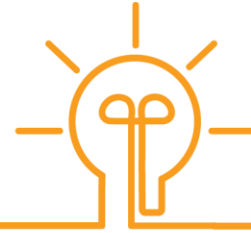




TBHIVCARE



**Update on
Community-based
harm reduction
services in Nelson
Mandela Bay**

25/10/2018

Overview

- Background to injecting drug use
- Overview of harm reduction
- Data on Hepatitis
- Summary of services provided by the Step Up Project
- Data from service delivery (January – June 2018)
- Conclusions

Background

- The People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) projects aims to decrease and prevent the spread of HIV, TB and other blood-borne diseases by providing comprehensive harm reduction and HIV prevention programme to the PWID community.
- The use of contaminated injecting equipment has shown high risks of transmission of blood-borne diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis.
- Harm Reduction services started in March 2017 in Nelson Mandela Bay

What is Harm Reduction ?

- A set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use.
- A philosophy promoting sensible, realistic solutions to problems related to drug use, utilising respectful and compassionate approaches.
- Services include safe spaces, commodities, health care, or education.

Attempts to:

1. Prevent HIV and hepatitis C infections
2. Prevent overdose
3. Offer guidance and support for infections and co-morbidity
4. Prevent high-risk injecting and unsafe sex behaviours



Viral Hepatitis data Sep 2017 – Mar 2018

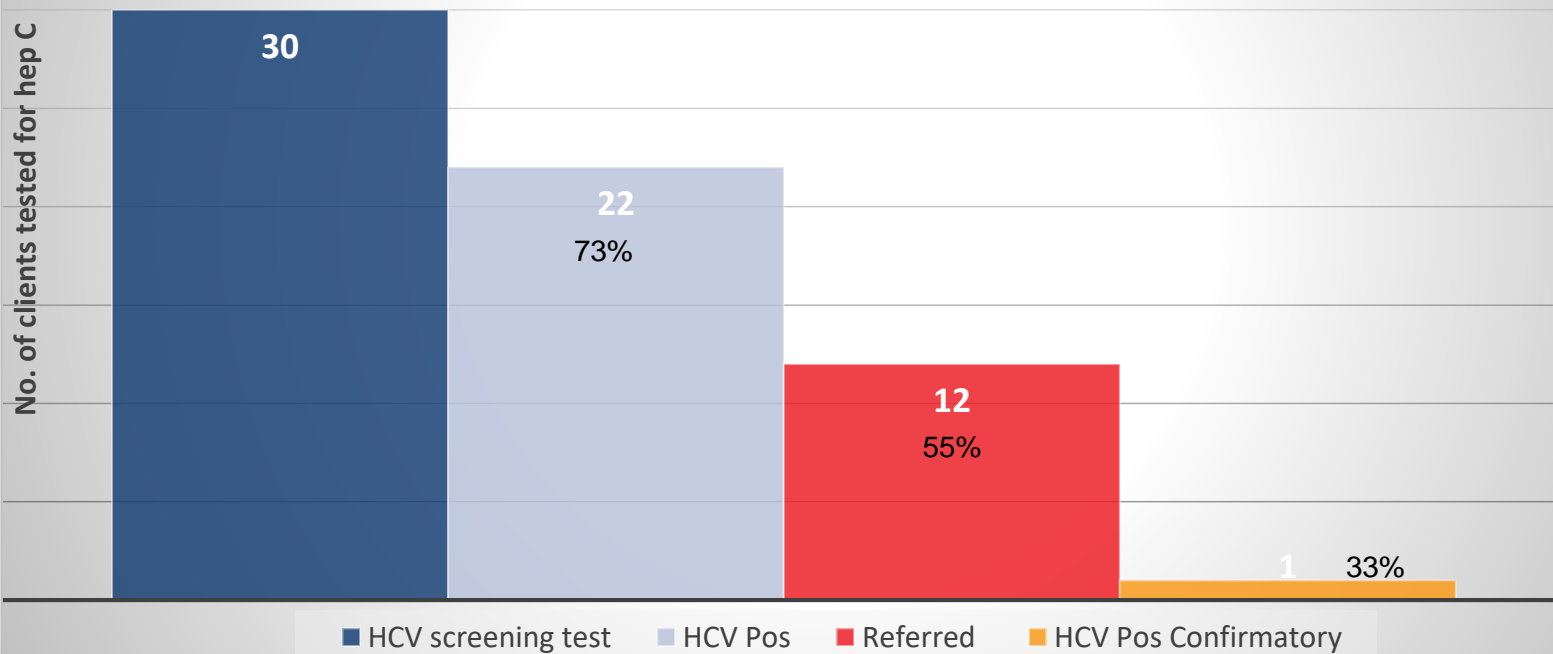
Background

- Viral hepatitis is the inflammation of the liver due to viral infection.
- Hepatitis can be caused by heavy alcohol use, toxins, medication, supplements and certain medical conditions.
- The use of contaminated injecting equipment put PWID at risk of diseases such as Hepatitis which is a blood-borne disease.
- There is a vaccination available for HBV but no treatment and there is no vaccination for HCV but direct treatment is available.
- A study done by TB HIV Care in Cape Town, Pretoria and Durban with PWID has shown a high prevalence of HCV in PWID with 29% in Durban and 73% in Pretoria.
- The need of harm reductions services to PWID community is essential in order to prevent the spread and transmission of HCV and HIV.

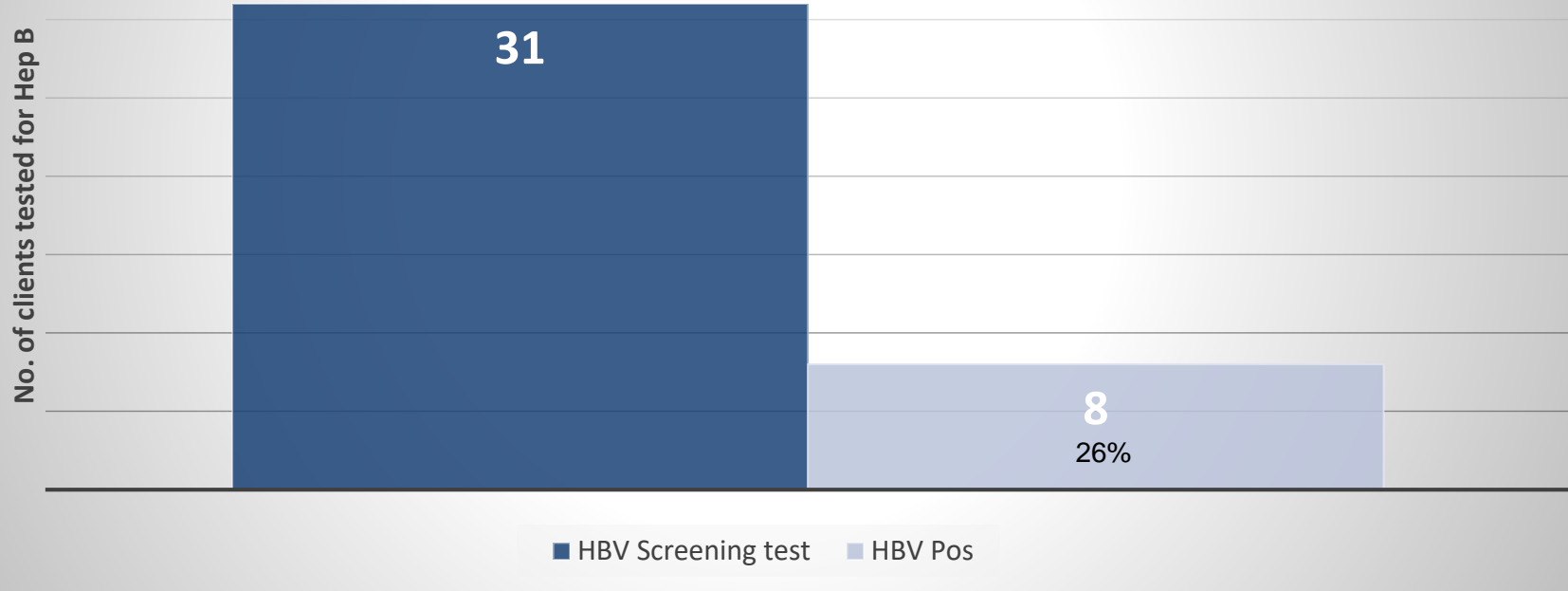
Methods

- Outreach team educated service users of viral hepatitis B & C.
- Services users were then recruited for viral hepatitis B & C testing.
- Bloods were taken.
- Follow up appointments were arranged for clients who were tested Hep C positive with a Hepatologist.
- Confirmatory tests (HCV VL) were done.

Viral Hepatitis C data among People Who Inject Drugs NMB Sep 2017 – March 2018



Viral Hepatitis B among People Who Inject Drugs in NMB Sep 2017 – Mar 2018



Conclusion and Recommendation

Conclusion

- There is a high prevalence of HCV among PWID in NMB.
- Health education is provided to the service users on Hepatitis B & C so as to prevent transmission.
- Follow up appointments are arranged for service users that have tested positive for Hep C but due to the fact that there is no treatment available/accessible services users feel discouraged to attend appointments.
- Due to having no treatment accessible/available services users feel discouraged to test.

Recommendations

- Advocacy for Hepatitis C treatment is essential.



Data
People Who Inject Drugs
Nelson Mandela Bay

Jan – Jun 2018

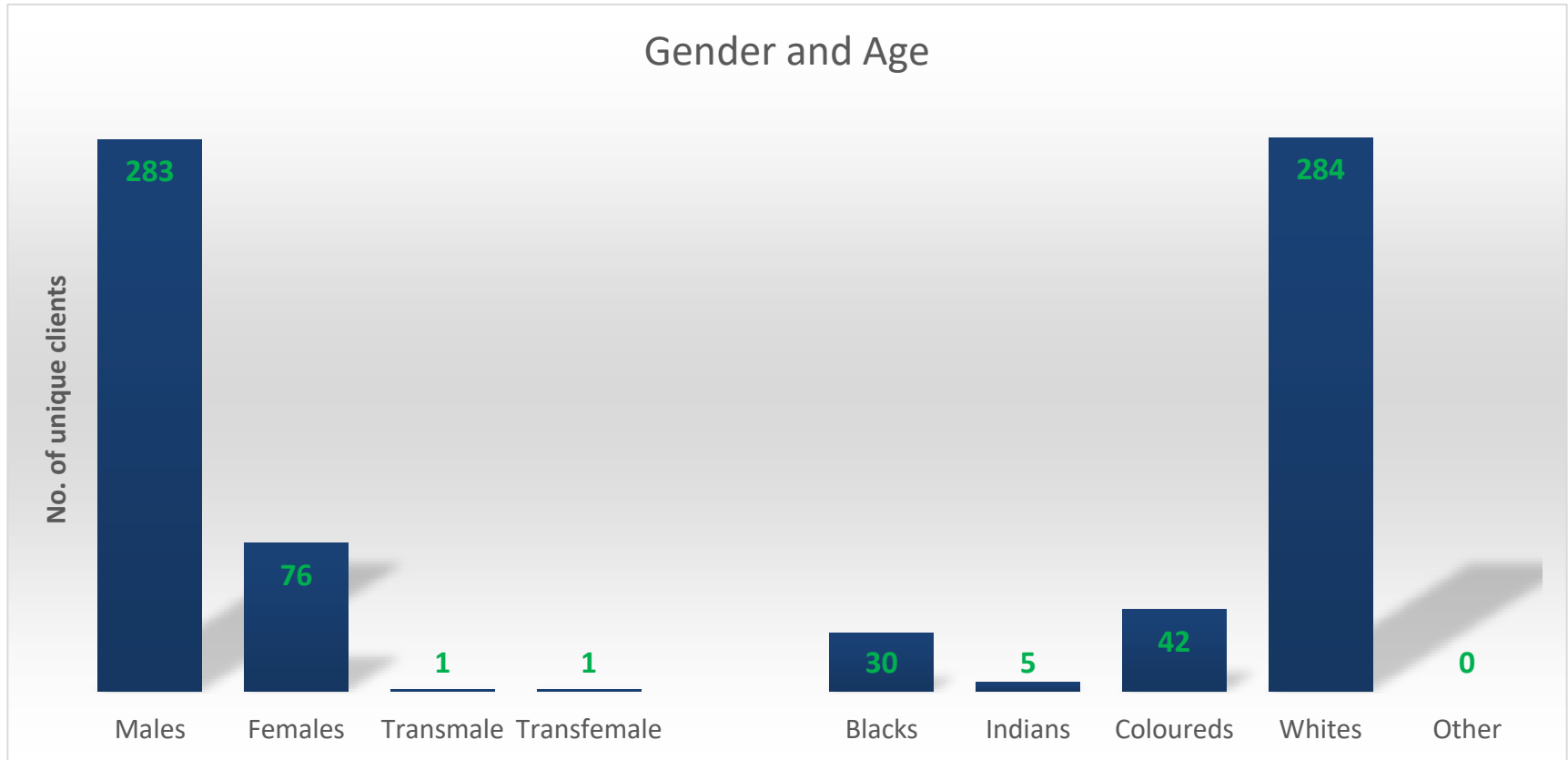
The Step Up project provides*:

- Needle and syringe services
- HIV testing and counseling & referrals, including ART
- Prevention of sexually transmitted infections
- Condom distribution
- Information, education and communication (IEC) material
- Prevention of tuberculosis (TB)
- Peer Educators deliver services to PWID twice weekly
- Prevention and education
- Wound care
- Advocacy and Human Rights
- Sensitivity training (clinics, police, community groups, etc.)

*As recommended by the WHO

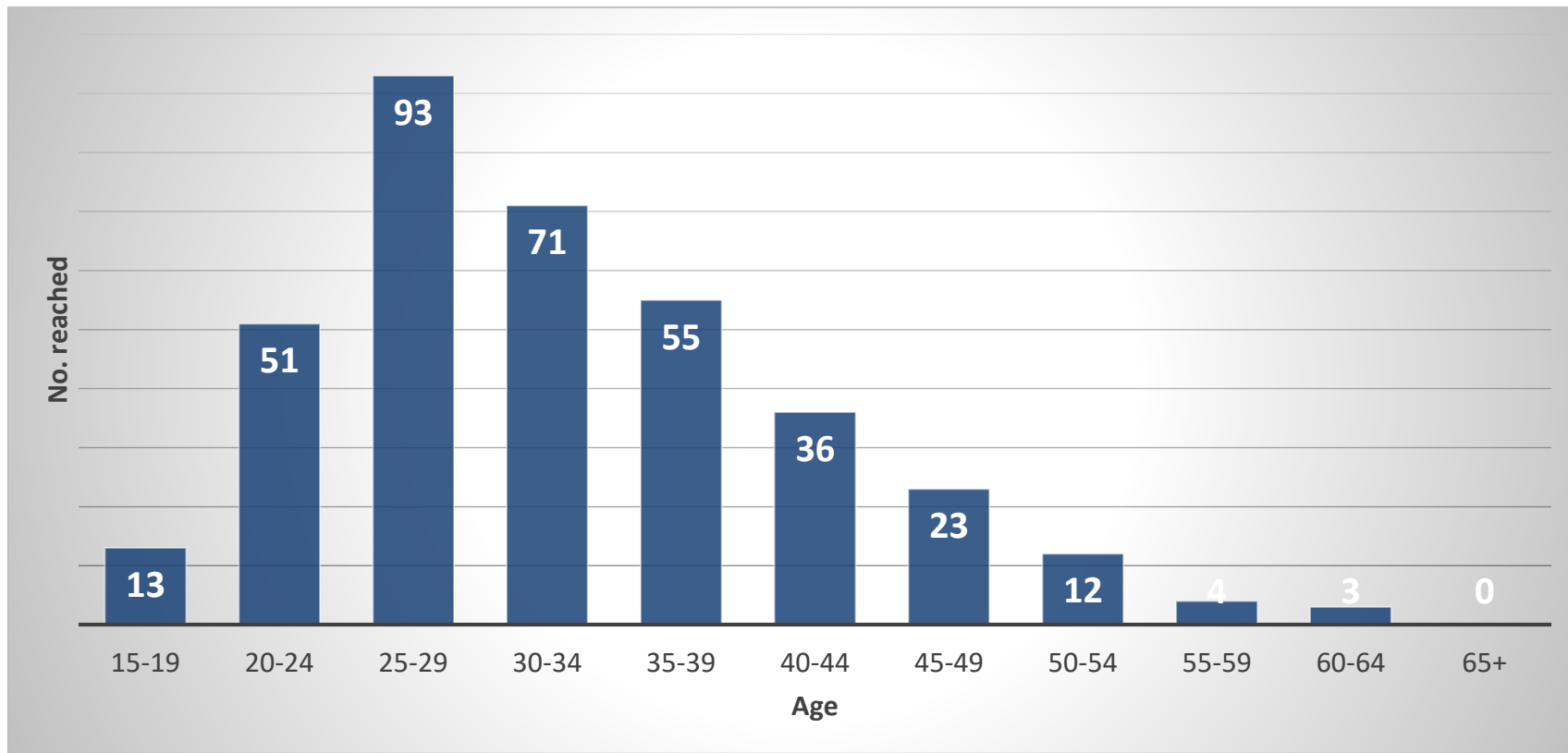
Total number of unique clients reached by gender and race NMB Jan – June 2018 n=361

Gender and Age

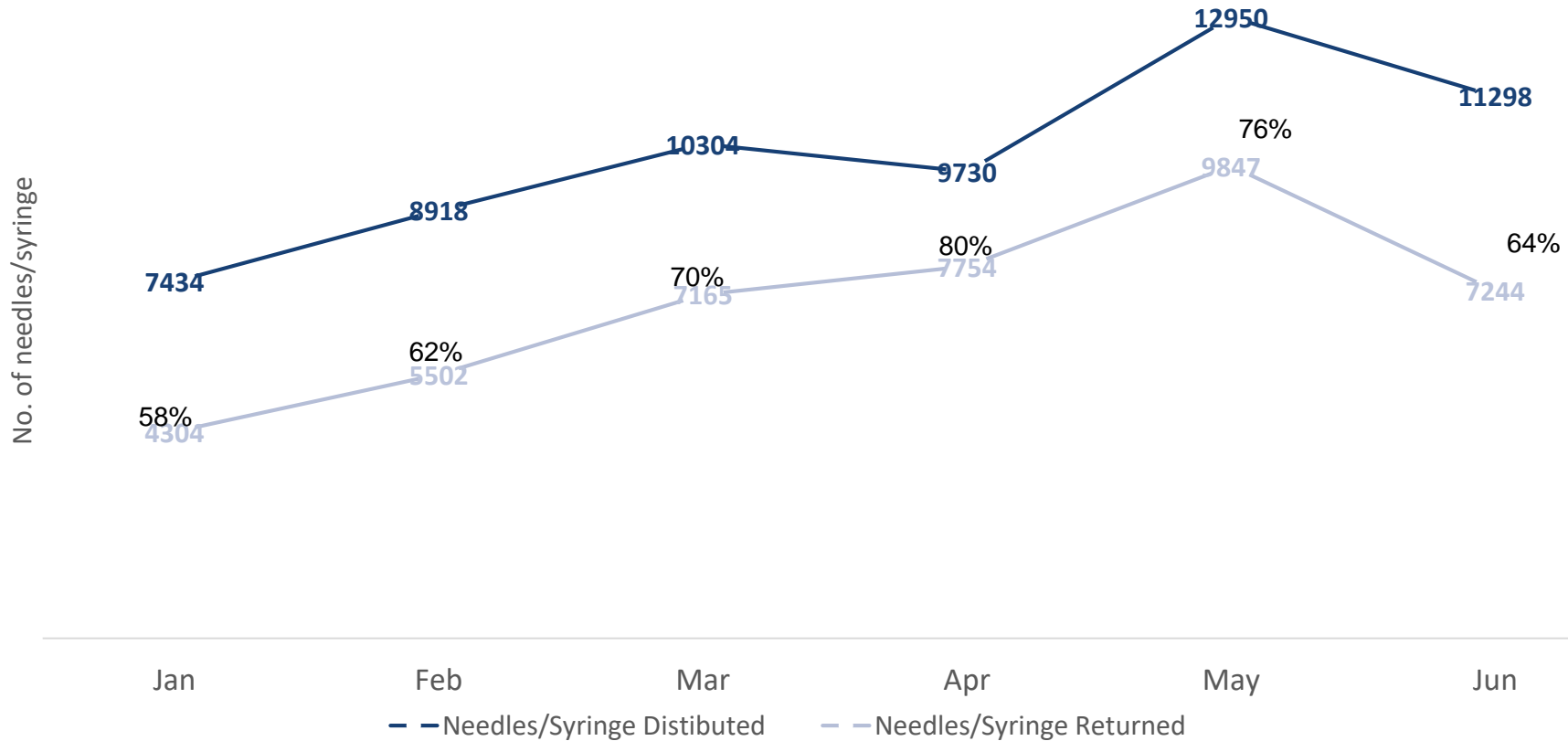


Total Unique PWIDs reached by age NMB Jan – June 2018

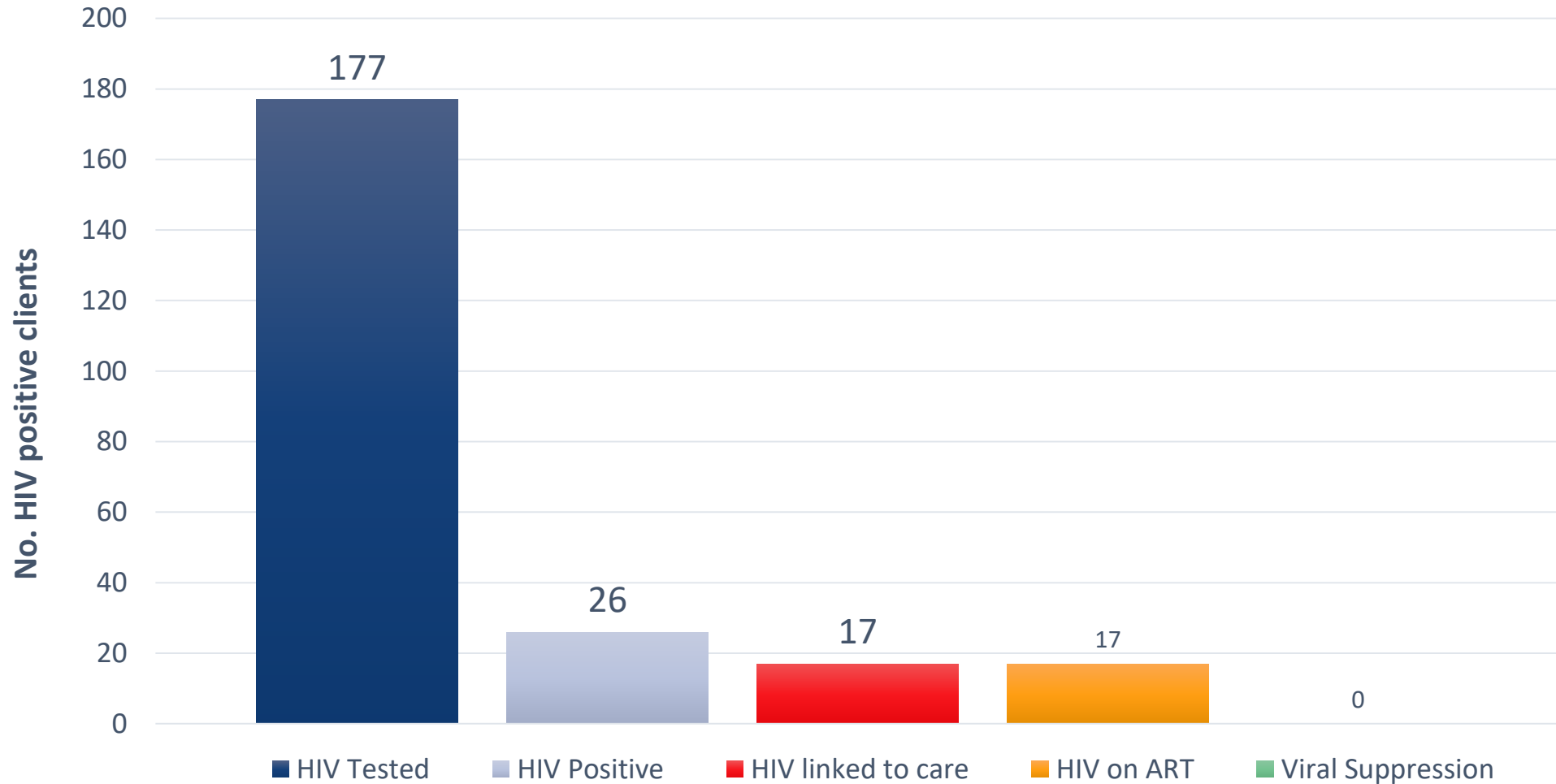
n=361



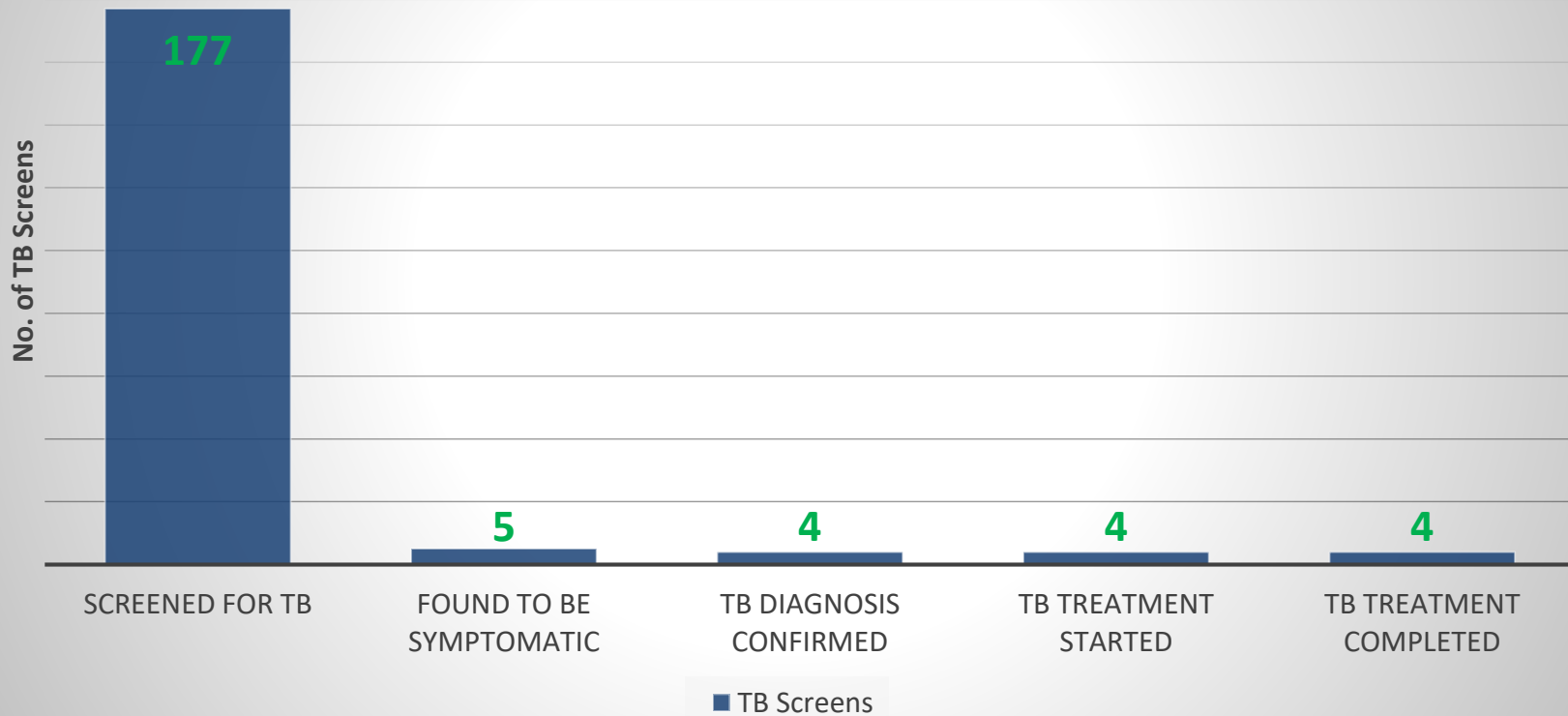
NEEDLE/SYRINGE DISTRIBUTION AND RETURN RATE NMB JAN – JUN 2018



HIV Cascade NMB Jan – Jun 2018

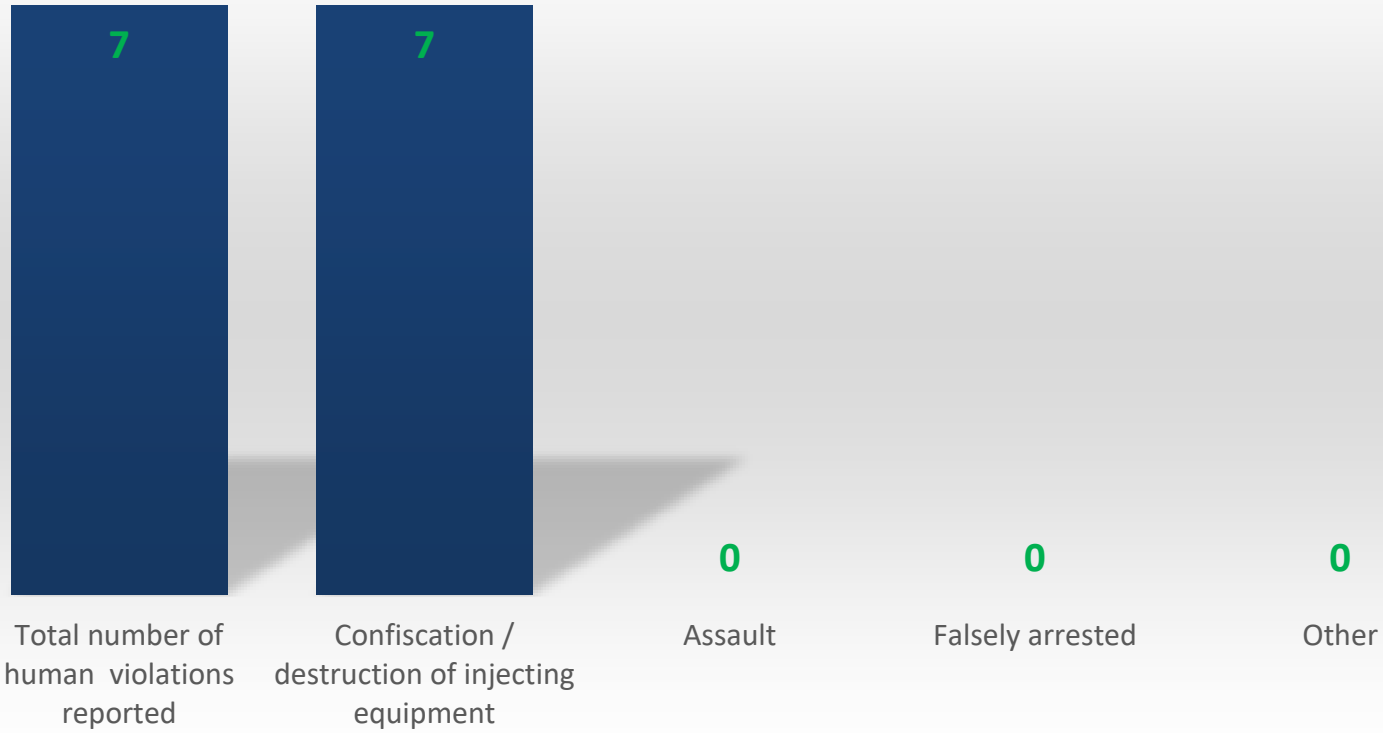


TB Screens NMB Jan – Jun 2018



Human Rights Violations NMB Jan – June 2018

No. of Human Rights violations



Conclusions

- Successful linkage has improved from 60% - 65% due to the role of linkage officer, even so this needs to improve to meet the 90/90/90 goal.
- Good TB treatment outcome.
- Engagement with the law enforcement has seen a decrease in the human rights violations.
- Constant education on returning used needles with the service users has shown an increase in needles returned from 56% - 69%.

Recommendations

- Engagement with department of health needs to be strengthened to receive clients viral load details.

Thank you!

Siyasanga Ngcebetsha

Siyasanga@tbhivcare.org

Zoliswa Siguca

zoliswas@tbhivcare.org

Supported by:

