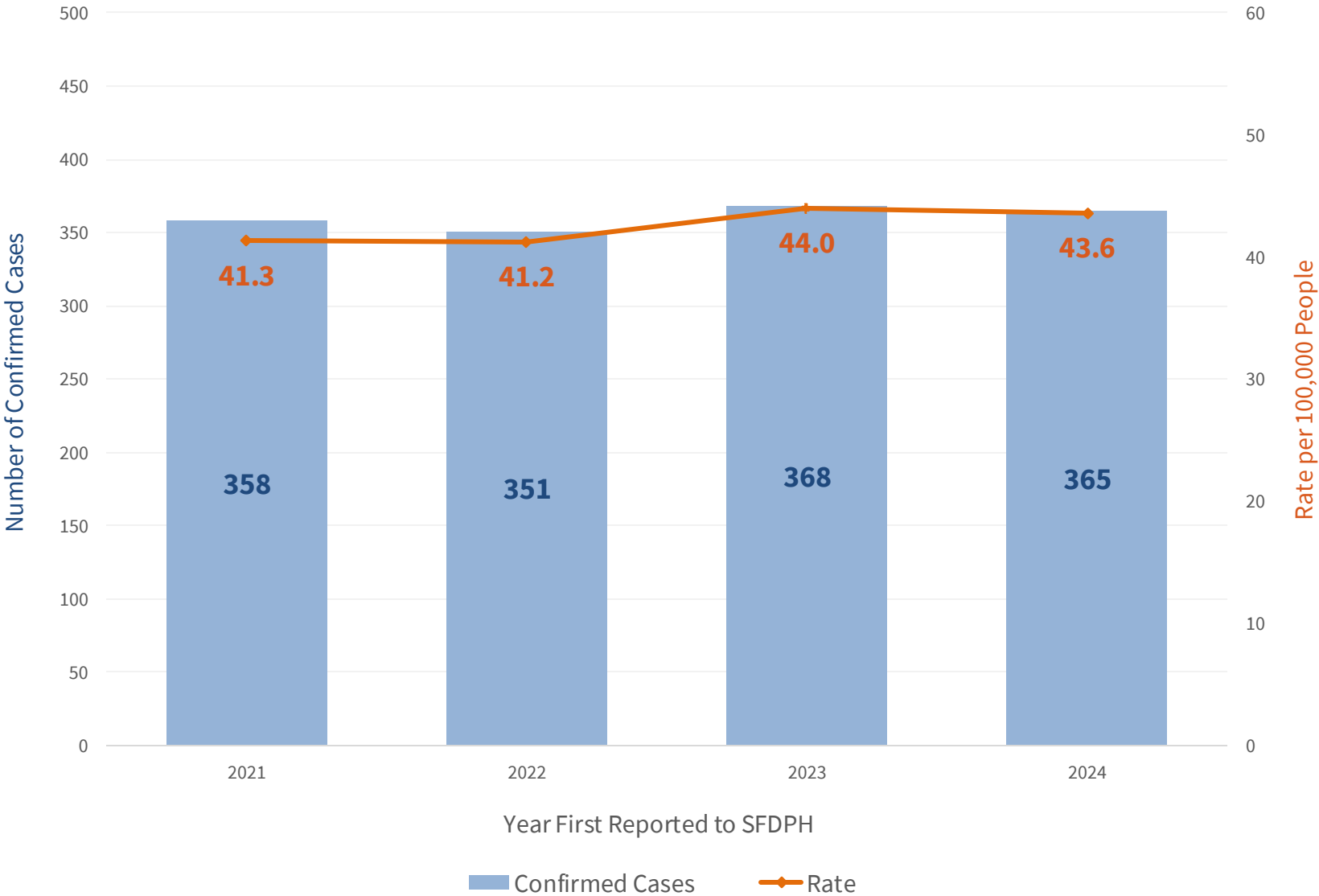
Why is Hepatitis C an Important Issue?

- Hepatitis C (HCV) is a **leading cause** of liver disease
- New medications made **HCV easy to cure** in 2014
- But as of 2019, an estimated **2.6%** of San Francisco residents (22,585 people) have **ever had HCV** and over **half** of them **still need treatment***



So why are there still people getting HCV and not getting cured?

Number & Rate of Newly Reported Confirmed Chronic HCV Cases, 2021-2024



Number of newly reported confirmed chronic HCV cases in San Francisco in 2024:

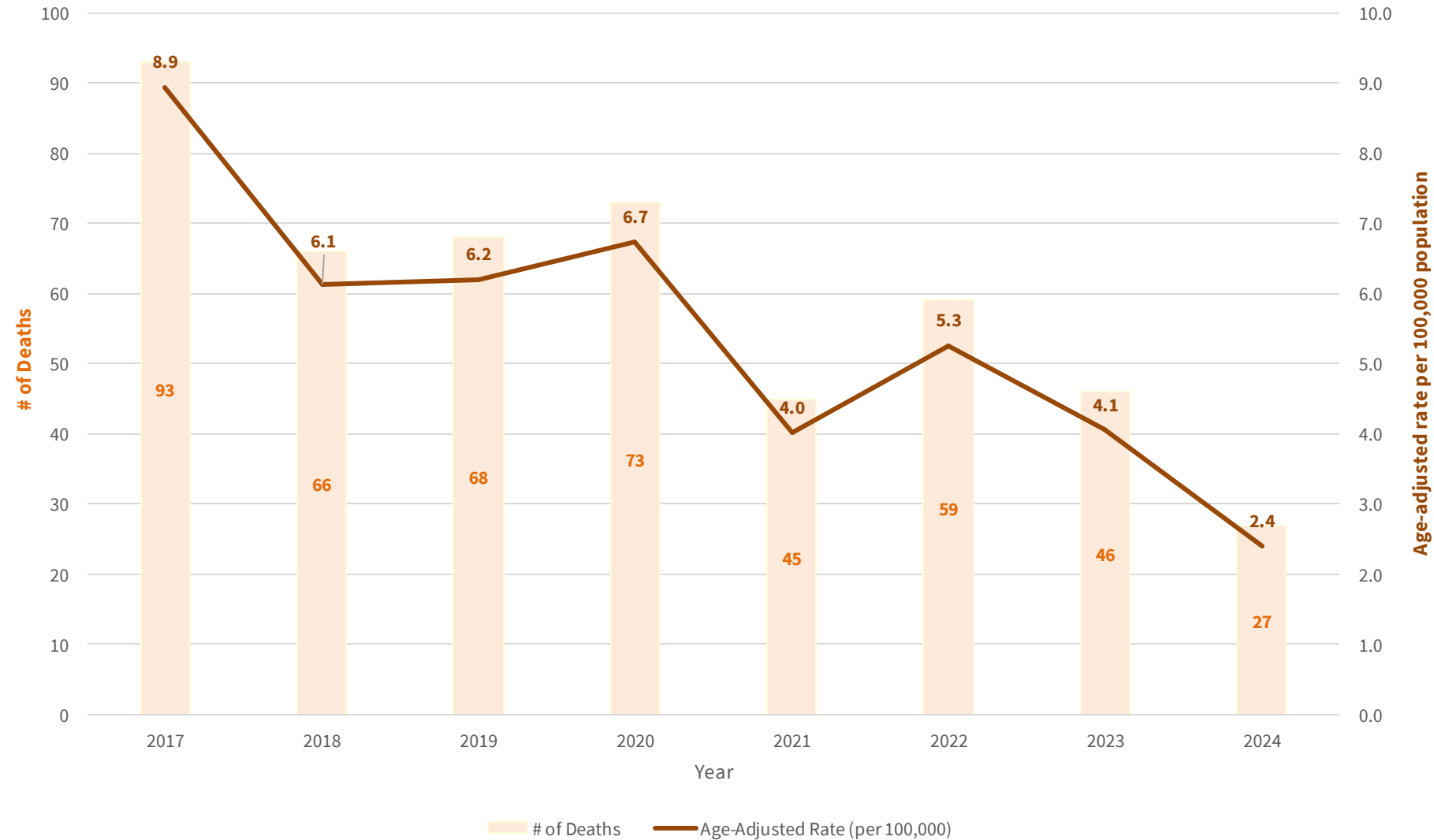
365

Rate of newly reported confirmed chronic HCV cases in San Francisco in 2024:

43.6

per 100,000 people

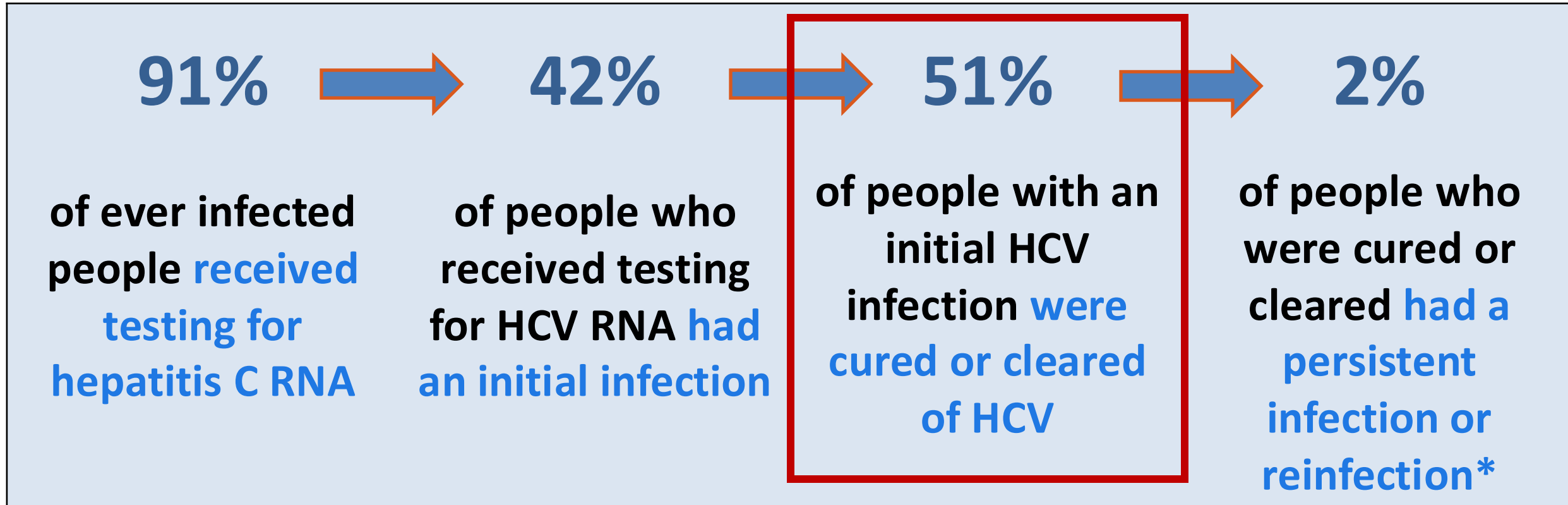
Age-Adjusted HCV-Associated Mortality Rate Among San Franciscans, 2017-2024



Since 2017, the mortality rate has **decreased by 73%** and surpasses the national elimination target goal

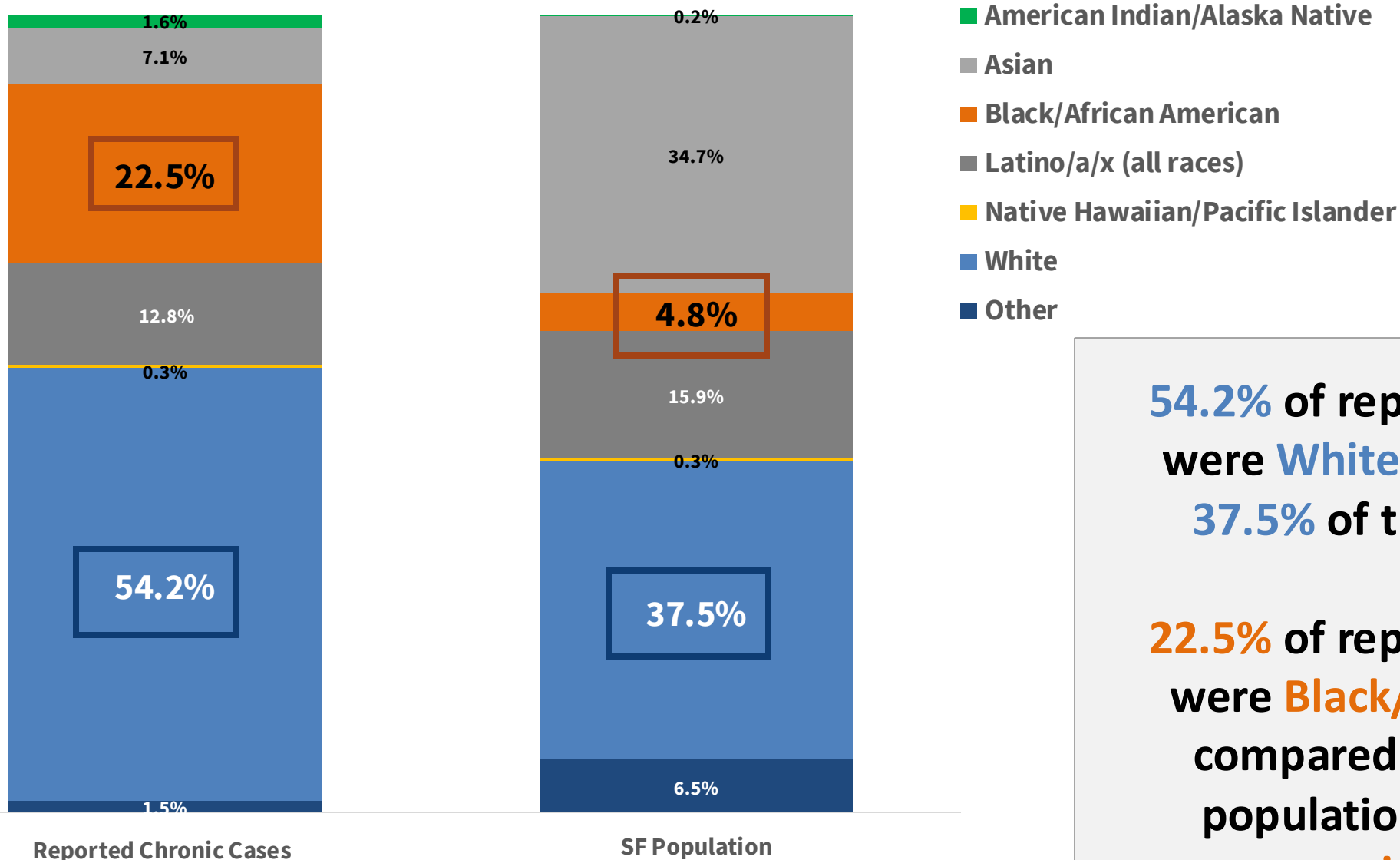
Notes: Includes San Francisco decedents with HCV listed as one of the multiple causes of death in death certificate data

Snapshot of Findings from San Francisco Hepatitis C Clearance Cascade



Overall, the 2024 cascade did not meet the 2025 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (U.S. DHHS) elimination target goal of 58%

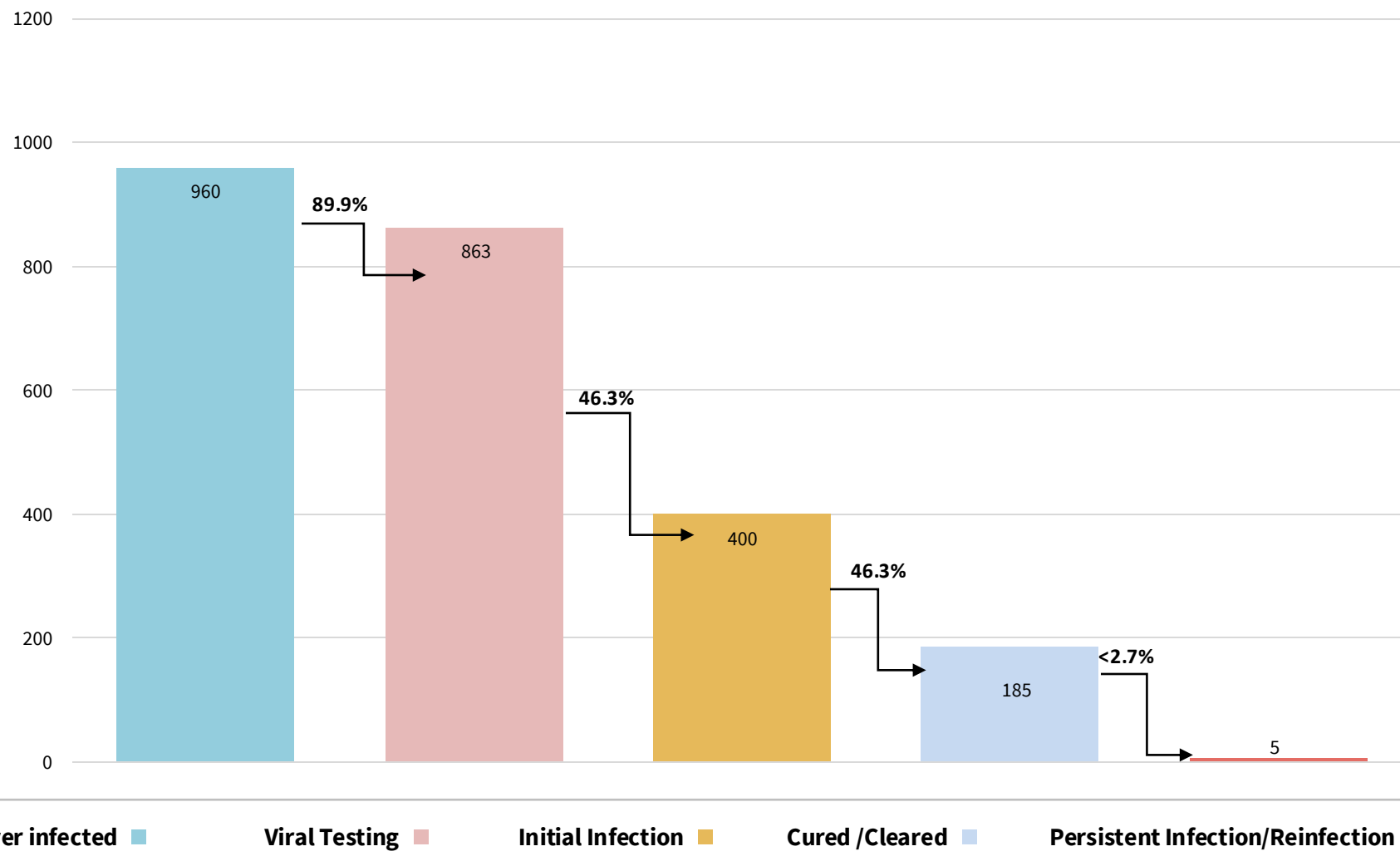
Race/Ethnicity of Chronic HCV Cases in 2024 and the San Francisco Population



54.2% of reported chronic cases were **White**, compared to only **37.5%** of the SF population.

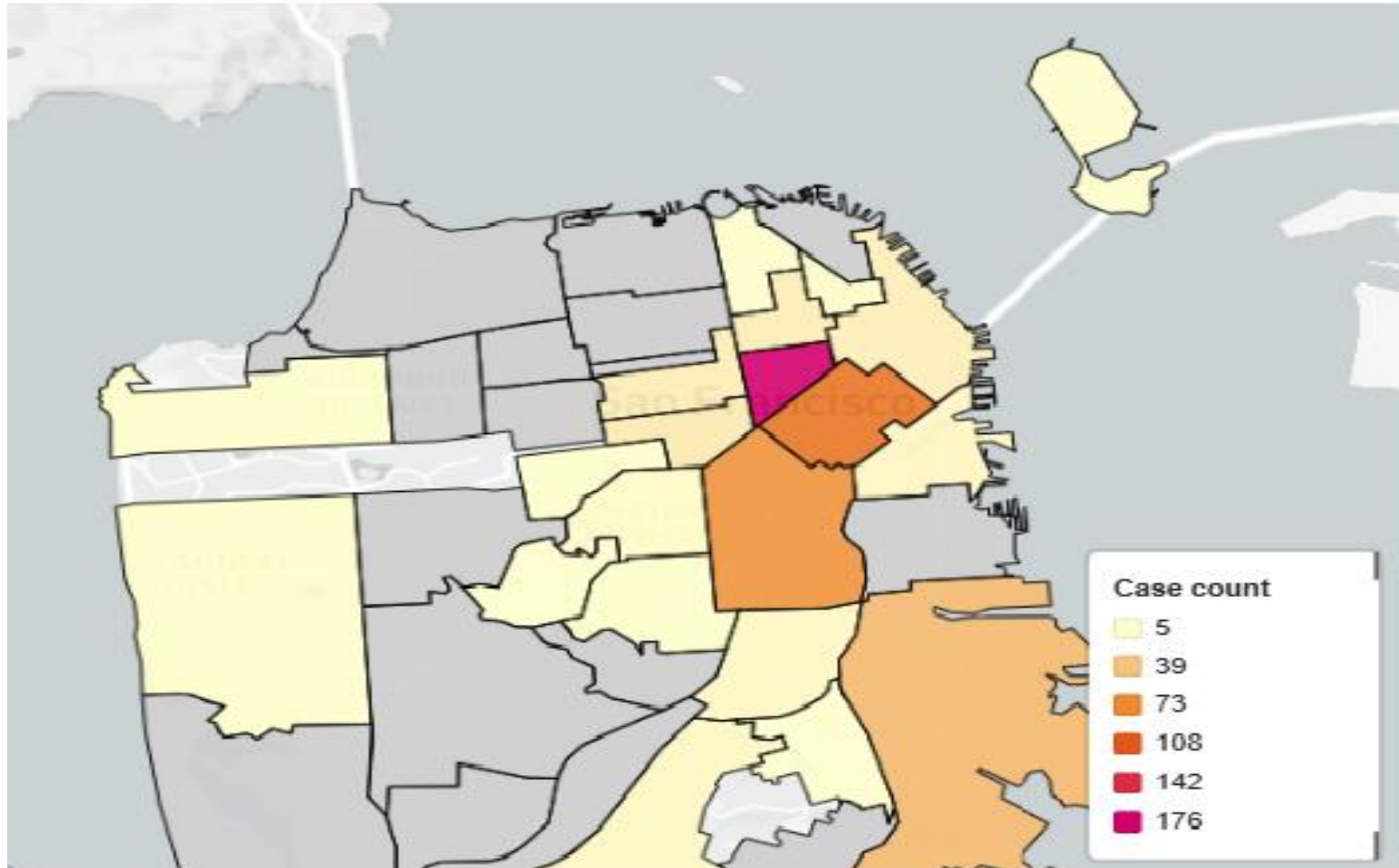
22.5% of reported chronic cases were **Black/African American**, compared to **4.8%** of the SF population, nearly a **5-fold increase**.

Black/African American Clearance Cascade 2024



Black/African Americans had the **lowest** proportion of cure or clearance (**46.3%**) across all racial/ethnic groups (**51%**) following initial infection

People with Active HCV Infections Reported as of December 2024, By Neighborhood

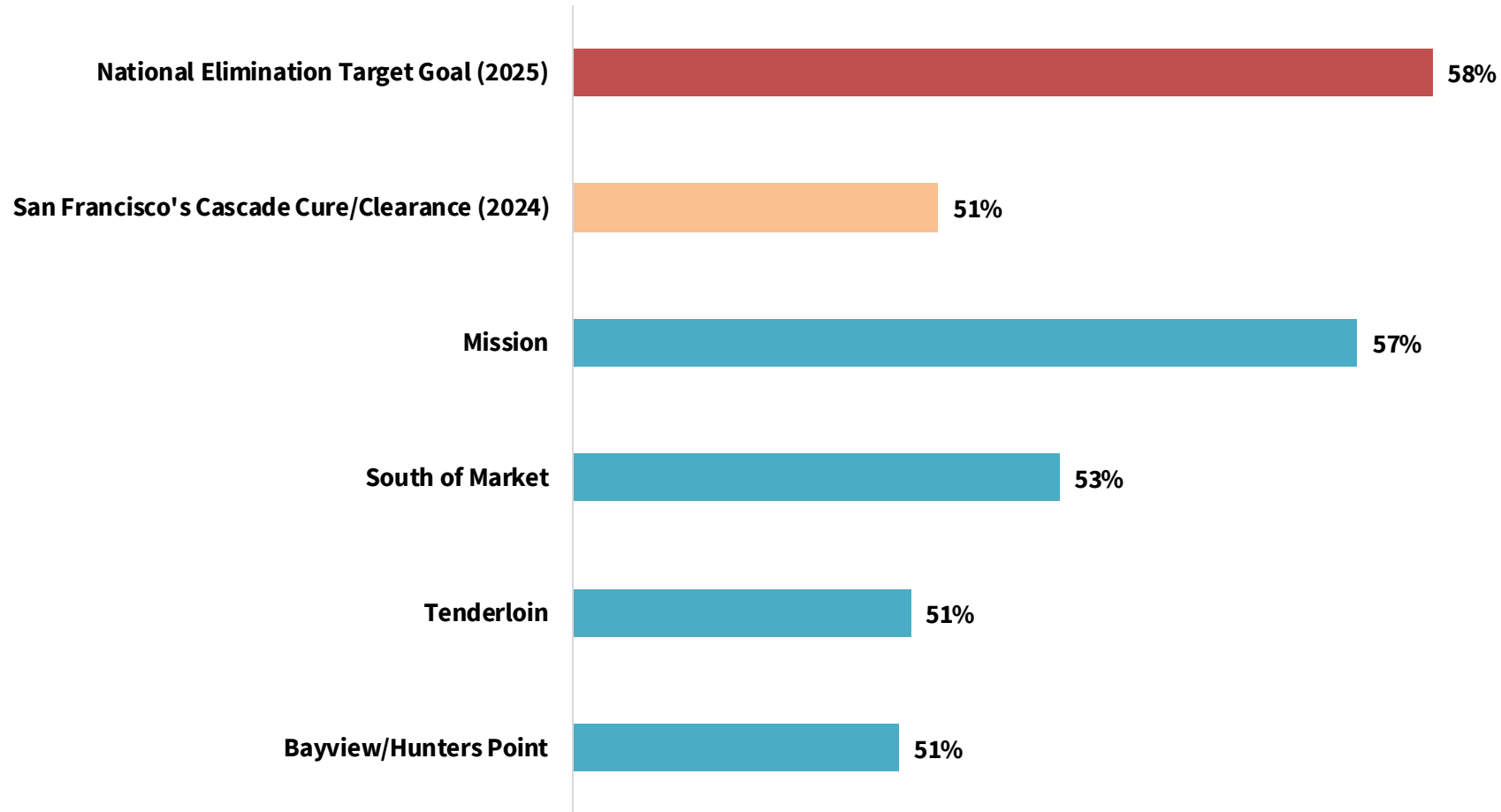


Neighborhoods with the highest reported number of active HCV infections were:

- 1) Tenderloin
- 2) South of Market
- 3) Mission
- 4) Bayview/Hunters Point

Percentage of Cure/Clearance in Neighborhoods with High HCV Case Rates

Percentage of people with evidence of cure/clearance after initial HCV infection by neighborhood, 2021 - 2024



Nearly half of reported HCV cases in each of the four neighborhoods **still need treatment**

HCV Gaps throughout the Clearance Cascade

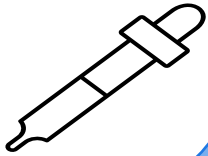
Increased efforts are needed to address disparities in HCV infection and cure among:

- **Black/African Americans**
- Residents in **Bayview/Hunters Point**
- Residents in the **Tenderloin**



Addressing Disparities: CHEP-Funded Community Efforts

TESTING



14 Programs providing rapid antibody and confirmatory RNA testing at **over 20 community sites**

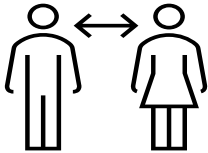
7,672 total tests conducted in 2025

Testing at: Health Access Points
Community/Sexual Health Clinics

Syringe Service Providers
Methadone/Bupe Programs

Mobile/Street
Health Fairs/Events

NAVIGATION



Supporting clients throughout entire treatment process

134 clients linked to treatment in 2025

5 organizations funded for hepatitis C navigation

TREATMENT



8 organizations providing low-threshold treatment

60 clients completed treatment in 2025

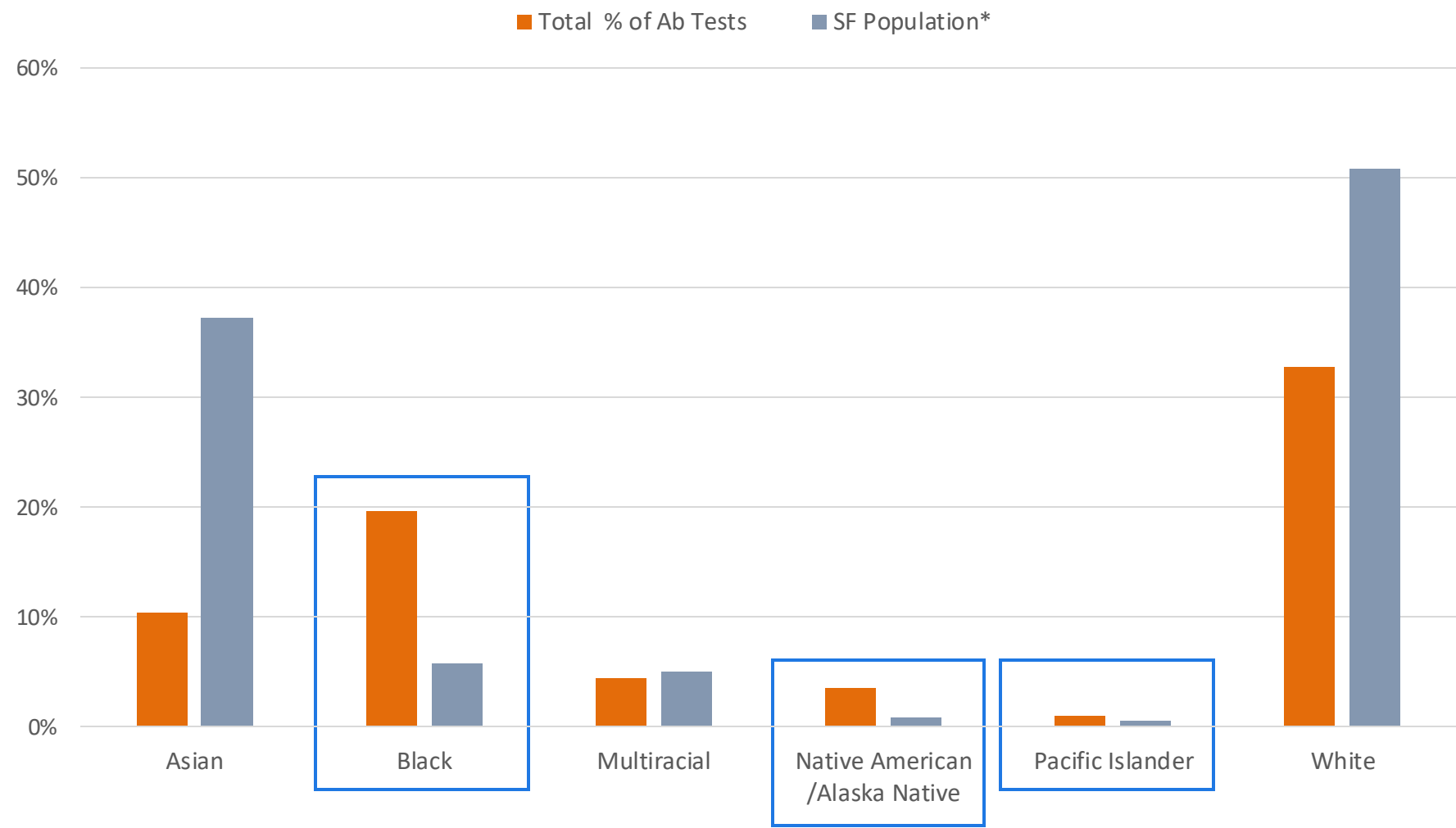
Treatment at: Health Access Points
Drop-In Medical Clinics

Syringe Service Providers
Sexual Health Clinics

Mobile/Street Jail
Methadone/Bupe Programs

CHEP's HCV Testing Partners Serve Priority Communities

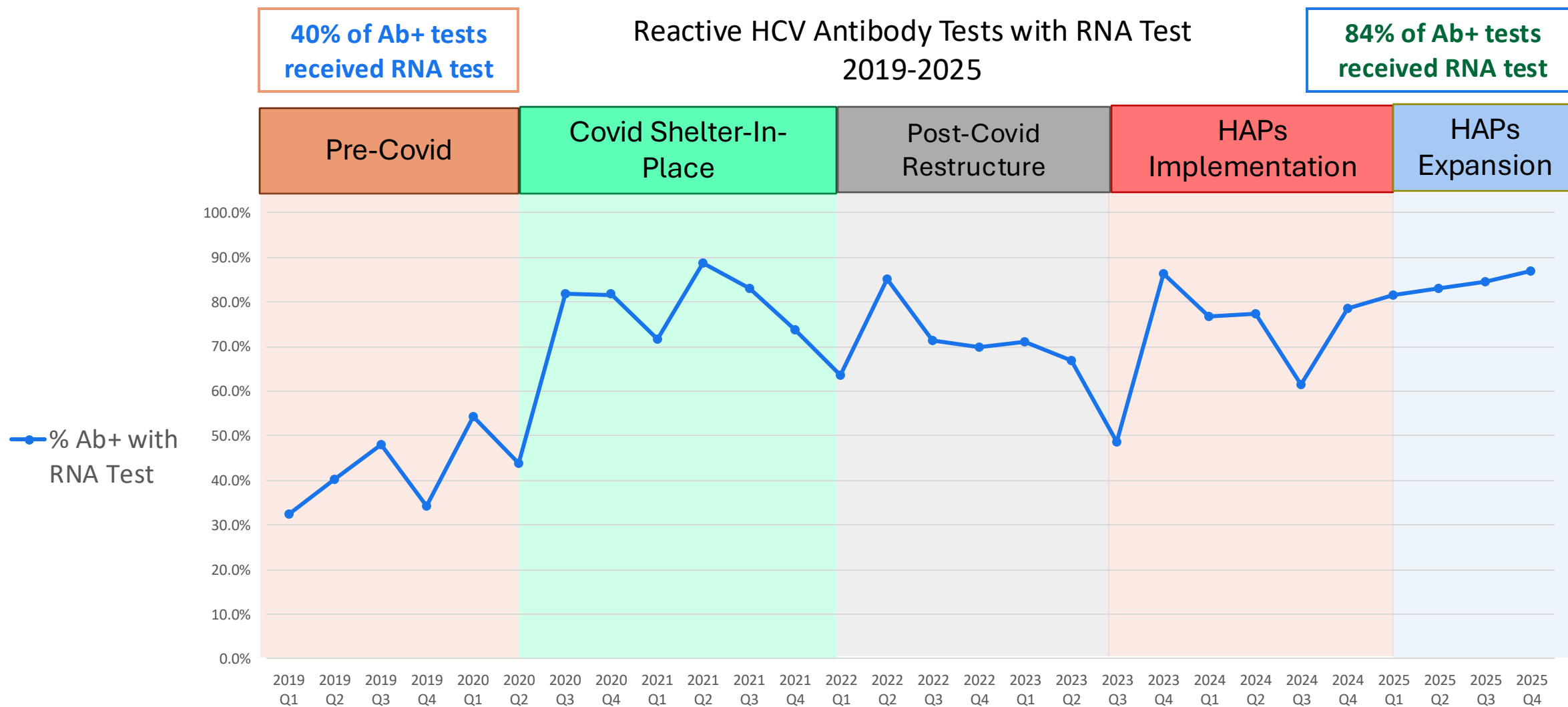
Community HCV Tests and SF Residents by Race



High representation of **Black/African Americans (5x higher)** & **Native Americans (over 6x higher)** in community testing

*Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 2024 1-year, San Francisco County

Improved HCV Diagnosing in Community Testing



New Technology: Point-Of-Care HCV RNA Testing

Benefits of Point-of-Care (POC) HCV RNA Testing:

Lab-Based HCV RNA Testing	POC HCV RNA Testing
Requires phlebotomist & connection to a laboratory	Will be able to train test counselors to perform test
Requires venipuncture	Finger-stick sample collection
Results available in 1-7 days	Results available in 40-60 minutes

2 programs in SF already **implemented POC RNA testing**

5 more programs will implement POC RNA testing **this year**



New Partnerships in Supportive Housing

- CHEP
- End Hep C SF
- Tenderloin Housing Clinic

- Glide
- LINCS
- BEAM

- Tenderloin
- Mission
- SoMA

6
Programs

3
Neighborhoods

2 Testing
Events

6 Educational
Gatherings

32 People Tested

90+ Participants



Addressing Ongoing Challenges



Final Thoughts

The Good News: HCV is curable

The Progress: HCV mortality has fallen 73%

The Challenge: Infection and cure remain inequitable

The Opportunity: Find → Diagnose → Treat → Cure

We have the tools to eliminate HCV!
Now we need to reach everyone equitably



THANK YOU!

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