






# ONTARIO'S HEPATITIS C PROGRAMS

## ACTIVITIES & IMPACT, 2022-2023 & 2023-2024

The HIV and Hepatitis C Programs Unit, Provincial Programs Branch, Ministry of Health (ministry), funds and oversees community-based HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) services. It also supports the distribution of sterile, single-use equipment to prevent the transmission of HIV, HCV and other bloodborne infections, as well as naloxone to reverse opioid overdoses.

Some decreases reported are associated with COVID restrictions (more so in 2022-2023), human resources-related issues (e.g., leaves, staff turnover, recruitment challenges), policy change, and/or other providers delivering similar services.



	2022-2023	2023-2024
 CLIENTS SERVED	5,879	6,145
 TESTS ADMINISTERED	12,527	12,007
 OUTREACH CONTACTS	76,649	107,925
 COURSES OF HCV TREATMENT INITIATED	874	870
 SERVICE SESSIONS DELIVERED	110,687	102,458

**About this factsheet.** This factsheet draws on HCV-specific activity data reported in the **Ontario Community HIV/AIDS Reporting Tool (OCHART)** for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. It provides funders and community-based HCV service providers with an overview of their impact, including clients served, tests delivered, service sessions completed, and HCV treatment initiated with direct-acting antivirals (DAAs).



The ministry’s HIV and Hepatitis C Programs Unit invested approximately \$9.7 million in base funding in 2022-2023, and \$14.9 million in base funding and \$2.6 million in one-time funding in 2023-2024 to support community-based HCV programs, including:

18 

**MULTIDISCIPLINARY HEPATITIS C TEAMS (HCV TEAMS)**

that provide low-barrier wraparound HCV services, including testing, treatment and care, support and prevention, to populations at increased risk of HCV infection that face barriers to accessing traditional health care services. +

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**ORGANIZATIONS, CATIE AND THE UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK (UHN)**

that provide capacity building, knowledge translation and exchange (KTE), and mentoring for ministry-funded HCV teams and workers, and, since 2023-2024, lead the implementation of the [Ontario Hepatitis C Elimination Roadmap](#).

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**COORDINATORS / OUTREACH WORKERS**

one at PASAN (Prisoners HIV/AIDS Support Action Network) who provides education and support for people involved with the provincial correctional system; one at the Peterborough AIDS Resource Network, who provides regional service coordination; and another at Porcupine Health Unit who delivers outreach HCV testing (since 2023-2024).

# WHAT?

Ontario’s **HCV teams** work across all stages of the HCV care cascade, providing:



**Testing** to diagnose individuals living with HCV and link them to care.



**Treatment** and support services to increase access to HCV DAAs for clearing the virus, ensuring access to additional supports required to stay on and complete treatment, and provide linkage to other health and social services.



**Post-cure clinical monitoring** for maintenance of optimal health, and counselling and education to prevent reinfection.



**Prevention services and education** on topics such as HCV transmission, testing and treatment, and safer drug use.



**Access to infection and overdose prevention interventions**, such as sterile, single-use equipment, and naloxone.



The HCV care cascade depicts the stages people living with HCV go through, from diagnosis to achieving Sustained Virologic Response (SVR) and being considered cured of HCV.

+ In 2023-2024, the ministry provided new base funding to support the creation of six new HCV teams, bringing the total teams from 18 to 24. However, service delivery among the new teams did not commence in 2023-2024, as they were focused on program setup that year.

# AIMS?

HCV teams aim to:



Reduce new HCV infections.



Increase the number of people diagnosed with HCV in care and on treatment.



Increase the number of individuals who complete treatment and achieve a sustained virologic response (SVR).



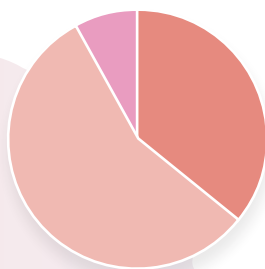
Minimize the burden of HCV on the health care system.

# WHO?

HCV teams provide care to Ontarians most affected by and at risk of acquiring HCV, also referred to as “priority populations”, including people who use drugs, people involved with the correctional system, Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit), people who are homeless or underhoused, and street-involved youth.

2022-2023

 **CLIENTS SERVED BY HCV TEAMS**  
**5,879**

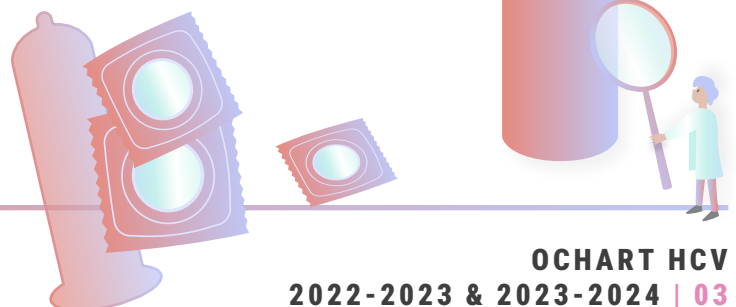
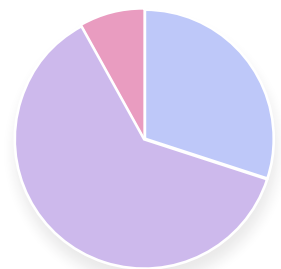


- 2,098 (36%)**  
Clients living with HCV
- 3,274 (56%)**  
Clients at risk of acquiring HCV
- 507 (8%)**  
Clients receiving post-cure care

2023-2024

**CLIENTS SERVED BY HCV TEAMS**   
**6,145**

- 1,850 (30%)**  
Clients living with HCV
- 3,796 (62%)**  
Clients at risk of acquiring HCV
- 499 (8%)**  
Clients receiving post-cure care

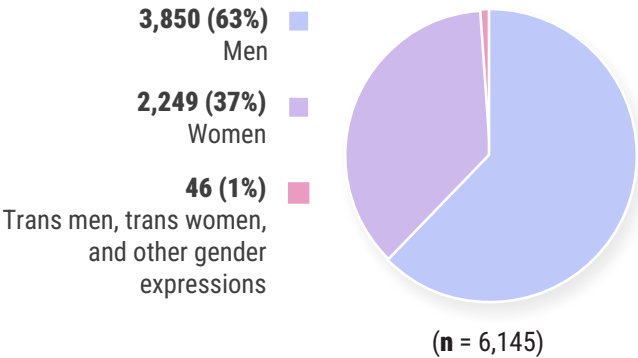
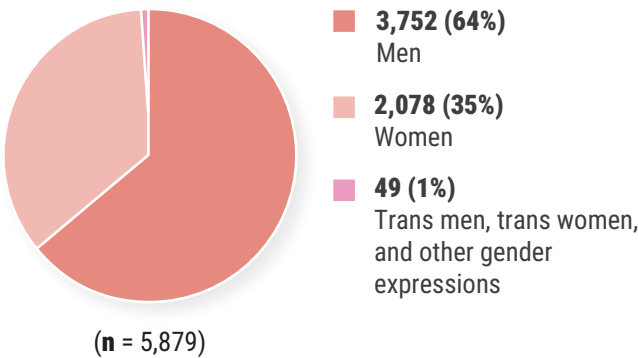


Below is a demographic breakdown of clients, based on available 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 data:

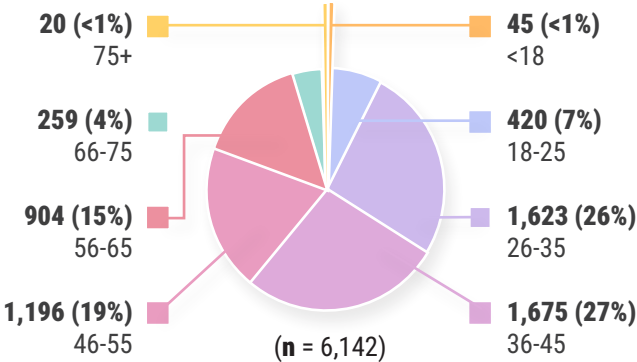
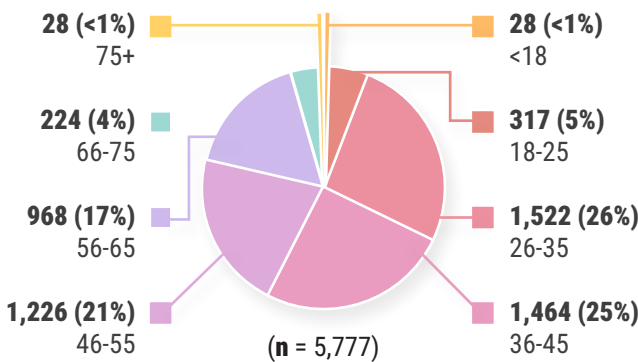
2022-2023

2023-2024

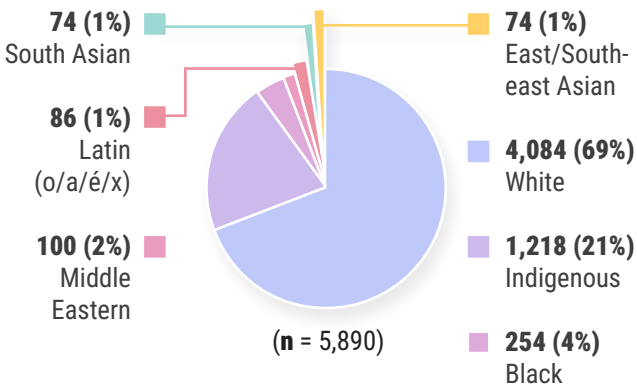
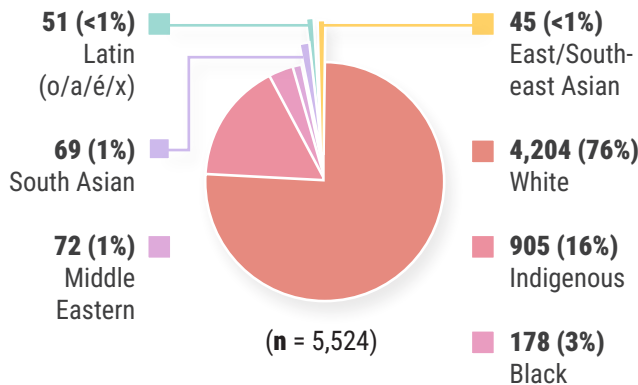
CLIENT GENDER



CLIENT AGE (WHERE KNOWN)



CLIENT ETHNICITY (WHERE KNOWN)



# PREVENTION AND HEALTH EDUCATION

2022-2023

PRESENTATIONS DELIVERED BY  
HCV TEAMS

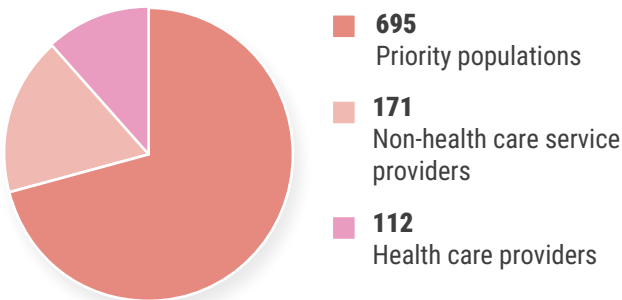
978



INDIVIDUALS REACHED

14,147

PRESENTATIONS BY AUDIENCE



2023-2024

PRESENTATIONS DELIVERED BY  
HCV TEAMS

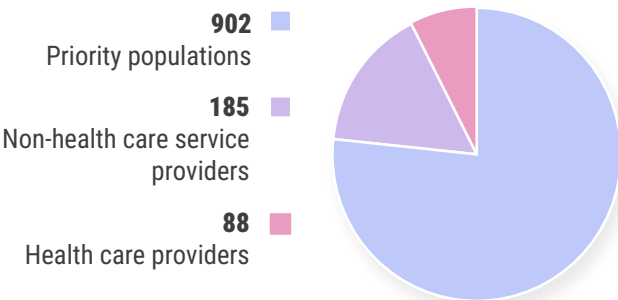
1,175

INDIVIDUALS REACHED

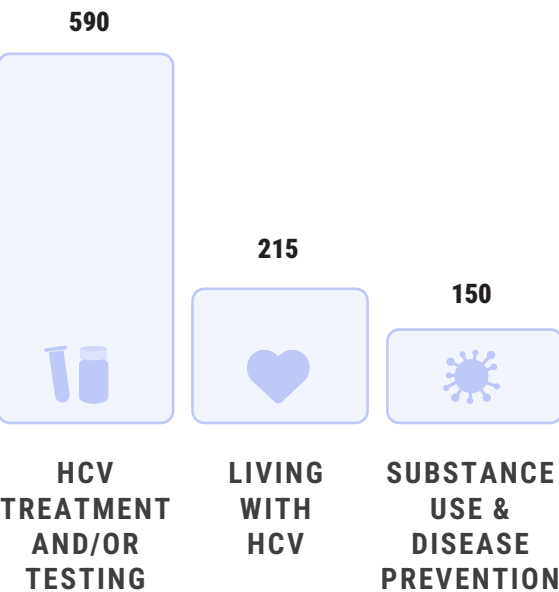
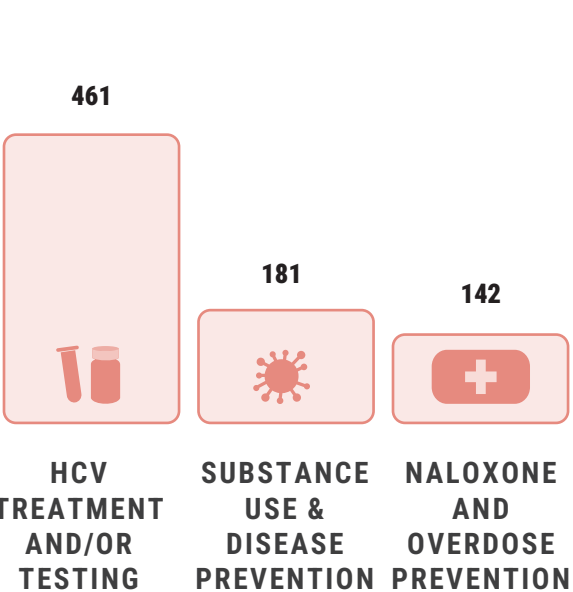
12,543



PRESENTATIONS BY AUDIENCE



TOP PRESENTATION TOPICS



# OUTREACH

The HCV teams continue to do active outreach to engage people at risk or living with HCV in prevention, testing and treatment services.

2022-2023



**OUTREACH CONTACTS  
MADE BY HCV TEAMS**

**76,649**

These numbers may include multiple interactions with individual clients.

2023-2024

**OUTREACH CONTACTS  
MADE BY HCV TEAMS**

**107,925**



## TOP OUTREACH LOCATIONS

**21,773**  
(28%)



Mobile services

**15,076**  
(20%)



Consumpt. Treatment Services

**12,035**  
(16%)



Street outreach

**5,412**  
(7%)



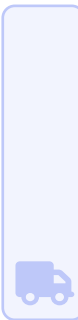
Shelters

**4,543**  
(6%)



Food banks/soup kitchens

**27,223**  
(25%)



Mobile services

**17,799**  
(16%)



Drop-in centres

**14,155**  
(13%)



Consumpt. Treatment Services

**12,891**  
(12%)



Street outreach

**6,992**  
(6%)



Food banks/soup kitchens

# SERVICE SESSIONS/SUPPORT

Service users engage with HCV teams through personalized service sessions.



**SERVICE SESSIONS RECEIVED**

**110,687**

**SERVICE SESSIONS RECEIVED**

**102,458**



## TOP FIVE SERVICES ACCESSED

**26,263**



General support

**17,652**



Practical assistance

**17,507**



Case mgmt./ co-ordination

**15,431**



Wellness check

**12,586**



Clinical counselling

**22,925**



General support

**18,684**



Case mgmt./ co-ordination

**14,388**



Practical assistance

**13,481**



Wellness check

**12,683**



Clinical counselling

# TESTING

2022-2023

**TESTS DELIVERED BY HCV TEAMS**  
**12,527**

2023-2024

**TESTS DELIVERED BY HCV TEAMS**  
**12,007**

## CHANGES IN HCV ANTIBODY AND RNA TESTING

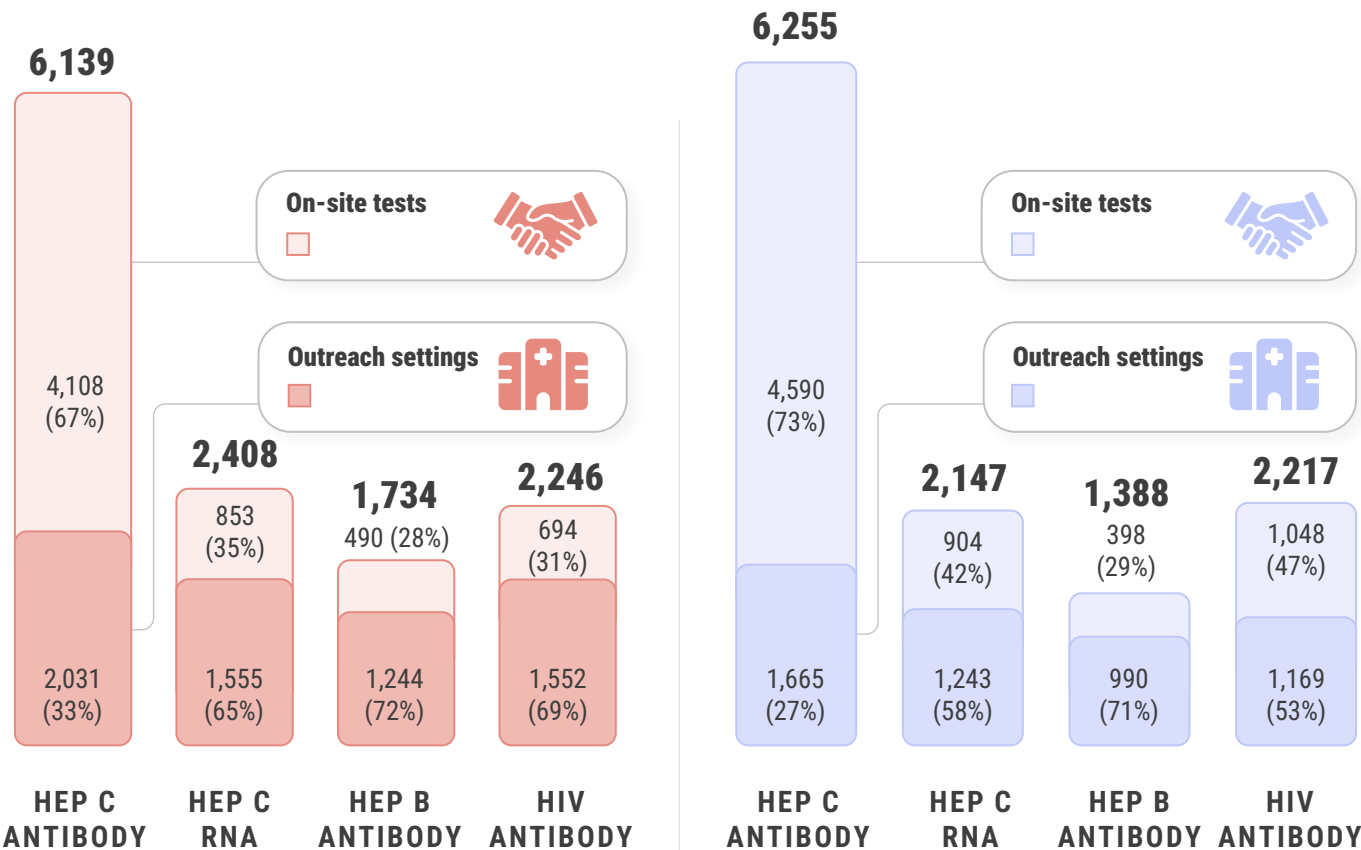
It is worth noting that:



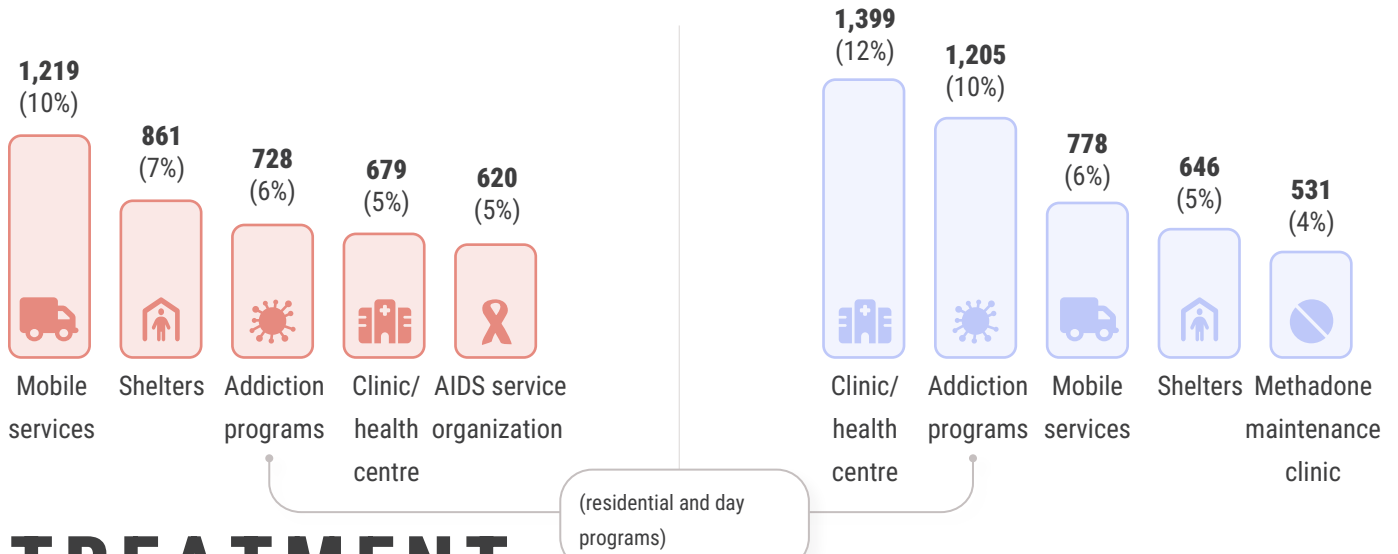
Changes to the Ontario Drug Benefit Program Limited Use Code criteria related to proof of chronicity (June 2021) and/or implementation of reflex testing by Public Health Ontario (April and November 2023) may have impacted volumes of **HCV RNA** testing.



Closer monitoring of client **HCV antibody** testing history to avoid unnecessary repeat testing and/or increased outreach/outreach testing may also have affected volumes of HCV Ab testing.

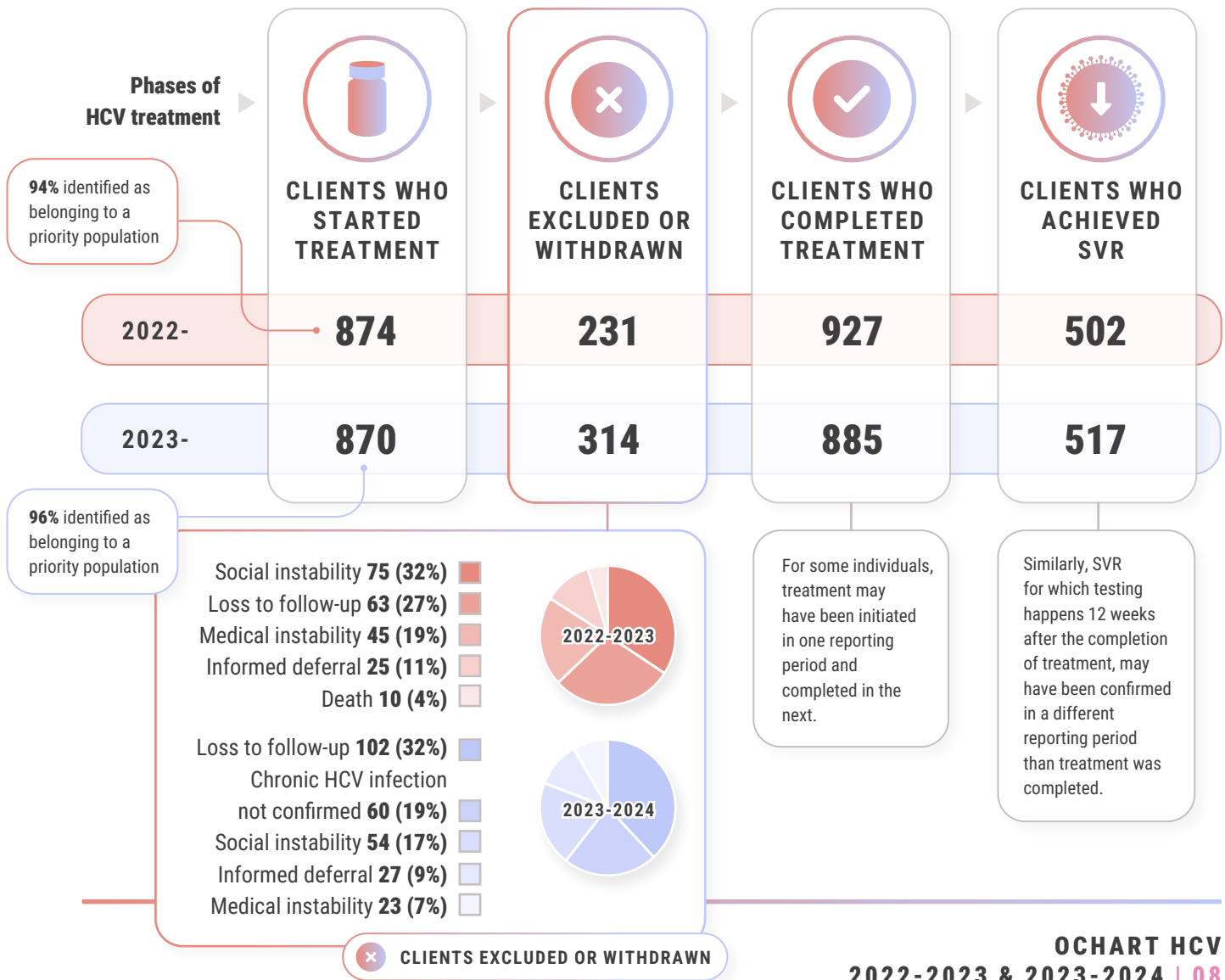


## TOP FIVE OUTREACH TESTING LOCATIONS



# TREATMENT

Linking clients to care and supporting them through HCV treatment is one of the goals of the HCV teams.





# PRIMARY TYPE OF FINANCIAL COVERAGE FOR CLIENTS UNDERGOING TREATMENT



Clients may use more than one type of financial coverage, but only the primary coverage is reported here.

