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SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITY EPIDEMIOLOGY NETWORK ON DRUG USE

Treatment Demand Data • Service Quality Measures (SQM)
• Community-Based Harm Reduction Services

SYMPOSIUM

[Bronwyn Gantana]

Community-based harm reduction services: Western Cape

[10 November 2025] Phase 2025a [Jan – Jun 2025]



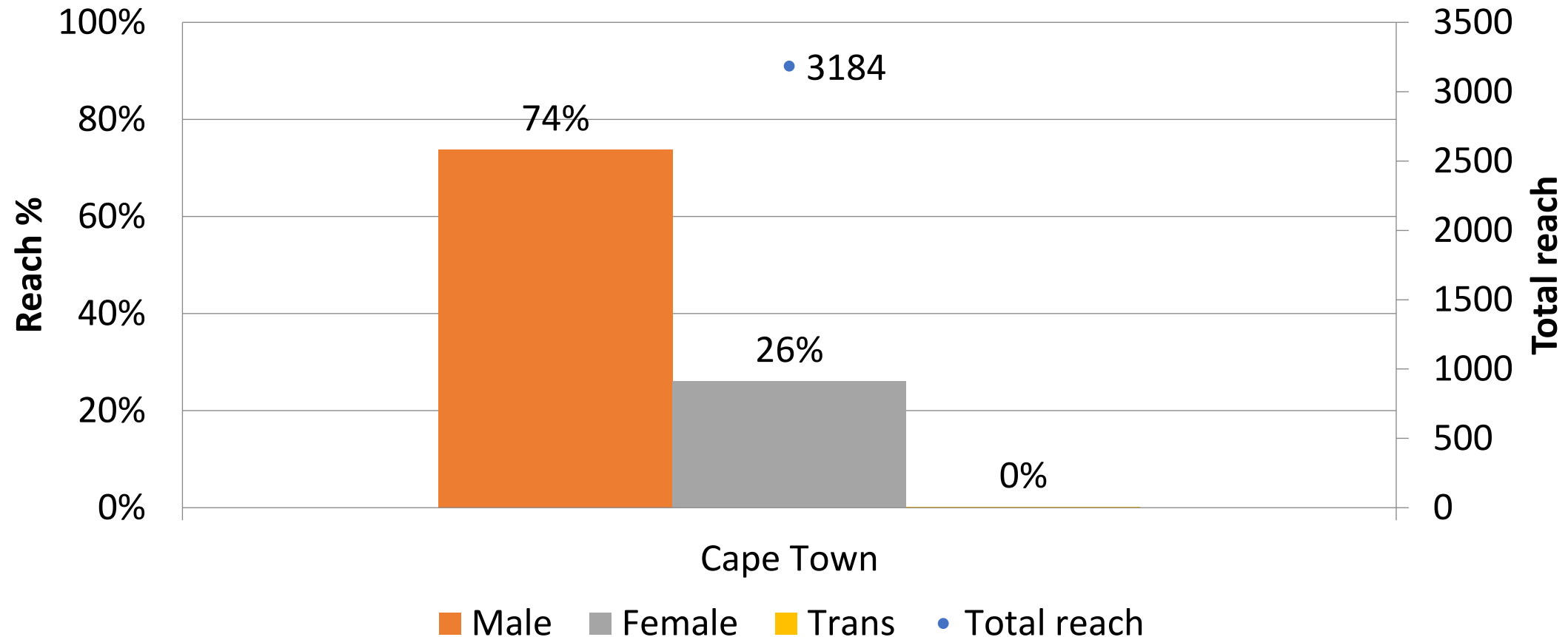
Needle & syringe reach, by gender



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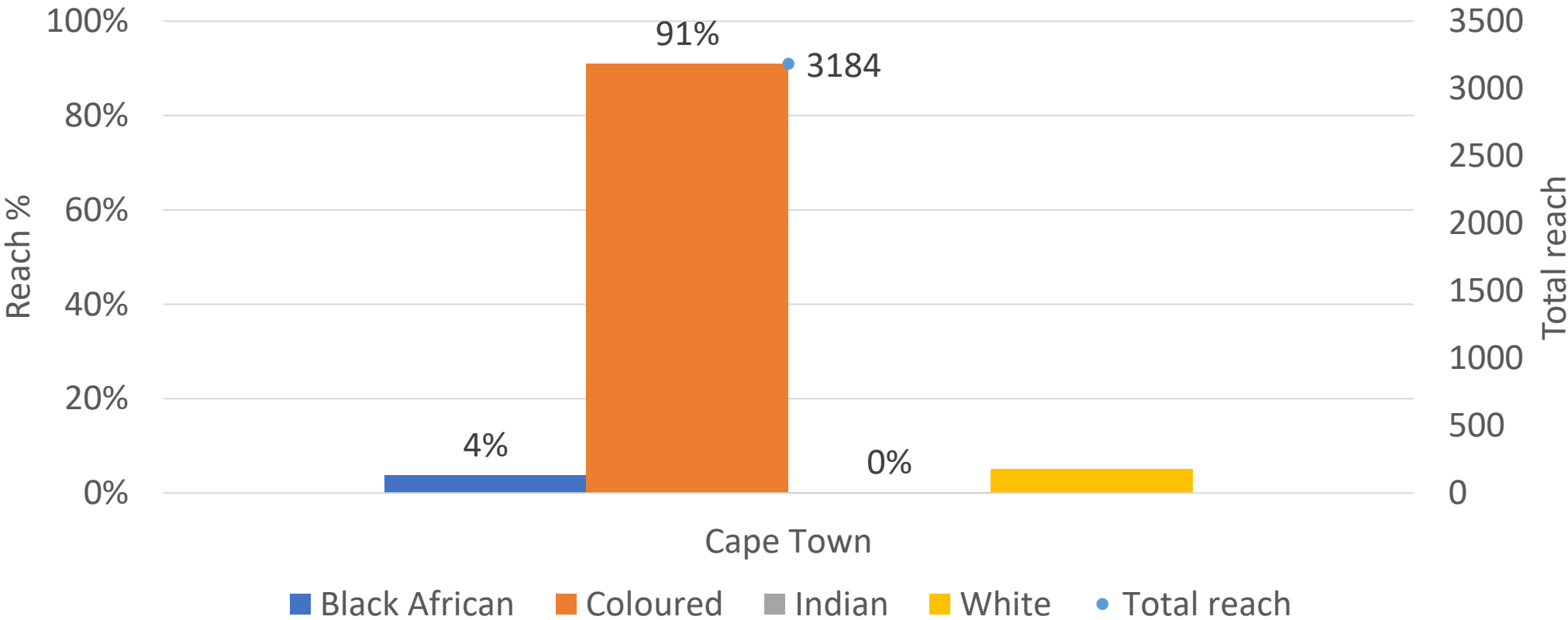
Needle & syringe reach, by population group



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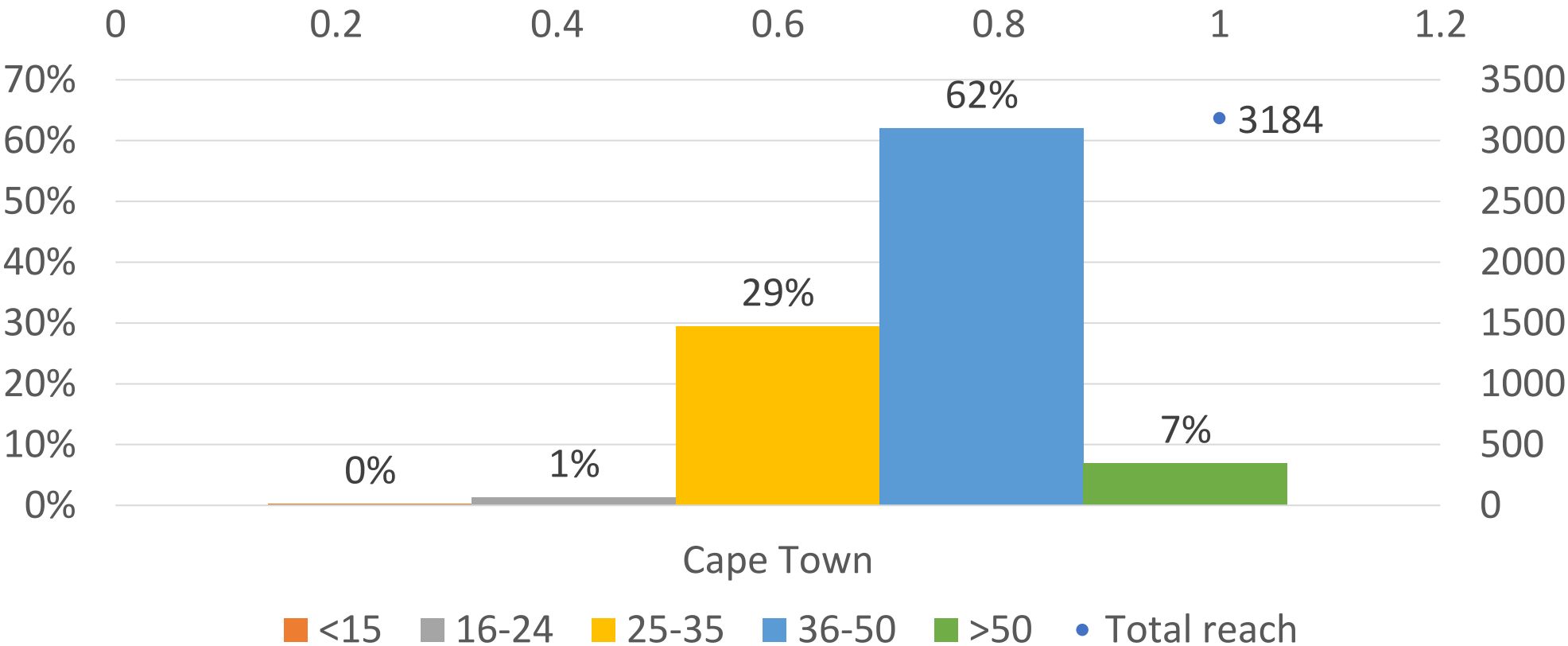
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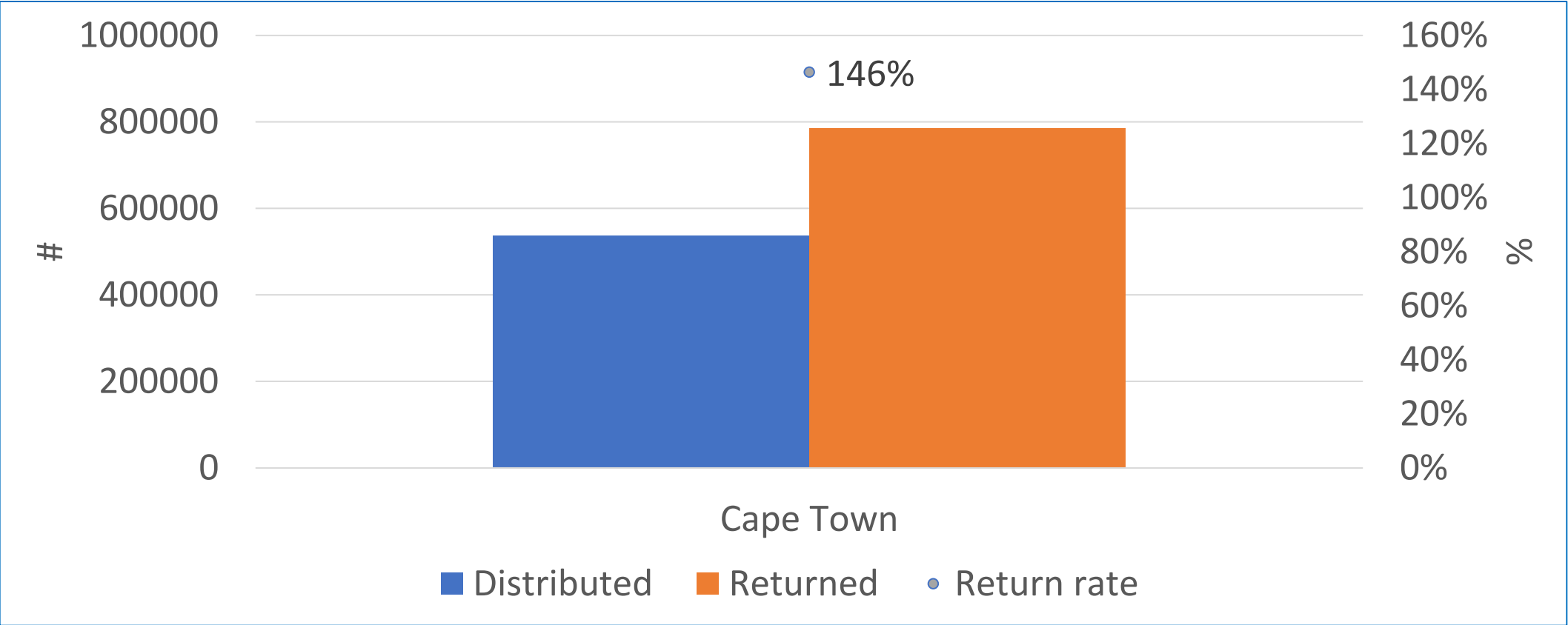
Needle & syringe reach, by age



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Needle & syringe distribution & return rate

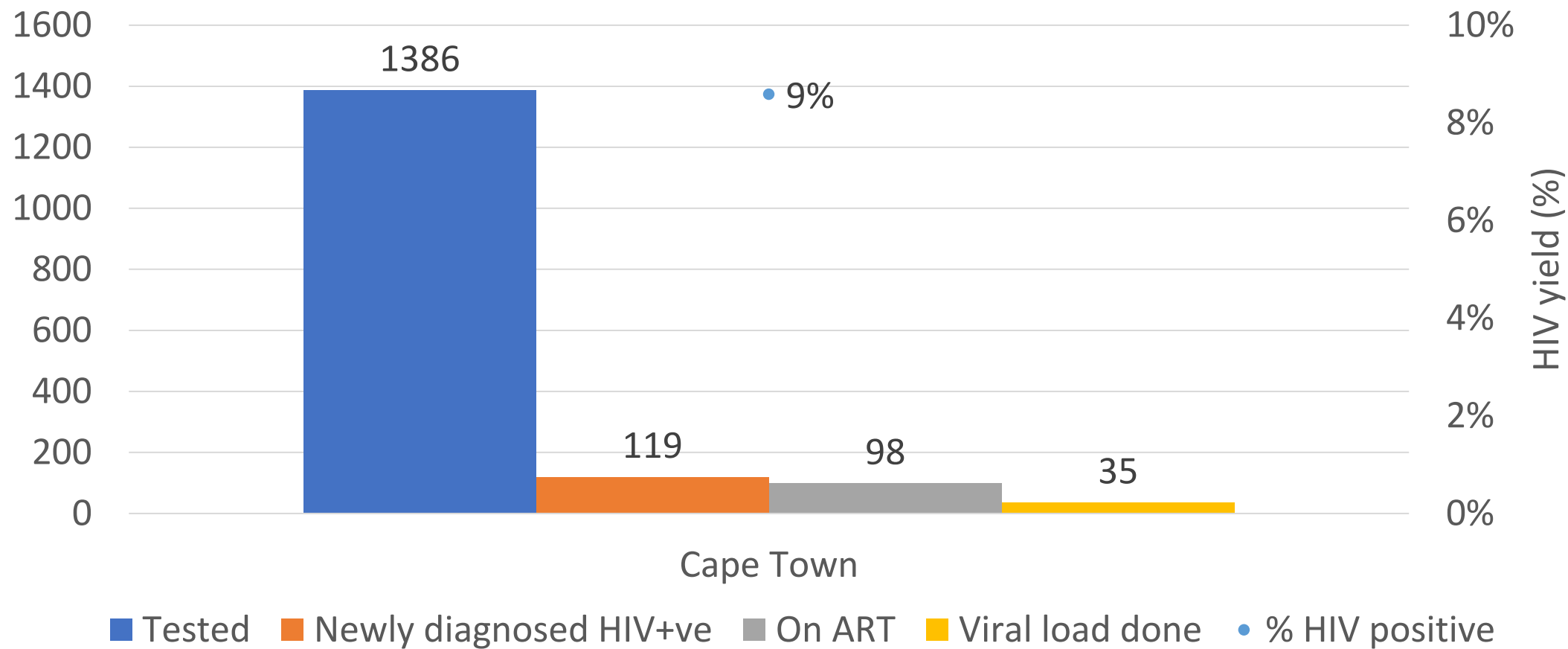


HIV testing & treatment cascade

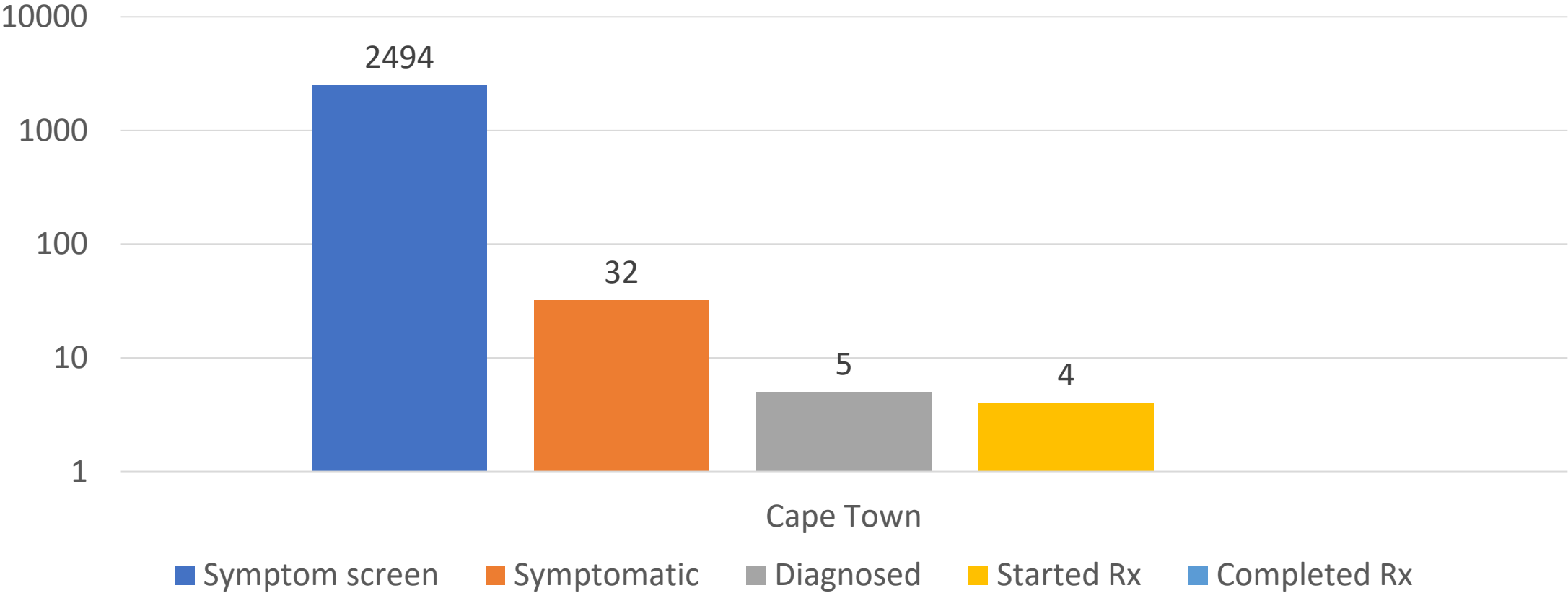


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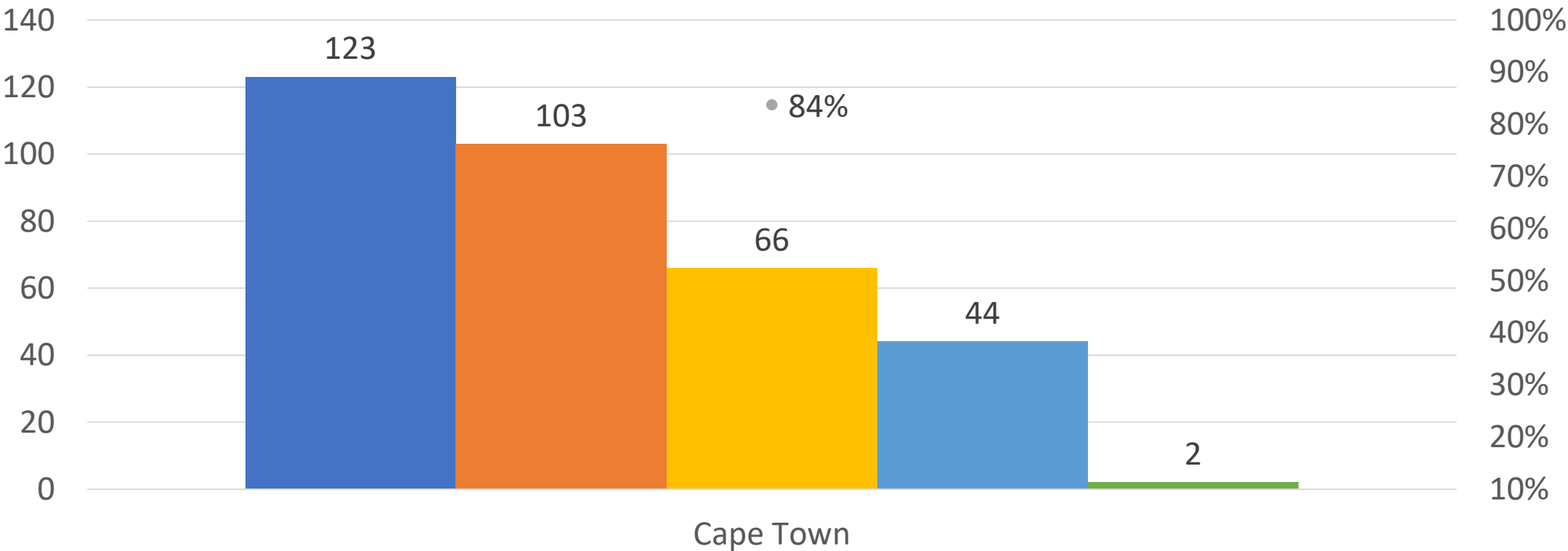
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TB testing & treatment cascade



HCV testing & treatment cascade



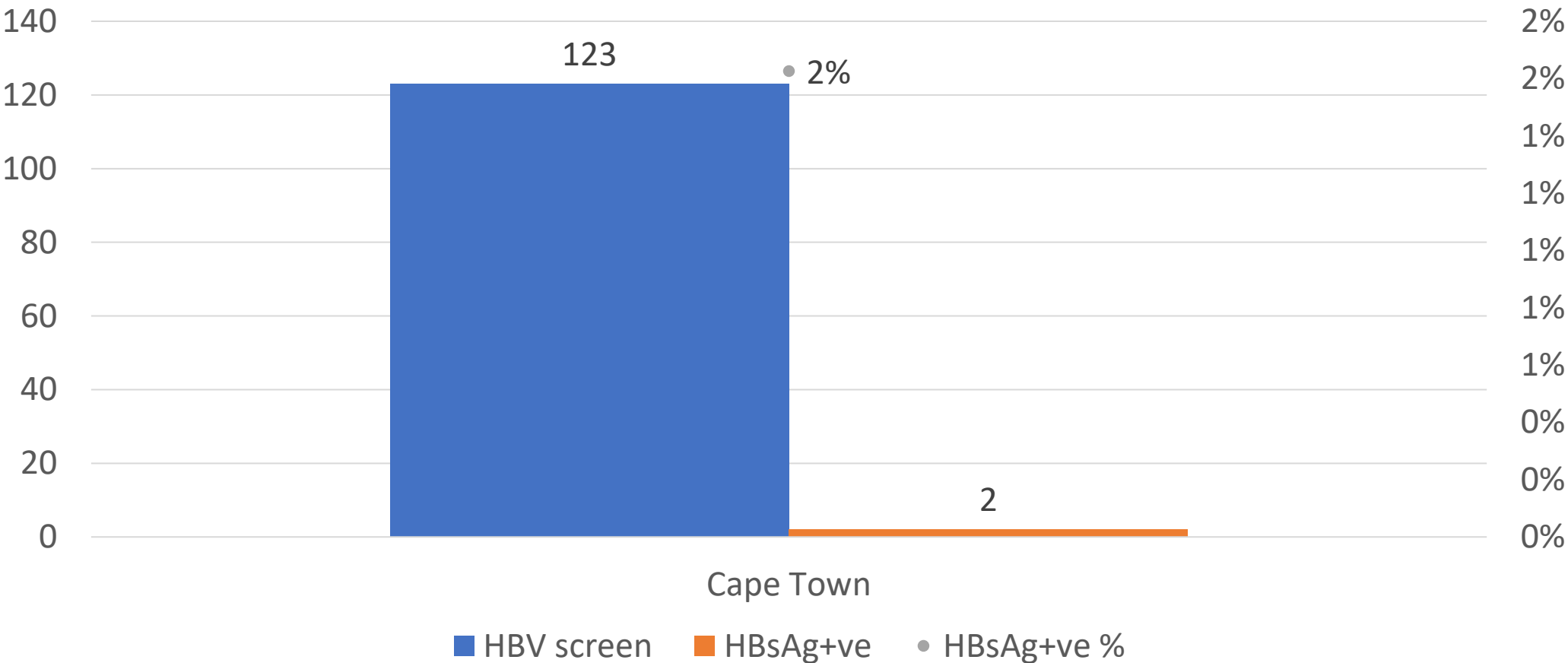
■ HCV screen ■ anti-HCV +ve ■ Confirmed infection ■ Started Rx ■ SVR12 • anti-HCV %



HBV testing



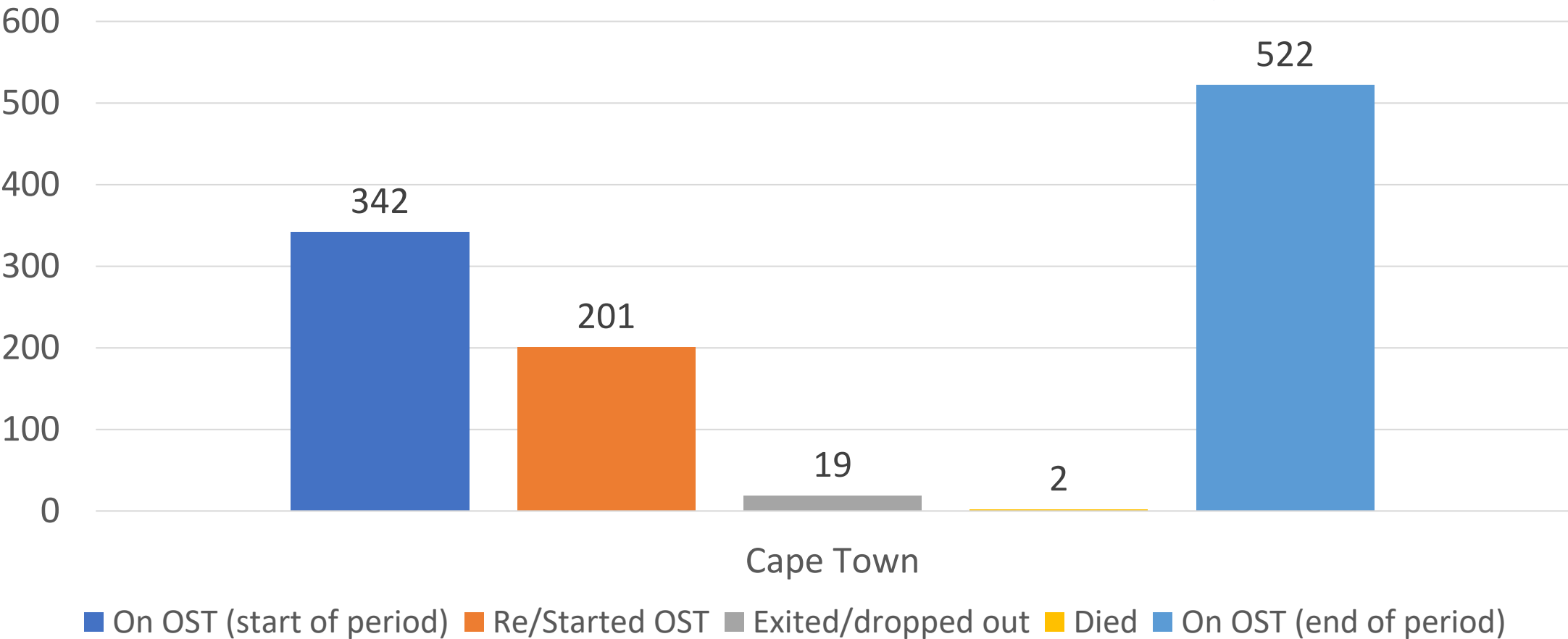
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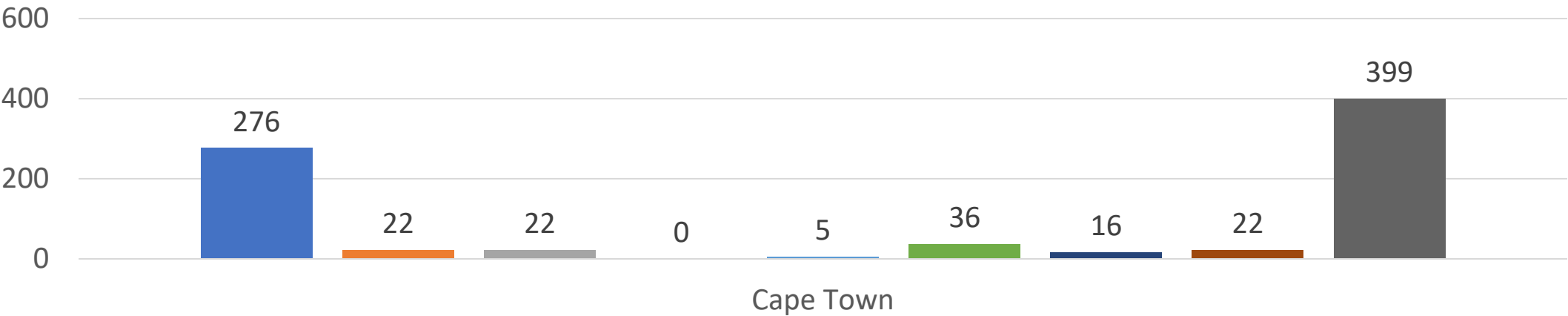
Opioid agonist therapy



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Human rights violations



- Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment
- Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and assaulted
- Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and arrested
- Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and personal photos taken without consent
- Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and medication taken
- Assaulted
- Falsely arrested
- Other
- Total number of violations reported



All cause mortality



Issues & challenges



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- Ongoing gang violence in Mitchells Plain disrupting service delivery
- Client migration and long travel distances limiting access to care
- Temporary halt of services in Joe Slovo due to local opposition (later resolved through engagement with the councilor)
- Sensitization training conducted with City of Cape Town Sub-Councils
- Continued reports of needle confiscations and assaults by Law Enforcement, Byers Security, SAPS, and PRASA
- Fear of stigma and discrimination affecting service uptake
- Limited resources and poor adherence to treatment
- Restricted access to healthcare, rehabilitation, and mental health services



Successes



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- Increased awareness of human rights and safe injecting practices
- Reduced needle confiscations and client harassment
- Higher participation in Legal Literacy sessions
- Fewer needles found in public areas
- Clients reconnecting with families and demonstrating positive behavior
- Several clients gained employment
- Needle returns exceeded distribution
- All HIV Testing Services and program targets met ahead of schedule
- Strong overall program performance





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Acknowledgements



NACOSA
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COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

