



# **HCV management and therapy among people who inject drugs in Ticino**

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# **HIGH PREVALENCE OF LIVER FIBROSIS AMONG PEOPLE ATTENDING ADDICTION CLINICS AND REHABILITATION FACILITIES IN SOUTHERN SWITZERLAND:**

## **RESULTS OF TWO DIFFERENT SCREENING PROGRAMS FOR LIVER DISEASE**

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# Two screening campaigns:

2011

Educational session in addiction facilities followed by a Fibroscan<sup>TM</sup> and ALT testing free of charge in the liver clinic ("opt-in" strategy)

2013-2014

Fibroscan<sup>TM</sup> performed directly in loco as an "opt-out" counselling and testing program

In both cases the results were discussed with a specialist and integrated in the medical records.



# Characteristics of the participants (n=199)

	Total	Age (median)	Gender M/F (M%)	ALT (mean)	TE 10 valid/total	IQR ratio ≤0.3/valid	TE successful/ total
First survey (2011)	82	45 y	65/17 (79%)	52 IU/ml	73/82	61/73	61/82 (74%)
Second survey (2013/14)	117	45 y	71/46 (61%)	Not collected	99/117	93/99	93/117 (79%)

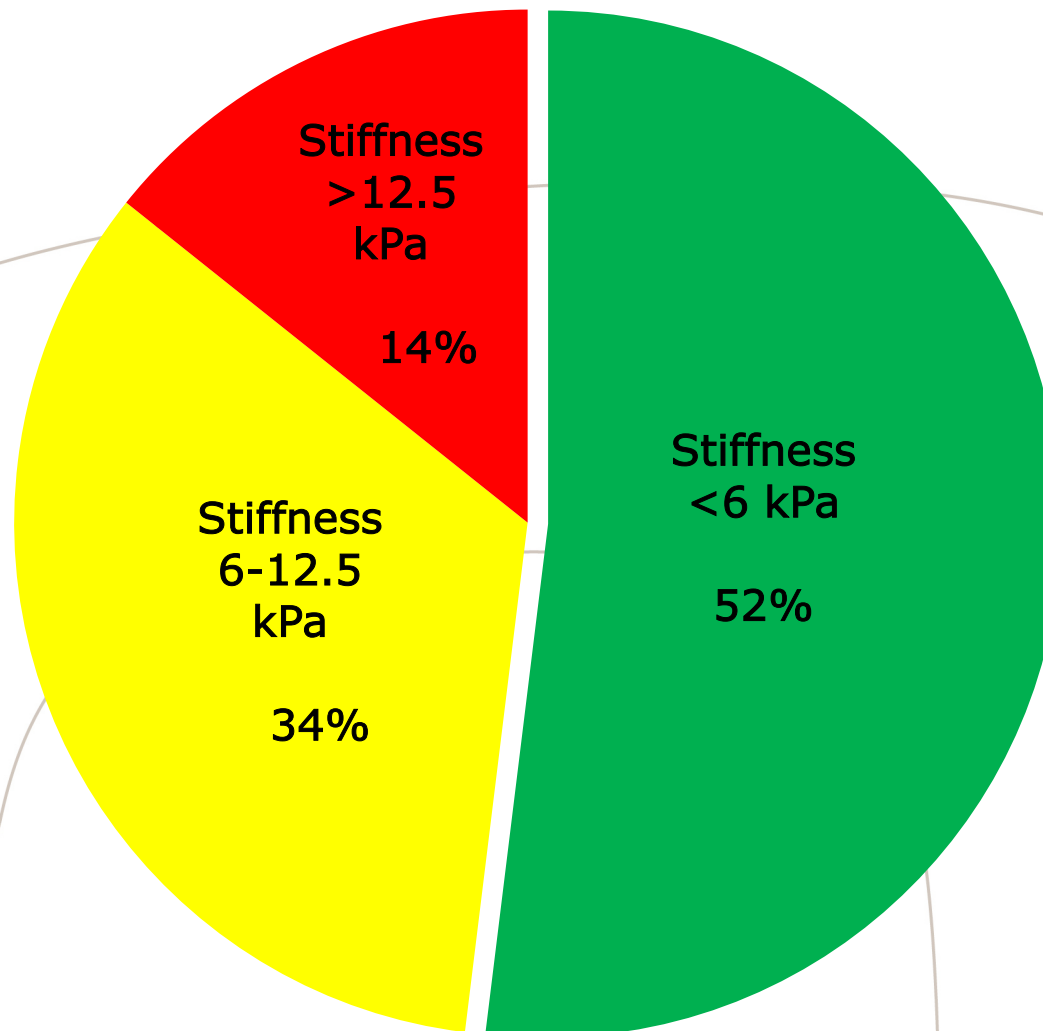


# Results

	First survey		Second survey		Pooled	
	2011		2013-14		results	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Stiffness <6 kPa	37	61%	43	46%	80	52%
Stiffness 6-9.5 kPa	14	23%	28	30%	42	27%
Stiffness 9.5-12.5 kPa	1	2%	9	10%	10	6%
Stiffness >12.5 kPa	9	15%	13	14%	22	14%
Total	61		93		154	



# Results





# Conclusions

Very high burden of liver disease among PWID in southern Switzerland:

- Almost half of the subjects who were screened successfully had abnormal liver stiffness values, requiring at least a second step of investigation
- About 1 out of 7 participants in both screenings had results compatible with advanced fibrosis/cirrhosis, requiring some deeper diagnostic and a possible specific therapy





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# HEPATITIS C TREATMENT ON PWUD IN THE DAA'S ERA: HIGH RATE OF VIROLOGICAL RESPONSE IN THE REAL LIFE

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# PWID treated in our centers in Ticino (Ingrado + Epatocentro)

n=62 patients started  
treatment

n=60 at EOT

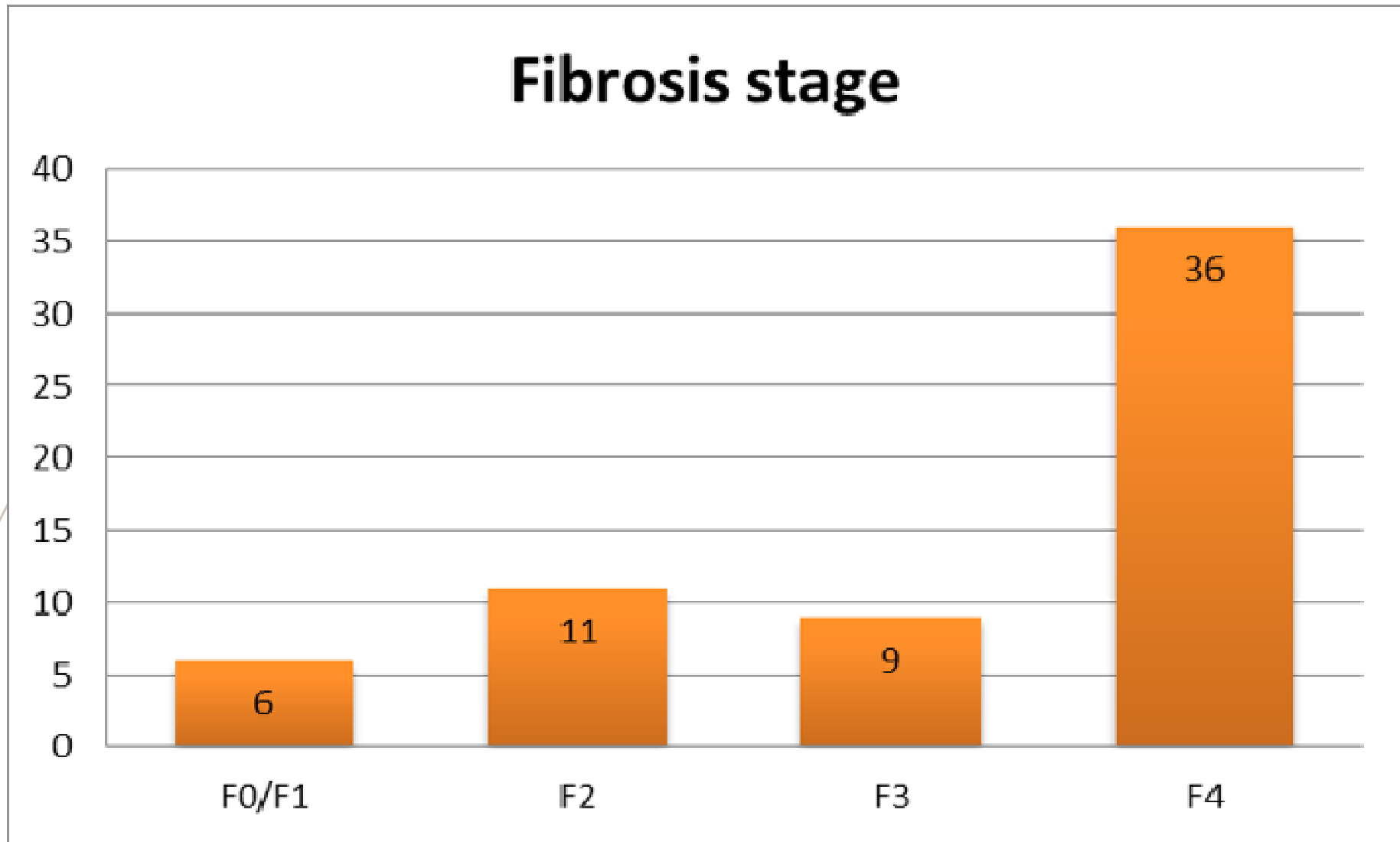
- 1 pt discontinued  
1 pt died (unrelated)

n=56 at W4 PT

- 52 SVR4 – 4 failures  
4 ongoing follow-ups

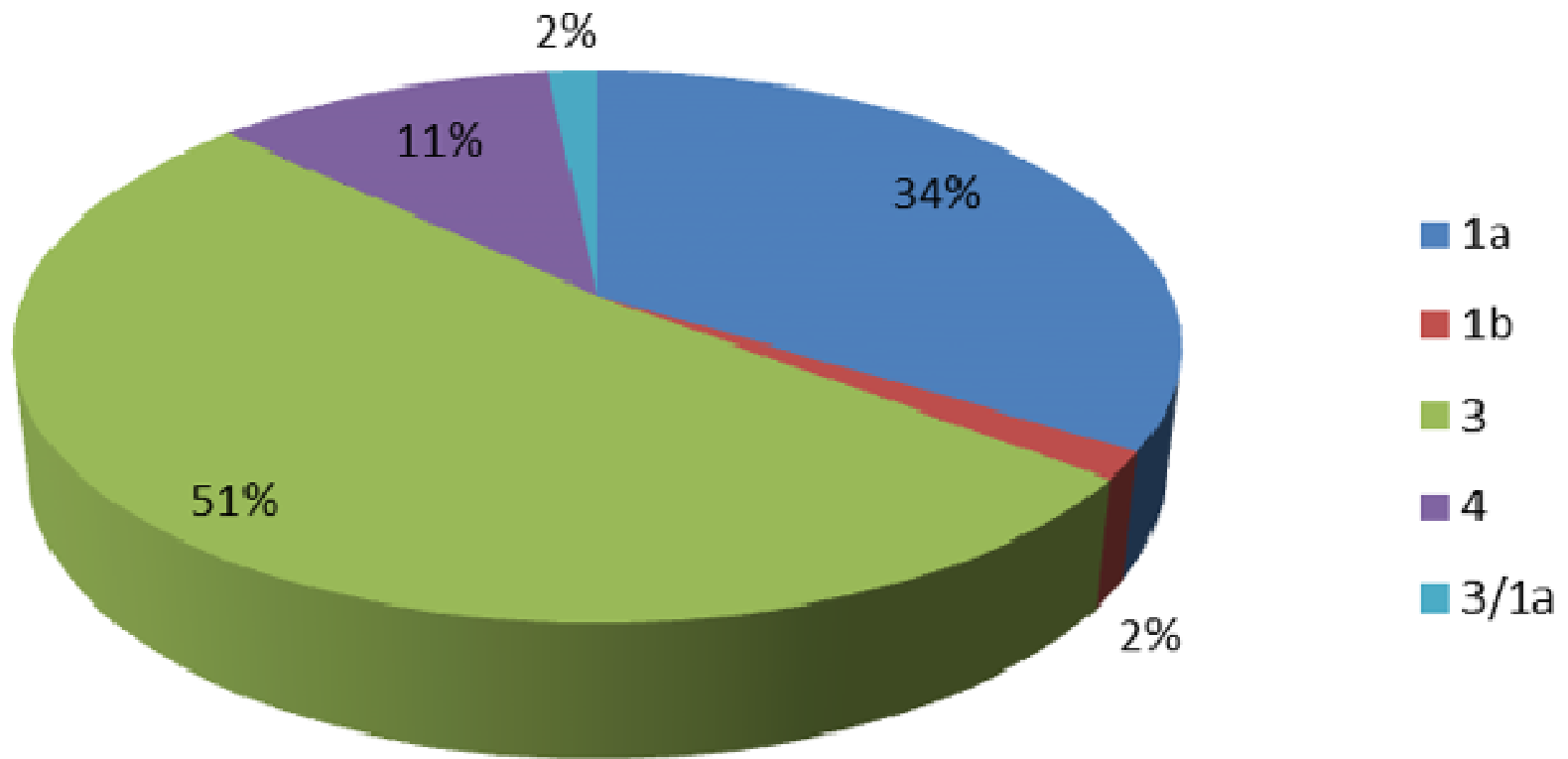
n=48 at W12 PT

- 44 SVR12 – 4 failures  
12 ongoing follow-ups





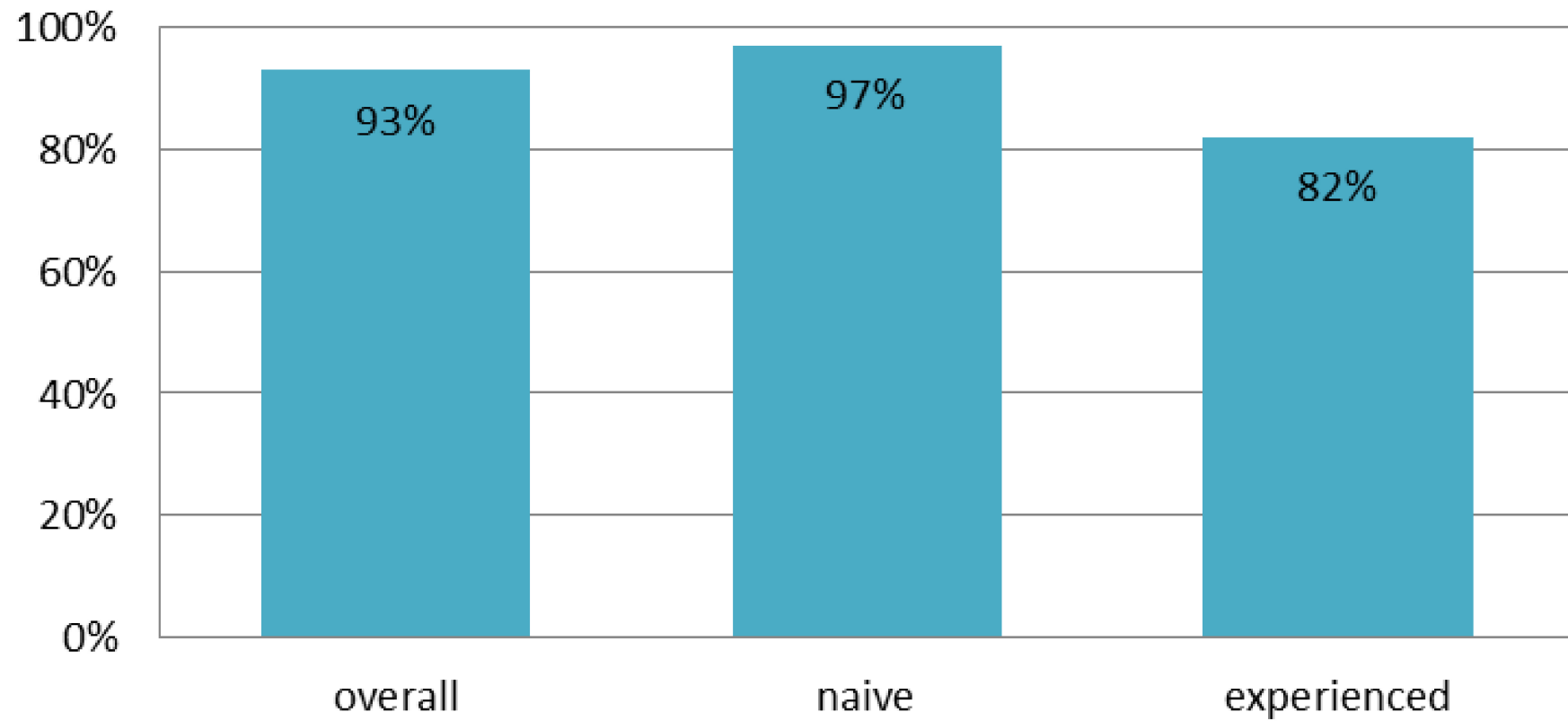
## Genotype distribution





## SVR4

n = 56



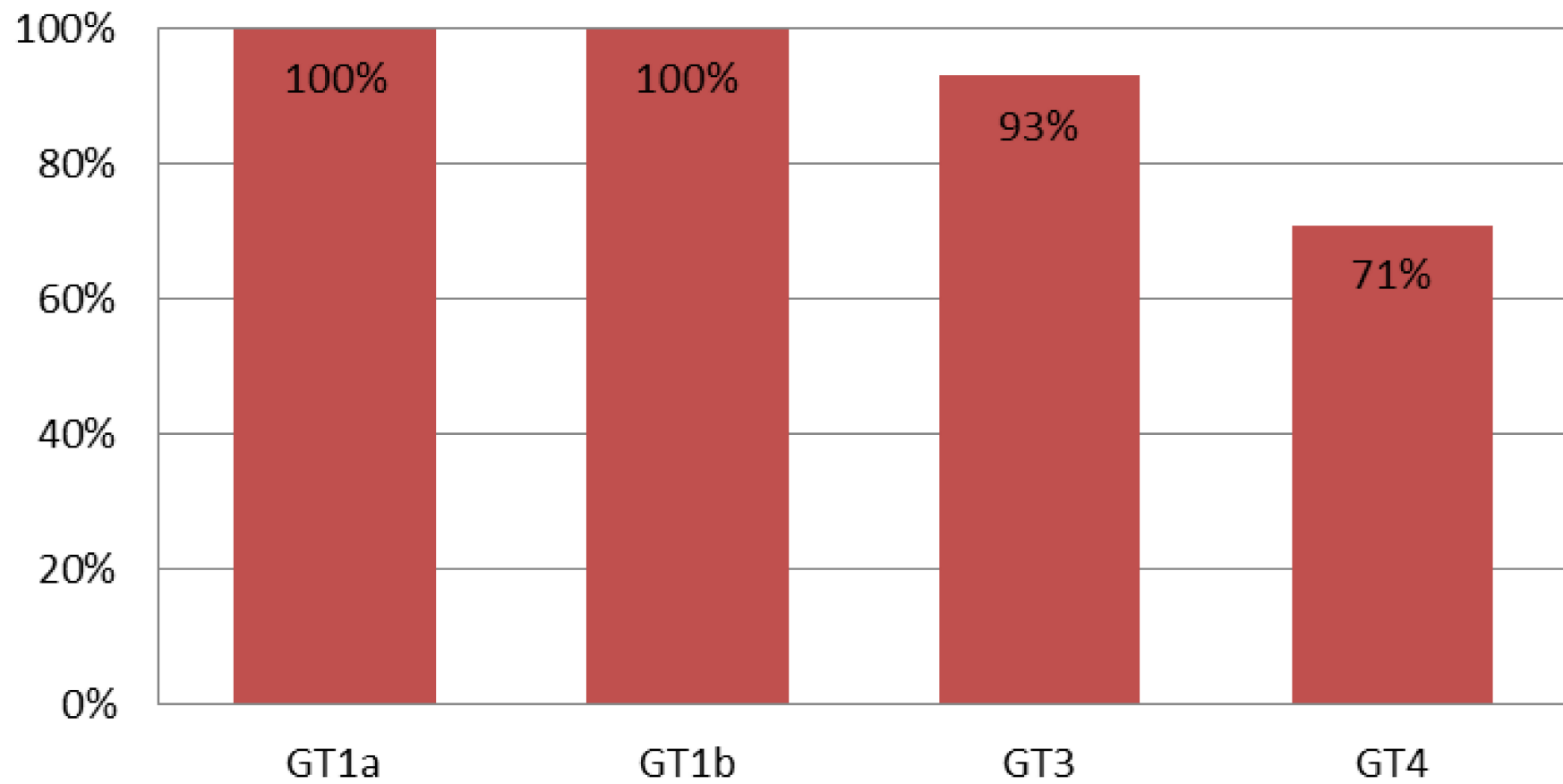


## SVR4 by fibrosis stage





## SVR4 by genotype





# Conclusions

- Successful hepatitis C eradication was achieved in 93% of PWUD despite advanced fibrosis in most patients and ongoing IVDU and/or elevated alcohol consume in a substantial proportion of them
- Hepatitis C cure appears to be feasible in this population with high treatment's success rates comparable to non-PWUD
- Further efforts are needed to improve access to care in this population.