

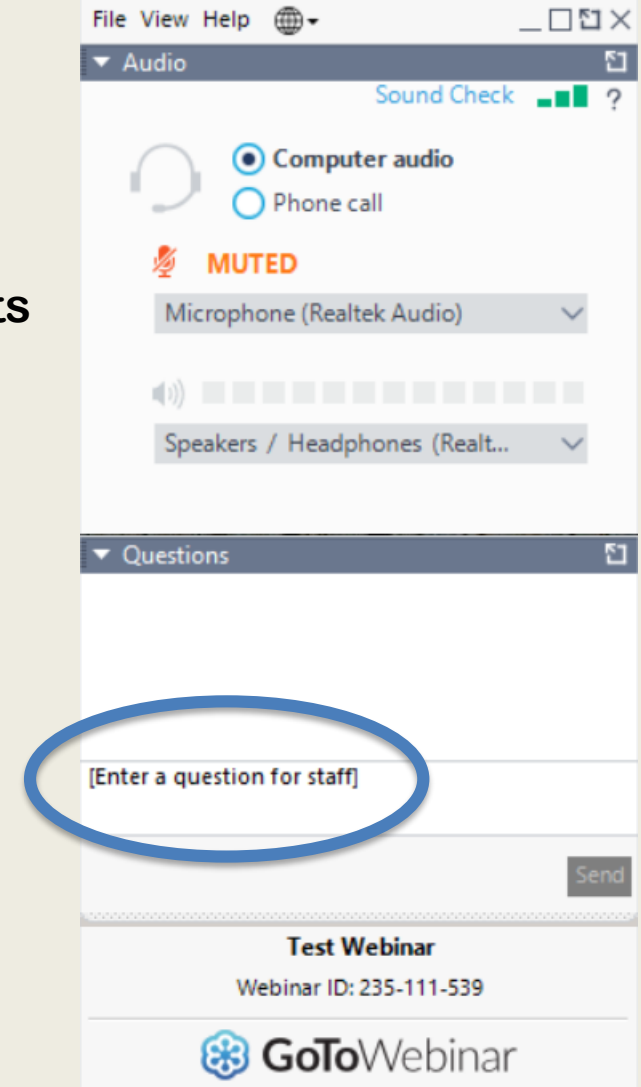
Why We Need a National African American Hepatitis C Action Day

July 11, 2017



Housekeeping

- Slides and a recording of the webinar will be sent to everyone who registered and posted on our website.
- Please use the question box to submit your questions and comments
- The Q&A session will follow the last speaker



Webinar Overview

- **Introductions**
 - Tina Broder - National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
 - Melissa Baker - National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, Inc.
- **Purpose of National African American Hepatitis C Action Day**
 - Gloria Searson - Coalition On Positive Health Empowerment (COPE)
- **Physician Perspective**
 - Dr. Oluwaseun Falade-Nwulia - Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- **Patient Perspectives**
 - Francis LaMont Adams
 - Shernell (Toni) Sells
- **What can you do?**
 - Daniel Raymond - Harm Reduction Coalition
- **Q & A Session**



African Americans and Hepatitis C: Time to take Action

Gloria Searson

COPE

**Coalition On Positive Health
Empowerment**

Awareness: Answer from public officials

“Despite the seriousness of this health problem in the African American community, too few African Americans know about the disease or get tested for it. Early detection of chronic viral hepatitis infection can save lives,”

observes Dr. Ronald Valdiserri, MD, MPH, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, Infectious Diseases and Director, Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

No matter the disease: Its the same news in the Black community

- ▶ African Americans are **twice** as likely to be infected with the hepatitis C virus (HCV) compared to the general U.S. population, according to the [CDC](#).
- ▶ While African Americans represent only **12 percent** of the U.S. population, they make up roughly **22 percent** of the estimated **3.2 million persons** with chronic HCV infection.
- ▶ Moreover, chronic liver disease, often hepatitis C-related, is a leading cause of death among **African Americans ages 45-64**.

Hepatitis C Facts

- ▶ Most people living with hepatitis C do not know they are infected.
- ▶ The hepatitis C virus (HCV) can cause chronic hepatitis, in which the infection is prolonged, sometimes lifelong. Chronic hepatitis can lead to cirrhosis, liver failure, and liver cancer. In fact, viral hepatitis is the leading cause of liver cancer and the most common reason for liver transplantation.
- ▶ Most people living with HCV infection often have no symptoms until significant damage has been done.
- ▶ There is no vaccine to prevent hepatitis C infection.
- ▶ Getting tested is the only way to know if you have been exposed to hepatitis C.
- ▶ There are new and improved treatments exists for hepatitis C.

The opportunity is REAL

Historically, HCV treatment was less effective for African Americans than for Caucasians. This is partly explained by genetics: *Researchers identified a gene that is linked with response to pegylated interferon-based treatment, called IL-28B.*

However, clinical trials of the new generation of HCV drugs did not find any difference in cure rates between black and non-black study participants.

By raising greater awareness in African-American communities and making best use of these new treatments, we can help to decrease health disparities faced by African Americans living with HCV



Thank you!

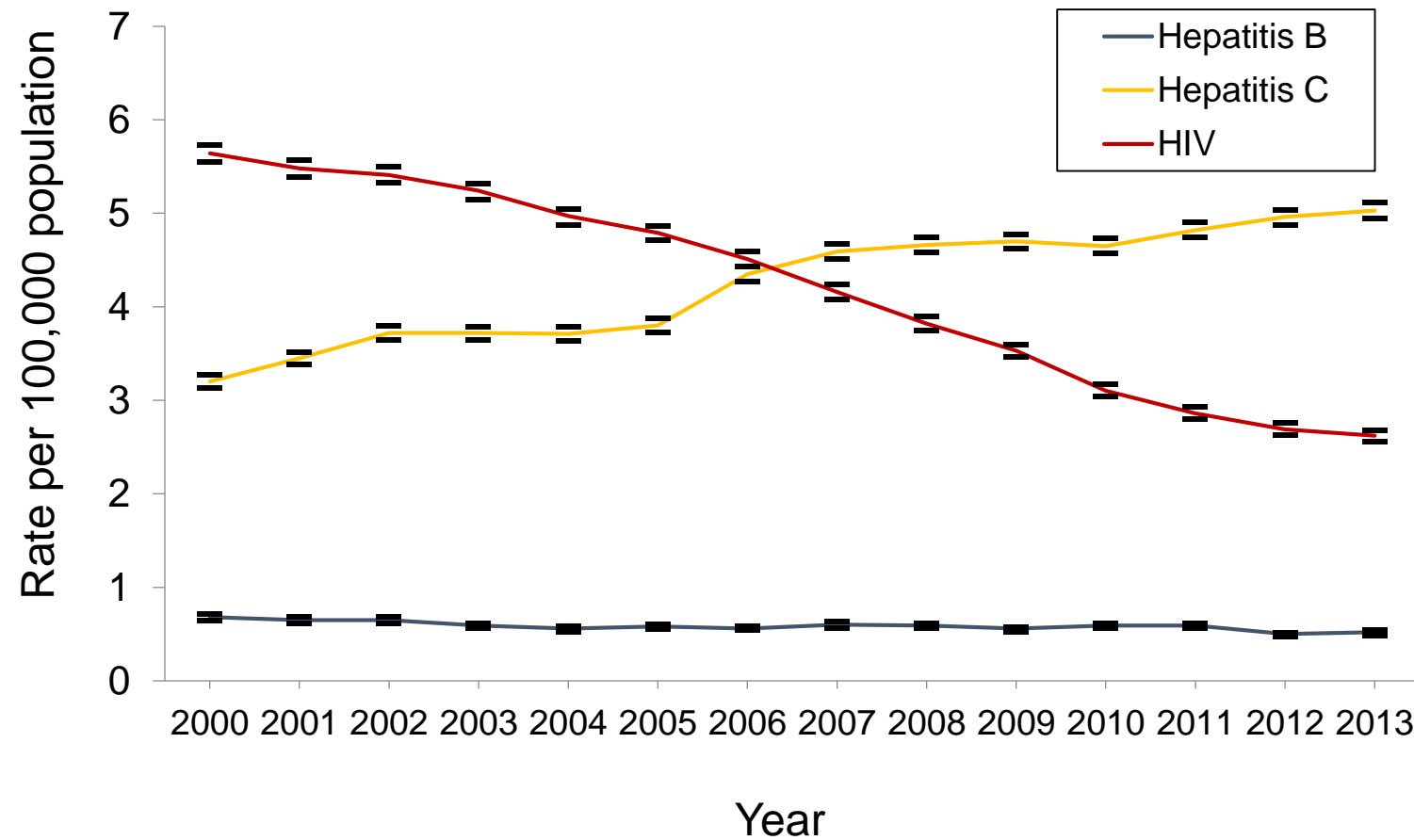
National African American Hepatitis C Action Day

The Physician perspective

Oluwaseun Falade-Nwulia, MBBS, MPH
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases

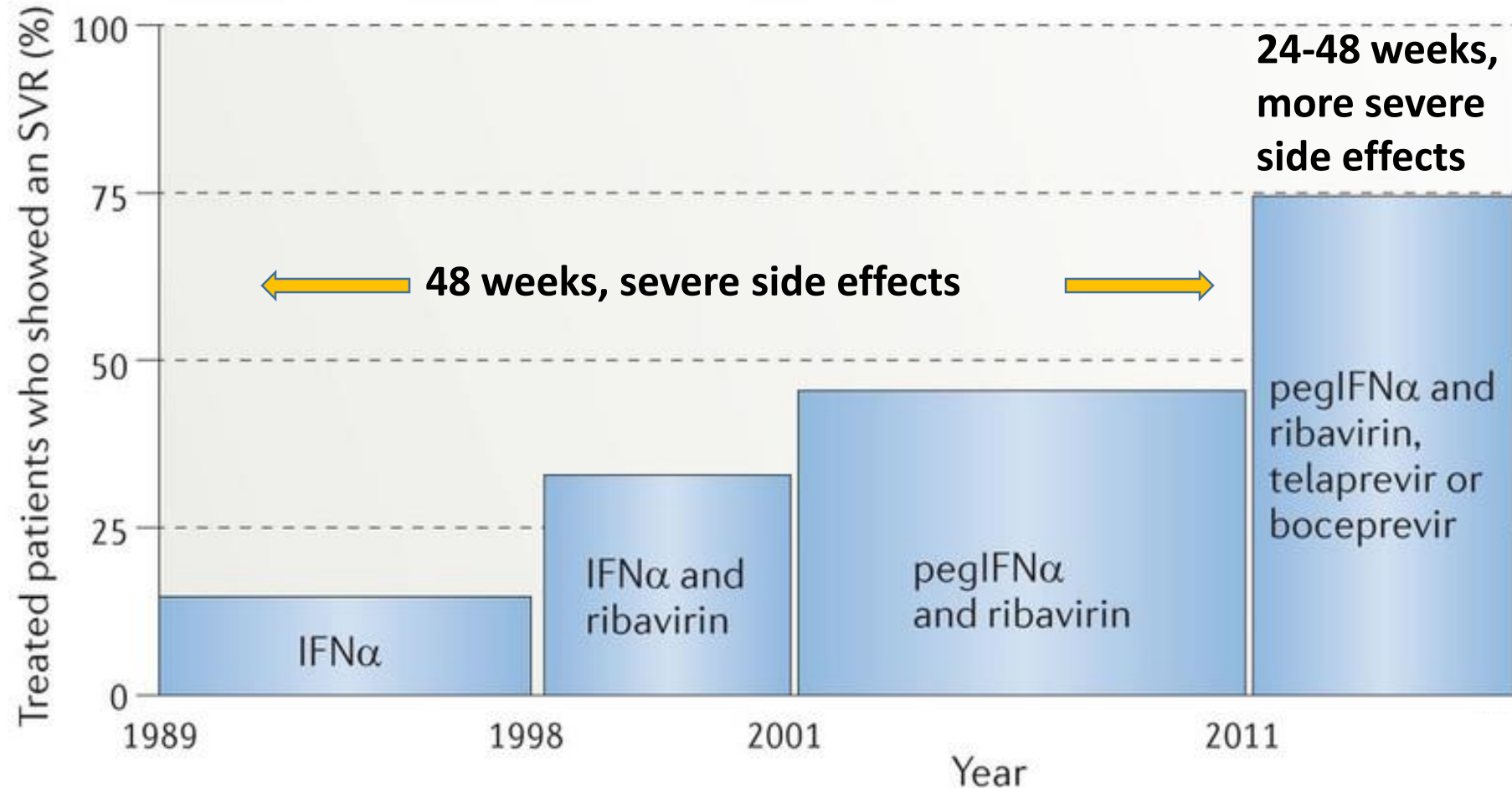


In the United States, HCV-related deaths exceed HIV-related deaths



HCV Therapy- the past

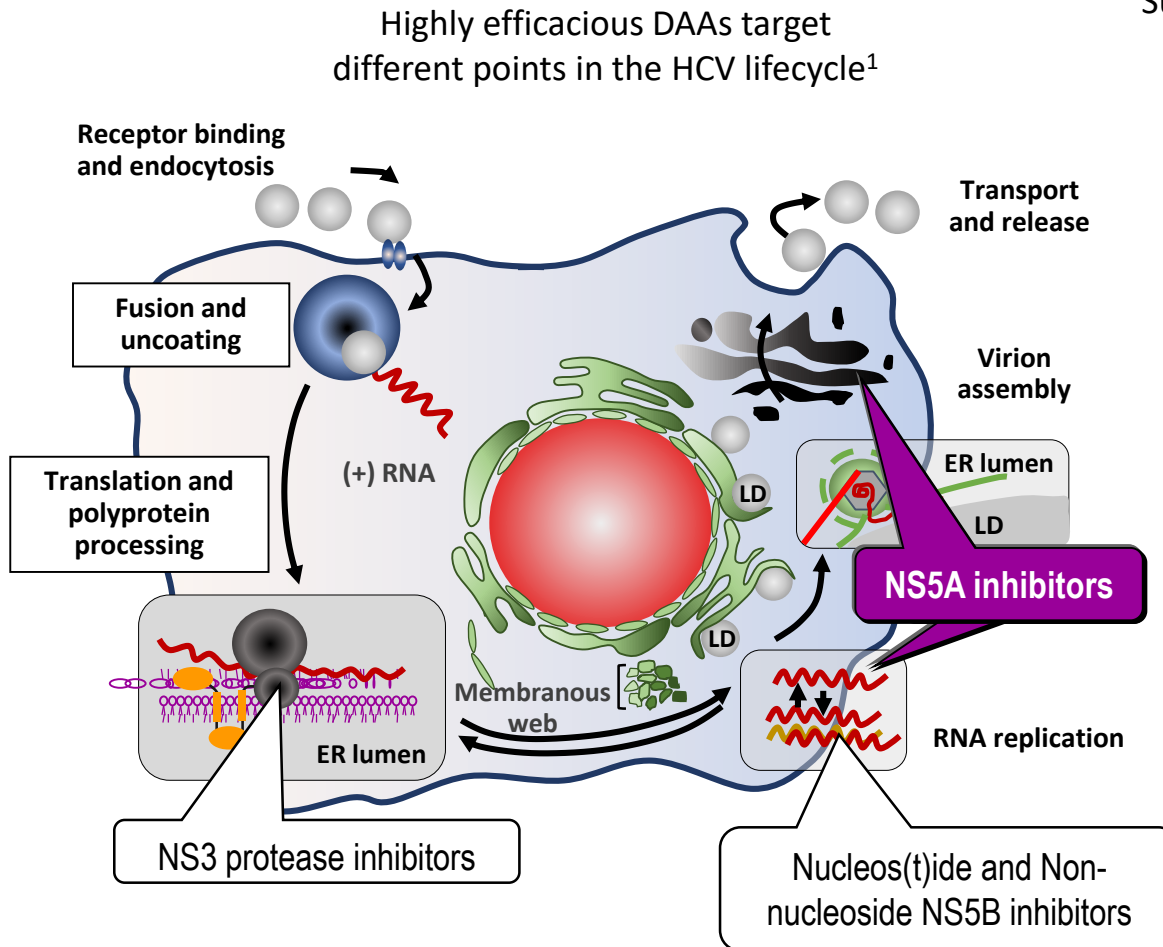
Recombinant type I IFN-based therapy in chronic hepatitis C



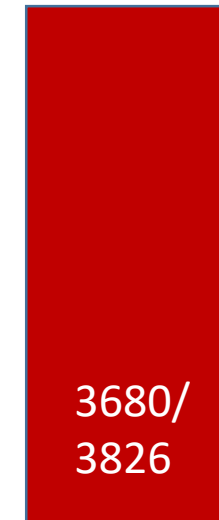


Oral Direct Acting Antiretrovirals (DAAs) make HCV cure possible

Summary of New England Journal of Medicine studies on IFN-free therapy in GT 1 published in 2014²



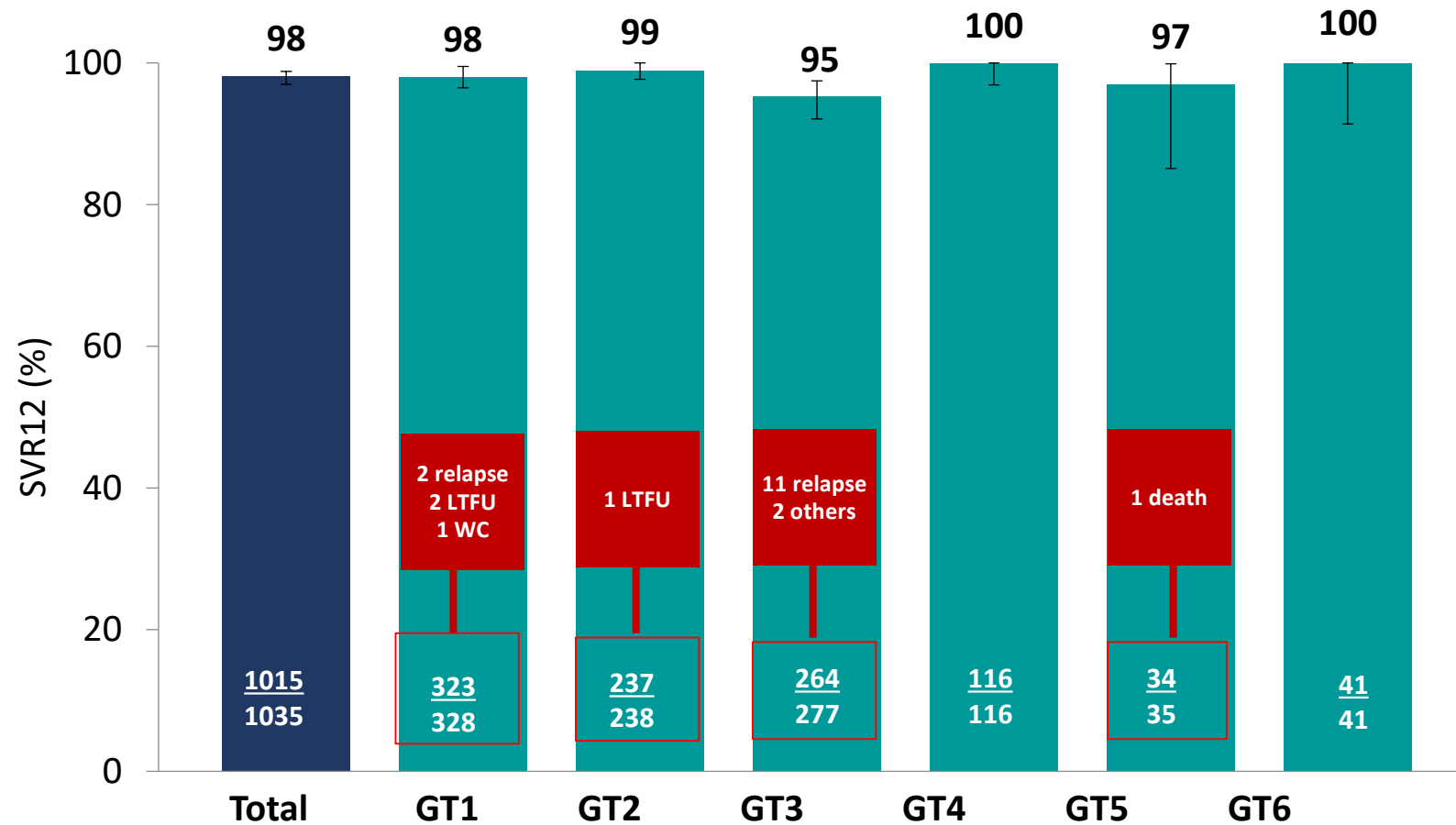
96%



Sustained
Virologic
Response
[SVR]

1. Lindenbach BD, Rice CM. Nature 2005;436(Suppl):933–8;
2. Liang J, Ghany MG. N Engl J Med 2014;370:2043–7;
3. Burki T. Lancet Infect Dis 2014;14:452–3

Velpatasvir/Sofosbuvir is highly effective in patients with HCV genotype 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 infection



Feld et al. NEJM 2015

Participants taking velpatasvir/sofosbuvir and placebo reported similar adverse events

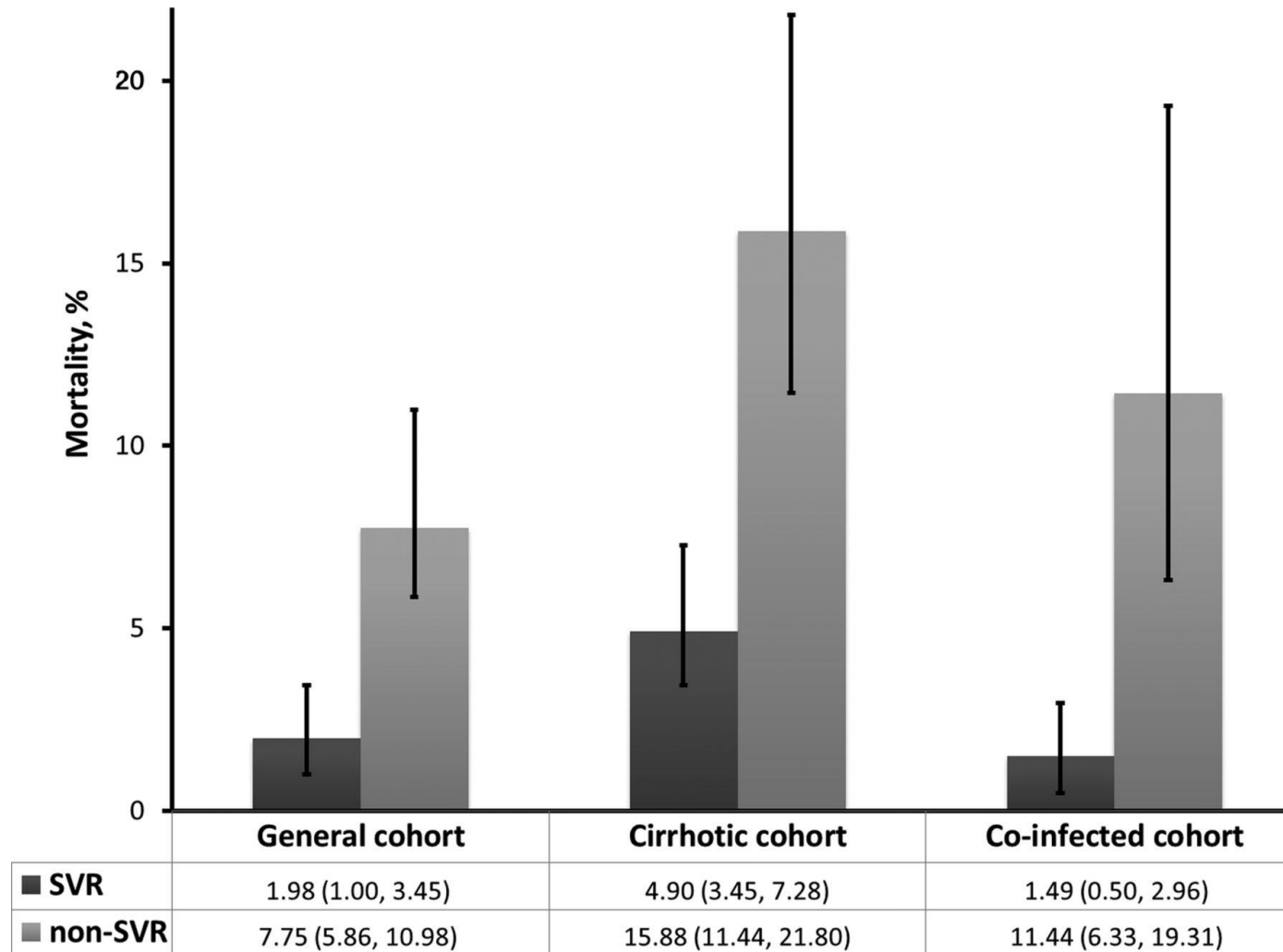
Patients, n (%)	SOF/VEL 12 wk n=1035	Comparator Regimens
		Placebo 12 Week (N = 116)
Headache	296 (29)	33 (28)
Fatigue	217 (21)	23 (20)
Nausea	135 (13)	13 (11)
Insomnia	87 (8)	11 (10)
Nasopharyngitis	121 (12)	12 (10)
Diarrhoea	73 (7)	8 (7)
Cough	57 (6)	4 (3)
Irritability	49 (5)	4 (3)
Arthralgia	56 (5)	9 (8)
Back pain	56 (5)	11 (10)
Asthenia	58 (6)	9 (8)

HCV Therapy - now

- IFN free regimens
- 8-12 weeks of therapy
- Few side effects
- Response rates >95%
- Pangenotypic-Can cure all hepatitis C types



Hepatitis C cure aka Sustained virologic response (SVR) prevents death





Recommendations for Testing, Managing, and Treating Hepatitis C

“Successful hepatitis C treatment results in sustained virologic response (SVR), which is **tantamount to virologic cure**, and, as such, is expected to benefit nearly all chronically infected persons.”

Goal of treatment

The goal of treatment of HCV-infected persons is to reduce all-cause mortality and liver-related health adverse consequences, including end-stage liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma, by the achievement of virologic cure as evidenced by an SVR.

Rating: Class I, Level A

Hepatitis C disparities

- Persons infected with hepatitis C are more likely to be uninsured and lack a usual source of health care
- Compared with non-Hispanic whites, blacks have twice the risk of HCV infection
- Historically treatment outcomes have been widened by lower rates of treatment-related HCV clearance in black individuals
 - An unfavorable genetic factor (interleukin-28B) which reduces the response to IFN-based HCV treatments more common in blacks
- Treatment with oral DAAs, which target HCV, are less impacted by genetic factors

Enhancing hepatitis C testing and LTC in Baltimore

- Hepatitis C testing and linkage to care program at public STD clinics in Baltimore, Maryland
- Collaborator
 - Johns Hopkins Viral Hepatitis Division
- Funding
 - CDC Foundation/Viral Hepatitis Action Coalition



Methods: HCV Testing



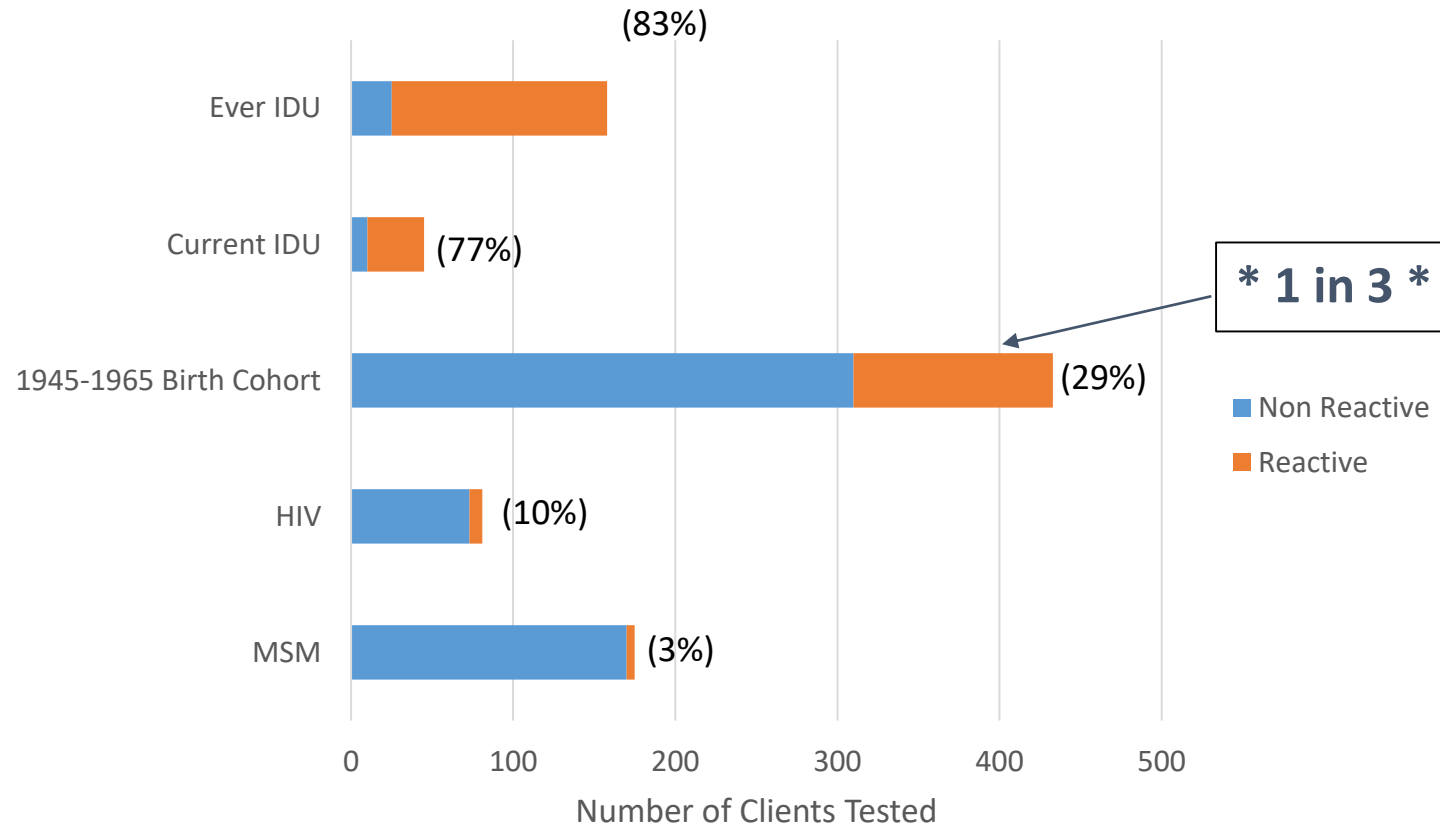
**HCV Antibody
Screening**

If positive

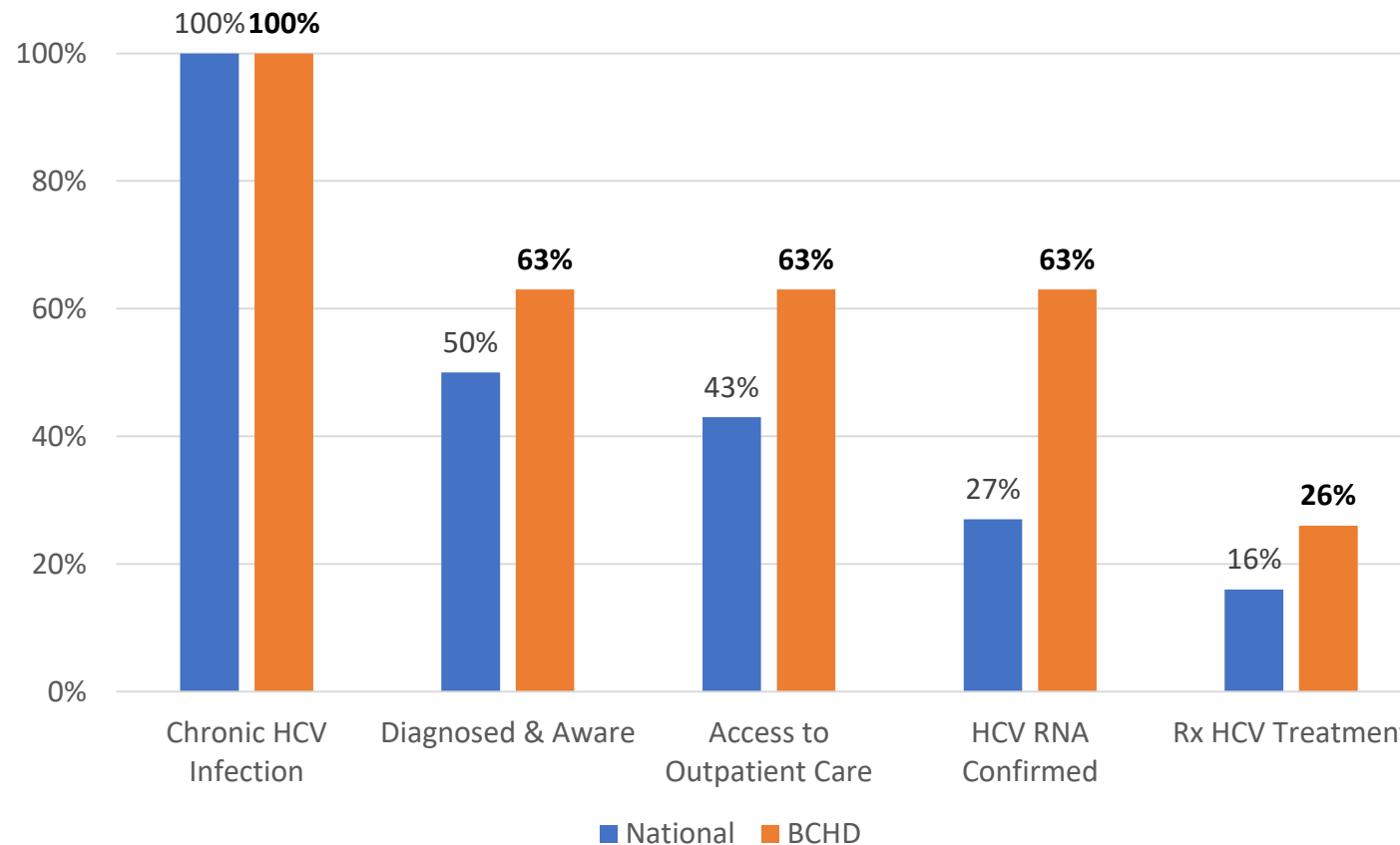
**HCV RNA
Testing**

- Rapid HCV Antibody Test:
 - Orasure Oraquick HCV Test
 - Results in 20 minutes
 - Clinical sensitivity and specificity ~ 100%
- HCV RNA
 - Performed at a commercial laboratory
 - Results available in 1 week
- Linkage to Care
 - Counseling
 - Peer support for linkage

Risk Factors for HCV Antibody Positivity



BCHD HCV Care Cascade vs. National Cascade



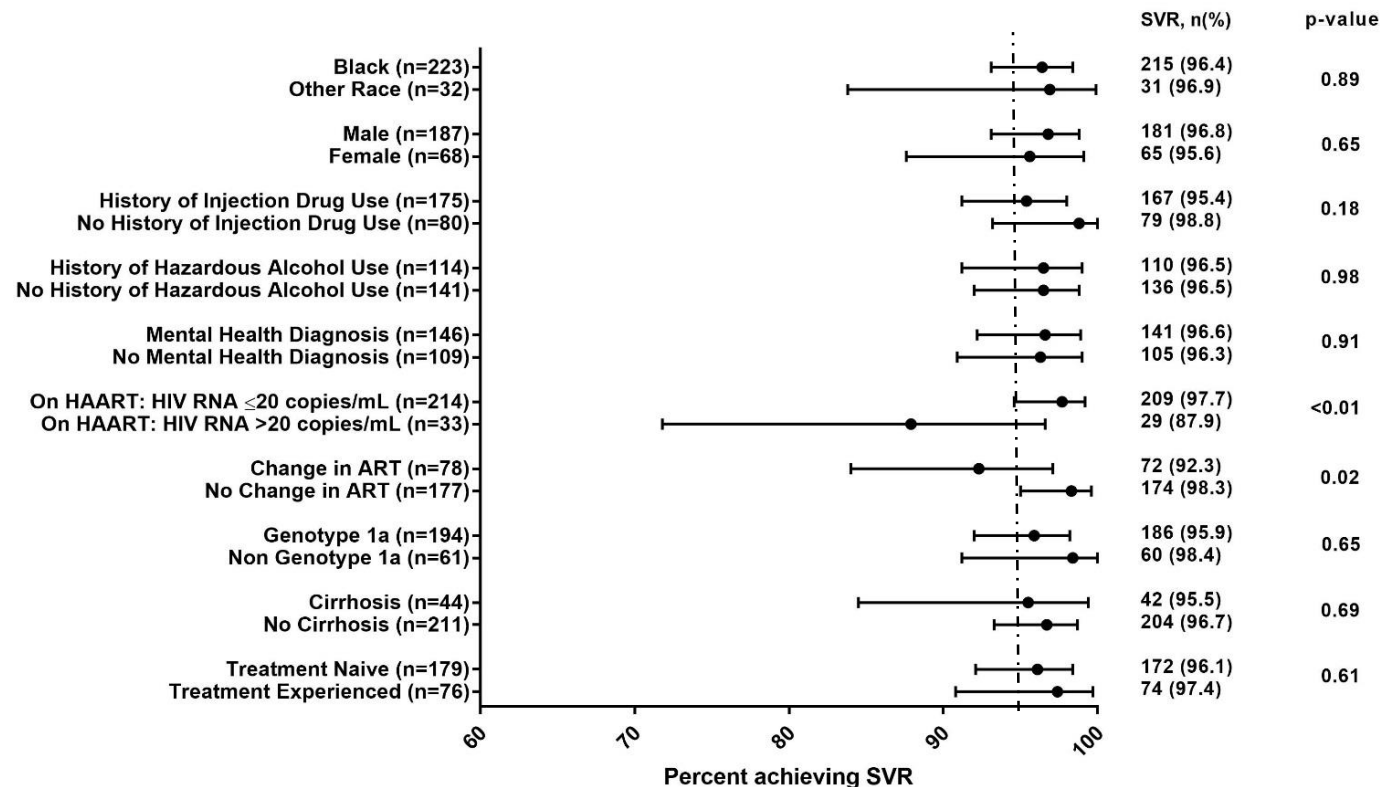
*National data from Yehia, et al. PLoS One. 2014; 9(7):e101554

Niculescu A... Falade Nwulia et al. APHA. 2016

High HCV Cure Rates in HIV infected patients with appropriate support

255 HIV/HCV infected patients treated for HCV at the Johns Hopkins HIV Clinic

Sustained Virologic Response Rates by Patient Characteristics



Patient Perspectives



Francis LaMont Adams

Sr. Community Health Specialist
South Carolina HIV/AIDS Council

1. V. A. for Treatment
2. Disclosure to partner
3. Putting an AA face on it
4. No side effects



Shernell (Toni) Sells

Sr. Community Health Specialist
South Carolina HIV/AIDS Council

1. Patient assistance navigation
2. Managing co-occurring conditions (Lupus)
3. Medicine Interactions
4. Communications between doctors whom I receive care from
5. Advantages of going thru treatment with relation to clients





harm reduction
COALITION

Health Care as Civil Rights: Fighting Back Against the Attack on Obama's Affordable Care Act

Daniel Raymond

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www.harmreduction.org



“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”

-- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 1966

AHCA/BCRA: What are the stakes?

- Under the Affordable Care Act, the uninsured rate among African American non-elderly adults dropped by more than 1/3rd
- 28% of African American adults under 65 & 57% of African American children use Medicaid

● CBPP, 6/1/17: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/health/african-american-uninsured-rate-dropped-by-more-than-a-third-under-affordable-care>

● KFF, 1/17/17: <http://www.kff.org/infographic/health-and-health-care-for-blacks-in-the-united-states/>

Health Care Debate Reflects Fundamental Values

- What is the government's role in health care?
- What is our commitment to the health and survival of the most vulnerable?
- Opposition to ACA associated with racial prejudice
- Republicans more likely to regard Medicaid as 'welfare' than insurance

• Knowles, ED, et al. (2010). Racial prejudice predicts opposition to Obama and his health care reform plan. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 46, pp. 420-423.
• Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll, May 16-22, 2017.

Missing Voices: Impact on Health Disparities & Health Equity

- House of Representatives passed American Health Care Act (AHCA) in May
- Senate version: Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA)
- New Senate draft expected on Thursday, revised CBO score next week, Senate vote later this month

Lift Up Community Voices

Sample call-in script:

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a constituent of (Senator).

I am calling to let the Senator know that today is National African American Hepatitis C Action Day, and ask (Senator) to oppose the Better Care Reconciliation Act – or any similar bill – that would decrease access to care and treatment for people living with hepatitis C.

Advocacy resources

- NVHR: <http://nvhr.org/policy/affordable-care-act>
- Families USA: <http://familiesusa.org/initiatives/protect-our-care>
- TrumpCare Ten: <https://www.trumpcareten.org/>
- US PWN #KillTheBill Resource Center: <https://pwn-usa.org/policy-agenda/killthebill-resource-center/>

Essential Reading

- The Fight for Health Care Has Always Been About Civil Rights – Vann R. Newkirk II, The Atlantic, 6/27/17: <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/06/the-fight-for-health-care-is-really-all-about-civil-rights/531855/>
- 6 Devastating Ways The Senate Health Care Bill Will Affect Black Women – Midwin Charles, Essence, 6/24/17: <http://www.essence.com/news/politics/better-care-reconciliation-act-and-black-women>
- The Republicans' Medicaid cuts, if they pass, will disproportionately hurt black Americans – Lola Fadulu, Quartz, 6/29/17: <https://qz.com/1016185/bcra-health-care-reform-the-republicans-medicaid-cuts-would-disproportionately-hurt-black-americans/>

Questions?

Please submit questions for any of the presenters via the webinar question function or send an email to tbroder@nvhr.org

