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SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITY EPIDEMIOLOGY NETWORK ON DRUG USE

Treatment Demand Data • Service Quality Measures (SQM)
• Community-Based Harm Reduction Services

SYMPOSIUM

Community-based harm reduction services: Gauteng,

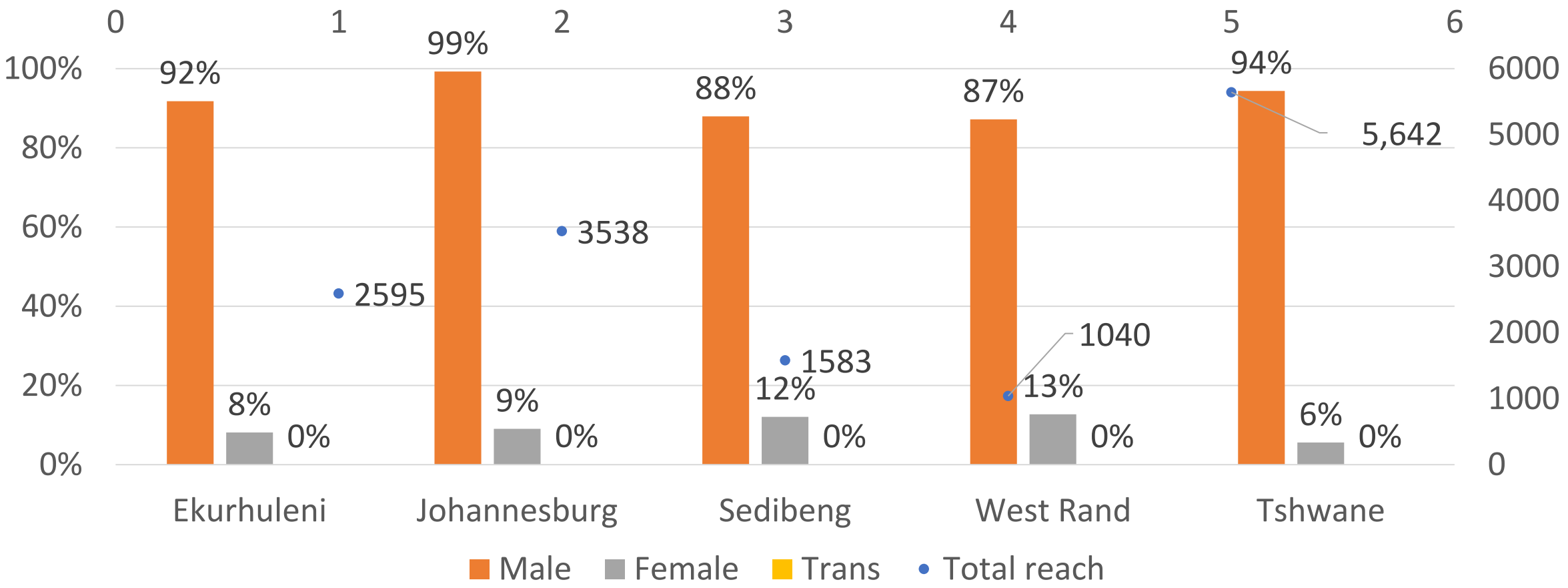
Tendai Makina

[29 Oct 2026] Phase 2026a [Jan - Jun 2026]

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Needle & syringe reach, by gender

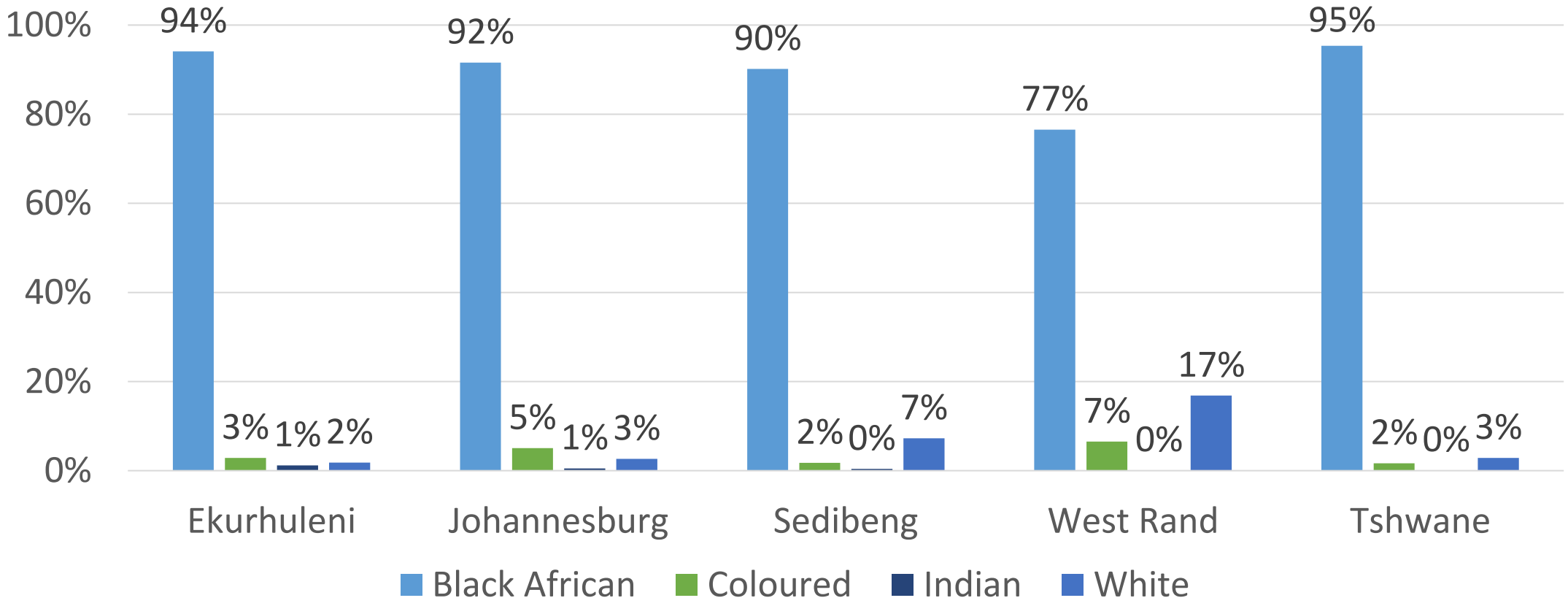
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Needle & syringe reach, by population group

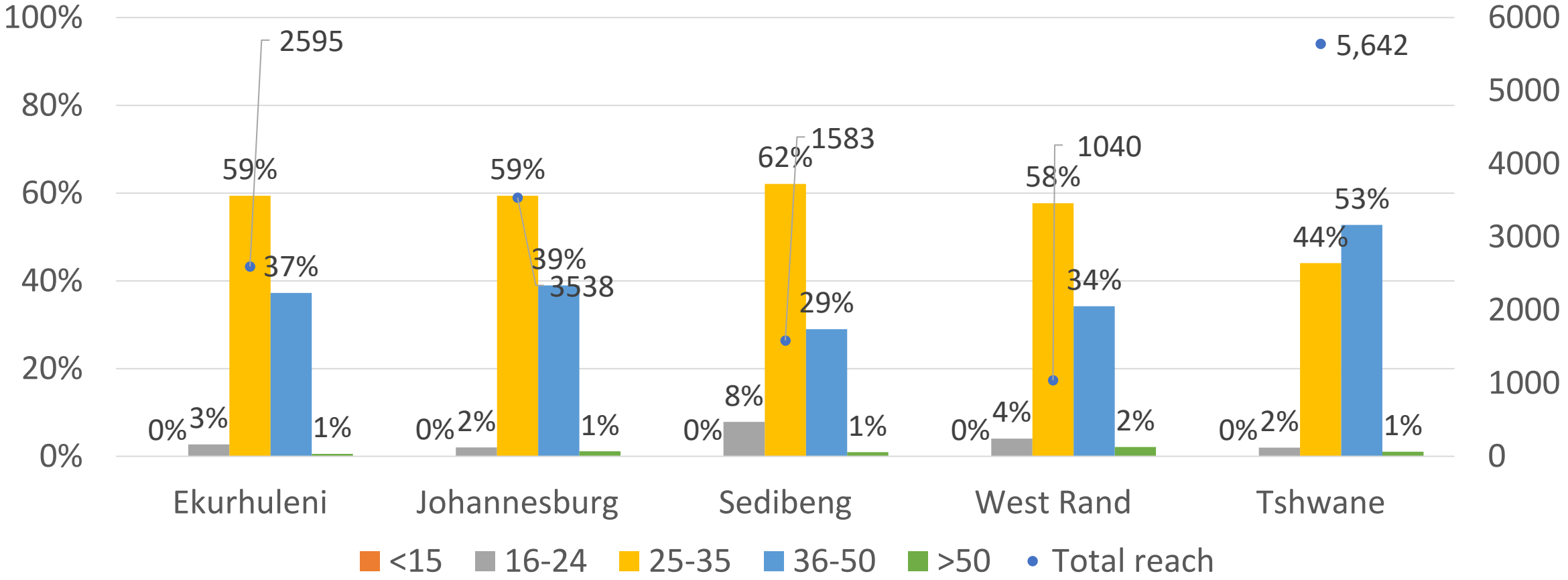
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Needle & syringe reach, by age

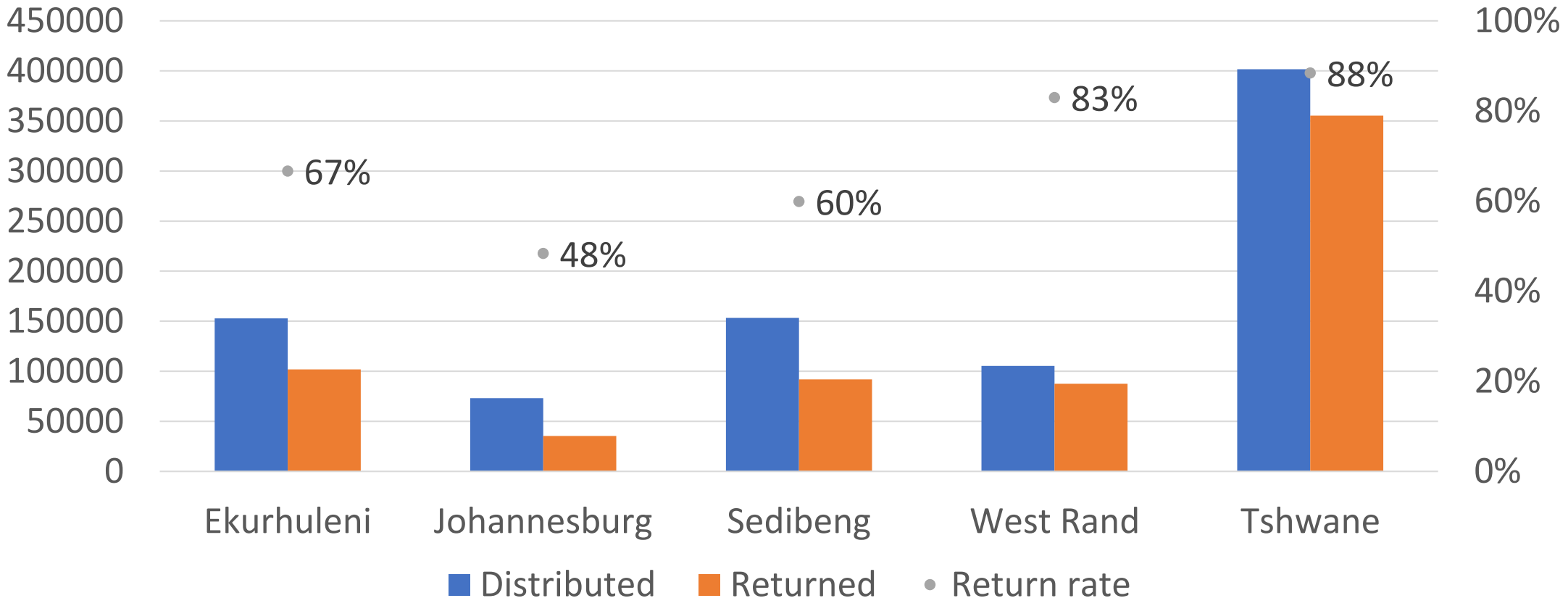
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Needle & syringe distribution & return

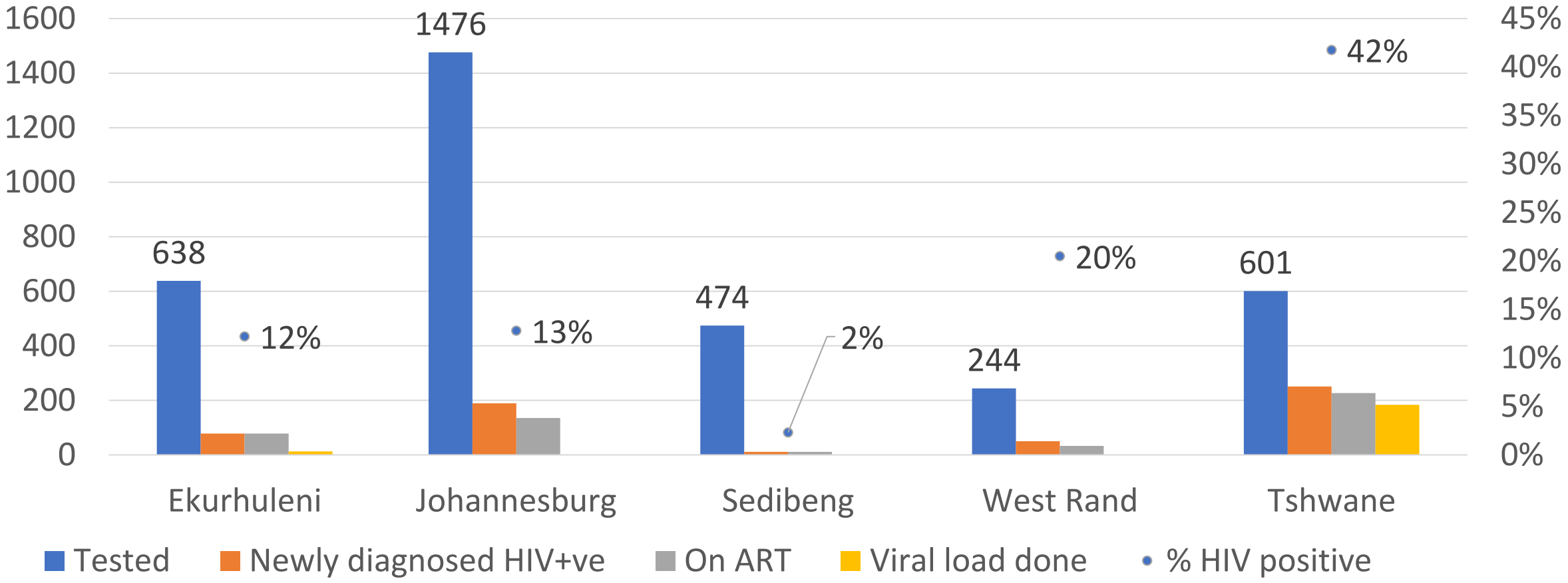
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HIV testing & treatment cascade

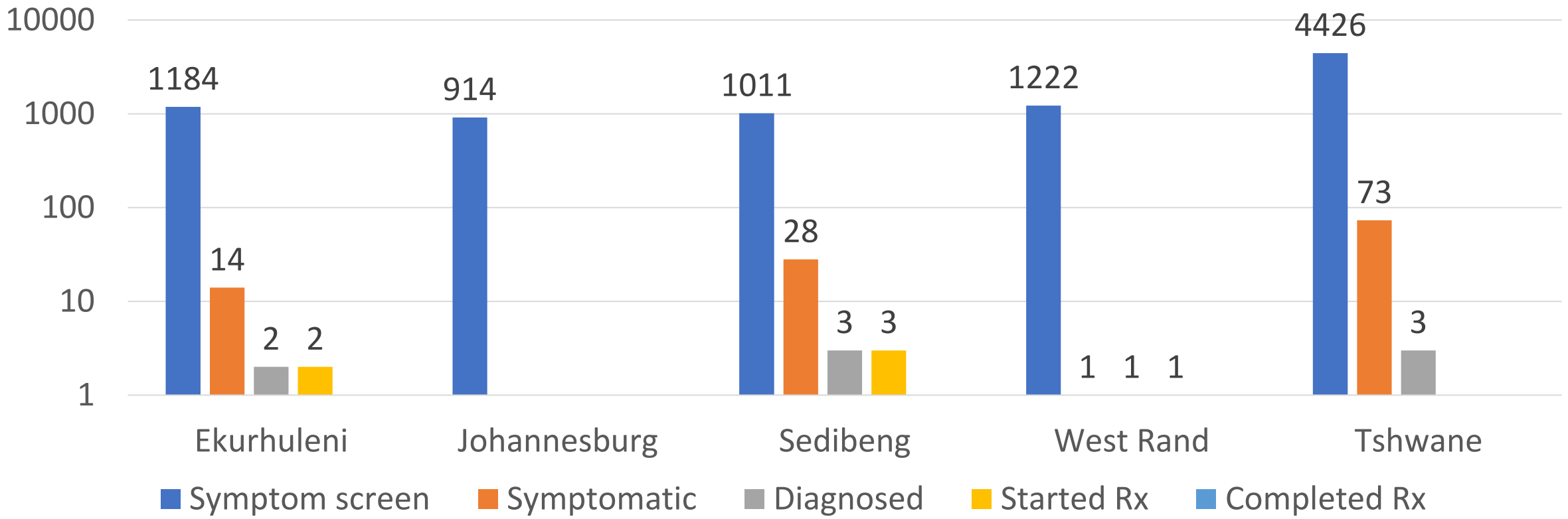
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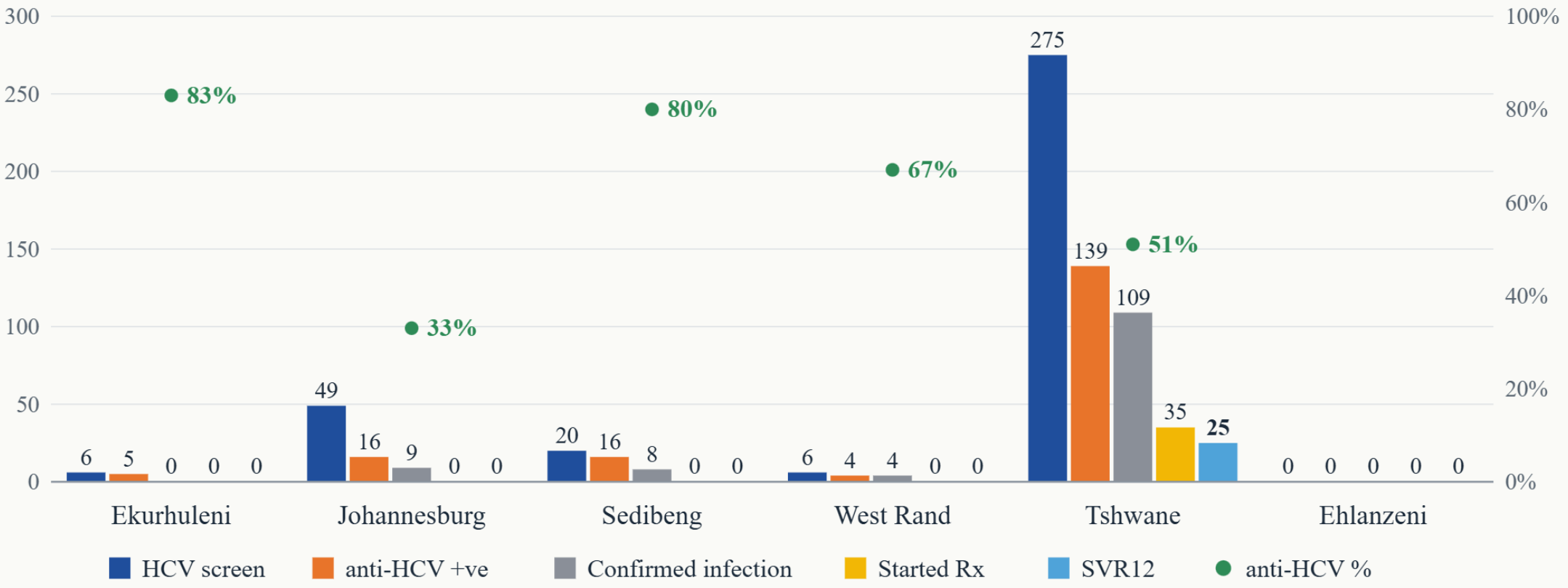
TB testing & treatment cascade

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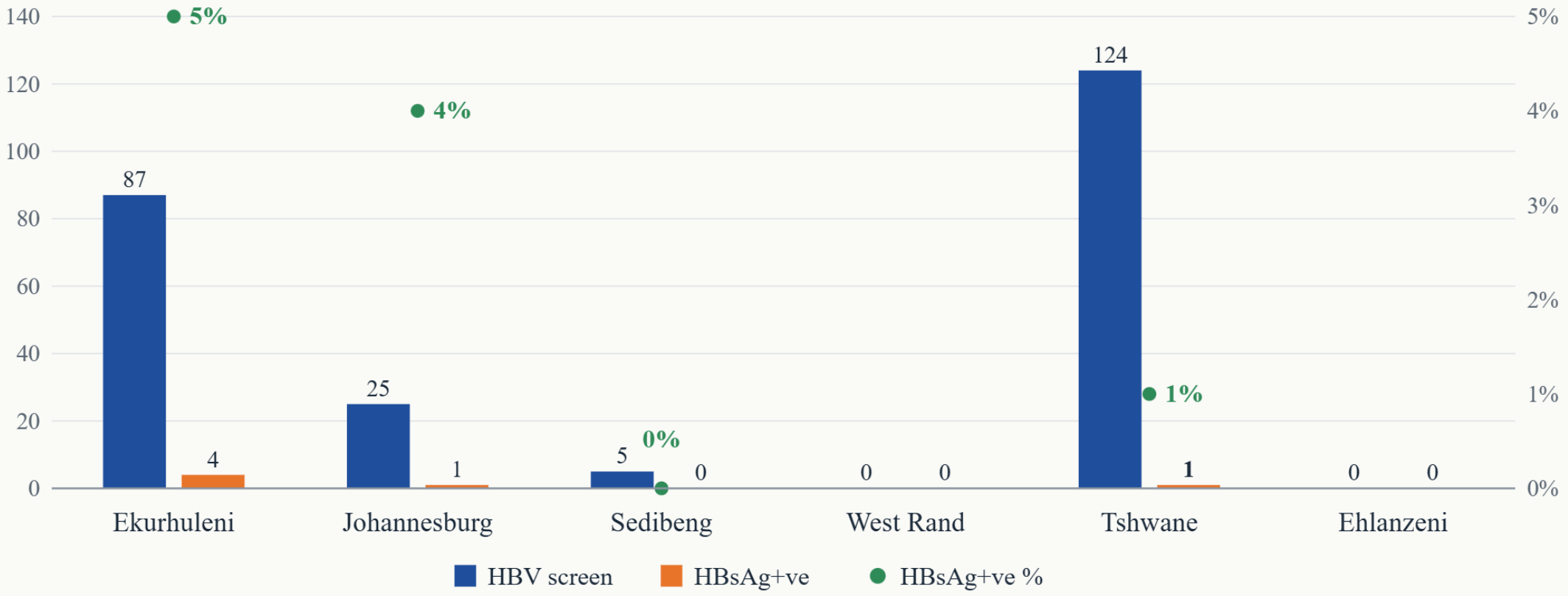
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HCV testing & treatment cascade



SACENDU · SAMRC · Bars: number of people (left axis); dots: anti-HCV positive % of screened (right axis)

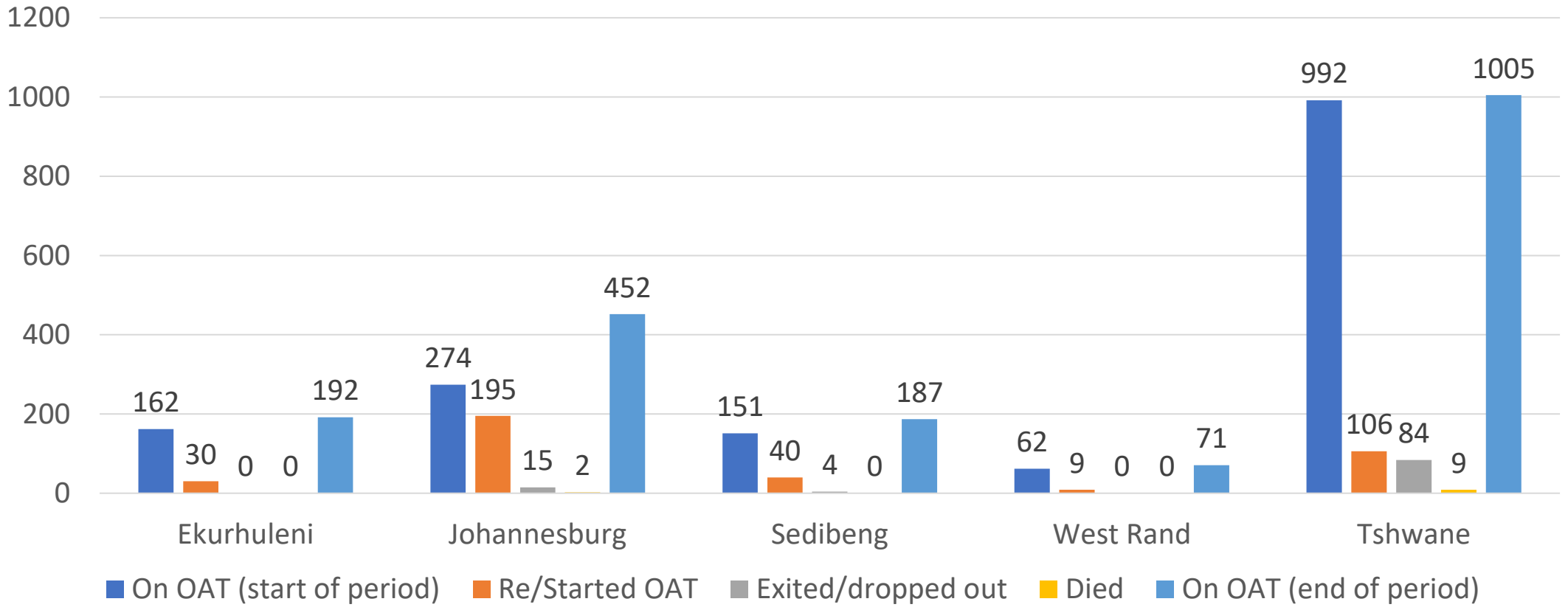
HBV testing



SACENDU · SAMRC · Bars: number of people (left axis); dots: HBsAg positive % of screened (right axis)

Opioid agonist therapy

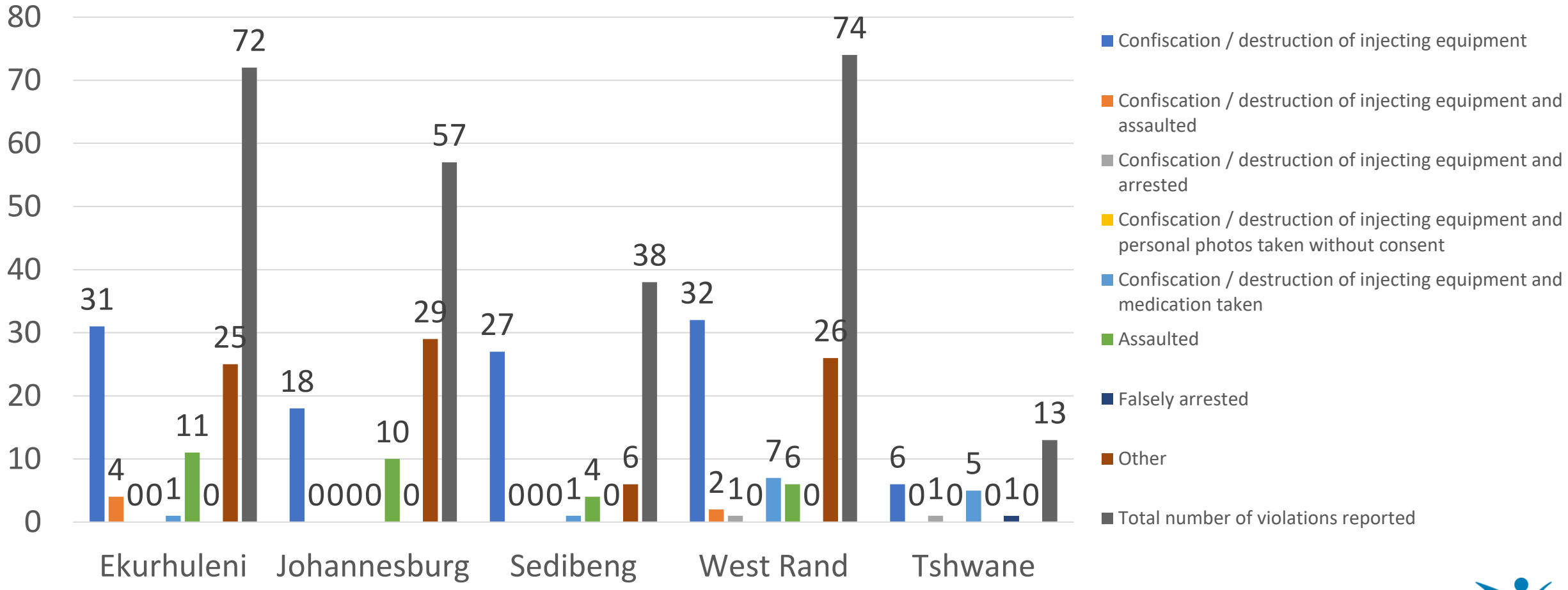
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Human rights violations

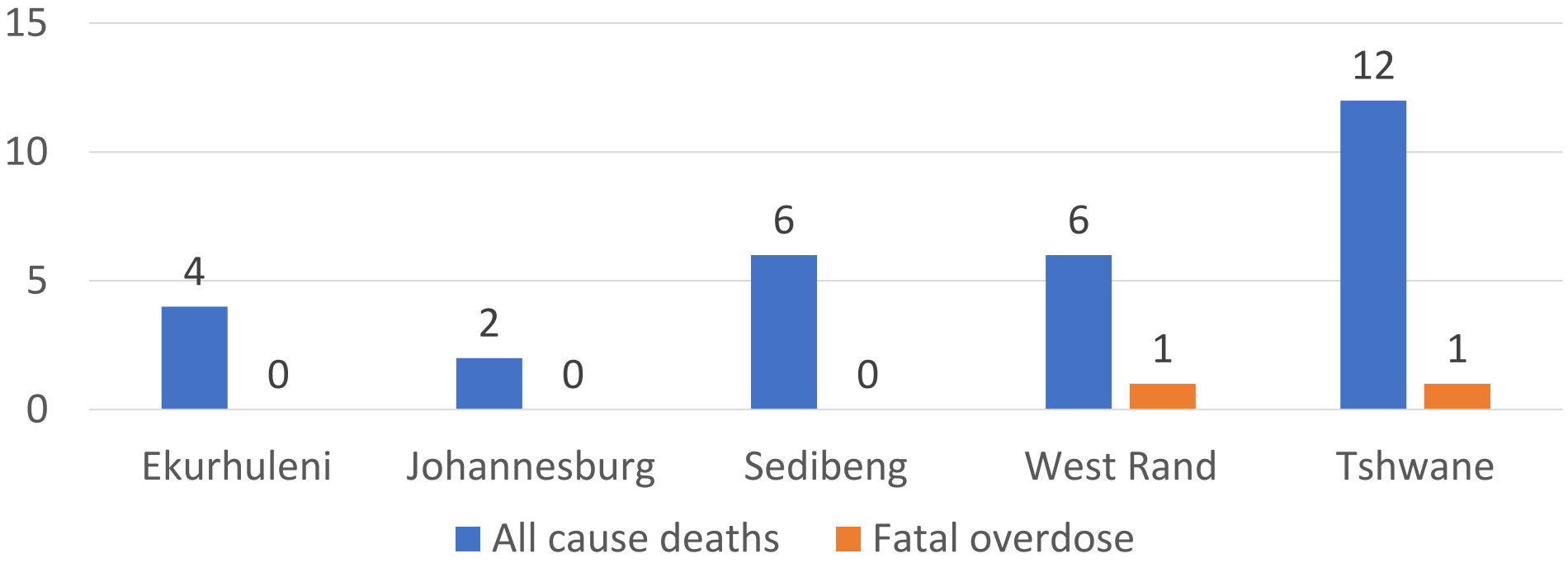
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Mortality & Overdose

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2 fatal overdoses

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Female sex workers who inject drugs: Needle & syringe programme



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No harm reduction services for sex workers who inject drugs during this period

Successes



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- **Ongoing harm-reduction reach**: Programmes reached 14,398 clients
- **Re-establishment of NSP and OAT services in new Global Fund grant cycle**: 886,570 syringes were distributed, and 1 907 clients were on OAT at the end of the period
- **HIV case identification**: 3,433 HIV tests were conducted, identifying 579 newly diagnosed HIV-positive clients.
- **Re-establishment of opioid agonist therapy (OAT):** The reported OAT caseload increased from 649 clients at the start of the period to 902 by the end. There were 274 new or restarted treatment episodes.
- **Progress in hepatitis C services:** The programme recorded 356 HCV screens, 130 confirmed infections and 35 clients starting treatment, indicating progress in identifying clients requiring care.

Issues & challenges



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Challenges	Recommendations
Low levels of NSP distribution per PWID reached outside of Tshwane, with no NSP services being provided for sex workers who inject drugs.	Increase efforts to distribute more harm reduction packs, and support return processes
OAT cohort sizes (outside of Tshwane) are lower than 2025b, due to setting up new agreements and services in new Global Fund cycle.	Continue efforts to support OAT scale-up
Gaps in HIV treatment monitoring, linked to limited human resources	Enhance sharing of data and support for civil society orgs. by govt.
Incomplete TB treatment cascade: Nine TB diagnoses were recorded and six clients started treatment	Improve efforts to track and support access to TB treatment.
Reduction in HCV testing, confirmation and treatment	Support efforts to better integrate and scale-up HCV testing and access to treatment.
Continued overdose and mortality concerns.	Support programmes to identify and reduce mortality among PWUD
Ongoing reports of confiscation of needles and syringes and assault among PWID	Ongoing engagement with police and law enforcement to avoid confiscations and assaults.

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Acknowledgements

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INVEPRO BEYOND GREATER CHANGE
ANOVA HEALTH INSTITUTE
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