



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Hepatitis C in England 2019 report

Working to eliminate hepatitis C as a major public health threat



Eliminating hepatitis C as a major public health threat in England

2020 impact targets

Reducing HCV related mortality (target 10% reduction by 2020)

Death registrations for Hep C-related end-stage liver disease and cancer fell by 16% between 2015 and 2017



Reducing new chronic HCV infections (target 30% reduction by 2020)

The UAM survey of people who inject drugs (PWID) provides no evidence of any decline in new HCV infections in recent years; estimated rates of infection in 2017 were 20/100 person years, compared to 8/100 in 2011, while prevalence of infection in recent initiates to injecting drug use was similar in 2017 (23%) to 2011 (20%)



113,000 people estimated to be living with chronic Hep C in England

Coverage of key services

Number treated



11,557 people accessed treatment in 2017/18; up 22% on 2016/17, and up 127% on pre-2015 levels

Proportion of people diagnosed



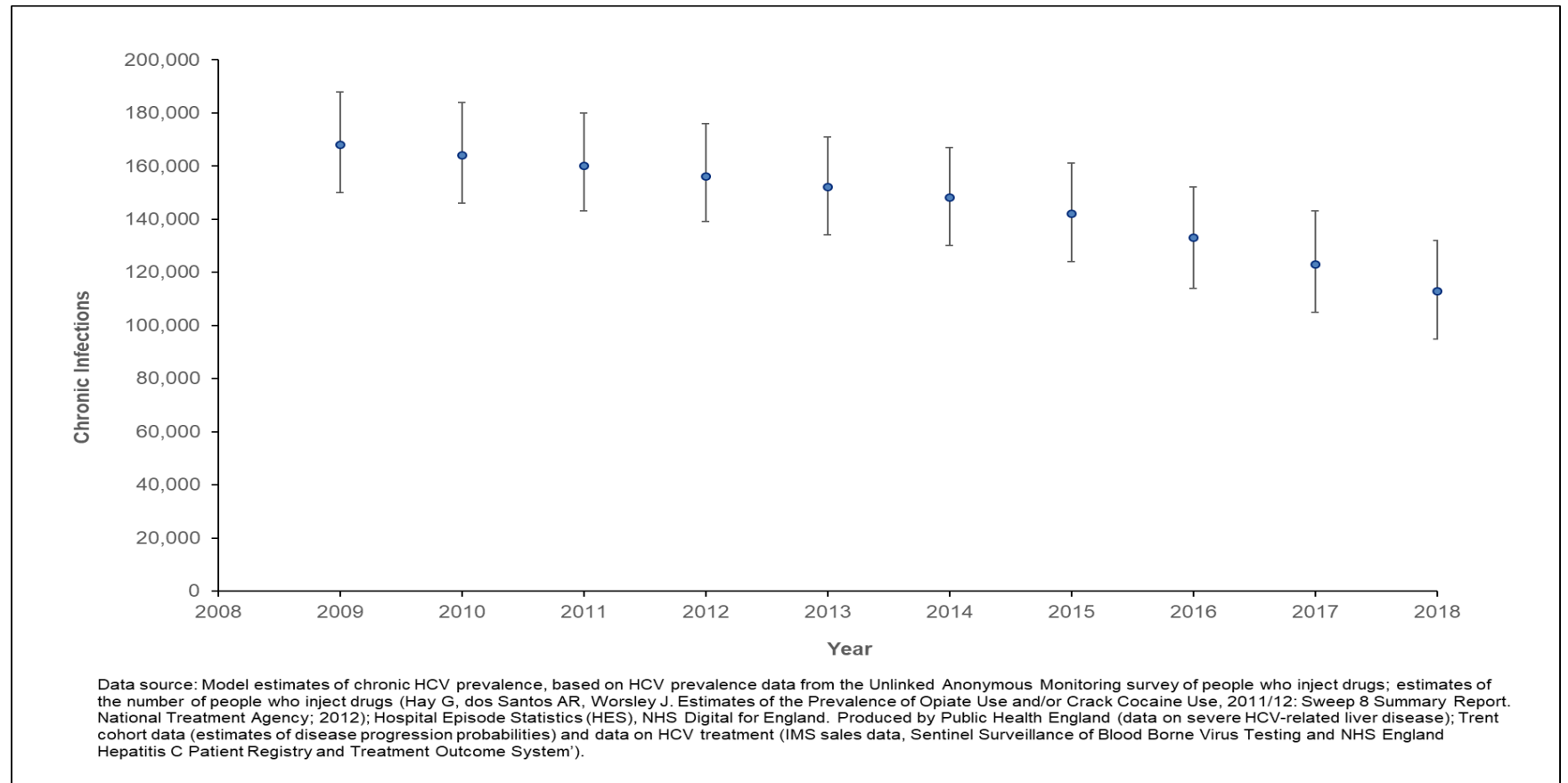
56% of PWID surveyed in 2017 were aware of their current HCV infection

Number of sterile needles/syringes provided



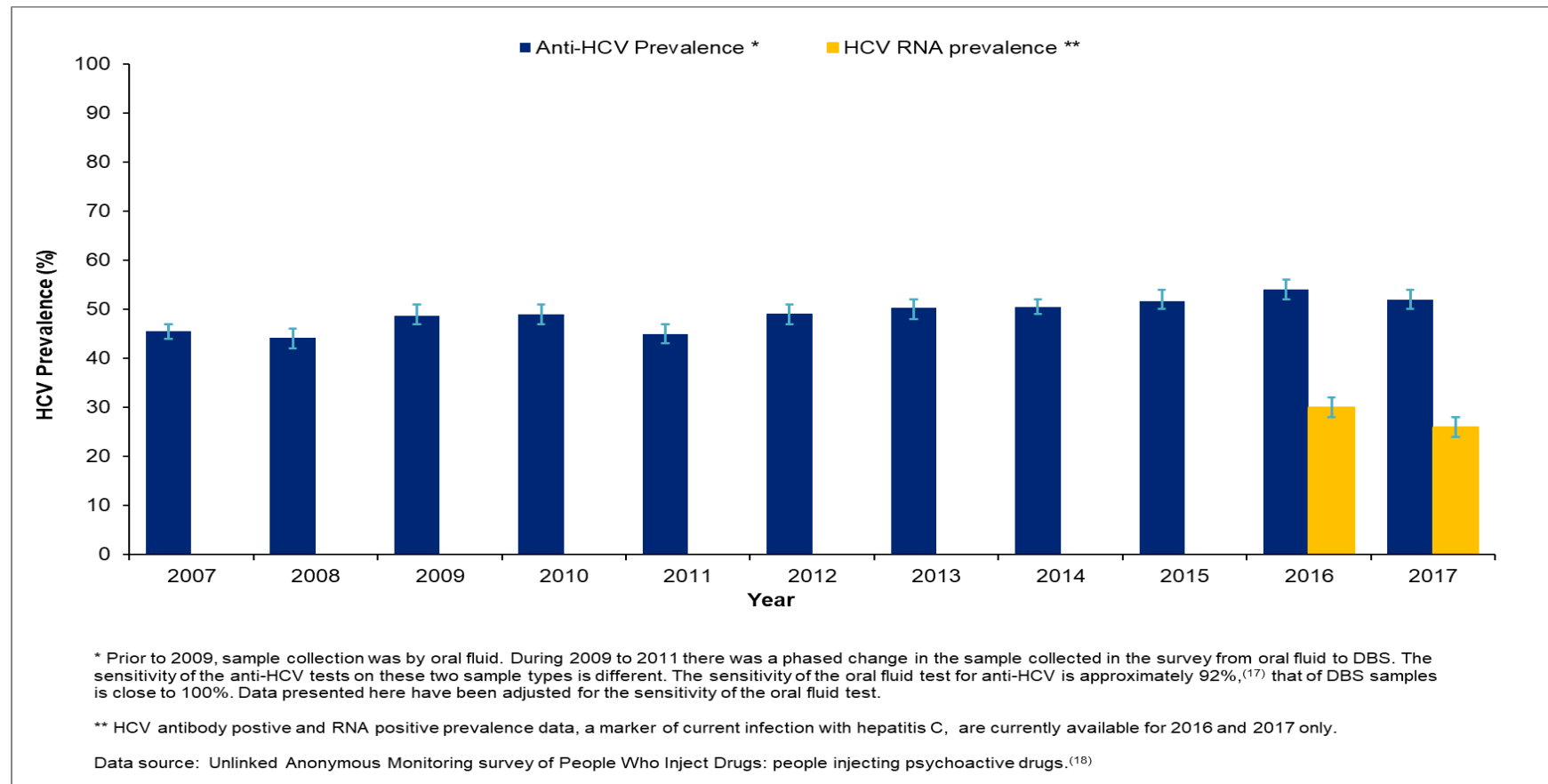
60% of those surveyed reported adequate needle/syringe provision for their needs in 2017

Figure 1. Estimated chronic prevalence of HCV in England, 2009-2018 ⁽¹⁾



1. Ross J. Harris HH, Sema Mandal, Mary Ramsay, Peter Vickerman, Matthew Hickman, Daniela De Angelis. Monitoring the hepatitis C epidemic in England and evaluating intervention scale-up using routinely collected data. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvh.13063> [Accessed 12/03/2019] Journal of Viral Hep. 2019;00:1-12.

Figure 2. Trend in HCV prevalence among people injecting psychoactive drugs in England: 2007 to 2017



17. Judd A, Parry J, Hickman M, McDonald T, Jordan L, Lewis K, et al. Evaluation of a modified commercial assay in detecting antibody to hepatitis C virus in oral fluids and dried blood spots. *Journal of Medical Virology*. 2003;71(1):49-55.

18. Public Health England. People who inject drugs: HIV and viral hepatitis unlinked anonymous monitoring survey tables (psychoactive): 2018 update. 2018. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729816/UAM_Survey_of_PWID_data_tables_2018.pdf [Accessed: 19/03/2019].

Figure 3. Number of first patient registrations in England where post-HCV cirrhosis was given as either the primary, secondary or tertiary indication for transplant and the number of liver transplants undertaken in patients who were HCV positive (RNA or antibody) at transplant: 2008 to 2017*

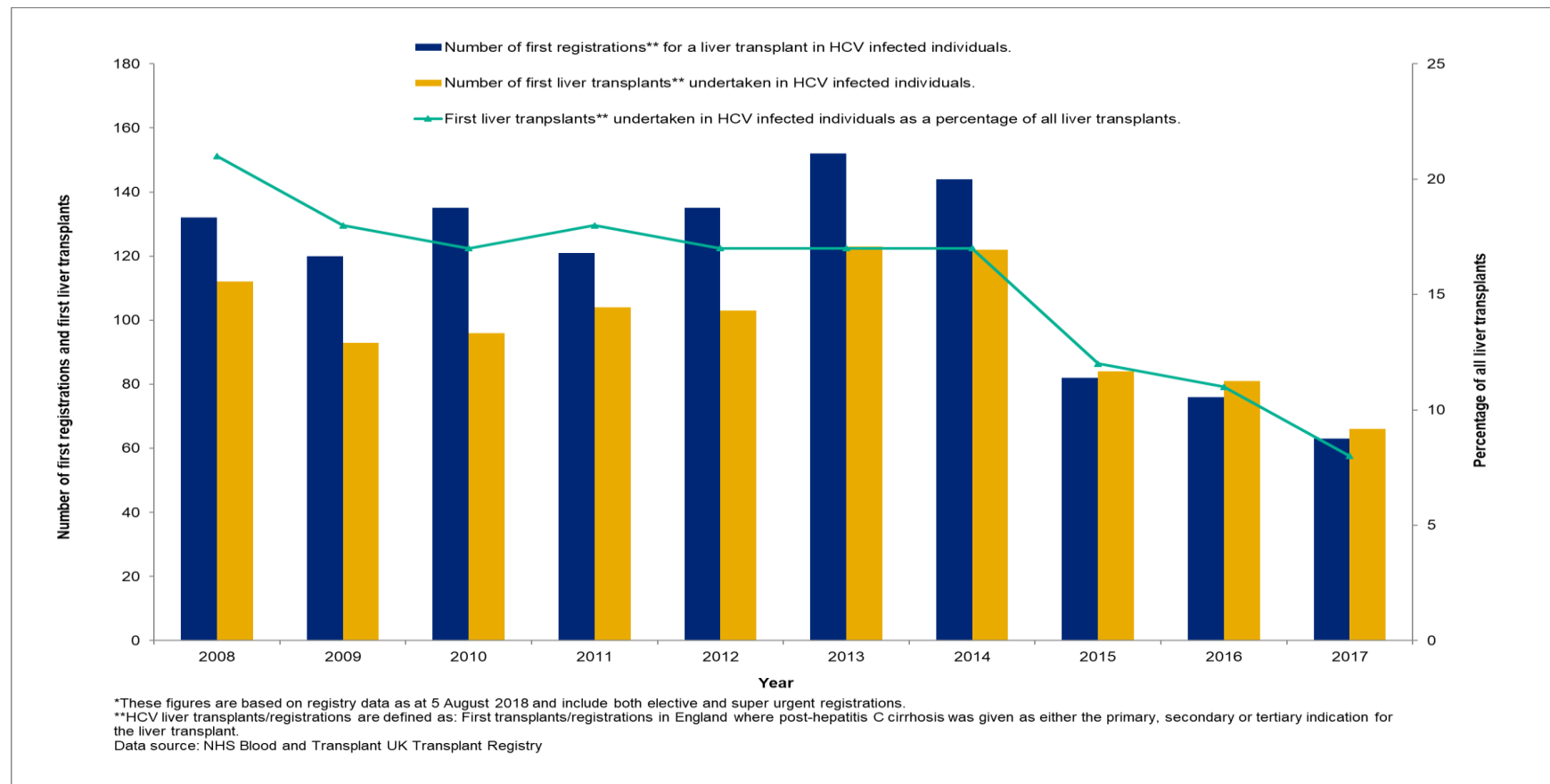
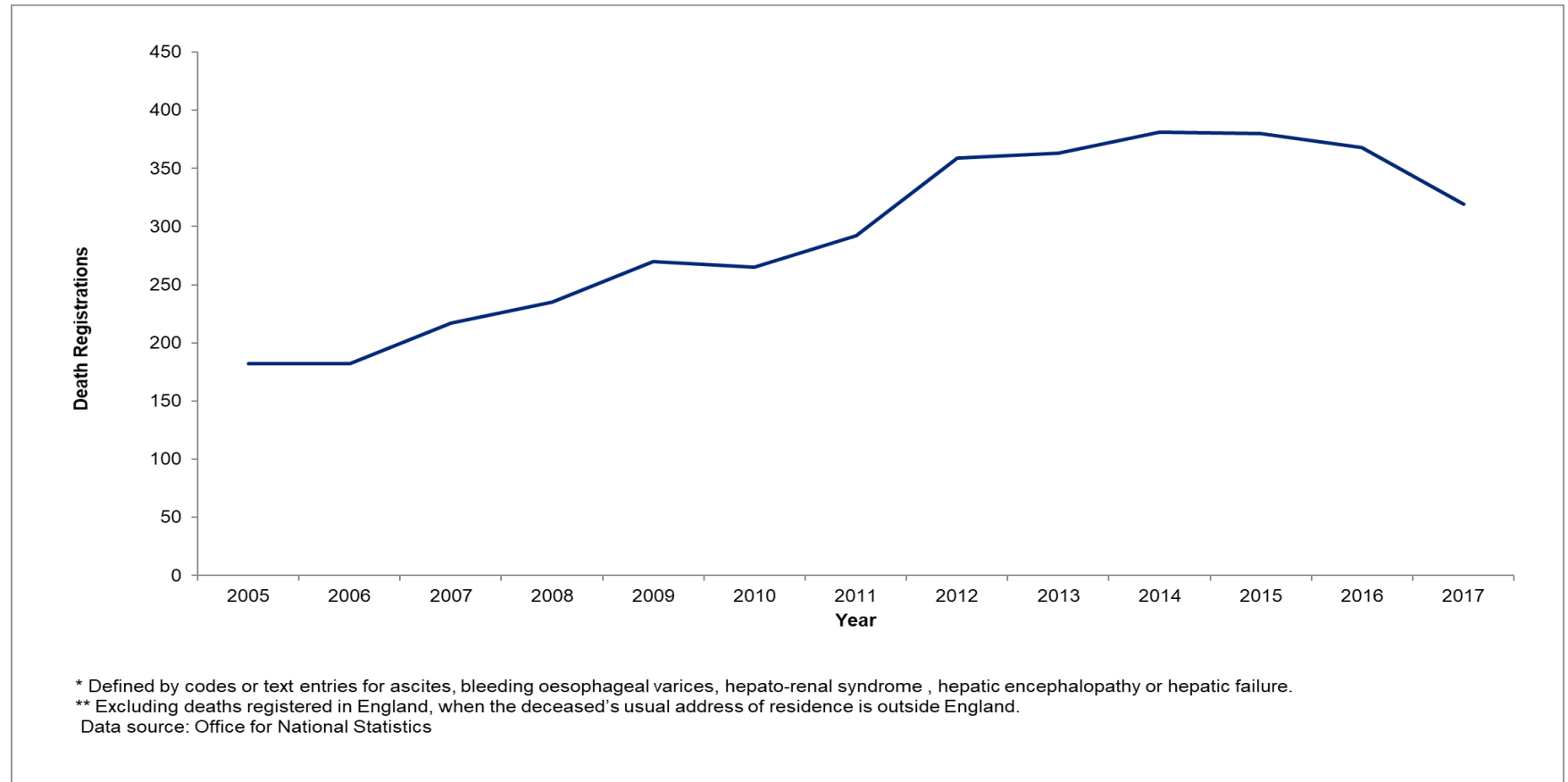
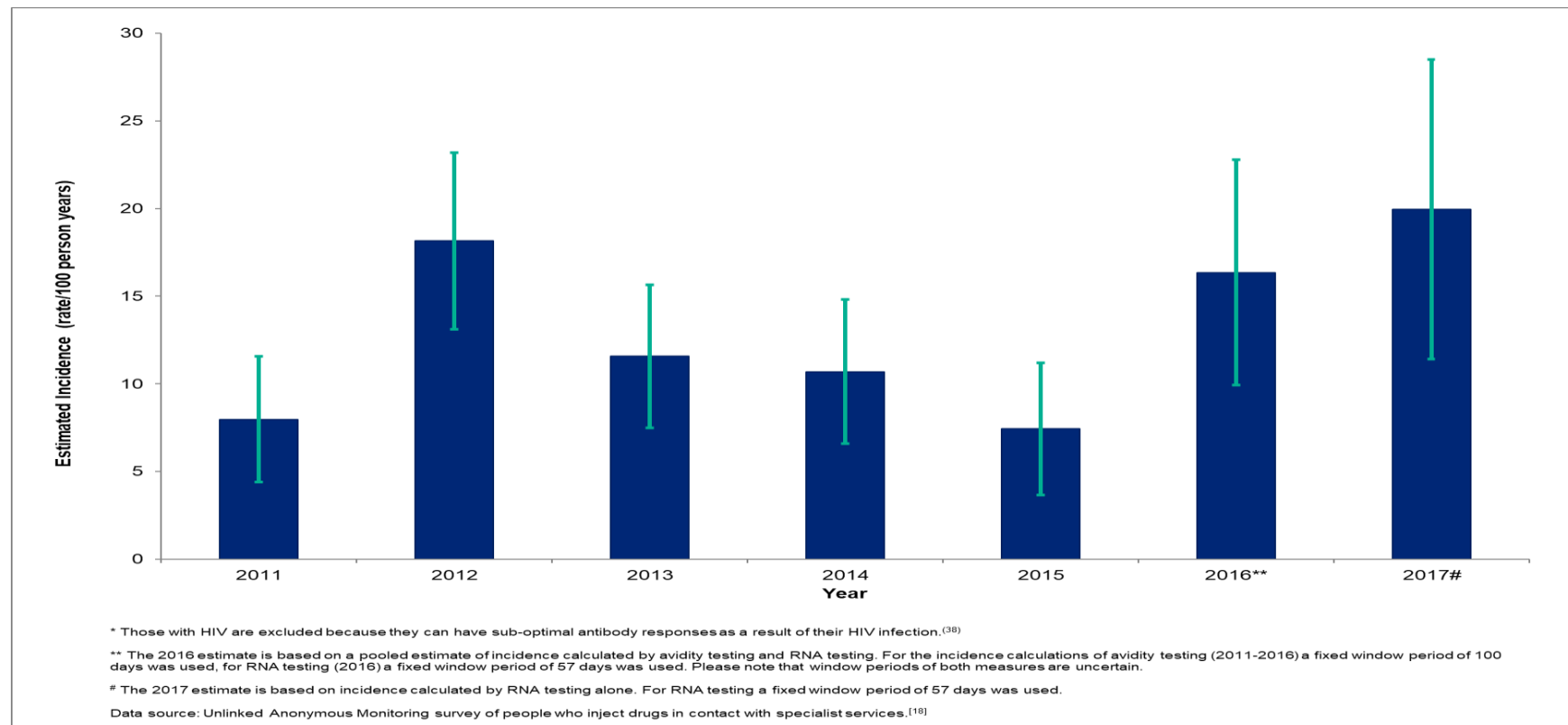


Figure 4. Death registrations for ESLD* or HCC in those with HCV mentioned on their death certificate in England: 2005 to 2017**



The Office for National Statistics (ONS carried out the original collection and collation of the data but bears no responsibility for their future analysis or interpretation).

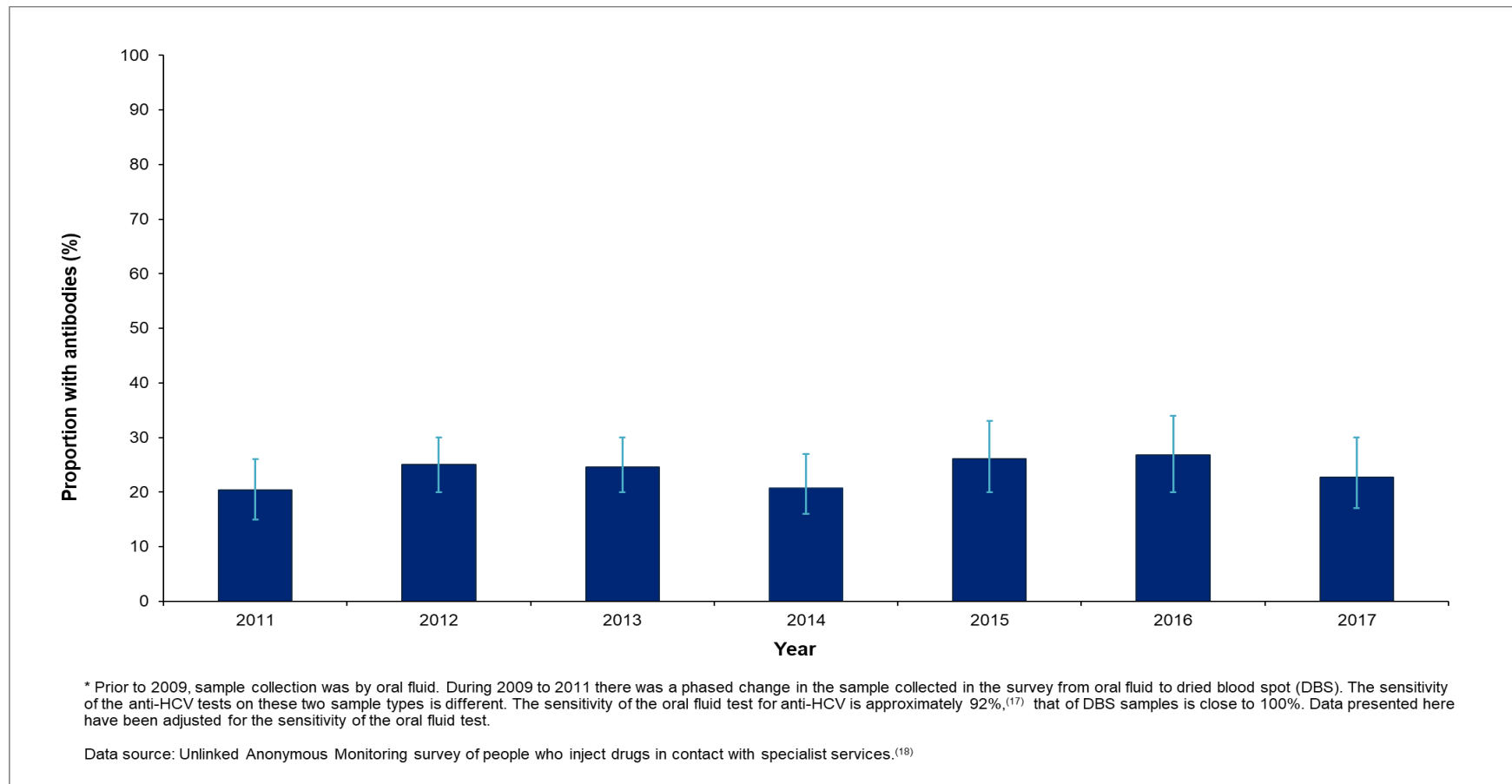
Figure 5. Estimated incidence of HCV among people injecting psychoactive drugs in England who reported injecting in the previous year: 2011- 2017* (95% CI)



18. Public Health England. People who inject drugs: HIV and viral hepatitis unlinked anonymous monitoring survey tables (psychoactive): 2018 update. 2018. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729816/UAM_Survey_of_PWID_data_tables_2018.pdf [Accessed: 19/03/2019].

38. Cullen KJ, Hope VD, Croxford S, Shute J, Ncube F, Parry JV. Factors associated with recently acquired hepatitis C virus infection in people who inject drugs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland: new findings from an unlinked anonymous monitoring survey. *Epidemiology and Infection*. 2015;143(7):1398-407.

Figure 6. Prevalence of anti-HCV* among people who began injecting psychoactive drugs in the previous three years in England: 2011-2017



17. Judd A, Parry J, Hickman M, McDonald T, Jordan L, Lewis K, et al. Evaluation of a modified commercial assay in detecting antibody to hepatitis C virus in oral fluids and dried blood spots. *Journal of Medical Virology*. 2003;71(1):49-55.

18. Public Health England. People who inject drugs: HIV and viral hepatitis unlinked anonymous monitoring survey tables (psychoactive): 2018 update. 2018. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729816/UAM_Survey_of_PWID_data_tables_2018.pdf [Accessed: 19/03/2019].

Figure 7. Number of young adults first tested for anti-HCV and proportion positive by year in 15 sentinel laboratories: 2013 to 2017*

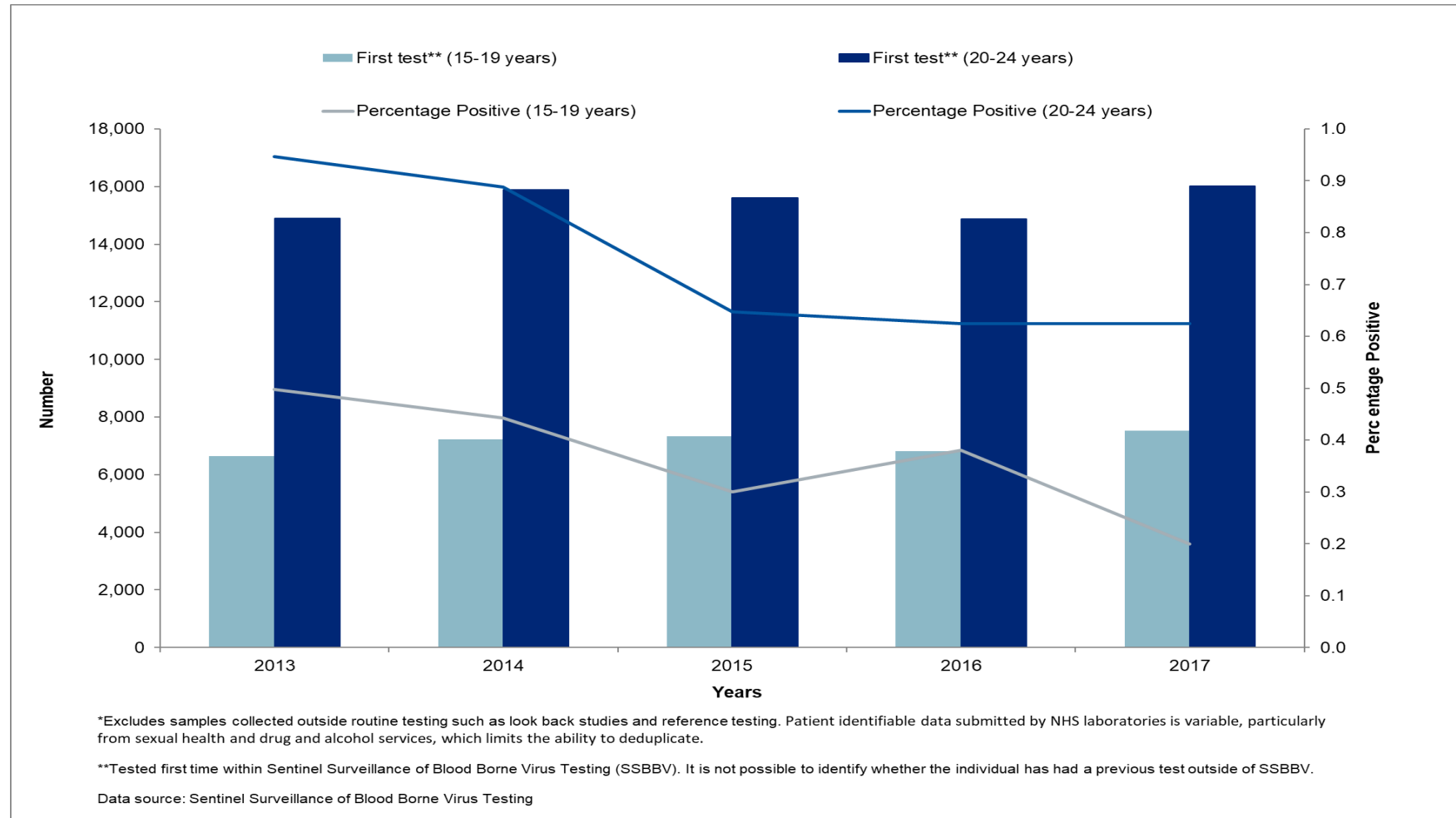
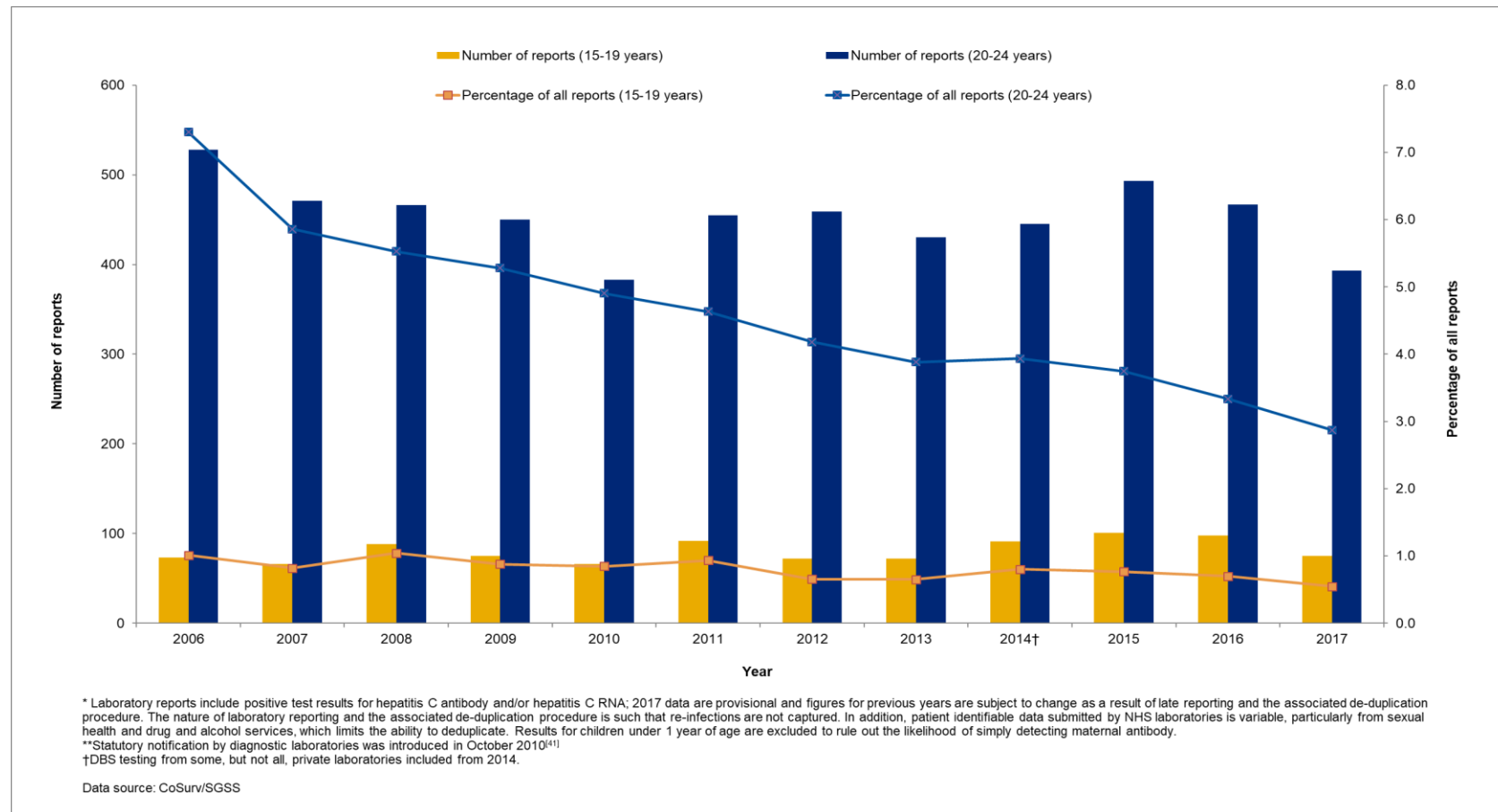
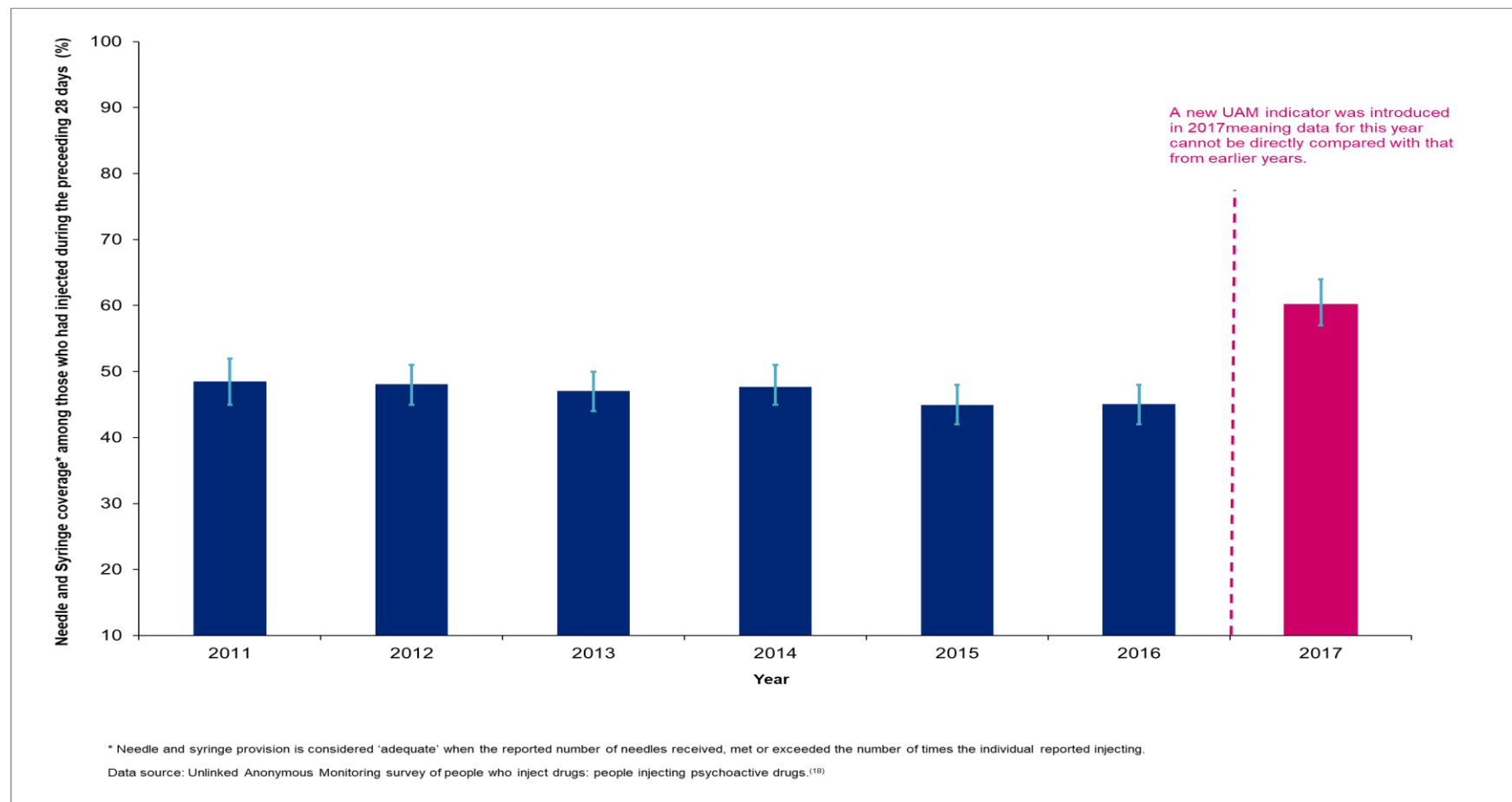


Figure 8. Laboratory reports of HCV in young adults in England: 2006-2017**/**



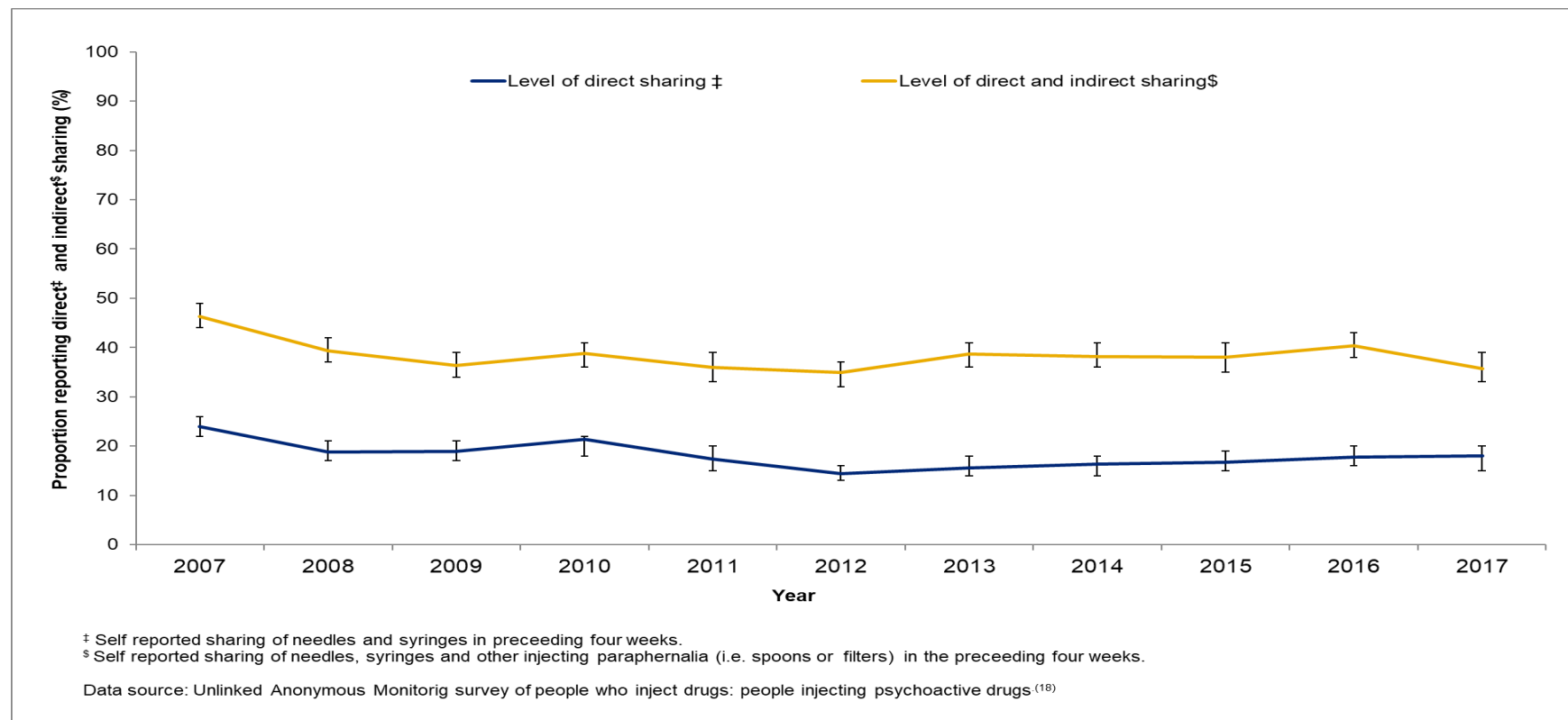
41. Health Protection Agency, Department of Health, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. Health Protection Legislation (England) - Guidance 2010. 2010. Available from: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/about/our-governance [Accessed 20/02/2018].

Figure 9. Estimated proportion of people injecting psychoactive drugs reporting adequate* needle and syringe provision in England, 2011-2017



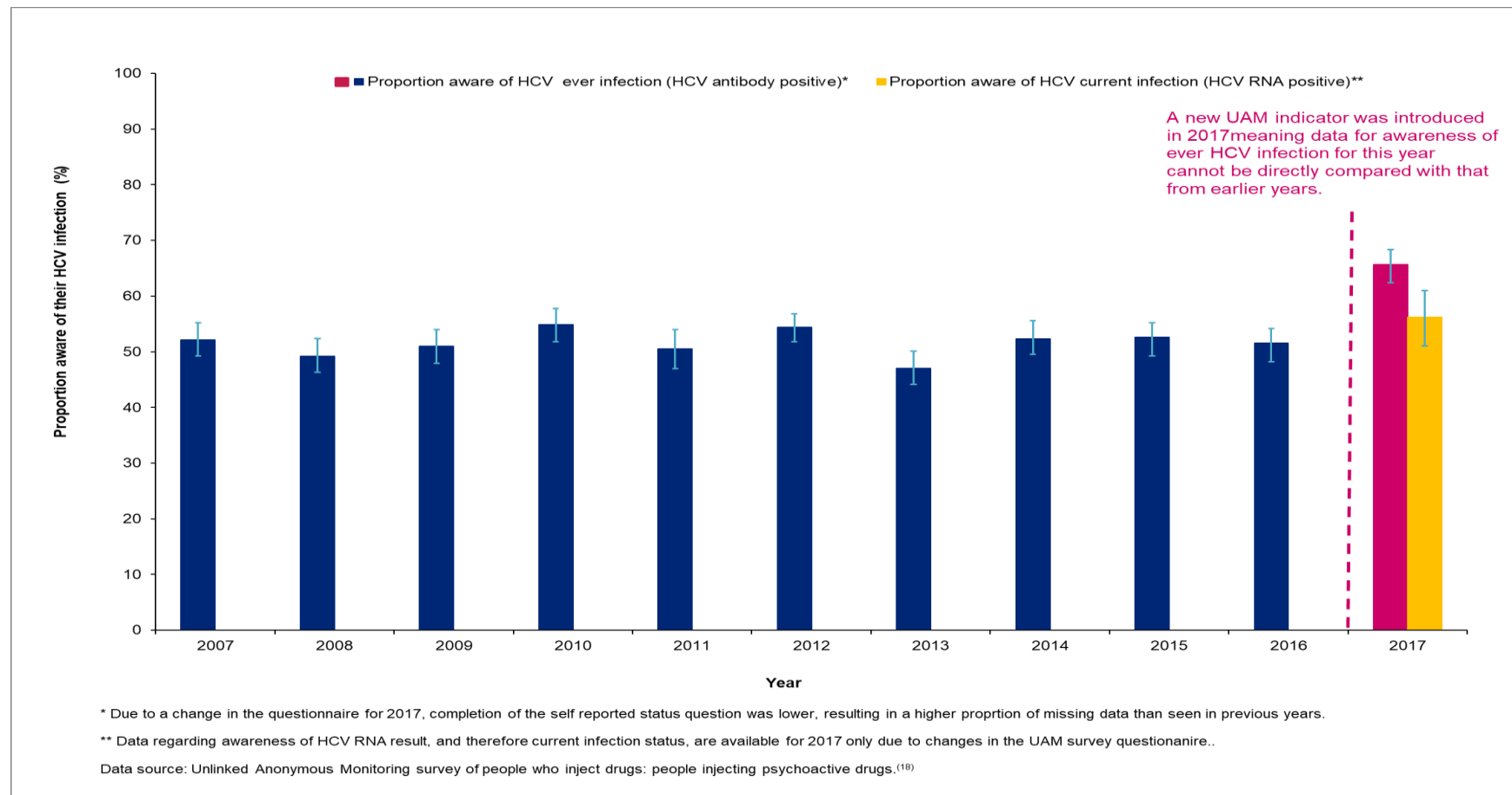
18. Public Health England. People who inject drugs: HIV and viral hepatitis unlinked anonymous monitoring survey tables (psychoactive): 2018 update. 2018. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729816/UAM_Survey_of_PWID_data_tables_2018.pdf [Accessed: 19/03/2019].

Figure 10. Trends in the sharing of injecting equipment and associated paraphernalia in the preceding four weeks among people injecting psychoactive drugs in England 2007 to 2017



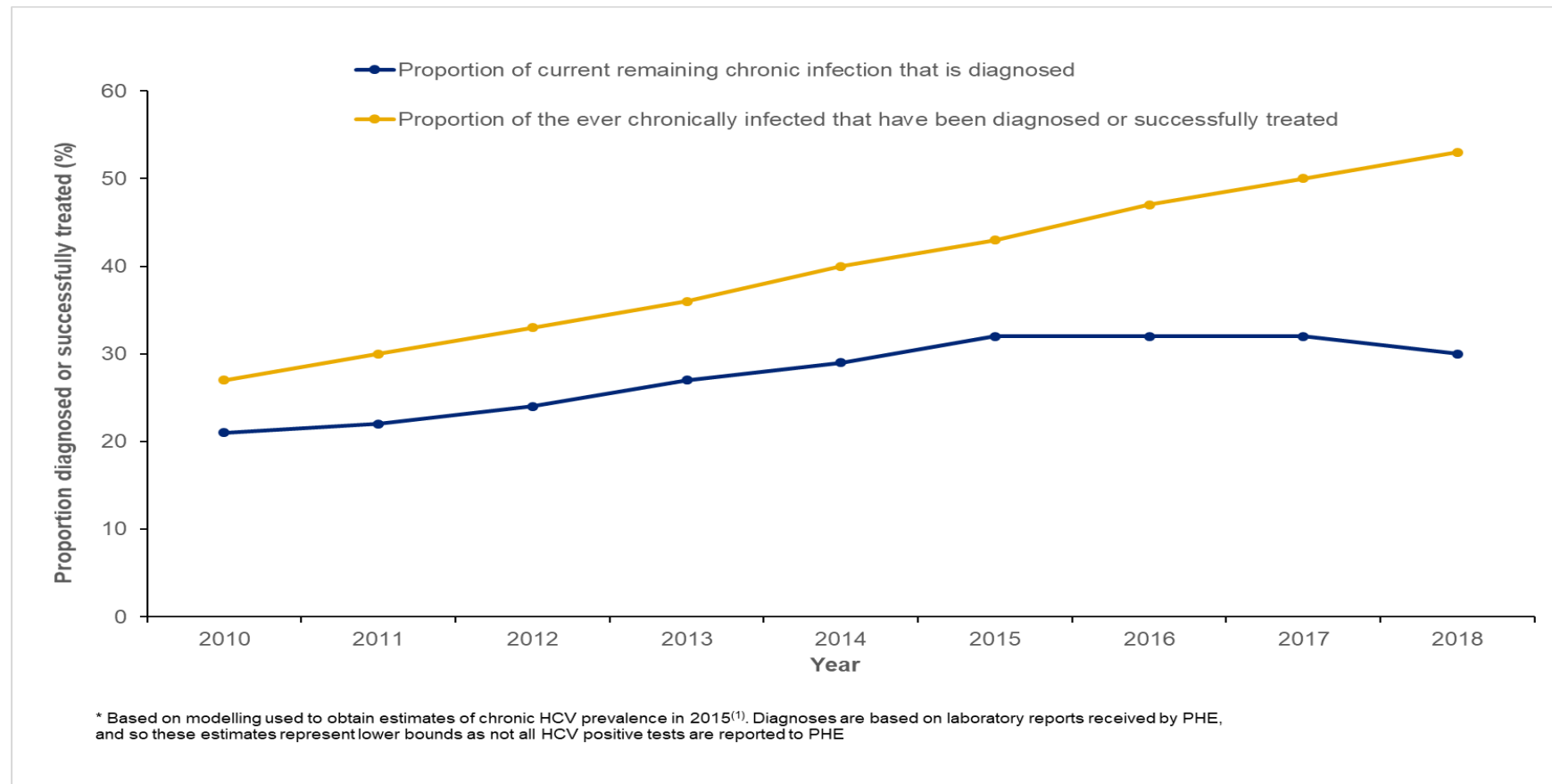
18. Public Health England. People who inject drugs: HIV and viral hepatitis unlinked anonymous monitoring survey tables (psychoactive): 2018 update. 2018. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729816/UAM_Survey_of_PWID_data_tables_2018.pdf [Accessed: 19/03/2019].

Figure 11. Estimated proportion of people injecting psychoactive drugs testing positive for HCV in England, who are aware of their infection, 2007-2017



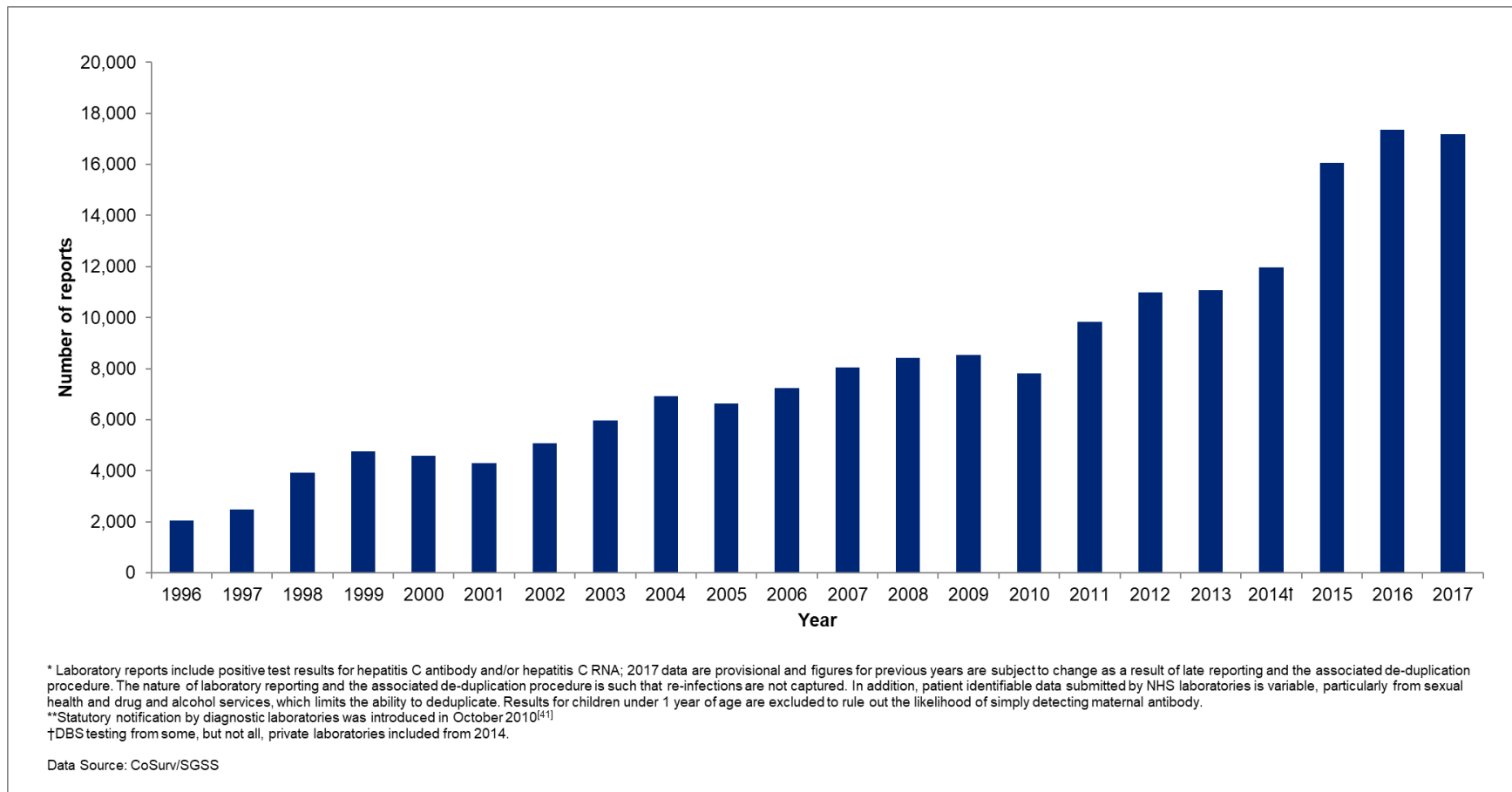
18. Public Health England. People who inject drugs: HIV and viral hepatitis unlinked anonymous monitoring survey tables (psychoactive): 2018 update. 2018. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729816/UAM_Survey_of_PWID_data_tables_2018.pdf [Accessed: 19/03/2019].

Figure 12. Lower bound model estimates of the proportion of chronic HCV infection diagnosed in England 2010 to 2018*



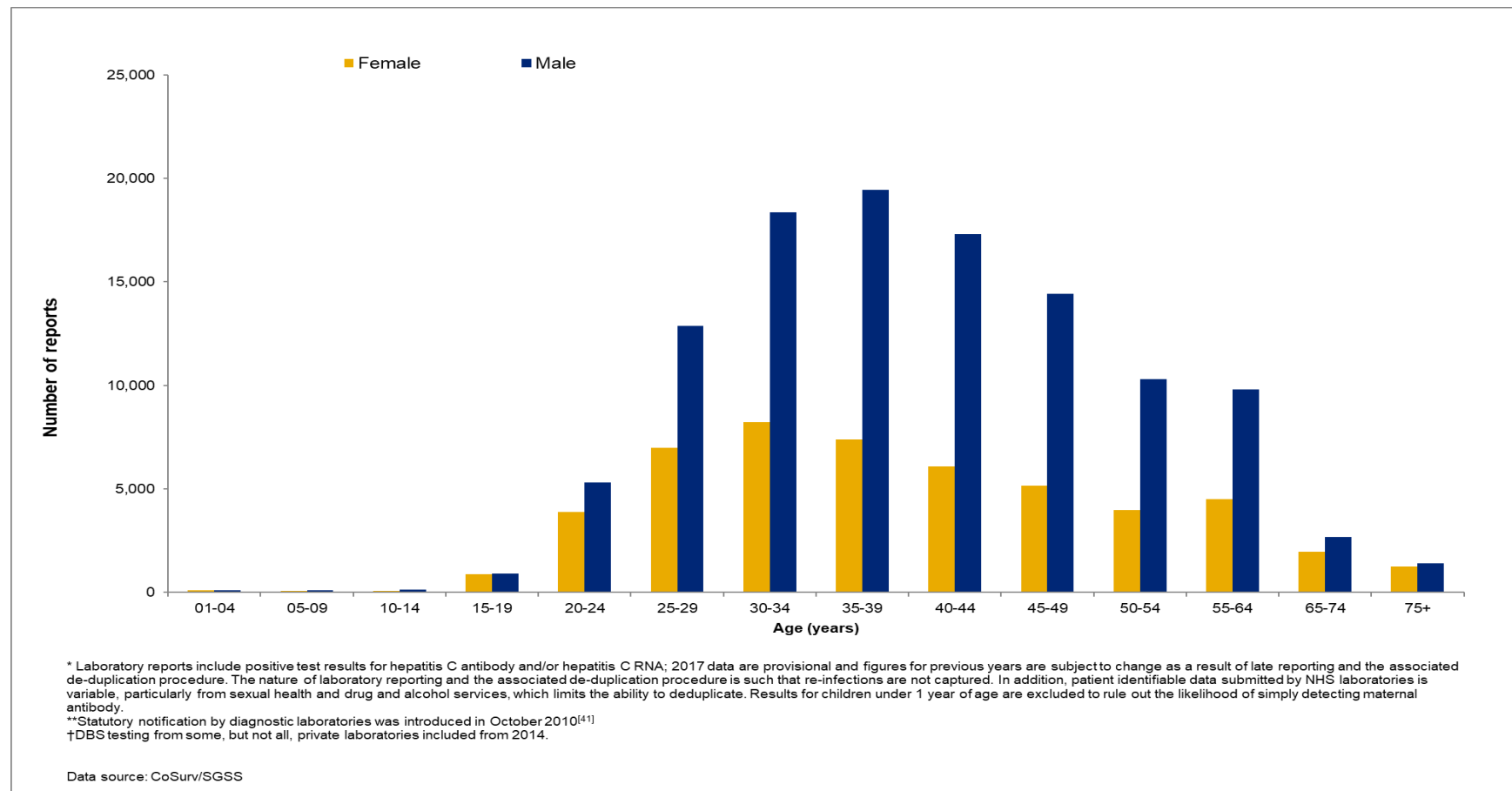
1. Ross J. Harris HH, Sema Mandal, Mary Ramsay, Peter Vickerman, Matthew Hickman, Daniela De Angelis. Monitoring the hepatitis C epidemic in England and evaluating intervention scale-up using routinely collected data. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvh.13063> [Accessed 12/03/2019] Journal of Viral Hep. 2019;00:1-12.

Figure 13. Number of laboratory reports* of HCV from England: 1996 to 2017**



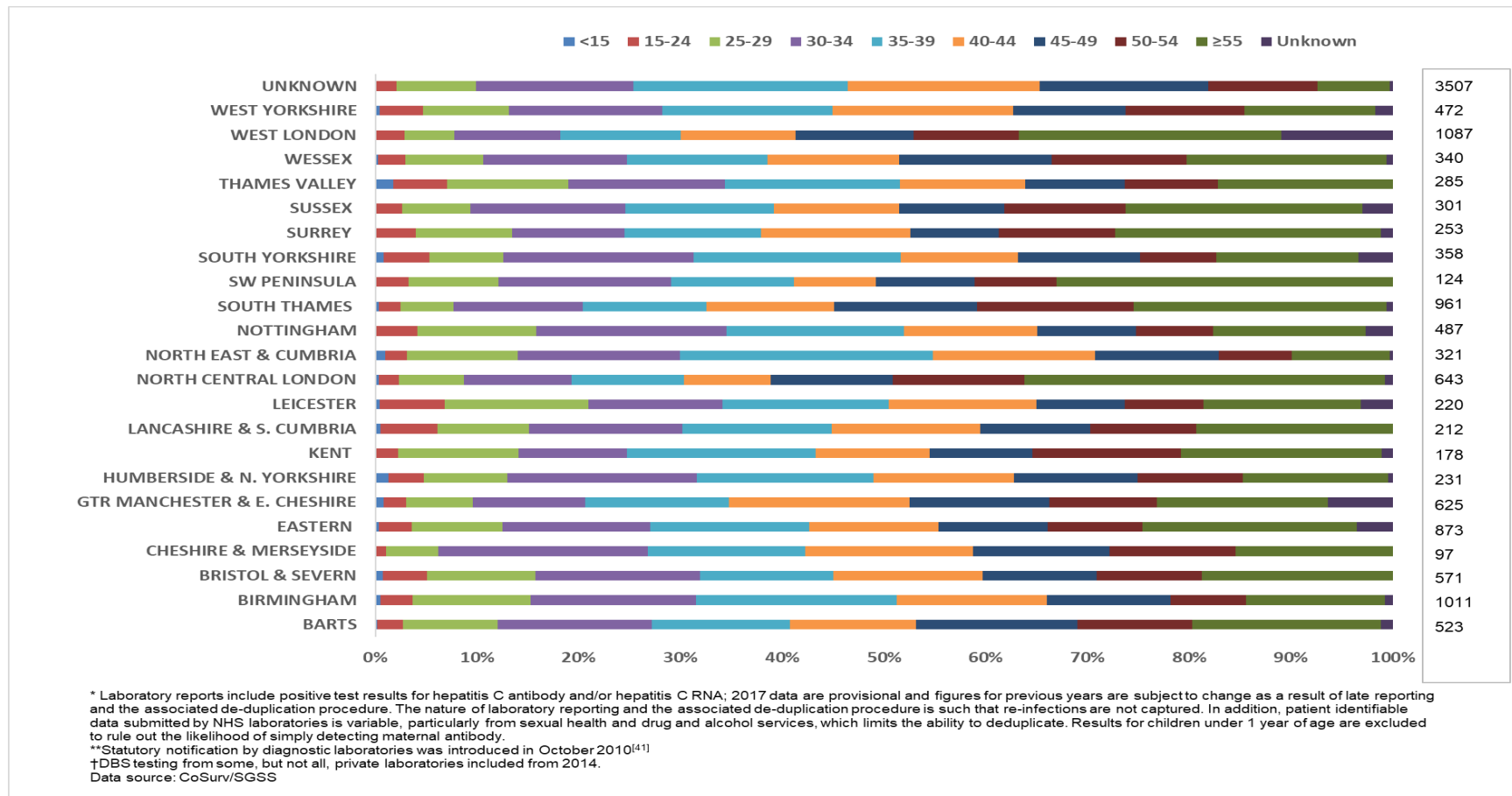
41. Health Protection Agency, Department of Health, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. Health Protection Legislation (England) - Guidance 2010. 2010. Available from: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/about/our-governance [Accessed 20/02/2018].

Figure 14. Age and sex distribution, where reported, of laboratory reports of HCV from England: 1996 to 2017*/**/†



41. Health Protection Agency, Department of Health, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. Health Protection Legislation (England) - Guidance 2010. 2010. Available from: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/about/our-governance [Accessed 20/02/2018].

Figure 15. Age distribution of laboratory reports of HCV in England by ODN: 2017*



41. Health Protection Agency, Department of Health, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. Health Protection Legislation (England) - Guidance 2010. 2010. Available from: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/about/our-governance [Accessed 20/02/2018].

Figure 16. Number of tests and number of people first tested for anti-HCV by year, and proportion positive, in 15 sentinel laboratories: 2013 to 2017*

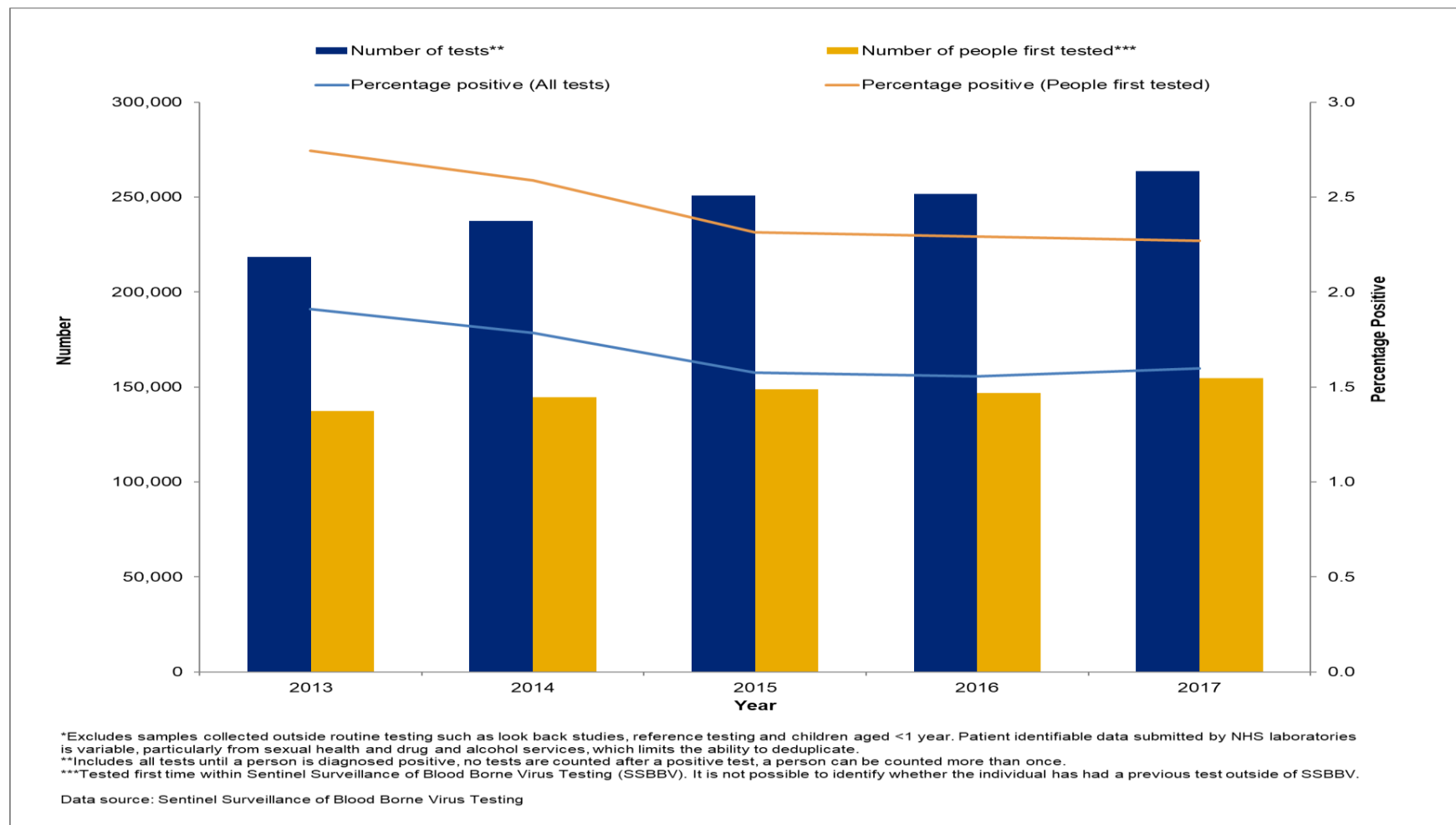


Figure 17. Number of tests and number of people first tested for anti-HCV by year, and proportion positive, through GP surgeries in 15 sentinel laboratories: 2013 to 2017*

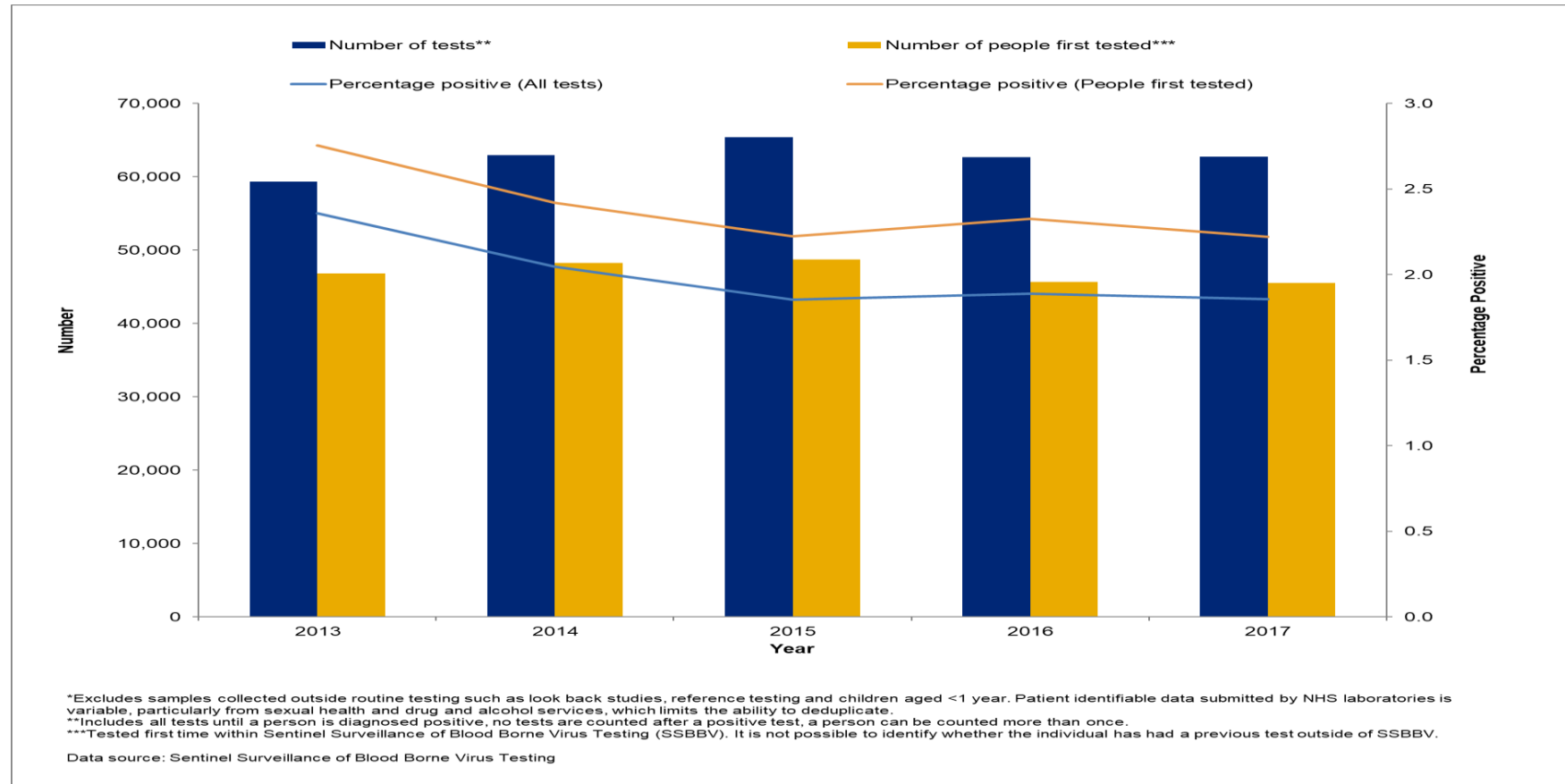
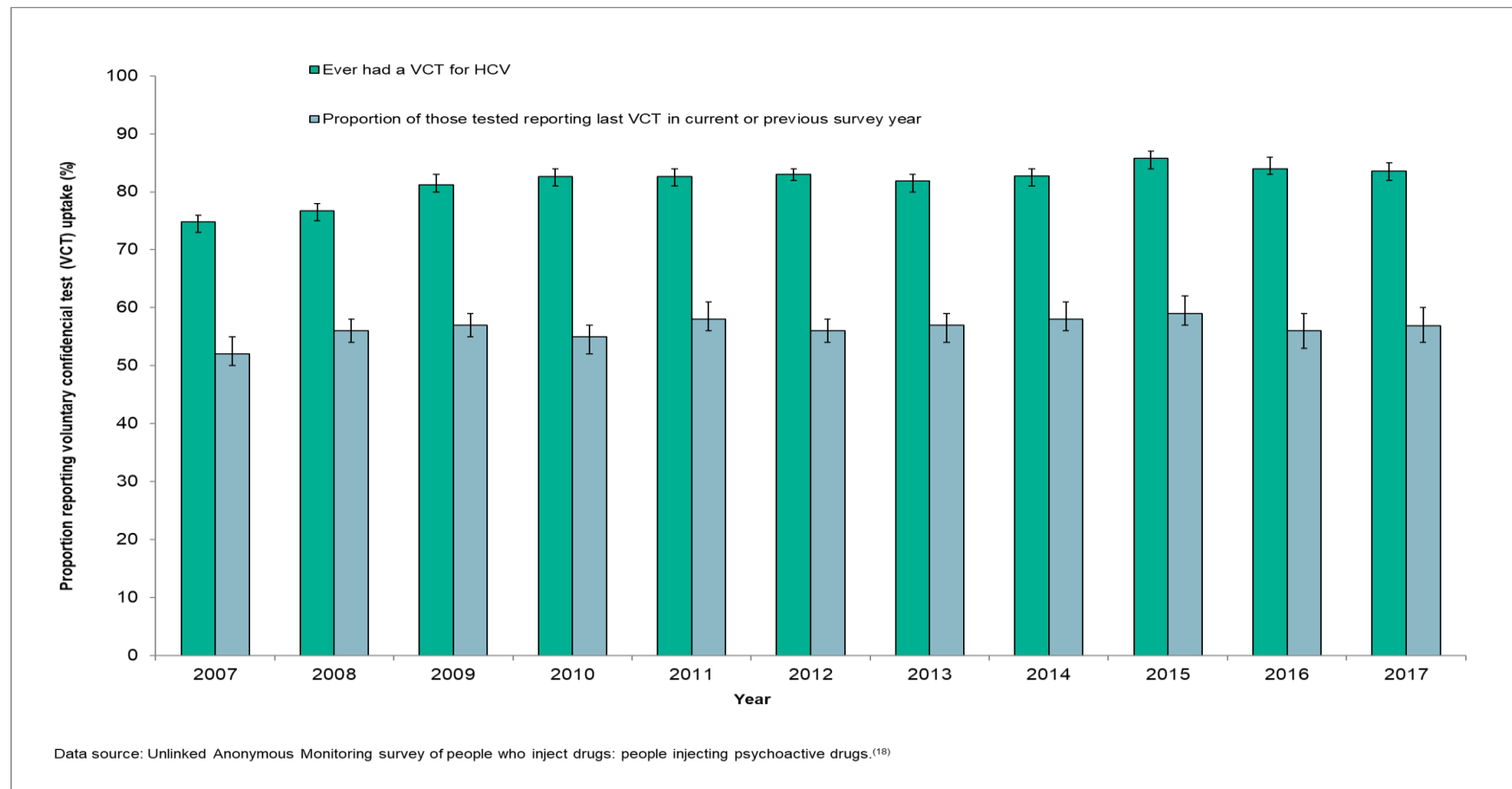


Figure 18. Trends in reported uptake of VCT for HCV infection among people injecting psychoactive drugs in England: 2007 to 2017



18. Public Health England. People who inject drugs: HIV and viral hepatitis unlinked anonymous monitoring survey tables (psychoactive): 2018 update. 2018. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729816/UAM_Survey_of_PWID_data_tables_2018.pdf [Accessed: 19/03/2019].

Figure 19. Number of tests and number of people first tested for anti-HCV by year, and proportion positive, through drug services in 15 sentinel laboratories: 2013 to 2017*

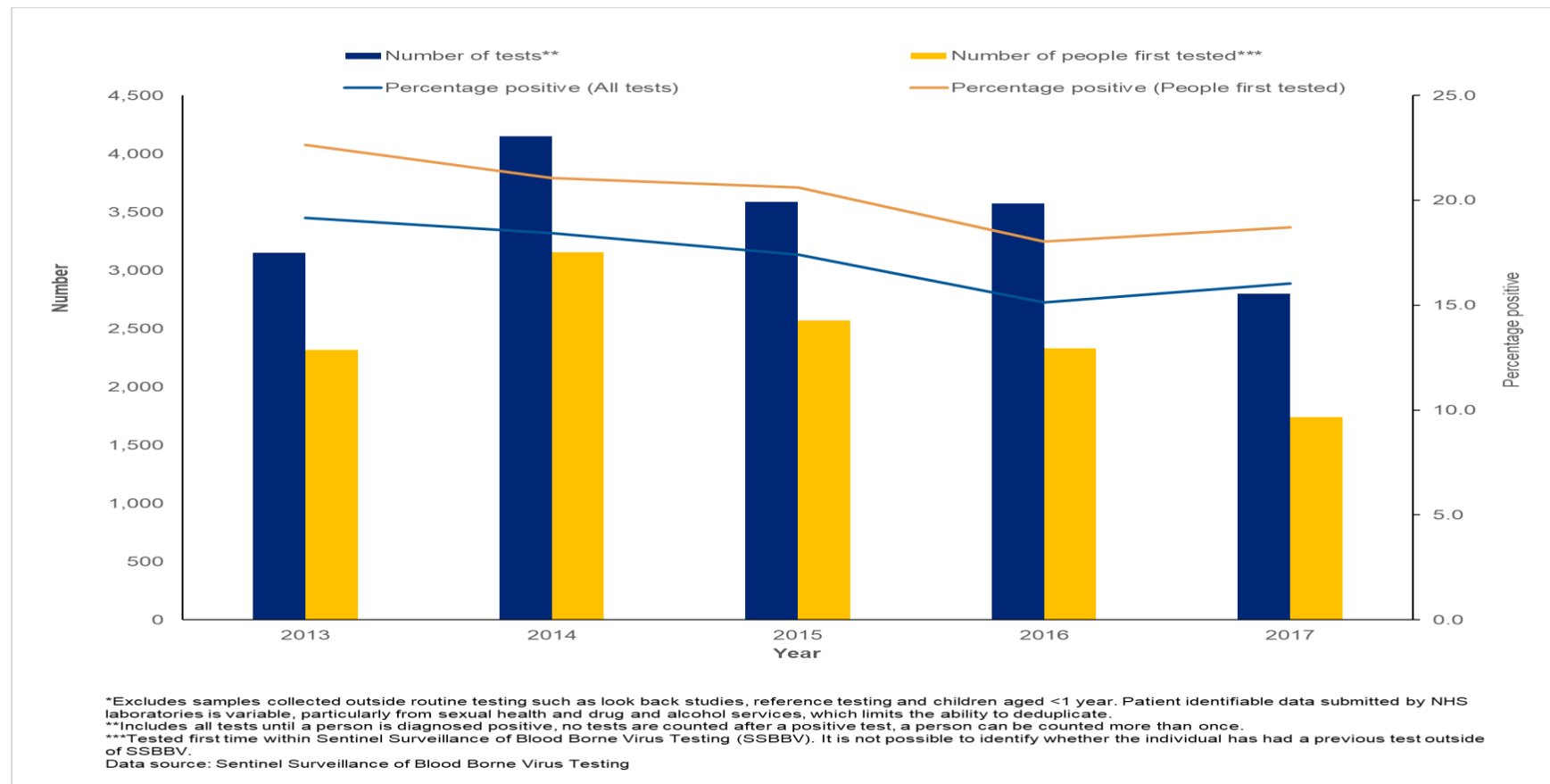
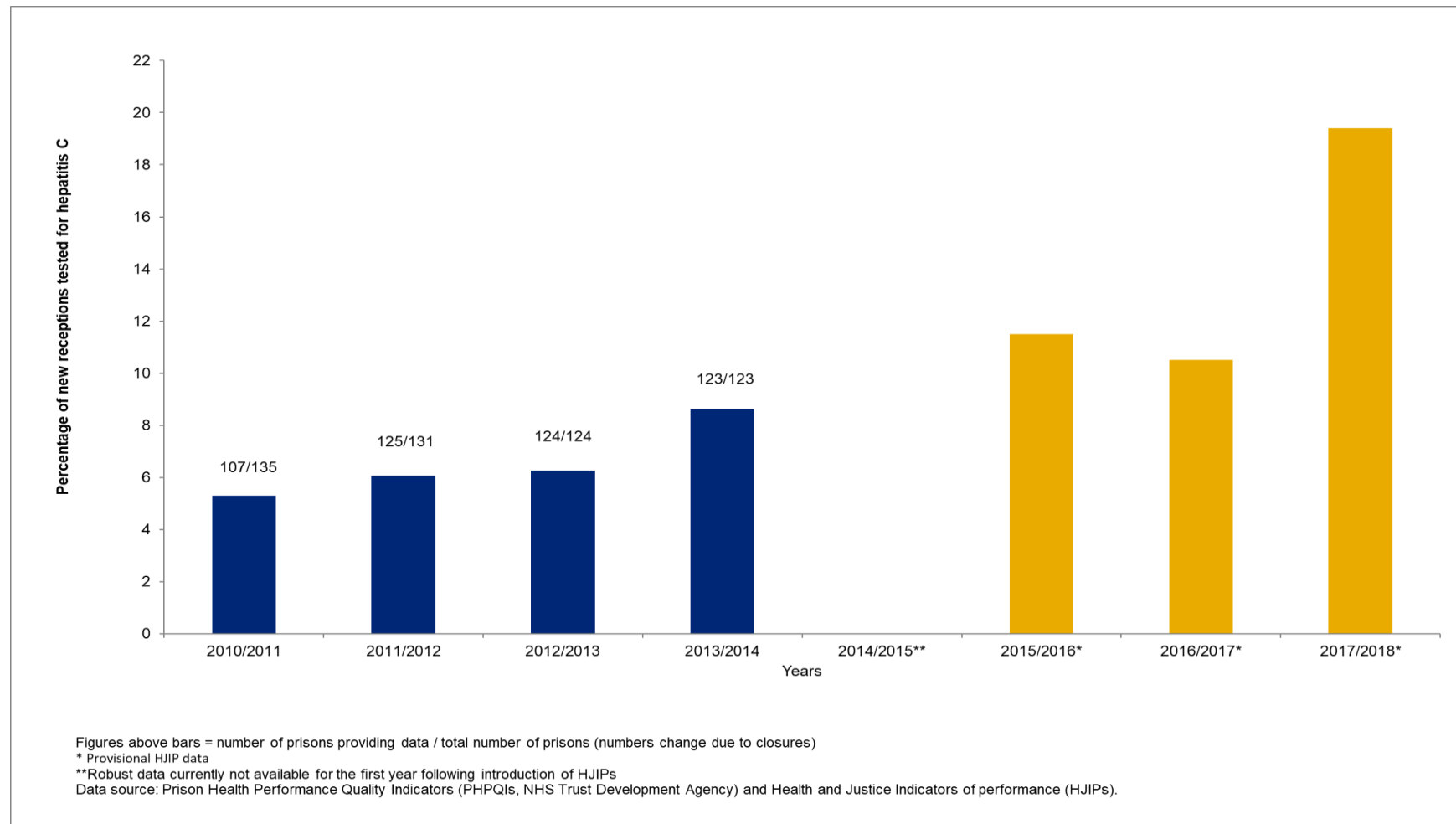


Figure 20. Proportion of new receptions to English prisons tested for hepatitis C: financial years 2010/11 to 2017/18*



**Figure 21. Hepatitis C testing cascade in the English prison estate, 2017/18*
(n=112 prisons)**

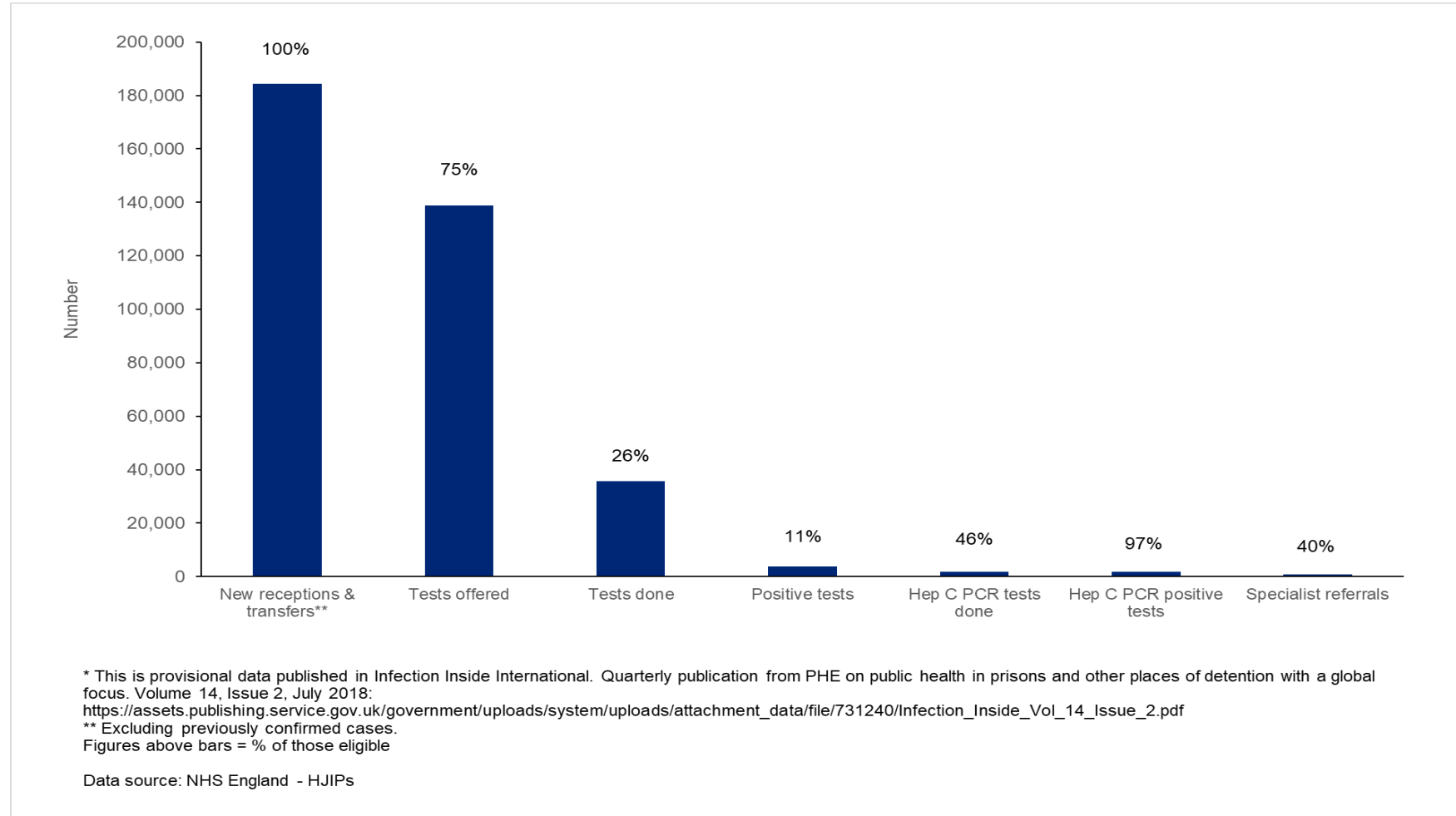


Figure 22. Number of tests and number of people first tested for anti-HCV by year, and proportion positive, through prisons in 15 sentinel laboratories: 2013 to 2017*

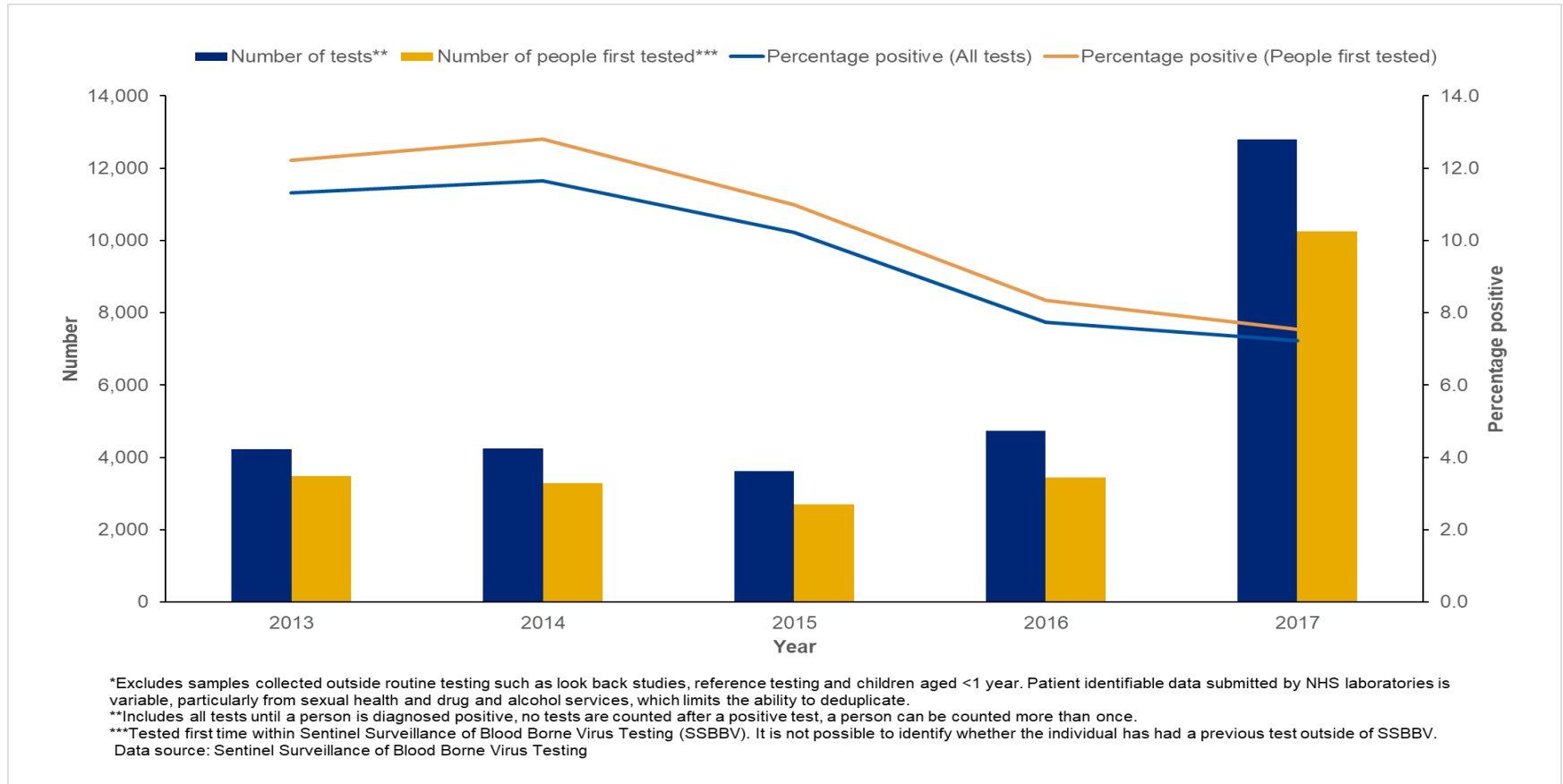


Figure 23. Number of tests and number of people first tested for anti-HCV by year, and proportion positive of South Asian* origin in 15 sentinel laboratories: 2013 to 2017**

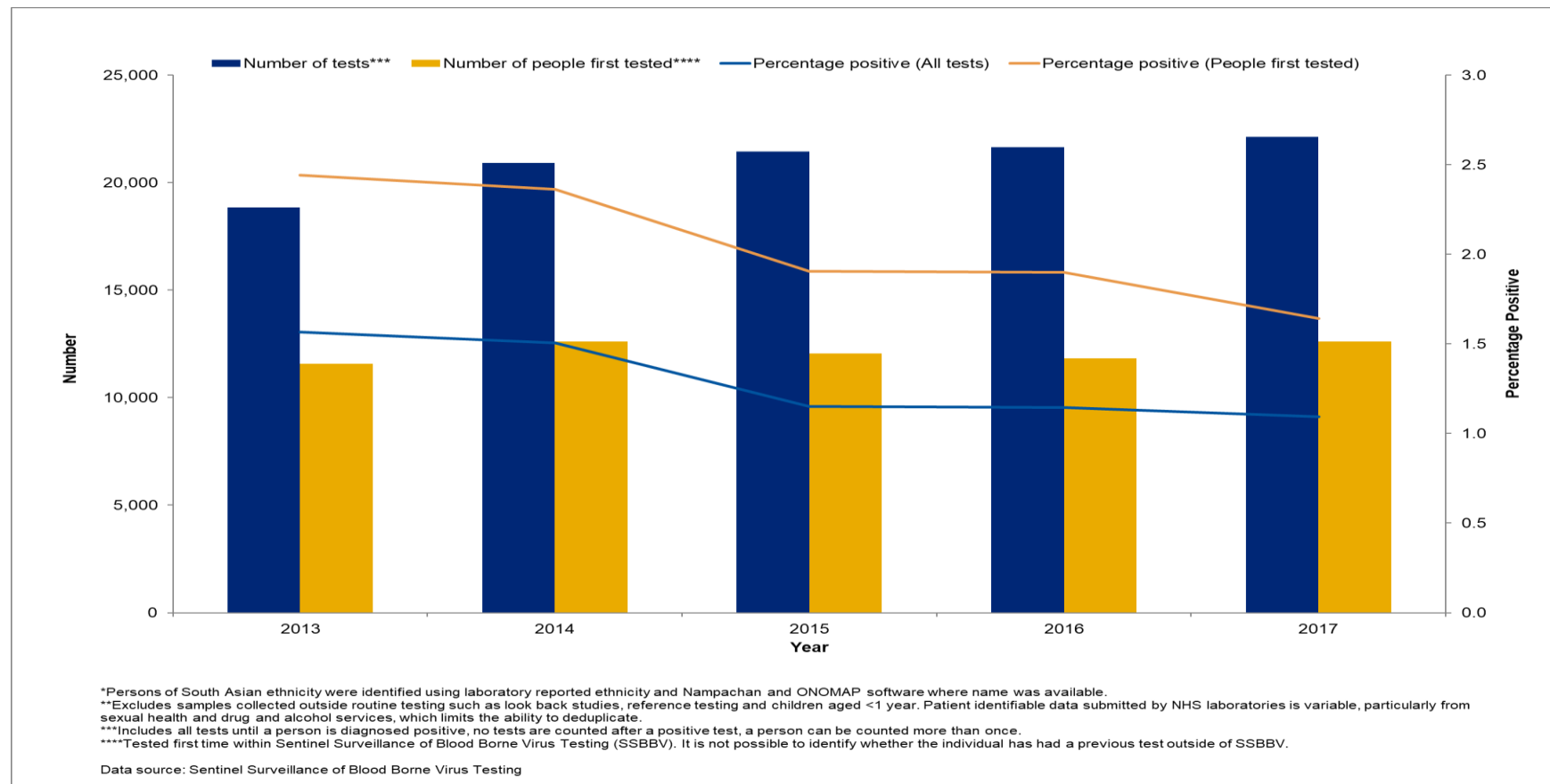


Figure 24. Number of tests and number of people first tested for anti-HCV by year, and proportion positive, in people of Eastern European origin* in 15 sentinel laboratories: 2013 to 2017**

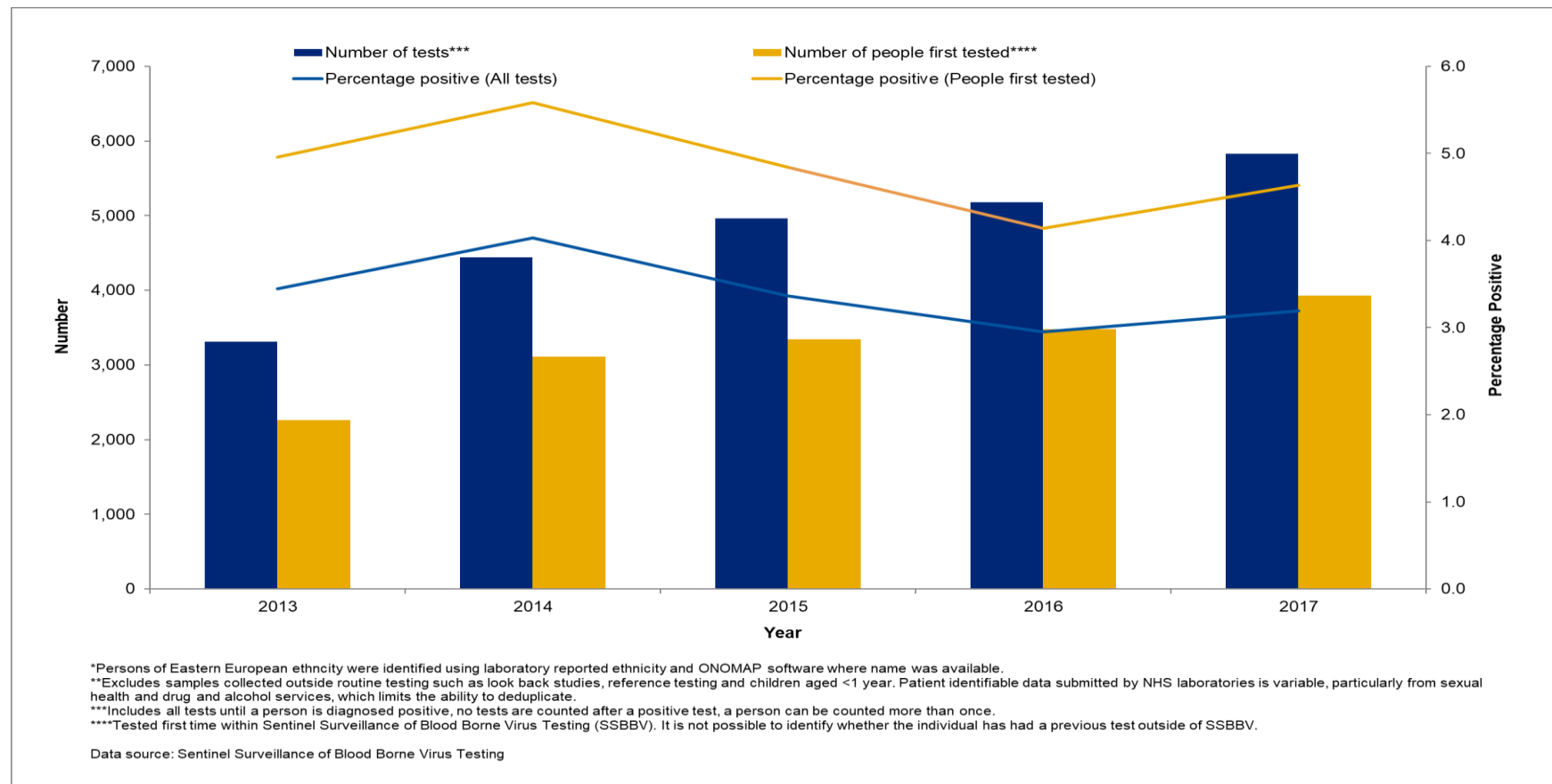


Figure 25. Rate of HCV among donations from new and repeat blood donors in England: 1991 to 2017*

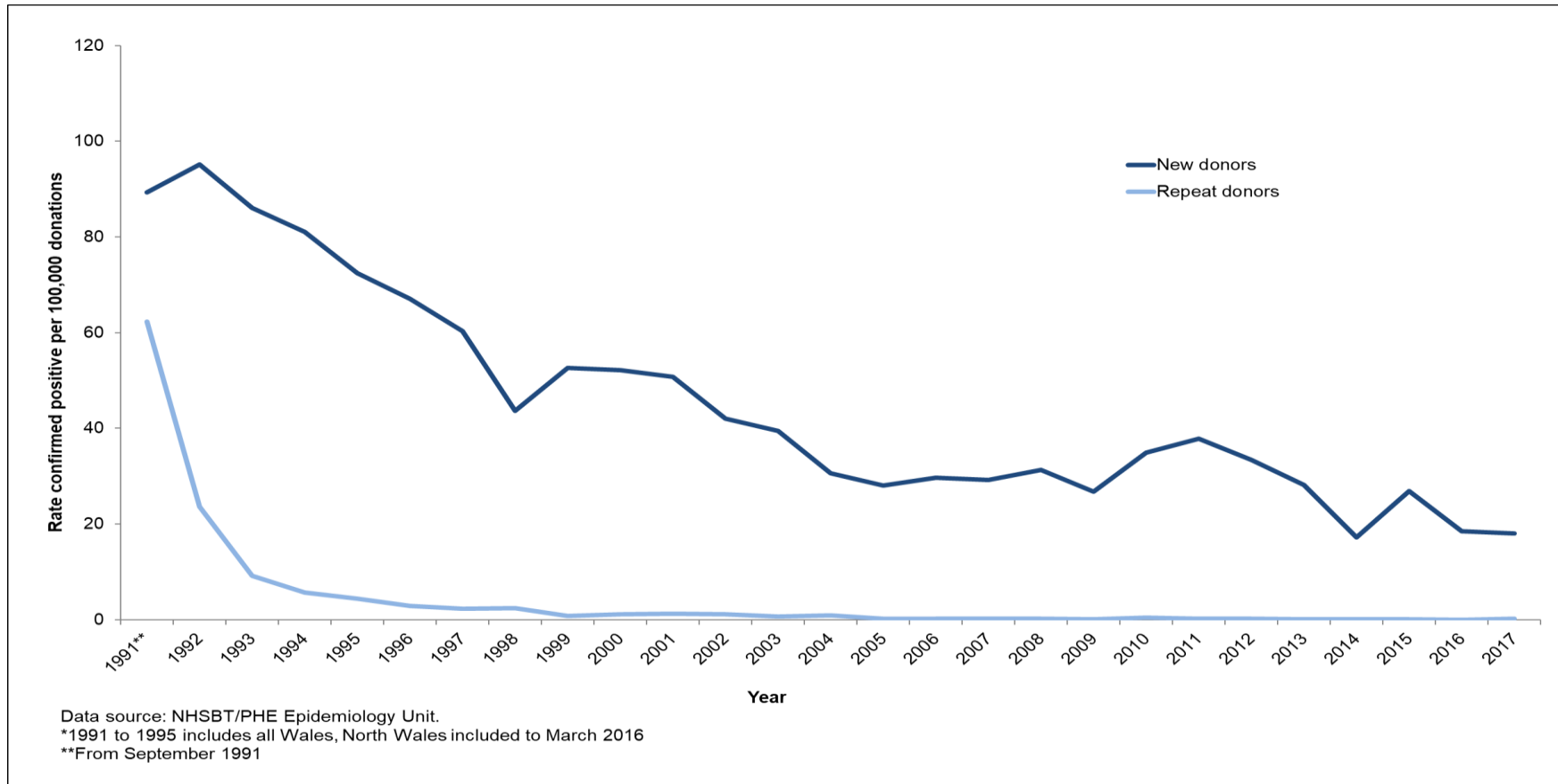


Figure 26. Provisional estimates of numbers initiating HCV treatment in England, 2007- 2017/2018

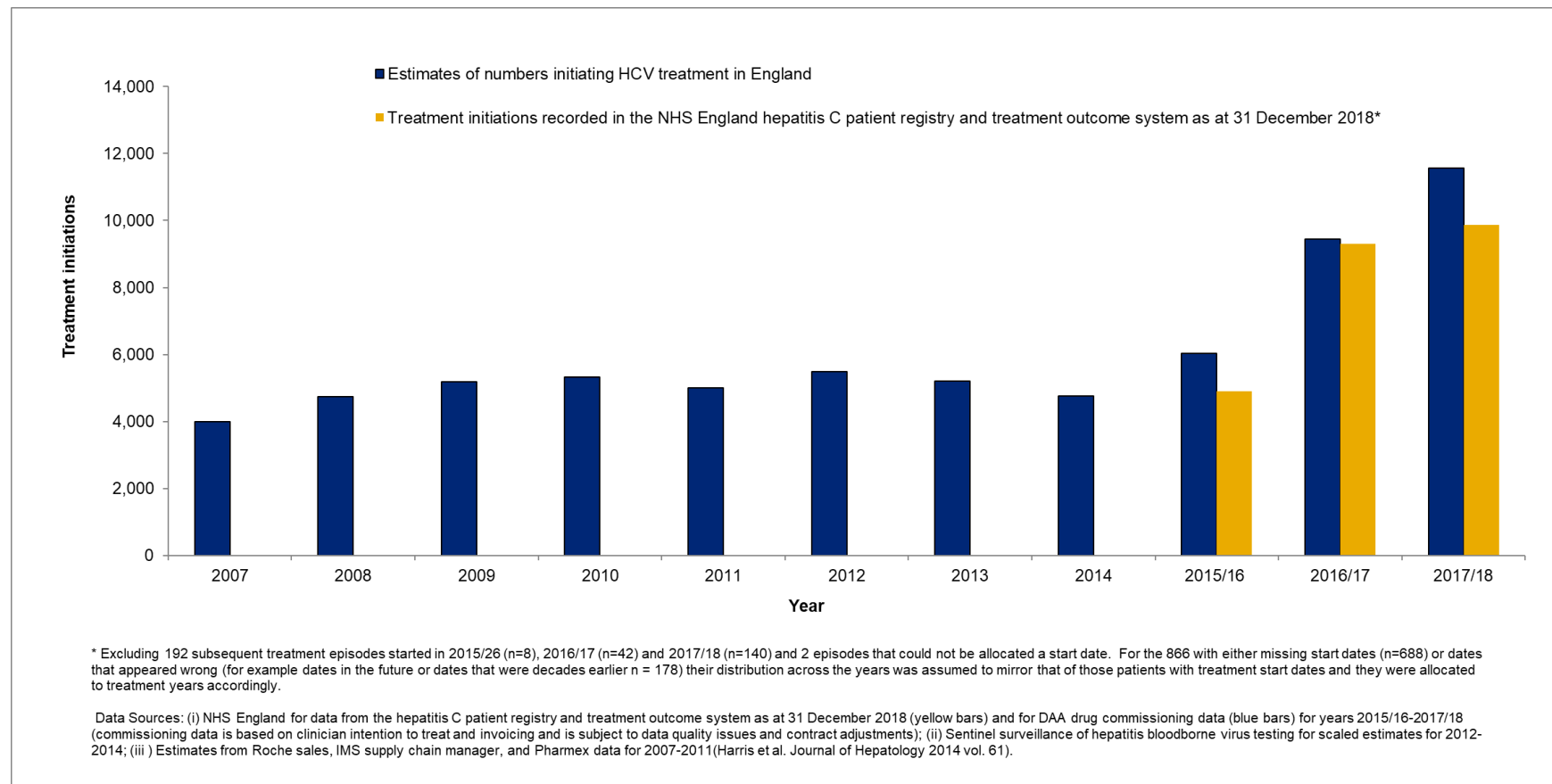
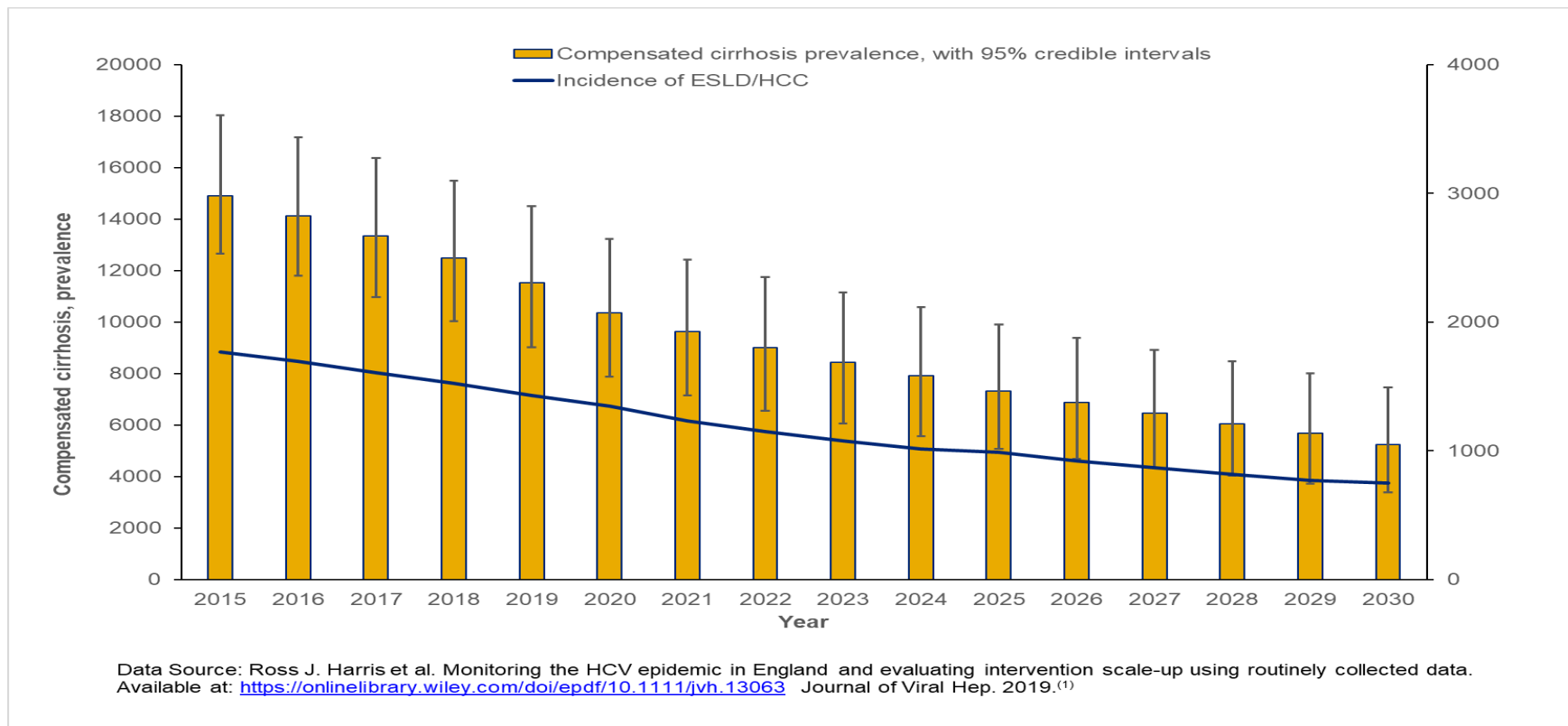


Figure 27. Estimated prevalence of HCV-related compensated cirrhosis and first occurrences of HCV-related ESLD/HCC (right axis); estimates from modelling the HCV epidemic and disease burden.⁽¹⁾



1. Ross J. Harris HH, Sema Mandal, Mary Ramsay, Peter Vickerman, Matthew Hickman, Daniela De Angelis. Monitoring the hepatitis C epidemic in England and evaluating intervention scale-up using routinely collected data. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvh.13063> [Accessed 12/03/2019] Journal of Viral Hep. 2019;00:1-12.

Figure 28. Distribution of patient treatment episodes, and patients yet to be treated, in the HCV Patient Registry and Treatment Outcome System, by ODN

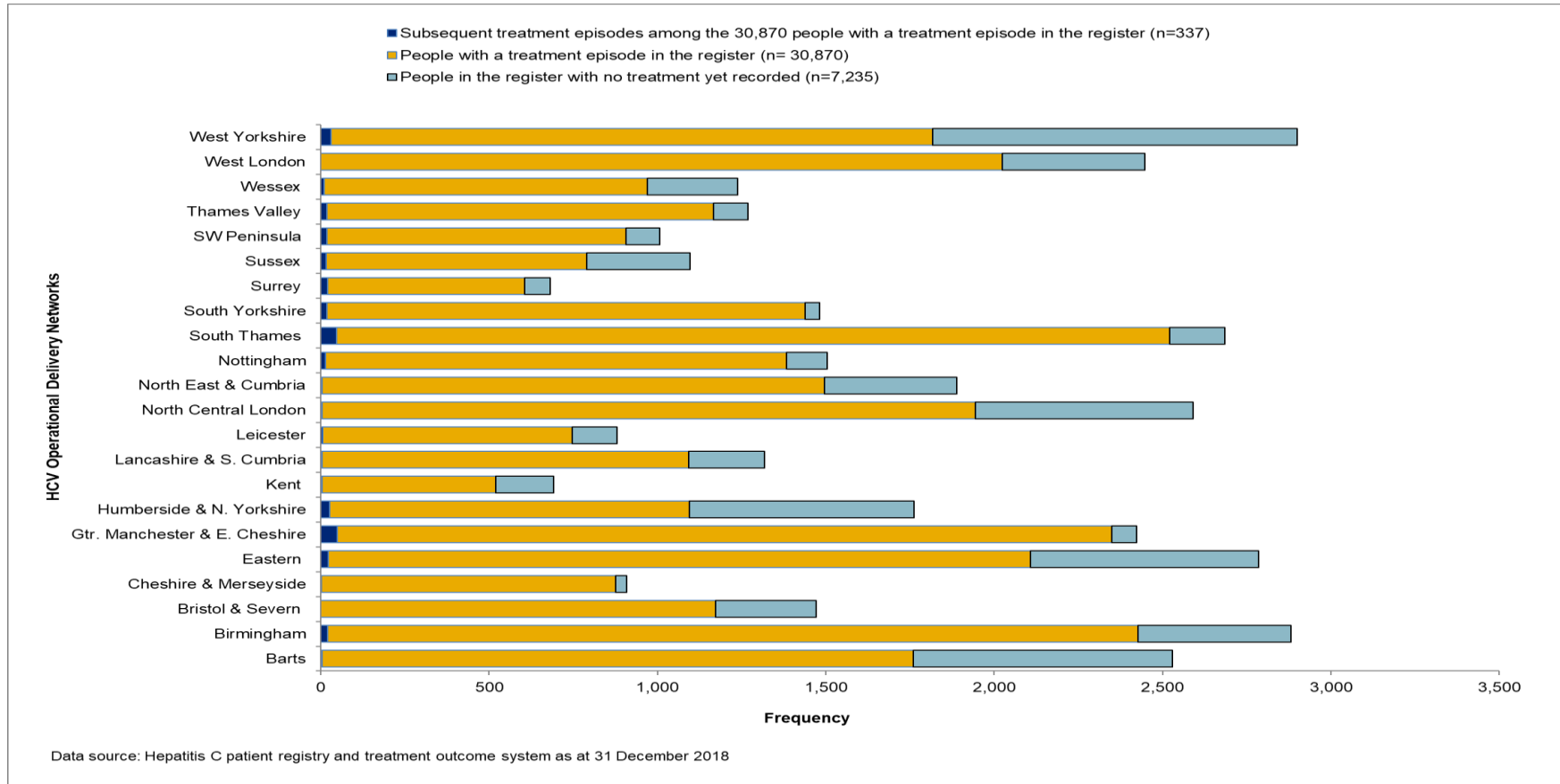


Figure 29. Distribution of injecting route of transmission (%) for patients with a treatment episode in the Hepatitis C Patient Registry and Treatment Outcome System, by ODN (n=30,870)

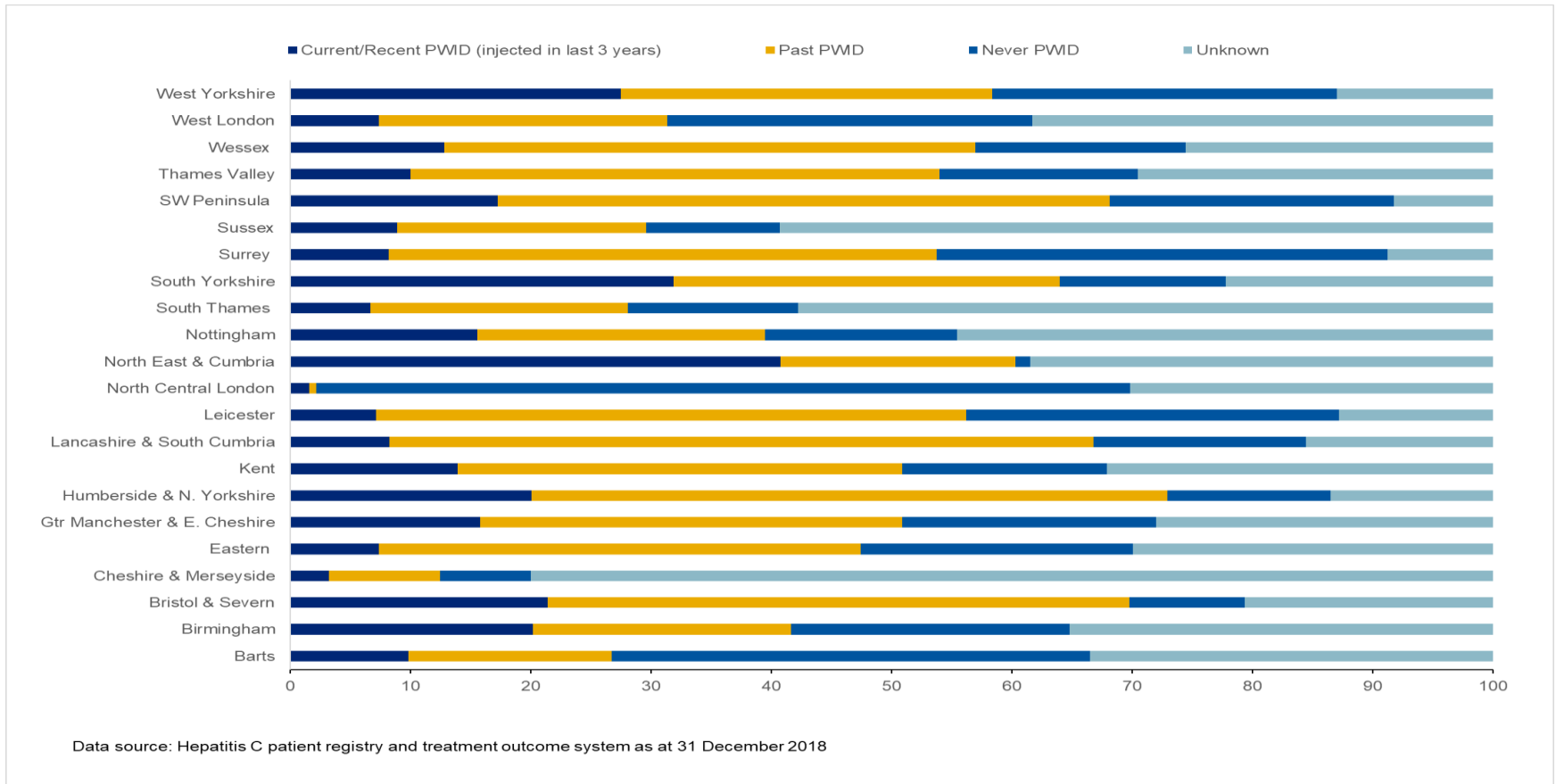


Figure 30. Distribution of source of referral (%) for patients with a treatment episode in the Hepatitis C Patient Registry and Treatment Outcome System, by ODN (n= 30,870)

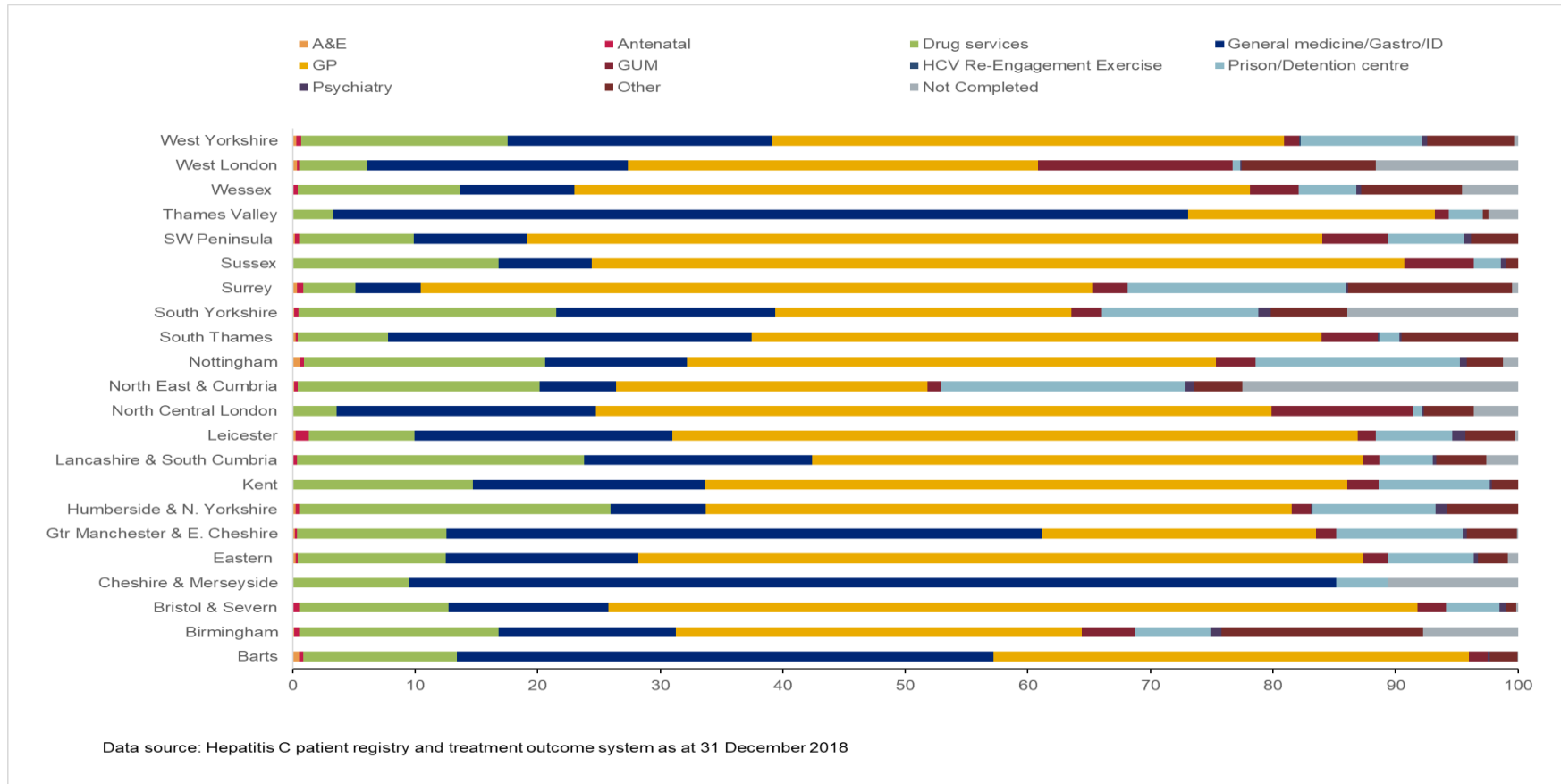


Figure 31. Distribution of disease stage (%) for patients with a treatment episode in the Hepatitis C Patient Registry and Treatment Outcome System, by ODN (n=30,870)

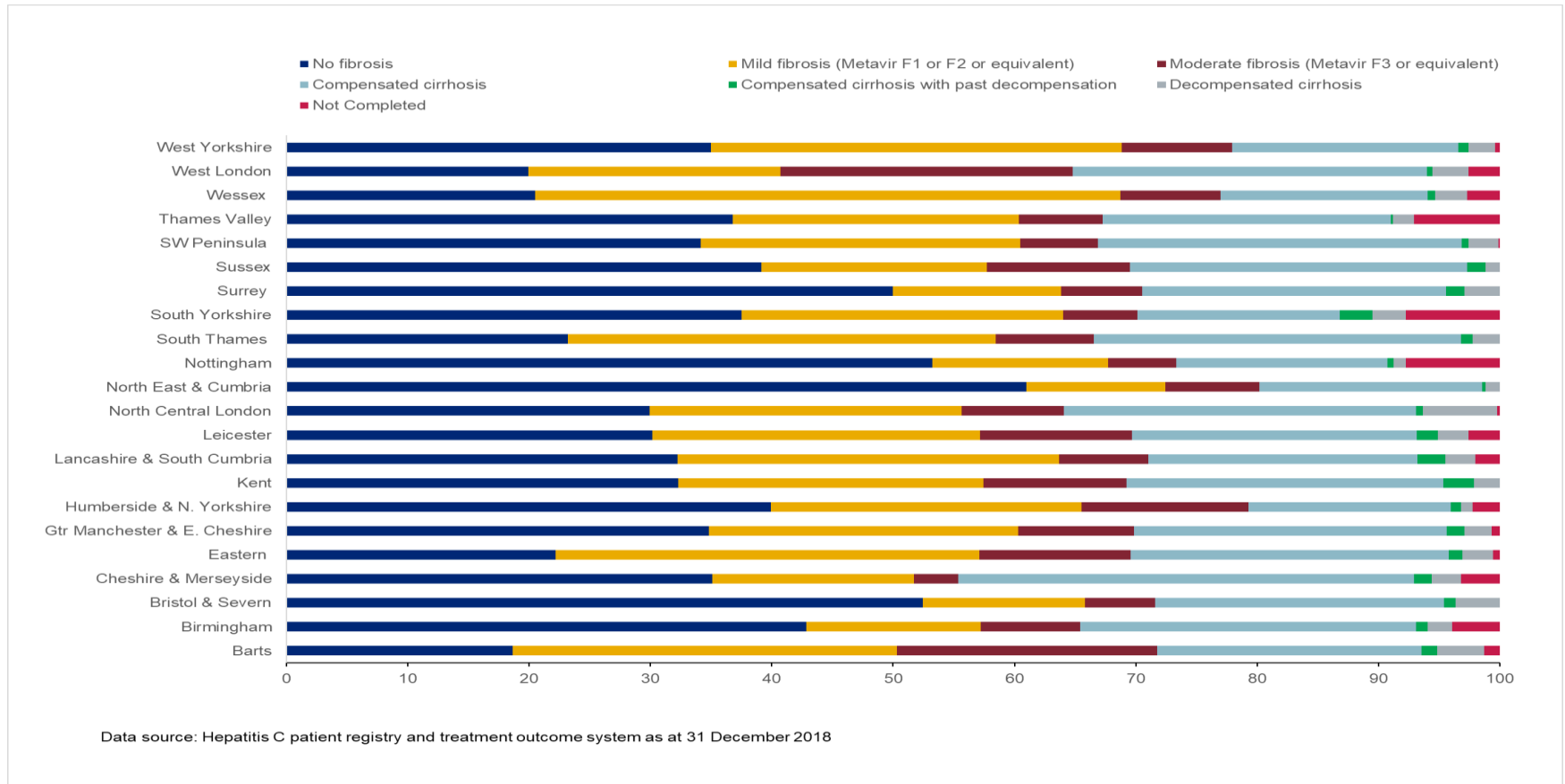
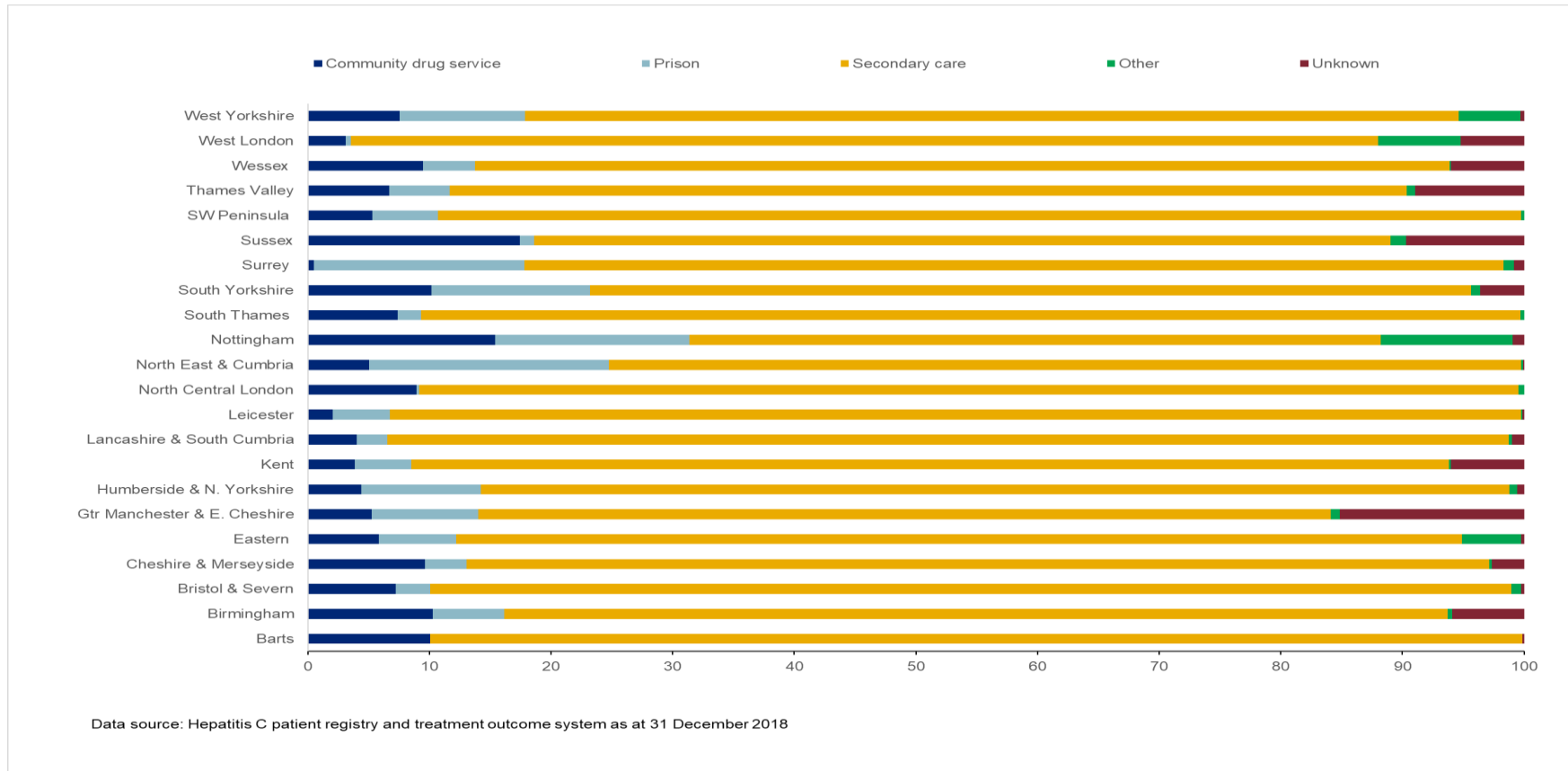


Figure 32. Distribution of treatment setting (%) for patients with a treatment episode in the Hepatitis C Patient Registry and Treatment Outcome System, by ODN (n=30,870)



Appendix 1.* WHO GHSS targets⁽³⁾ for viral hepatitis, relevant to HCV in the UK context, with 2020 targets updated to reflect the draft action plan for the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region.⁽¹⁴⁾

TARGET AREA	2020 TARGETS ⁽¹⁴⁾	2030 TARGETS ⁽³⁾
Impact targets		
Incidence: New cases of chronic viral hepatitis C infection	30% reduction	80% reduction
Mortality: Viral hepatitis C deaths	10% reduction	65% reduction
Service coverage targets		
Blood safety:**Proportion of donations screened in a quality-assured manner	100%	100%
Safe injections:*** Percentage of injections administered with safety engineered devices in and out of health facilities	50%	90%
Harm reduction: A comprehensive package of harm reduction services to all PWID ⁽⁷³⁾ including:	At least 200 sterile needles and syringes provided per person who injects drugs per year At least 40% of opioid dependent PWID receive OST 90% of PWID receiving targeted HCV information, education and communication	At least 300 sterile needles and syringes provided per person who injects drugs per year
Proportion of people with chronic HCV diagnosed and aware of their infection	50% [75% of estimated number of patients at late stage of viral hepatitis-related liver disease (cirrhosis or HCC) diagnosed]	90%
Treatment coverage of people diagnosed with chronic HCV who are eligible for treatment	75% (>90% cured) [90% of diagnosed patients with chronic HCV are linked to care and adequately monitored]	80%

* Abstracted from the WHO Global Health Sector Strategy for Viral Hepatitis⁽³⁾ and modified to reflect the draft action plan for the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region⁽¹⁴⁾

** In England, 2020 and 2030 targets are already met.⁽⁷⁴⁾

***In England, 2020 and 2030 targets are already met in the health care setting as the UK follows the EU Directive for the prevention of sharps injuries in the health care setting,⁽⁷⁵⁾ by using safety engineered devices.

3. World Health Organization. Global health sector strategy on viral hepatitis, 2016-2021. Towards Ending Viral hepatitis. 2016.

Available from:

<http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/246177/1/WHO-HIV-2016.06-eng.pdf?ua=1>. [Accessed: 01/03/2019].

14. World Health Organization. Action plan for the health sector response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region. Regional Committee for Europe 66th Session, Copenhagen, Denmark, 12-15 September 2016. Available from: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/about-us/governance/regional-committee-for-europe/66th-session/documentation/working-documents/eurrc6610-action-plan-for-the-health-sector-response-to-viral-hepatitis-in-the-who-european-region> [Accessed 01/03/2019].

74. Joint United Kingdom (UK) Blood Transfusion and Tissue Transplantation Services Professional Advisory Committee. Guidelines for the Blood Transfusion Services in the UK. Available from: <http://www.transfusionguidelines.org/> [Accessed 09/07/2018].

75. European Agency for Safety and Health at Work. Directive 2010/32/EU - prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector. 2010. Available from: <https://osha.europa.eu/en/legislation/directives/council-directive-2010-32-eu-prevention-from-sharp-injuries-in-the-hospital-and-healthcare-sector>. [Accessed 08/03/2019].

