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Limburg is the first Belgian province on track for hepatitis C virus eradication

in the most important group at risk: people who use drugs

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INTRODUCTION

- Hepatitis C viral (HCV) infections are the leading cause of chronic liver disease and liver-related deaths,
- People who use drugs (PWUD) and more specific inject drugs are at the heart of the ongoing epidemic.
- Recent modelling indicated:
  - More people tested
  - More people need to be linked to care
  - Minimum 8% of the current patient pool who requires treatment has to be treated per year in Belgium

AIM

The aim of this project is to **eradicate HCV** in **PWUD** in an **addiction care center** in Limburg, Belgium and to **monitor reinfection** after therapy.

METHOD

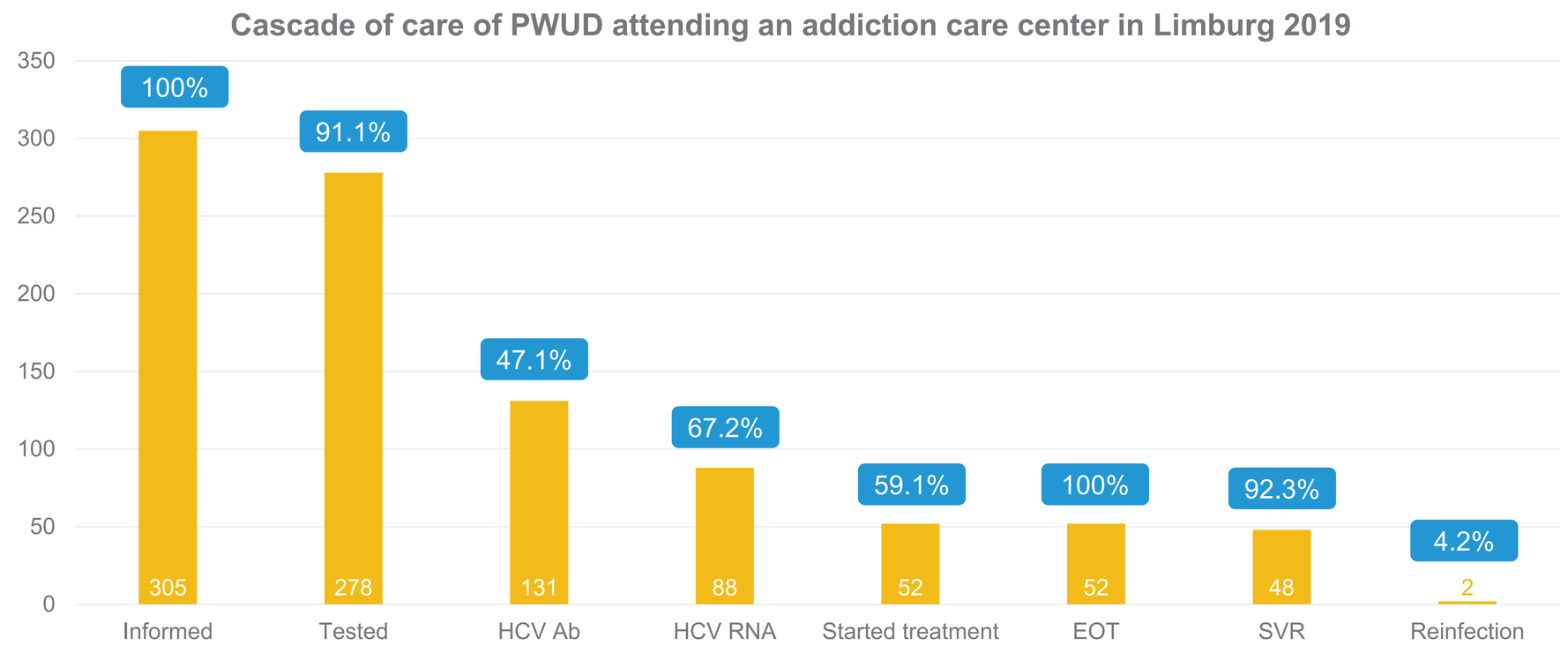
- Ongoing project started in November 2016 (data 2019 presented)
- zorGGroep Zin Limburg

  = Addiction care centre with several locations in the province Limburg

The case manager / HCV nurse

- On-site screening:
  - OraQuick® HCV antibodies (Ab)
- Facilitated referral to a hepatologist
- Monitoring for reinfection

RESULTS



Abbreviations; HCV: hepatitis C virus, Ab: antibody, RNA: ribonucleic acid, EOT: end of treatment, SVR: sustained virologic response , PWUD: people who use drugs

CONCLUSIONS

Limburg is the **first Belgian province on track** to meet the goals of the World Health Organization **to eradicate HCV by 2030** in a **PWUD population**.

With the case management program **every PWUD** attending an addiction care center in Limburg can be **screened** and after treatment they are **closely monitored for reinfection**.

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DISCLOSURES

D.B. has been an employee of Gilead Sciences since October 2021 and a volunteer at Hasselt University.