



How to improve access to treatment in HCV patients?

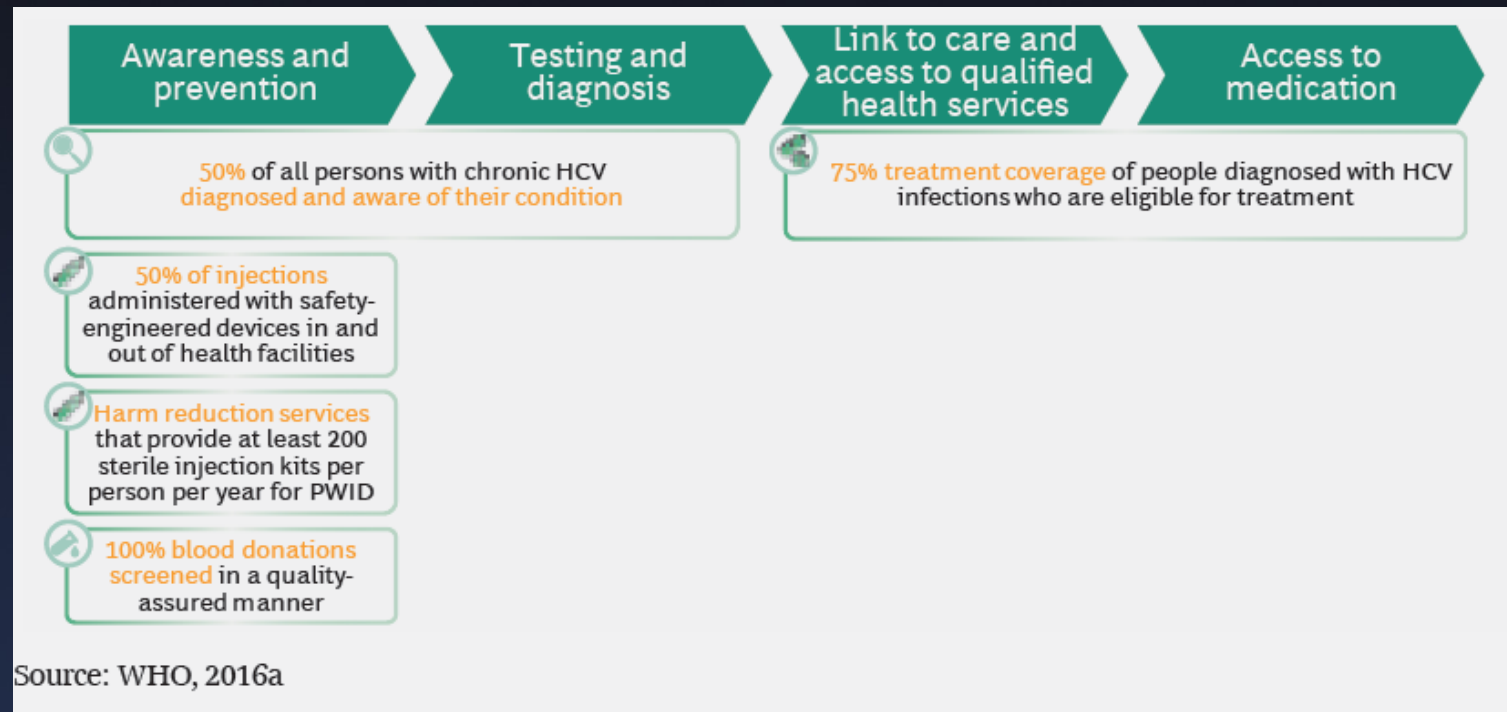
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Access to treatment

- Access to HCV screening
- Access to HCV drugs
- Access to HCV elimination

WHO European targets by 2020

Five targets are set to be achieved by 2020





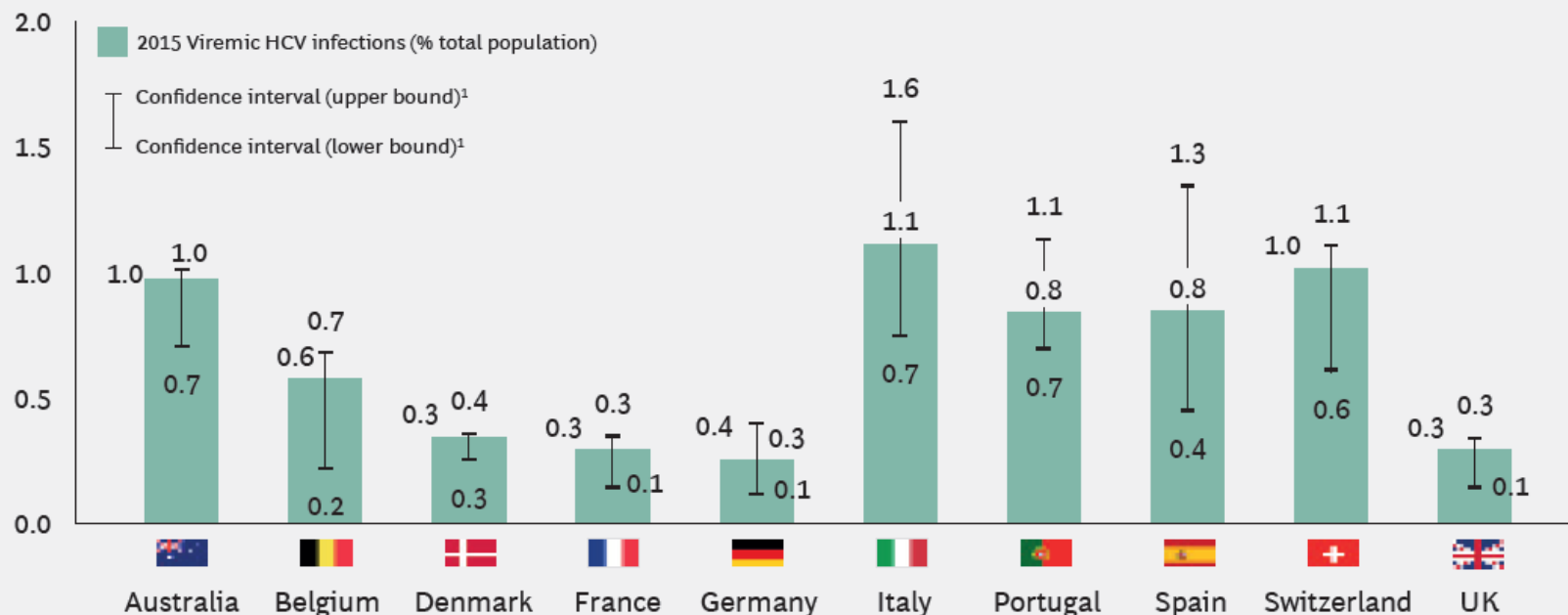
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Access to HCV screening

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Estimated HCV prevalence in France in 2015

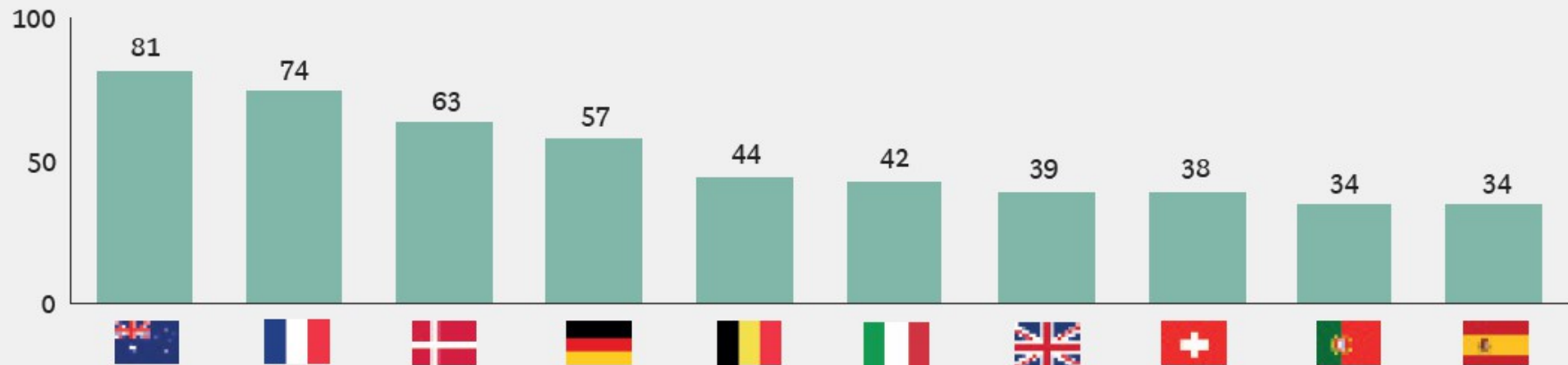


1. 95% Uncertainty Interval

Source: Razavi and al. (2017); The Polaris Observatory HCV Collaborators (2016)²

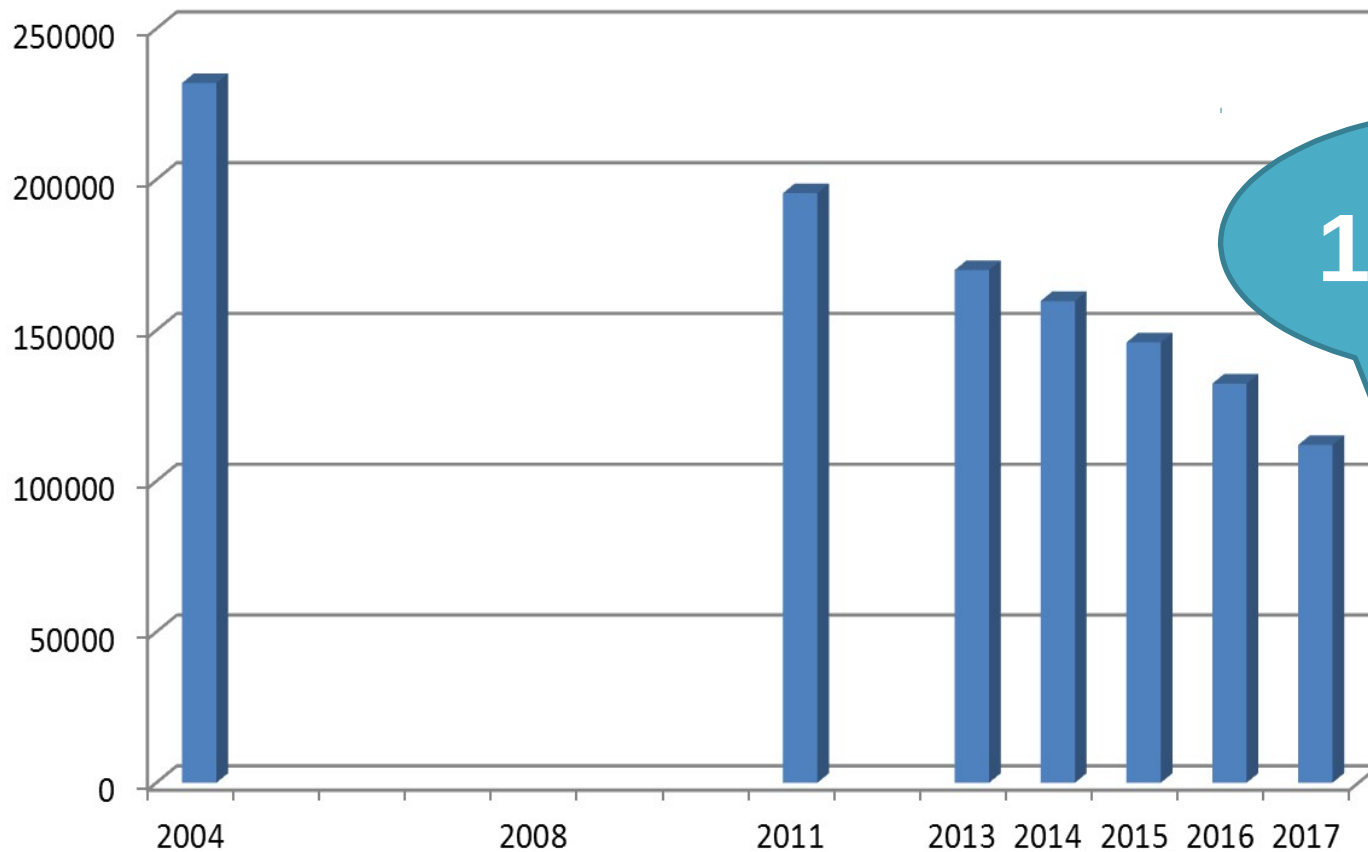
Estimated percentage of diagnosed HCV patients (% of total patients)

Diagnosis rate (2015)



Source: Razavi and al. (2017); Polaris Observatory (2017)⁵

HCV elimination in France : How many patients remain to be treated?



114 116

40,000 known

75,000 unknown

Awareness in France

- 1. Strong government and civil society support for awareness and prevention initiatives**
- 2. Awareness and prevention campaigns targeting common settings of high prevalence groups**
- 3. HCV training provided to GPs, and other professionals in contact with HCV patients**

Strong government and civil society support for awareness and prevention initiatives

- In the latest recommendations (December 2016), the government outlined several strategies to raise awareness in the general population, such as increasing the visibility of HCV on the internet or the “Hépatites info service” telephone line.
- Projects that contribute to increasing HCV education and awareness are funded by the government.

Awareness and prevention campaigns targeting common settings of high prevalence groups

- Authorities have integrated HCV care within systems and networks commonly used by **high prevalence populations**.
- Existence of **strong harm-reduction programs** for PWID (key high prevalence group in France) contributes to increasing the impact of initiatives integrated with them, such as sharing information about the disease, and its risks and symptoms, or screening opportunities that directly target PWID when they attend to Opioid Substitution (OPS) or Needle and Syringe Programs (NSP).
- Other awareness campaigns have also targeted different common settings of high prevalence group populations

HCV training provided to PCPs, and other professionals in contact with HCV patients

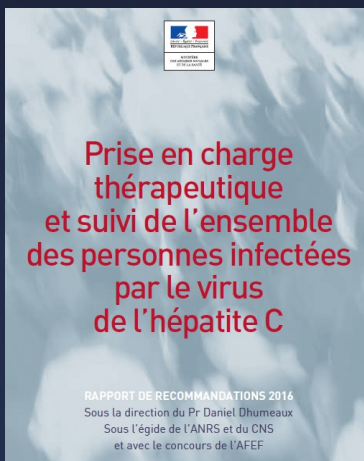
- GPs, together with other professionals such as personnel in addiction centers, are an essential part of the health cascade given their gatekeeping role. They are normally the first point of contact with the patient, and therefore the best channel to inform them.
- In order to increase the awareness levels of these professionals, France has included HCV as a **priority topic in educational programs**, focusing on the identification of risk factors. Guidelines (for screening, treatment, and risk) are updated frequently and communicated to professionals.

Tools for HCV screening

- Enzyme immunoassays
 - Anti-HCV antibodies
 - HCV core antigen
- Point-of-care tests
 - Rapid Diagnostic Tests
 - Molecular tests
- Dried blood spot

General population testing program

- It was suggested in the latest 2016 recommendations for France (Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de la Santé, 2016)
- It will be suggested again in March 2018 by the AFEF (French Society for the Study of Liver Diseases)





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Access to HCV drugs

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Plan for access to treatment



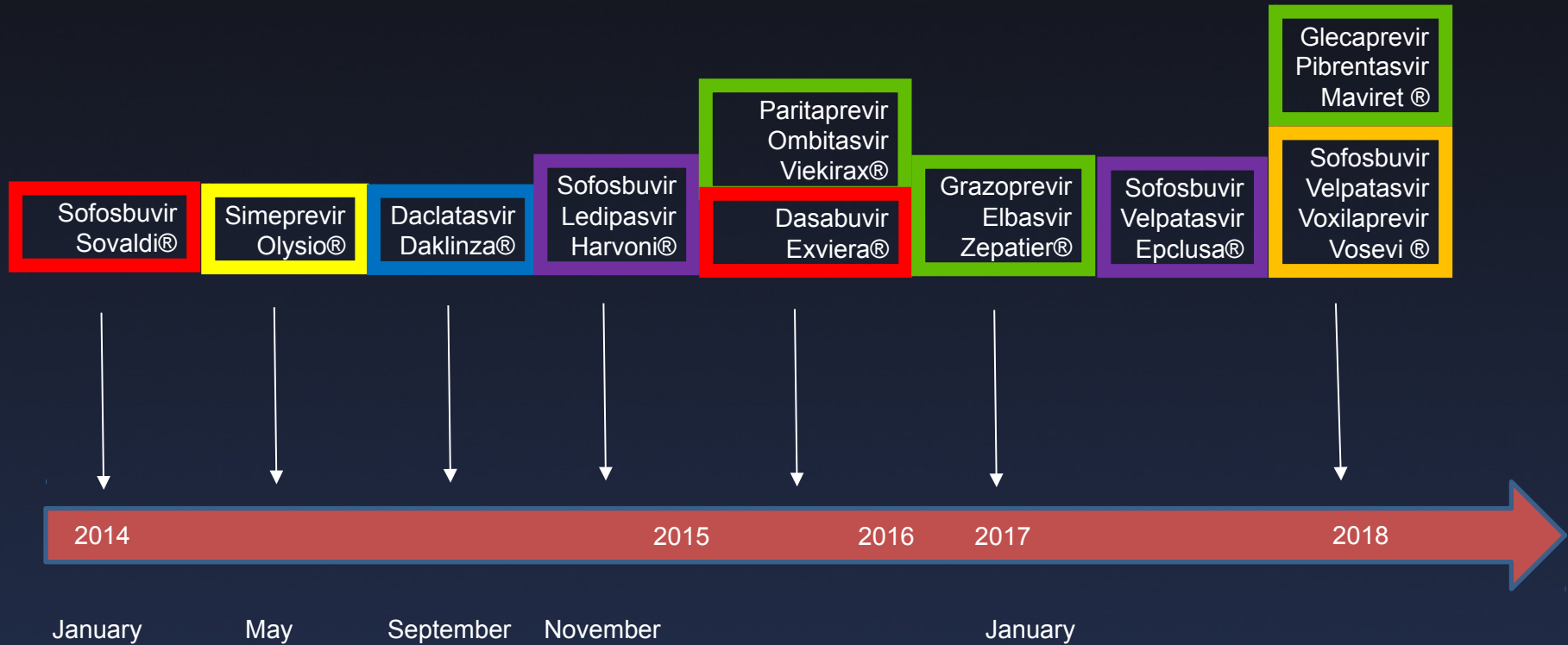
« Today, I decide the universal access to HCV treatment »

Marisol Touraine

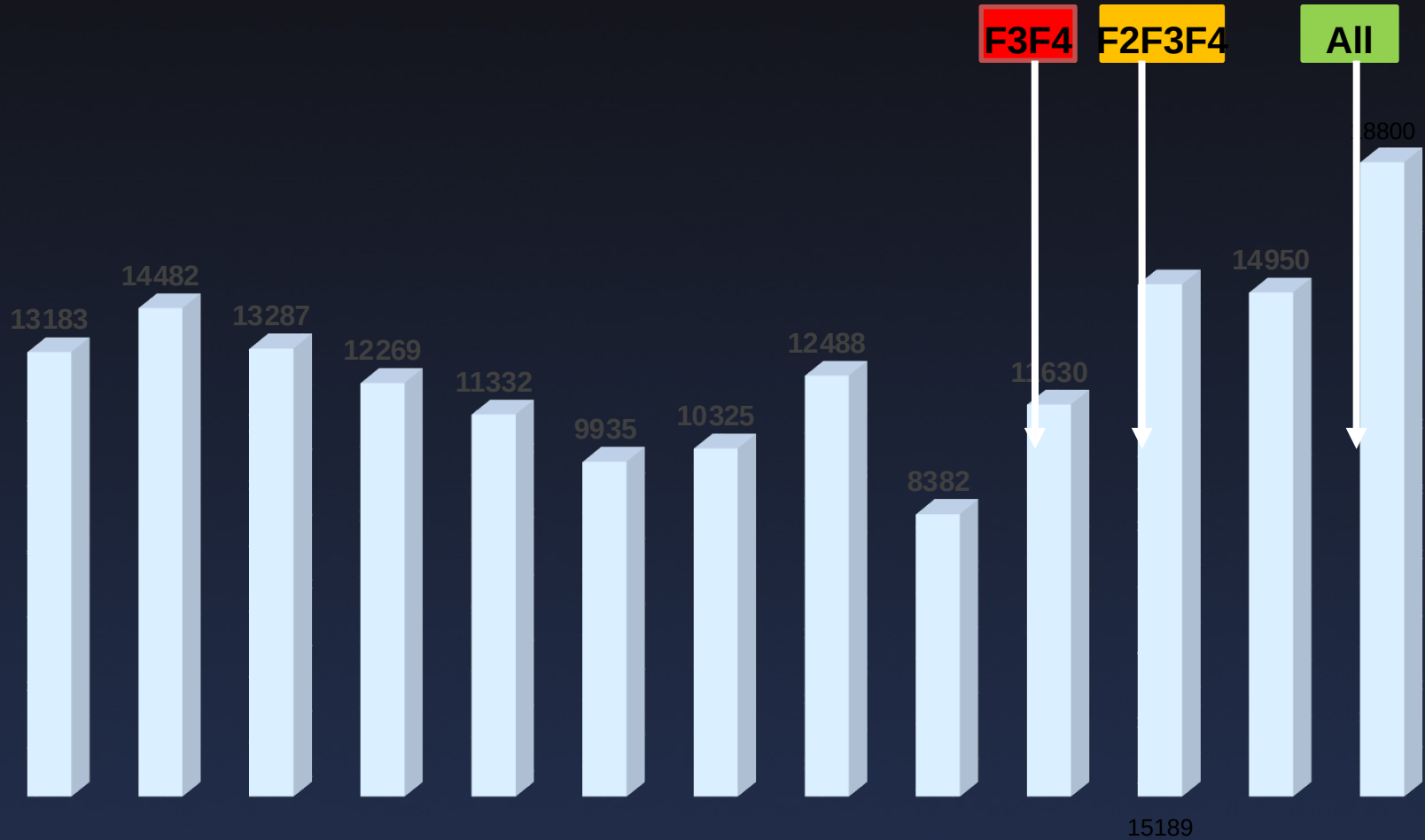
Ministre des Affaires Sociales, de la Santé et des droits des femmes

25 May 2016

All drugs are available in France



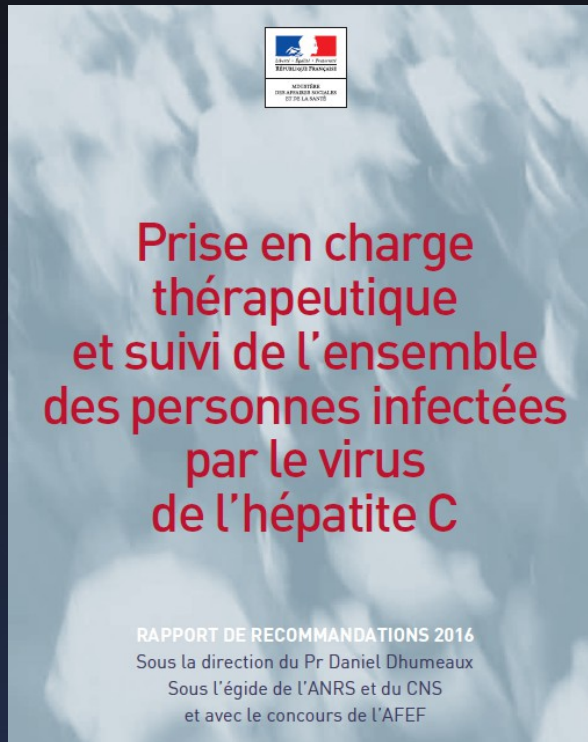
Number of treated patients in France



In France, factors to ensure access to DAA

- No drug or alcohol consumption restrictions to access treatment
- DAA coverage for all patients regardless of their level of fibrosis
- Full treatment coverage by national health care system, with no co-payment requirements
- Availability and management of funding for DAAs at national level

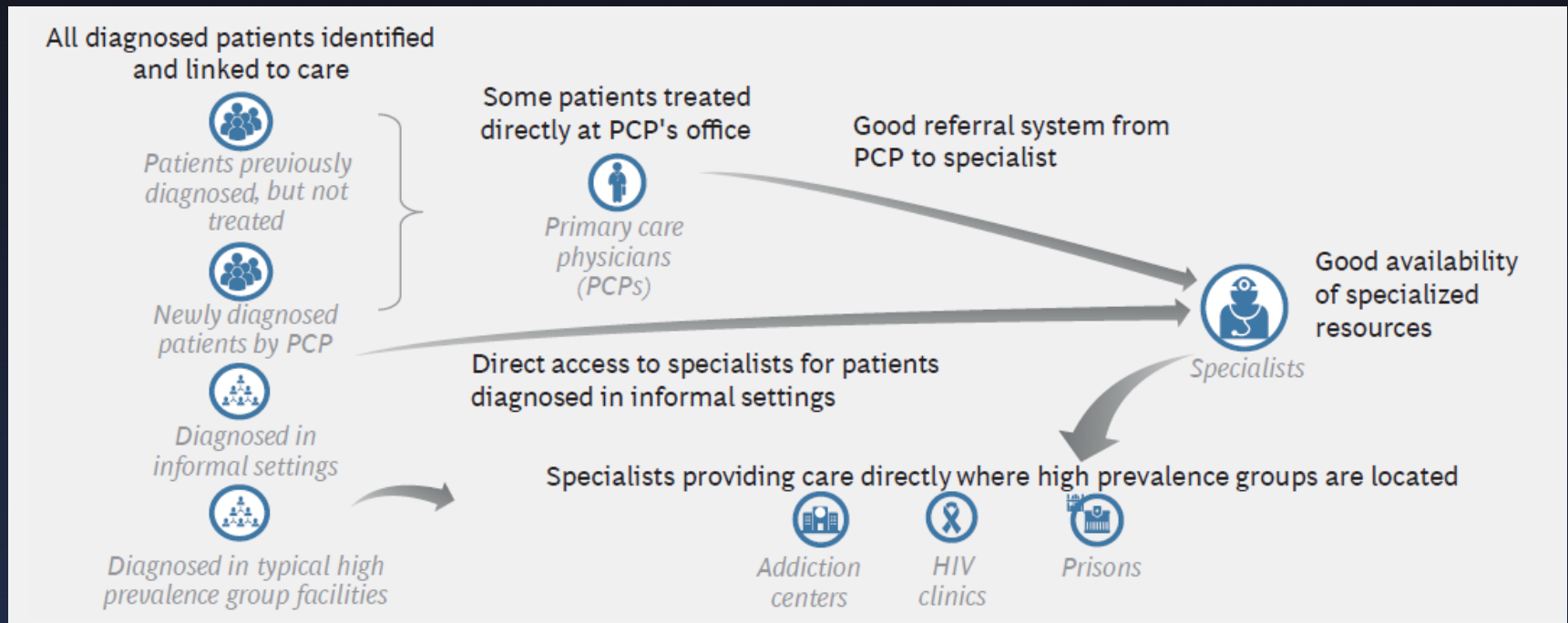
How to facilitate access to treatment



- General population
- Drug users
- Prisons
- Migrants
- HIV-HCV
- MSM

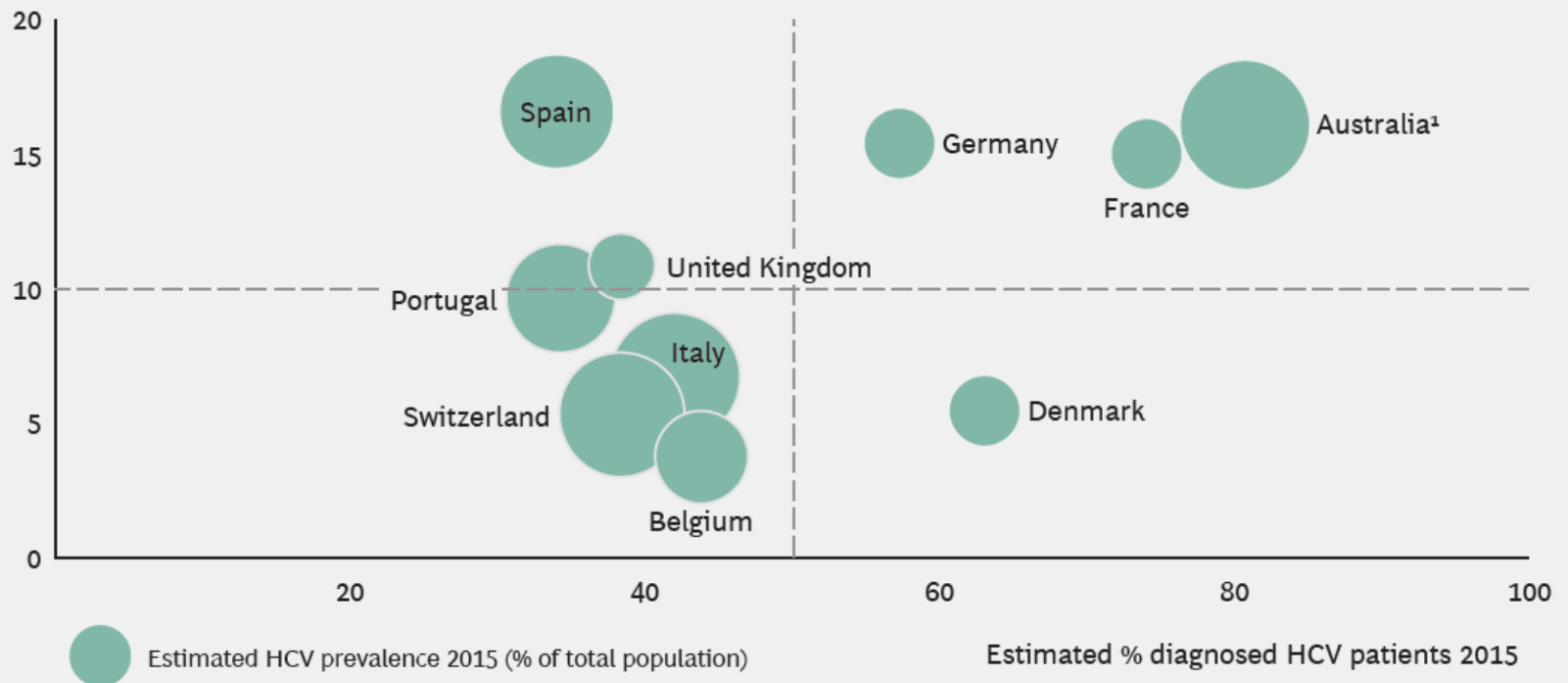
October 2016

Care and access to qualified health services in France



Treatment and diagnosis rates in France

Estimated % treated HCV patients 2015 + 2016



1. Note that number of patients treated increased significantly in Australia from ~7k in 2015 to ~30k in 2016. DAAs were approved early 2016
Source: Polaris Observatory (2017) Razavi and al. (2017); The Polaris Observatory HCV Collaborators (2016)⁹



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Access to HCV elimination

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GPs for HCV elimination

- In three countries GPs can either prescribe treatment or provide treatment to patients in their office once it is prescribed; an identified best practice, especially in two countries (Australia and Germany).
- In France, authorizing GPs to prescribe direct-acting antivirals (DAAs) is one of the key actions against HCV.

GPs to prescribe direct-acting antivirals (DAAs)

- Reduces strain on secondary care, leaving only complex cases for the specialist
- Increases awareness levels among GPs—if they can prescribe treatment, they will increase their knowledge of the disease and risk factors, thereby driving screening rates
- Increases patient engagement and diagnosis rates due to more convenient and people-centered care

Experience in Australia

- In Australia and Germany, there is a wide range of doctors able to prescribe DAAs, including GPs.
- In Australia, the share of prescriptions made by GPs has increased from 4% in March 2016 (when DAAs were introduced) to 19% in September 2016 (The Kirby Institute, 2017).

For the future in France

- Improve **understanding of the epidemiology** in France, including understanding of groups with a high prevalence, to better target strategies
- Implementation of HCV **media awareness campaigns** with prevention as a priority message for the general population
- Increase **availability of specialized resources** for patients, minimizing their need to travel to get access to medication
- Implementation of an **HCV national patient registry** of all diagnosed patients to allow tracking of patients after treatment is complete and capturing of outcomes beyond SVR (mortality, reinfection, liver complication rates, etc.)

Conclusion

- Goal : HCV elimination in France in 2022
- Increase screening
- Increase treatment