2019 Connecticut Syringe Services Programs (SSPs): Data Summary

By

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Date: 7/15/2020

Presentation Outline

- 2019 SSPs Data
- 2019 SSPs in Connecticut
- 2011 to 2019 Trend: Number of Clients who Visited SSPs
- SSP Clients by Zip Code (Pareto Chart)
- SSP Clients (new vs previous)
- SSP Clients by Gender, Age Group and Race/Ethnicity
- SSP Clients by HEP C, HIV/AIDS, HEP B and HEP A Self-Reported Diagnosis
- SSP Clients HIV/HEP C tested within and over 12 Months time periods
- Number of Syringes Distributed and Collected
- 2011 to 2019 Trend: Number of Syringes Distributed and Collected
- SSP Clients by Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Substance Used
- SSP Clients by Primary Substance Use Route and Frequency
- Fentanyl Test Strips and Crack Kits Distribution
- OD Prevention: Kits distributed, Trainings and Reversals
- Conclusion
- Next Steps

2019 SSPs Data

- All data is self-reported by the client, unless specified
- Data analyzed was for **2019** calendar year and reflects information obtained from the ***neo360*** data collection system used by **13 SSPs**.

AIDS CT	**APEX**
Alliance for Living	**GBAPP**
GHHRC (w/ SWAN)	**Liberation Programs**
Perceptions Programs Inc. (w/ UNCAS Health District)	**Yale University CHCV**
Mid-Fairfield AIDS Proj.	**StamfordCARES**
Waterbury HD	

- **Data limitations:** Intentional reporting bias (e.g., the participant wants to be seen in a positive way), and/or unintentional reporting bias (e.g., the participant simply forgot that they had engaged in a risk behavior).
- Questions about the data can be emailed to: ramon.rodriguez-santana@ct.gov
- General questions about the SSPs can be emailed to: ramon.rodriguez-santana@ct.gov

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2019 SSPs in Connecticut

SSP	Sites
AIDS CT	Hartford and Middletown
Alliance for Living	New London and Norwich
APEX	Danbury and Waterbury
GBAPP	Bridgeport
GHHRC (w/ SWAN)	Hartford, New Britain, Bristol, New Haven, Enfield and Torrington
Liberation Programs	Stamford, Norwalk, Bridgeport
Mid-Fairfield AIDS Proj.	Norwalk
Perceptions Programs Inc. (w/ UNCAS Health District)	Windham and Norwich
StamfordCARES	Stamford
Yale University CHCV	New Haven
Waterbury HD	Waterbury

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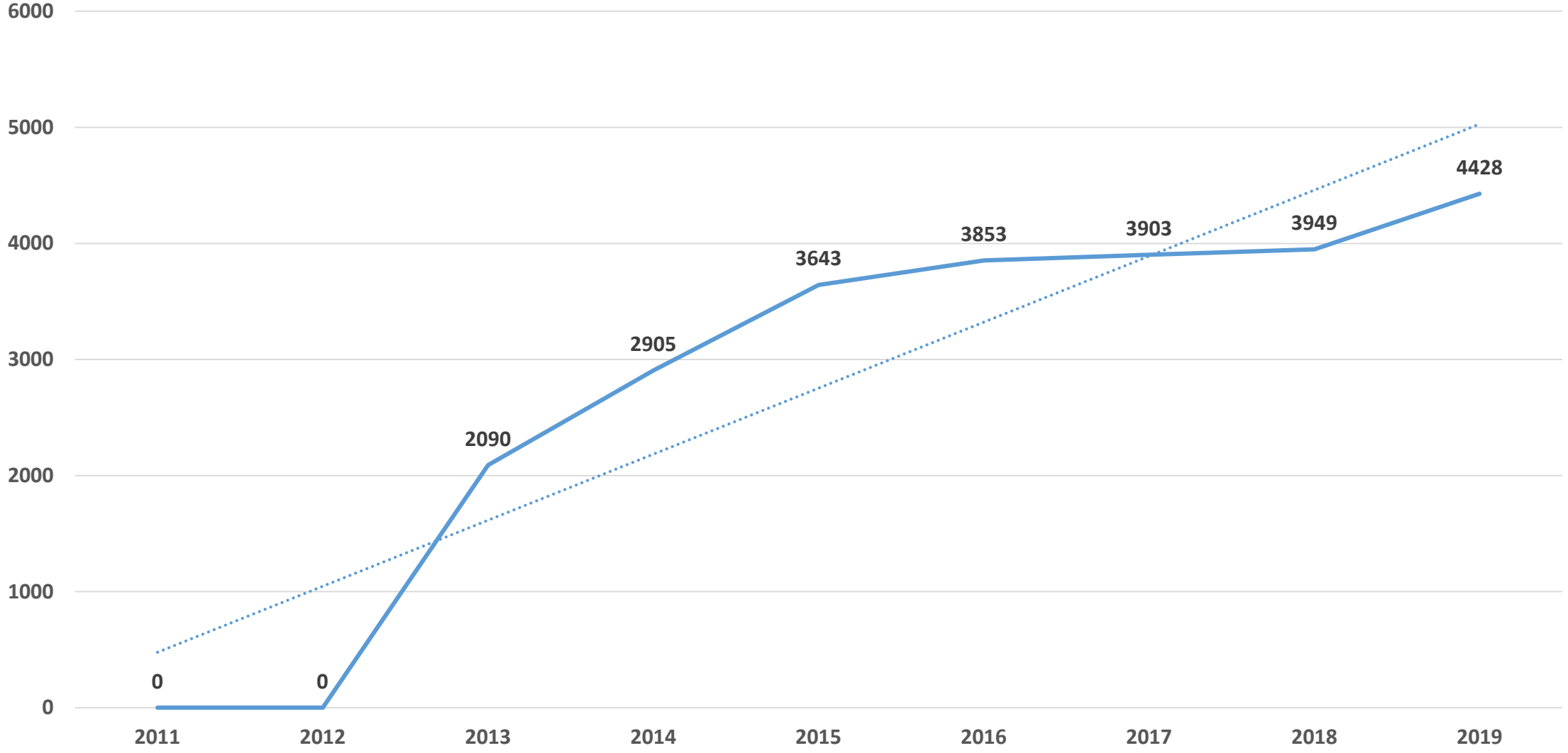
Trend of Total Number of Unique Clients who Visited SSPs, 2011 - 2019



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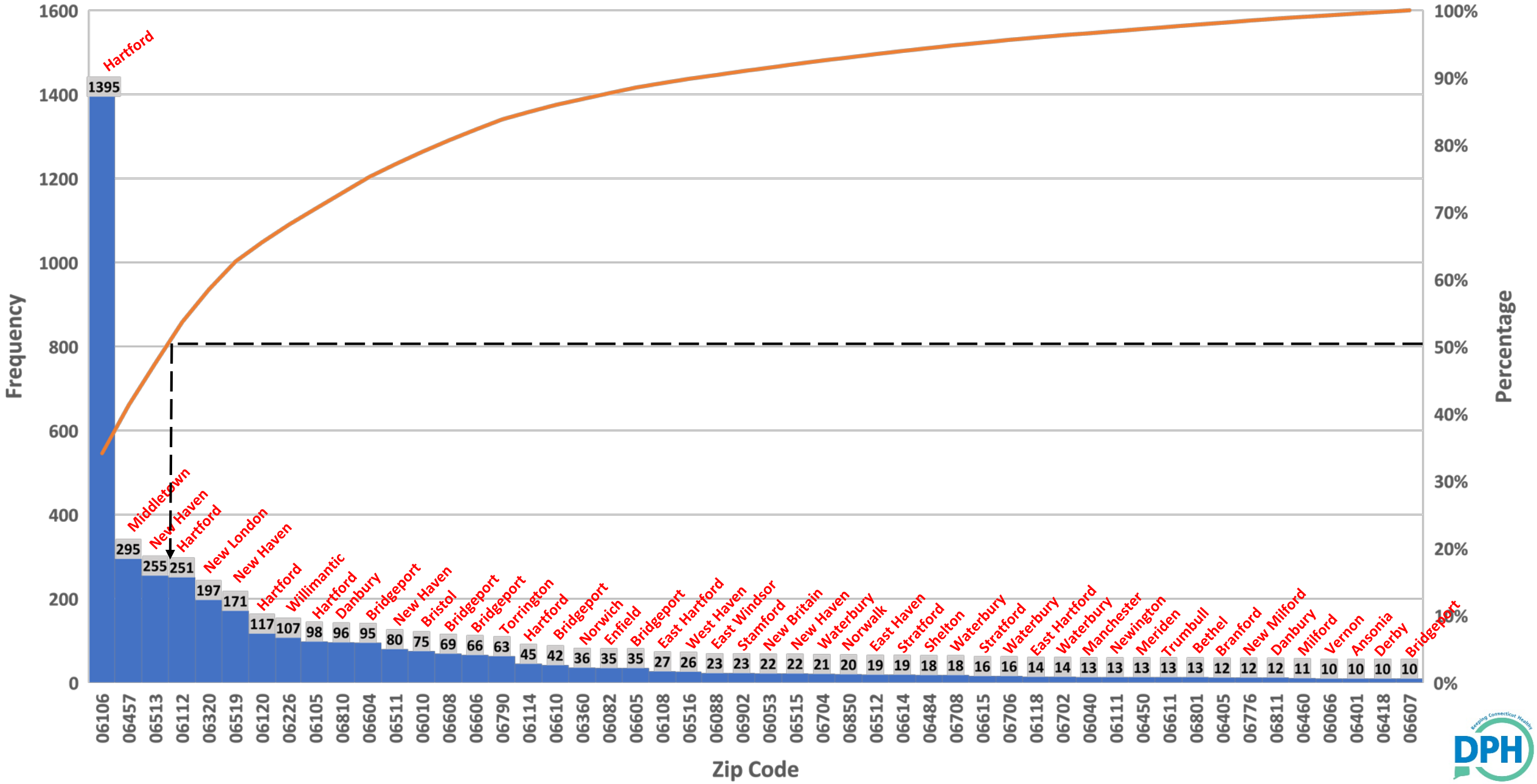
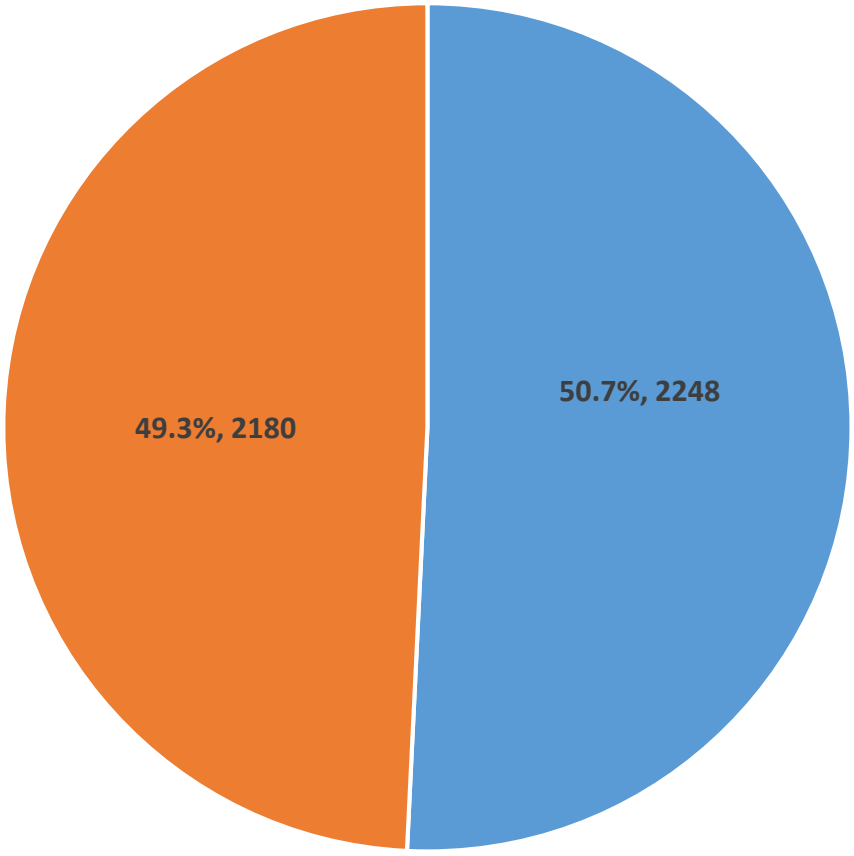
2019 SSP Clients Frequency by Zip Code, Connecticut, (n=4,093)



2019 SSP Clients, (N=4,428)



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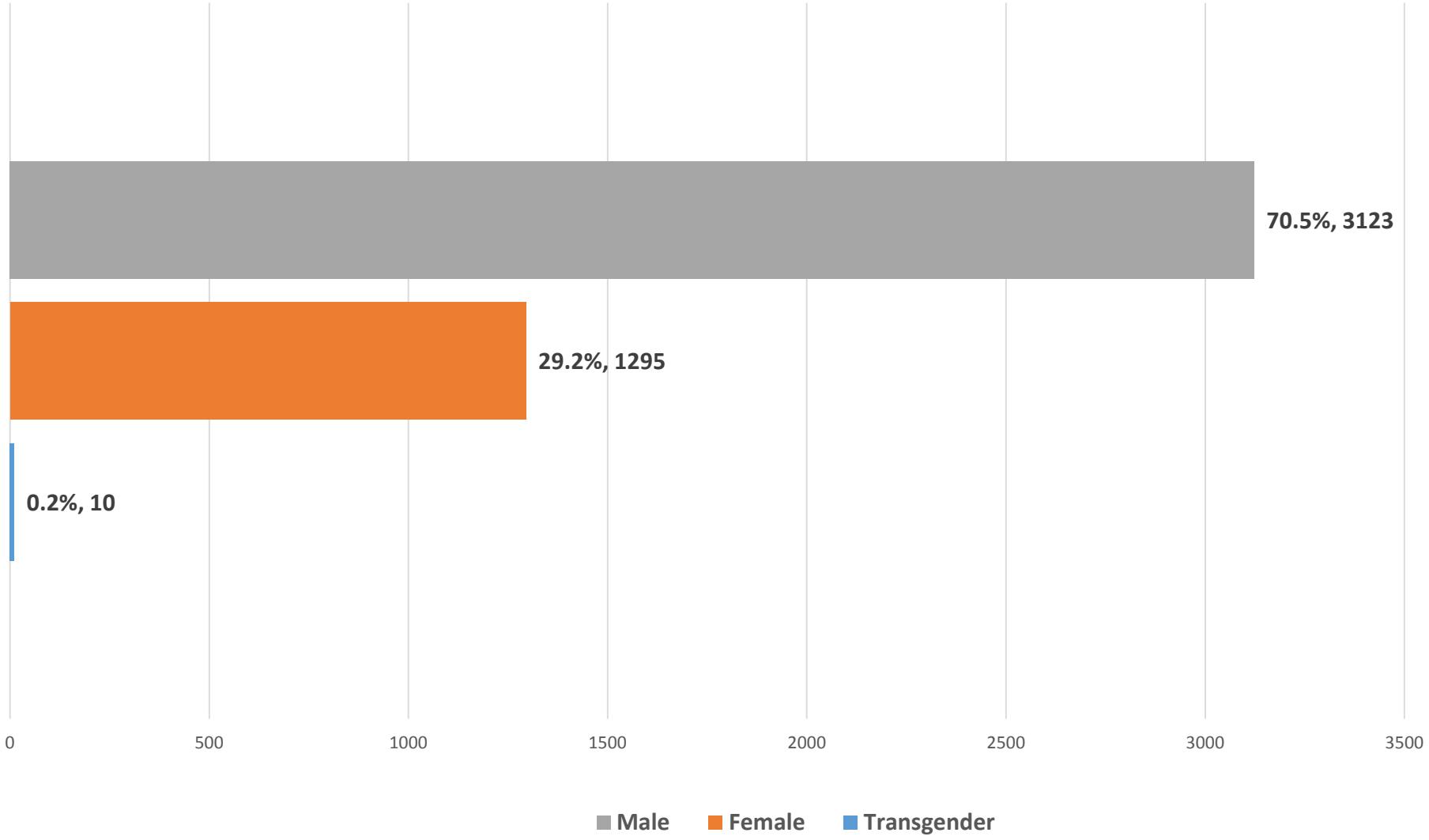
2019 SSP: Clients Gender, Connecticut, (N=4,428)



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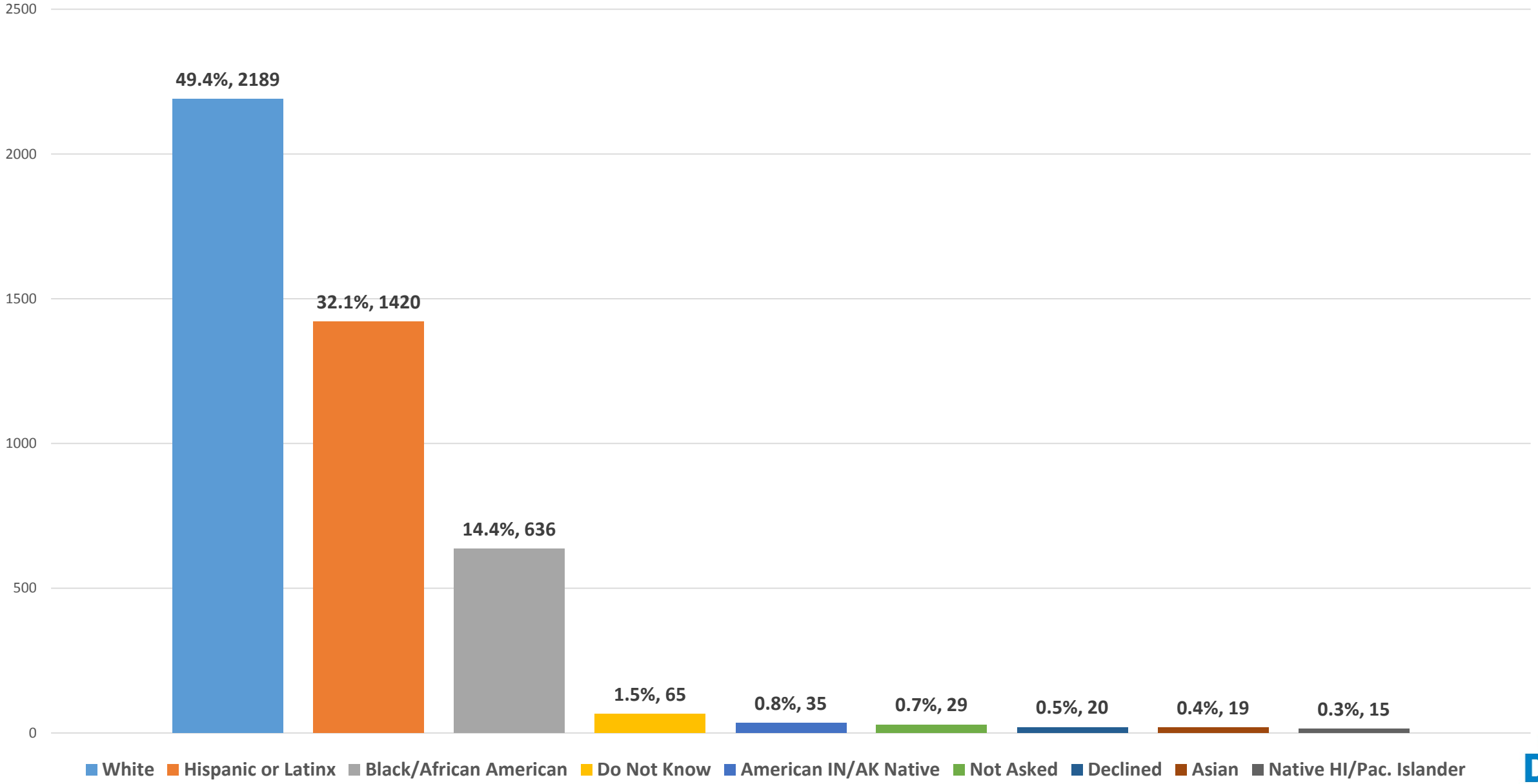
2019 SSP: Clients Race/Ethnicity, Connecticut, (N=4,428)



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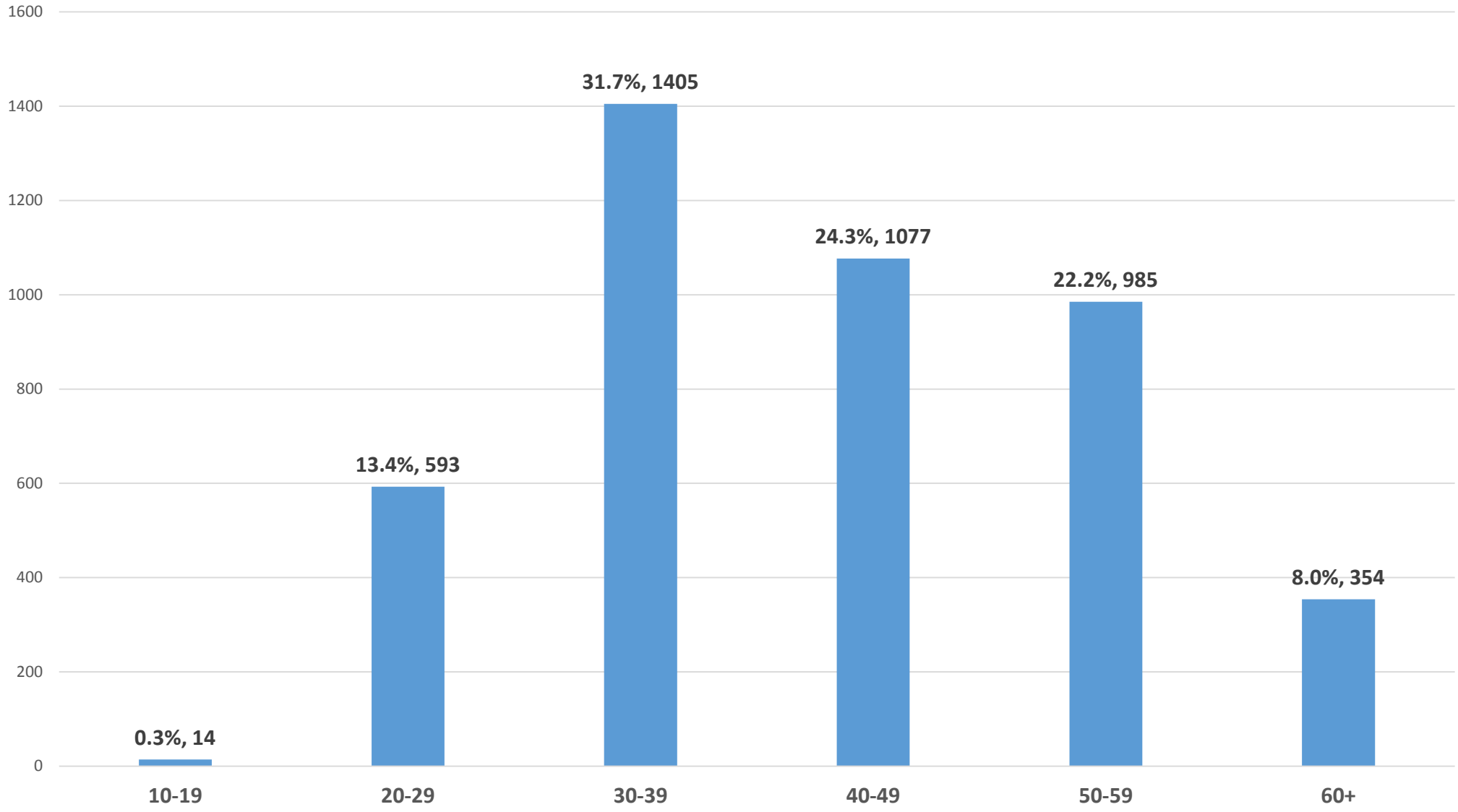
2019 SSP: Clients Age Range, Connecticut, (N=4,428)



Age	
Mean	43
Median	41
Mode	35
Standard Deviation	11
Range	60
Minimum	17
Maximum	77

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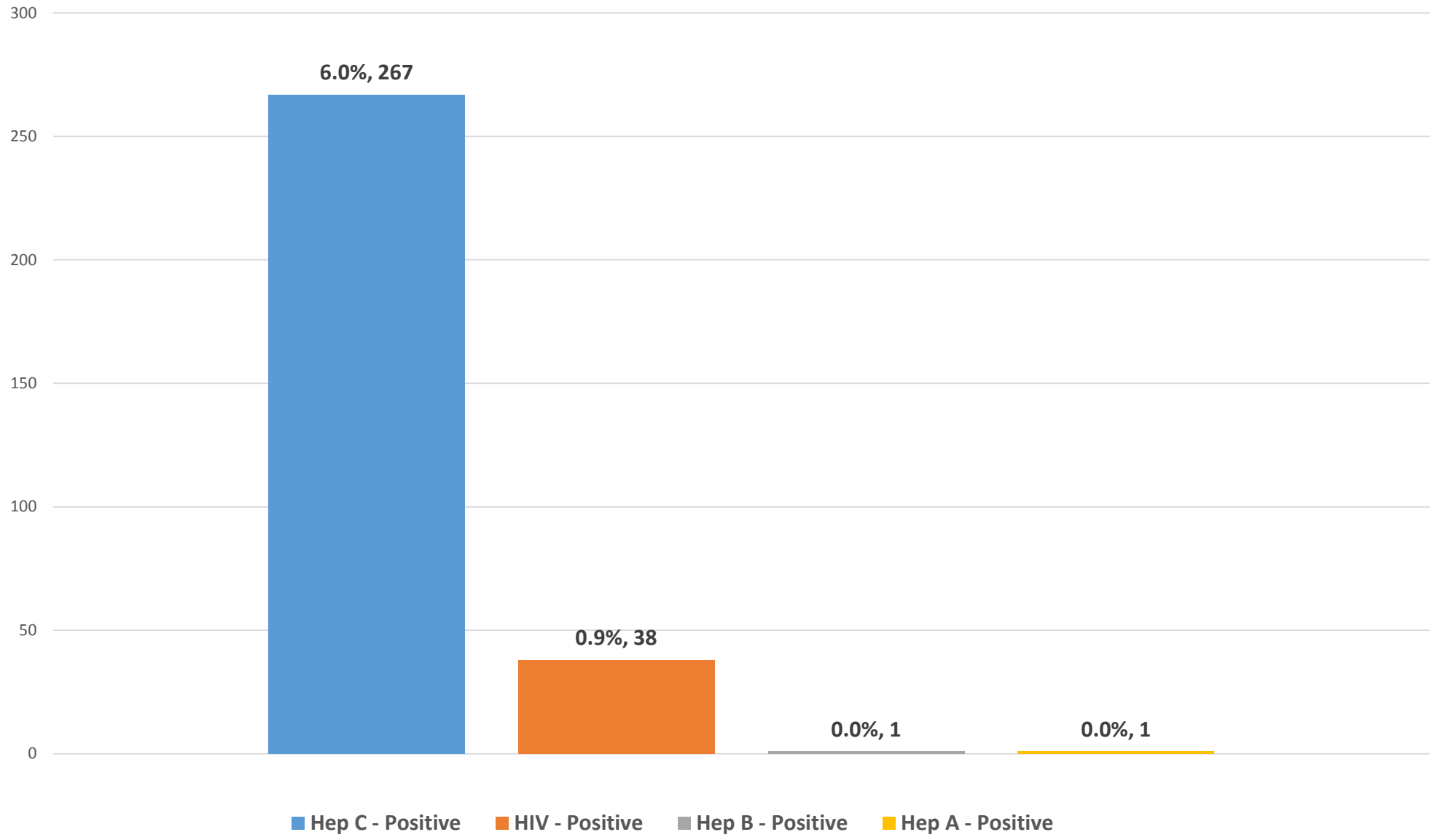
2019 SSP Clients by HEP C, HIV/AIDS, Co-infection and TB Self-Reported Diagnosis, (N=4,428)



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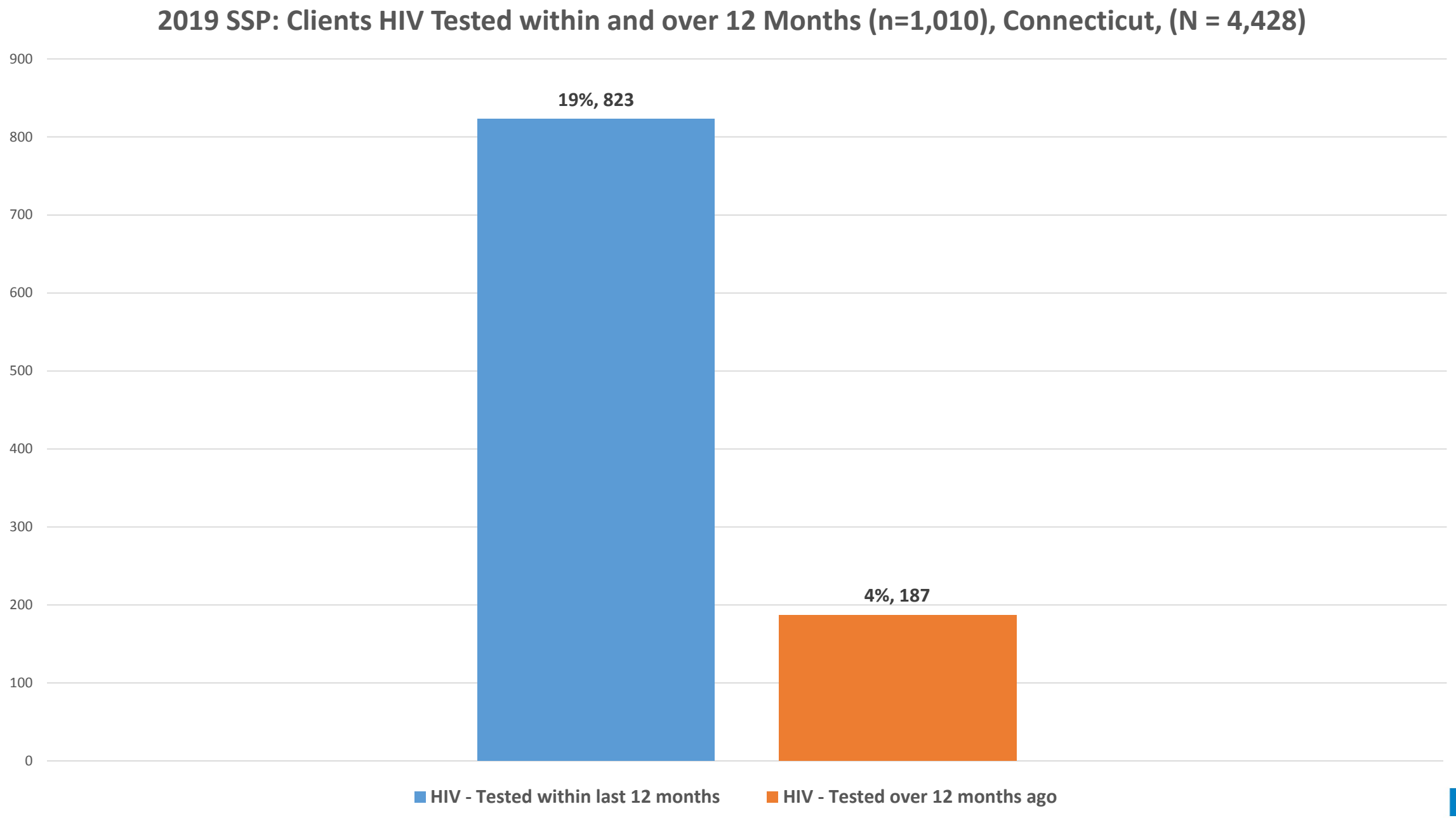
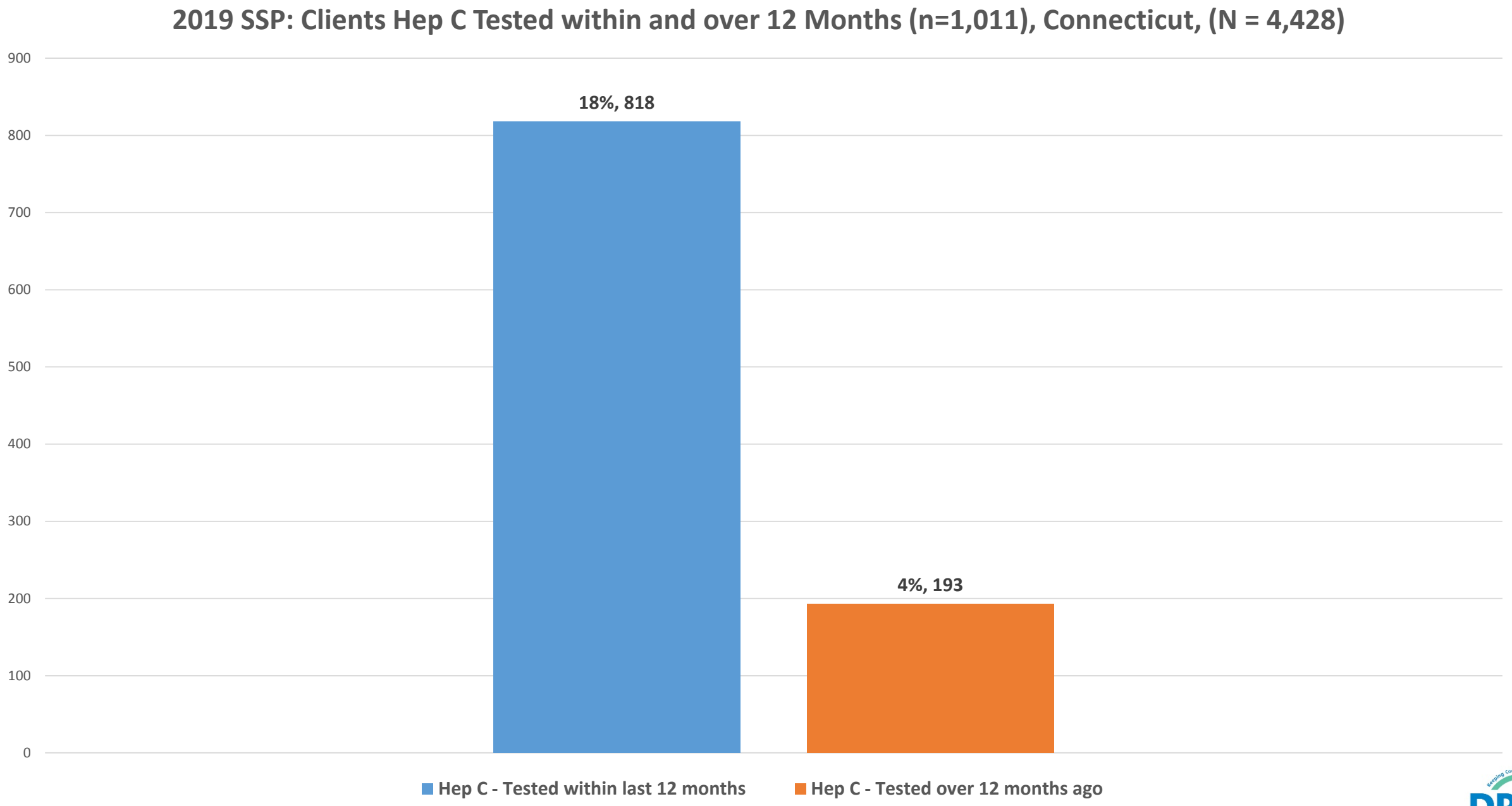
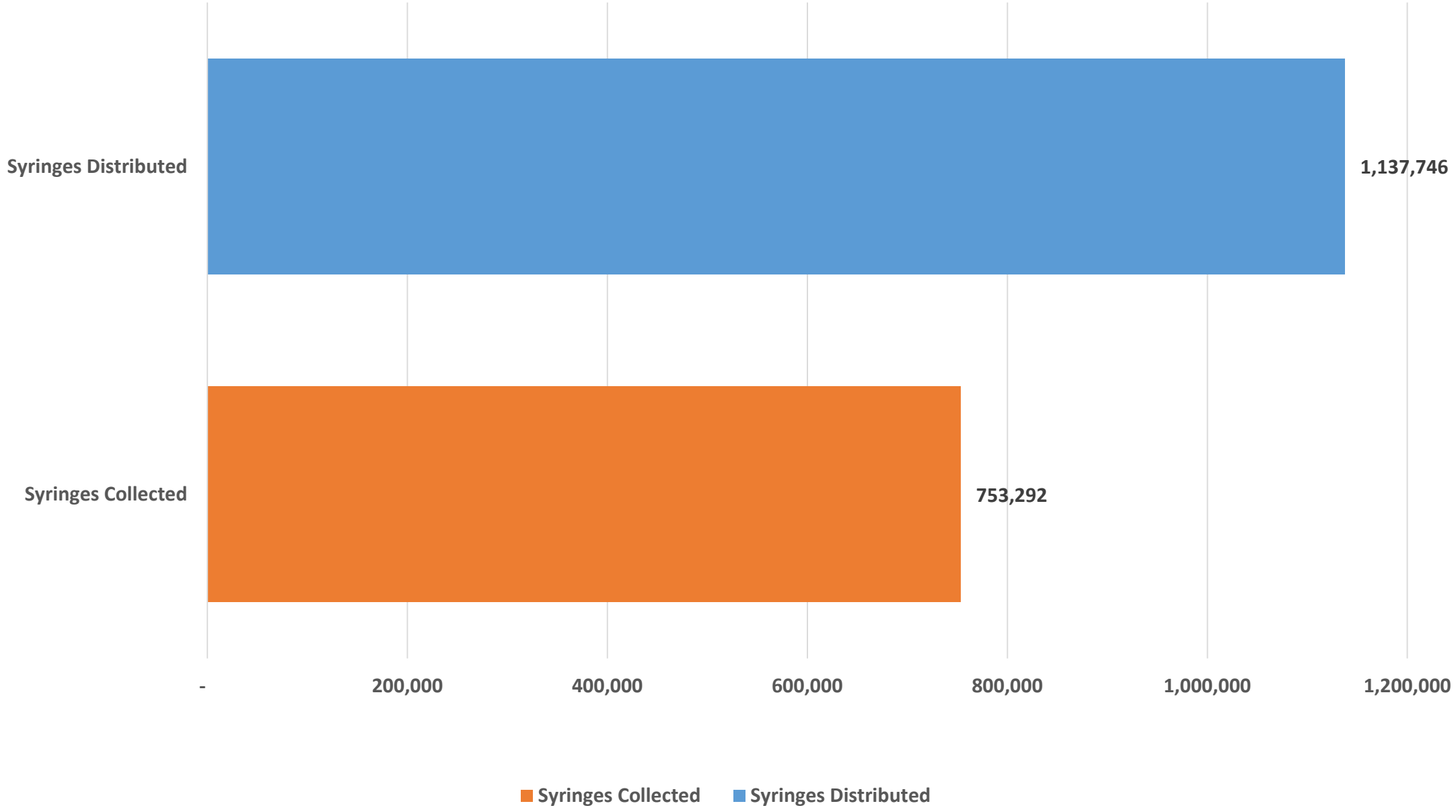

2019 SSP: Clients HIV Tested within and over 12 Months (n=1,010), Connecticut, (N = 4,428)
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
19%, 823
4%, 187
HIV - Tested within last 12 months
HIV - Tested over 12 months ago


2019 SSP: Clients Hep C Tested within and over 12 Months (n=1,011), Connecticut, (N = 4,428)
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
18%, 818
4%, 193
Hep C - Tested within last 12 months
Hep C - Tested over 12 months ago

2019 SSP Syringes Distributed vs Collected, (N=4,428)



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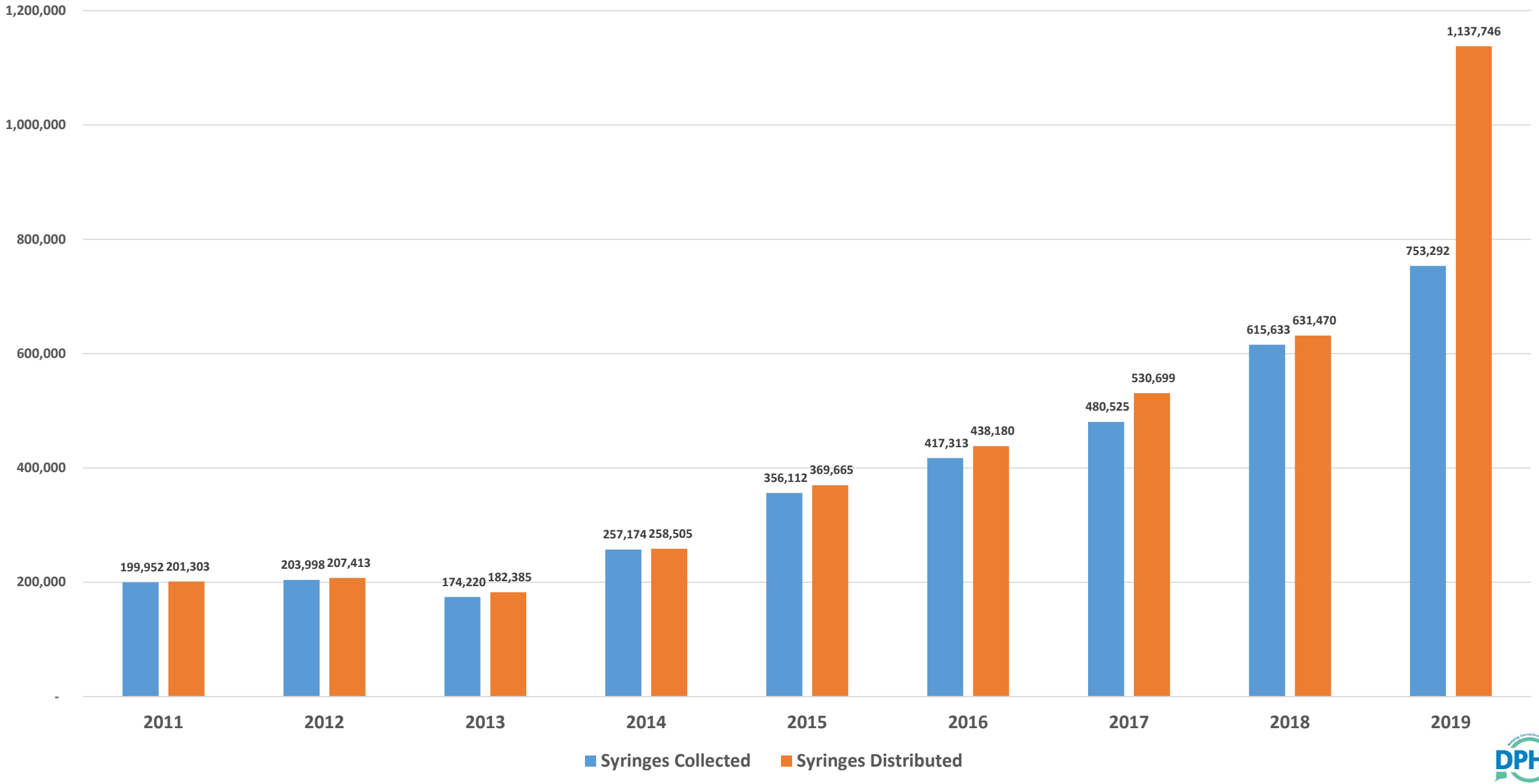
Trend of SSPs' Syringes Collect vs Distributed, 2011 - 2019



2019 SSP: Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Substance Used by Client(s) (n=2,654), Connecticut, (N = 4,428)

Primary Substance Used		
Substance Type	**Client(s)**	**Percentage**
Heroin	2114	79.7%
Crack Cocaine	387	14.6%
Cocaine	108	4.1%
Marijuana/Cannabis	14	0.5%
Methamphetamine	10	0.4%
Prescription Opioids	9	0.3%
Fentanyl	4	0.2%
Heroin Black Tar	3	0.1%
Benzos	2	0.1%
Steroids Anabolic	2	0.1%
Hormones	1	0.04%
Total:	**2,654**	**100.0%**

Secondary Substance Used		
Substance Type	**Client(s)**	**Percentage**
Crack Cocaine	324	49.4%
Cocaine	198	30.2%
Heroin	114	17.4%
Marijuana/Cannabis	10	1.5%
Methamphetamine	3	0.5%
Prescription Opioids	3	0.5%
Benzos	2	0.3%
Oxy	2	0.3%
Total:	**656**	**100.0%**

Tertiary Substance Used		
Substance Type	**Client(s)**	**Percentage**
Crack Cocaine	23	41.8%
Cocaine	9	16.4%
Marijuana/Cannabis	9	16.4%
Benzos	4	7.3%
Heroin	4	7.3%
Methamphetamine	2	3.6%
Oxy	2	3.6%
Prescription Opioids	2	3.6%
Total:	**55**	**100.0%**

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2019 SSP: Primary Substance Use Route and Frequency by Client(s) (n=2,654), Connecticut, (N = 4,428)

Primary Substance Used Route		
Route	**Client(s)**	**Percentage**
IV Arms	2132	80.3%
Smoke	377	14.2%
Snort	43	1.6%
IV Hands	43	1.6%
IV Legs	27	1.0%
IV Feet	19	0.7%
Other Non Injecting	6	0.2%
Swallow	4	0.2%
IV Neck	2	0.1%
IV Groin	1	0.04%
Total:	**2,654**	**100.0%**

Primary Substance Used Frequency		
Route	**Client(s)**	**Percentage**
1 to 3 times per day	1450	54.63%
4 to 6 times per day	771	29.05%
7 to 9 times per day	141	5.31%
More than 10 times per day	108	4.07%
1 to 3 times per Week	77	2.90%
3 to 5 times per Week	23	0.87%
Weekends Only	27	1.02%
Not Known	57	2.15%
Total:	**2,654**	**100.00%**

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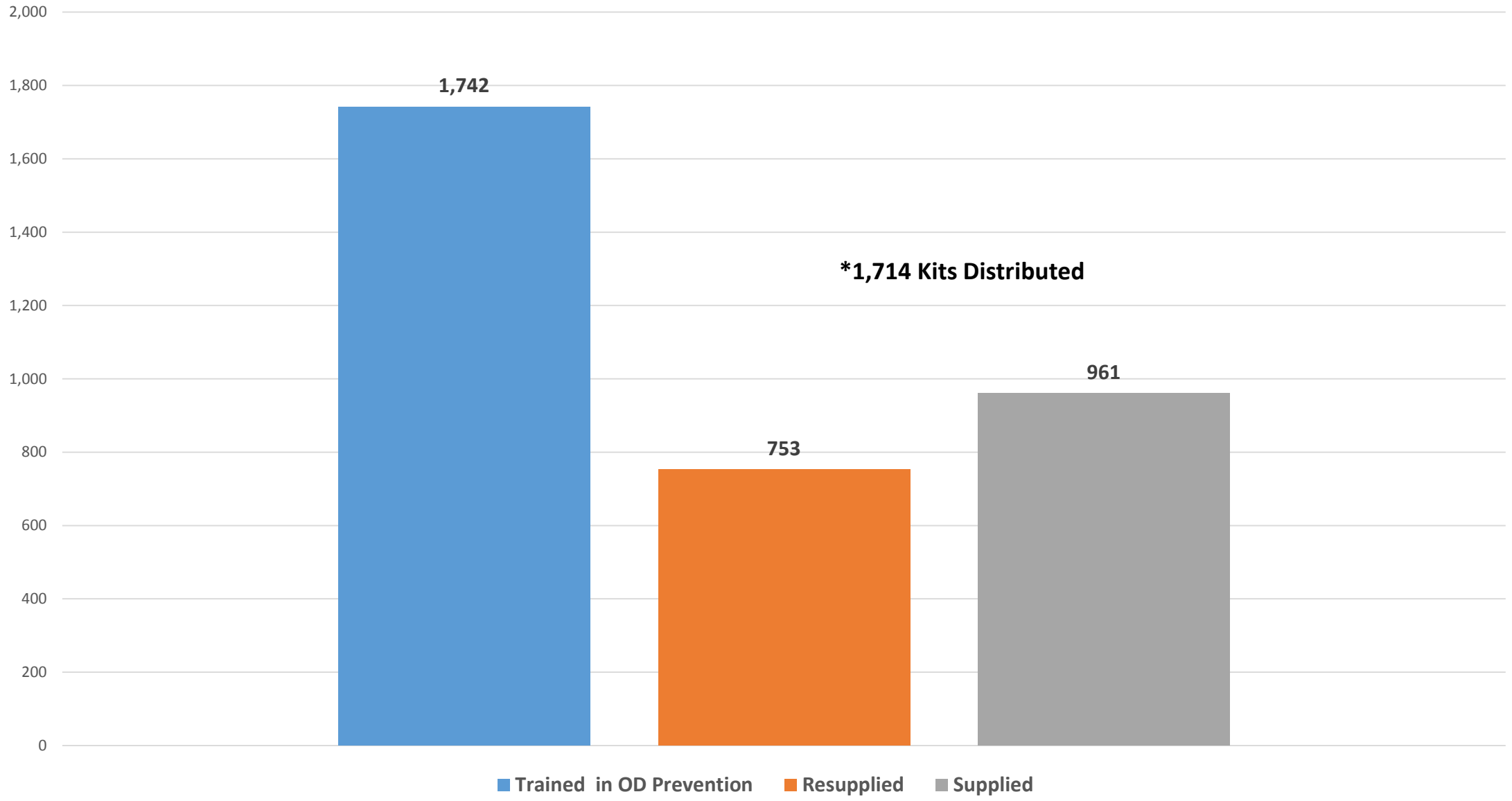
2019 SSP: Clients Trained in OD Prevention, Resupplied and Supplied with Naloxone Kit, Connecticut, (N=4,428)



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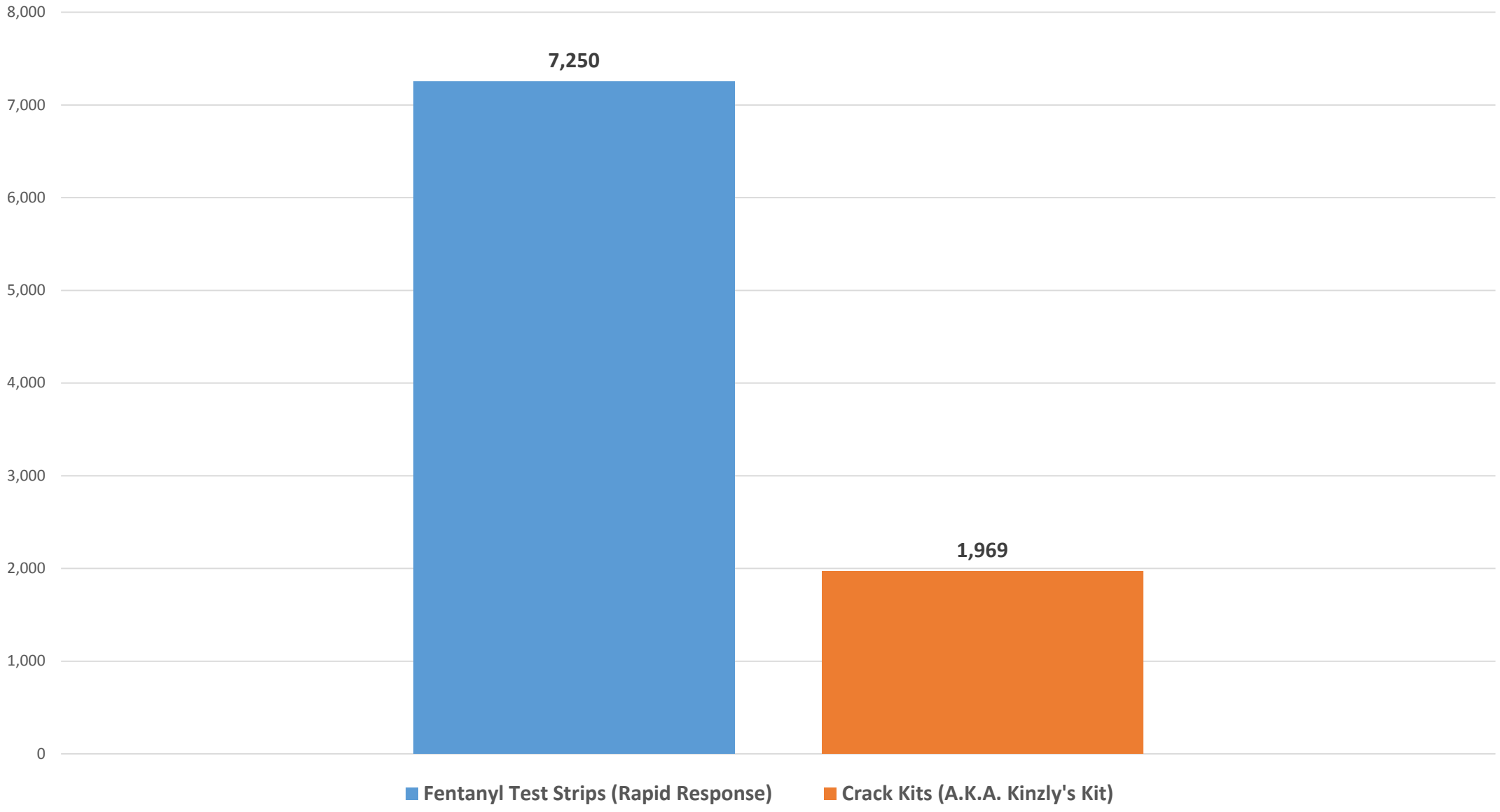
2019 SSP: Fentanyl Test Strips (Rapid Response) and Crack Kits (A.K.A. Kinzly's Kit) Distributed to Clients, Connecticut, (N=4,428)



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Number of OD Kits Distributed (2016-2019)

SSP Clients

- YR 2016 -1,301 Kits Distributed with 208 OD Reversals
- YR 2017 -1,060 Kits Distributed with 158 OD Reversals
- YR 2018 – 515 Kits Distributed with 131 OD Reversals
- YR 2019 – 1,714 Kits Distributed with 274 OD Reversals

Community Naloxone Distribution

- YR 2016 -3,210 Kits Distributed
- YR 2017 -2,122 Kits Distributed
- YR 2018 -408 Kits Distributed
- YR 2019 -2,602 Kits Distributed*

* = DMHAS & DPH Community Naloxone Distribution Project- July, 2019

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Conclusion

- In 2019, there were 13 SSPs (i.e., **10 funded** and **3 supported with supplies)**. This was a 18% increase in the number of SSPs from 2018 (11 SSPs) to 2019.

- 2,248 (50.7%) clients were **new SSP clients**; 2,180 (49.3%) were previous clients

- From **2013** (N =2,090) to **2019** (N=4,428) we had a **112% increase** in number of SSP clients.

- Half of all SSP clients (50%) come from the **06106** (Hartford), **06457** (Middletown) and **06513** (New Haven) zip codes.

- The **Hep C, HIV/AIDS and Coinfection** self reported diagnosis were:
  - 267 (6%) Hep C
  - 38 (.9%) HIV/AIDS
  - 38 (.9%) Coinfection [Hep C/HIV]

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Conclusion (Con.t)

- 2,482 (56%) clients were from **ages 30-49**; 354 (8%) were **60 and older**.
  The median age was **41 years** (range 17-77).

- 7 in 10 (70.5%) clients were **Male**; 1 in 2 (49.4%) were **White;** and almost 1 in 3 (32.1%) clients were **Hispanic/Latinx**

- From **2018** (631,470) to **2019** (1,137,746) we had a **80% increase** in number **syringes distributed**.

- From **2018** (615,633) to **2019** (753,292) we had a **22% increase** in number **syringes collected**.

- **Primary substance used** were heroin (79.7% = 2,114/2,654), crack cocaine (14.5% = 387/2,654), and cocaine (4% = 108/2,654); **Primary substance used route** were IV arm (80.3%), Smoke (14.2%) and Snort (1.6%); **Primary substance used frequency** were '1 to 3 times per day (54.6%), '4 to 6 times per day' (29%) and '7 to 9 times per day' (5.3%)

- 1,714 **OD prevention kits (Naloxone) were distributed**;
  - 1,742 (39%) SSP **clients were trained** in OD prevention
  - 1,714 (753 resupplied + 961 Supplied) kits were distributed
  - 274 OD kits were used to reverse an OD

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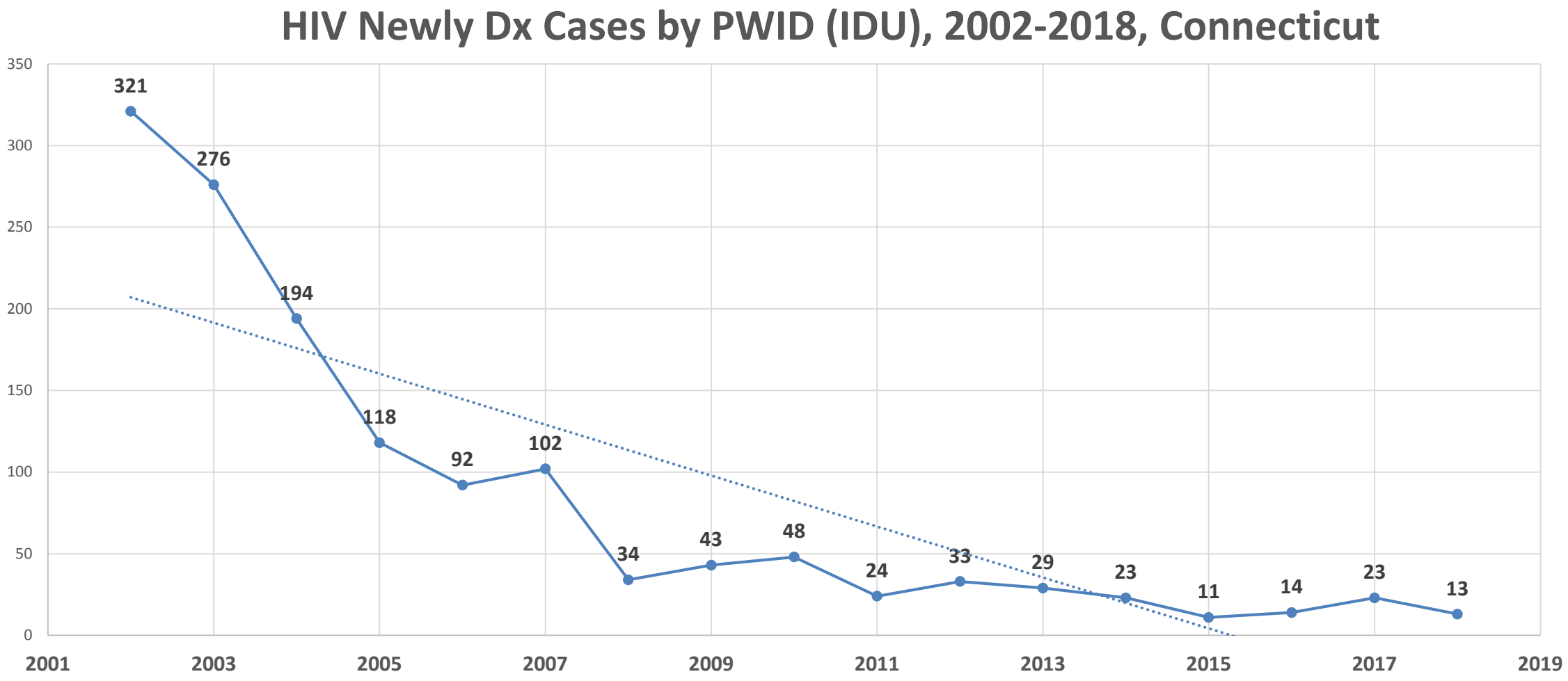
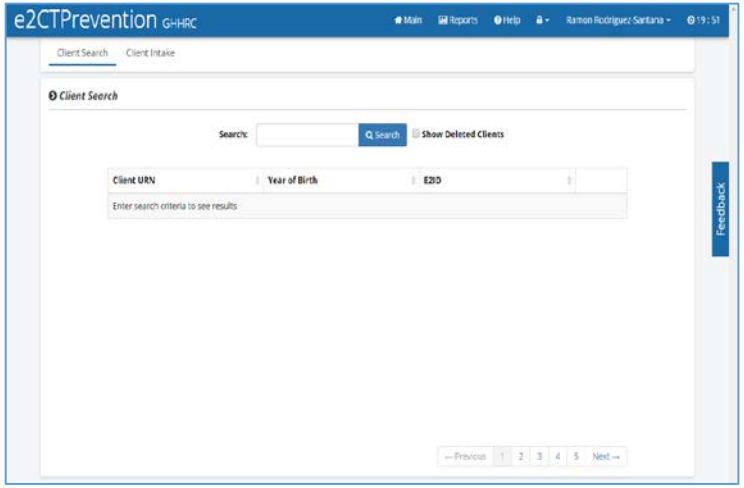
Conclusion (Con.t)



Data source: CT HIV Surveillance Program [tinyurl.com/CTHIVtrend]

Next Steps

- Continue to recruit new clients to SSPs. It is estimated that there are, within a year, between ~6,000 to ~13,000[1] (95% CI) people who inject drugs in Connecticut.
- Increase the number of HIV testing among SSP clients using 'INSTI' one minute test and increase Hep C testing using new methods.
- Continue to work with SSP clients on overdose prevention
- Continue to expand SSP to suburbs and rural areas
- New data collection system (Is here!)
- 2019 Two Page SSP Report (September, 2020)



1 Braithwaite, R.S., & Rodriguez-Santana, R. (2019). *Estimating the size of the intravenous drug user population in Connecticut. Unpublished manuscript.*

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The End

Questions?

Thank you!

Special Thanks to all SSP staff!

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