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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

Ayanda Nyathi

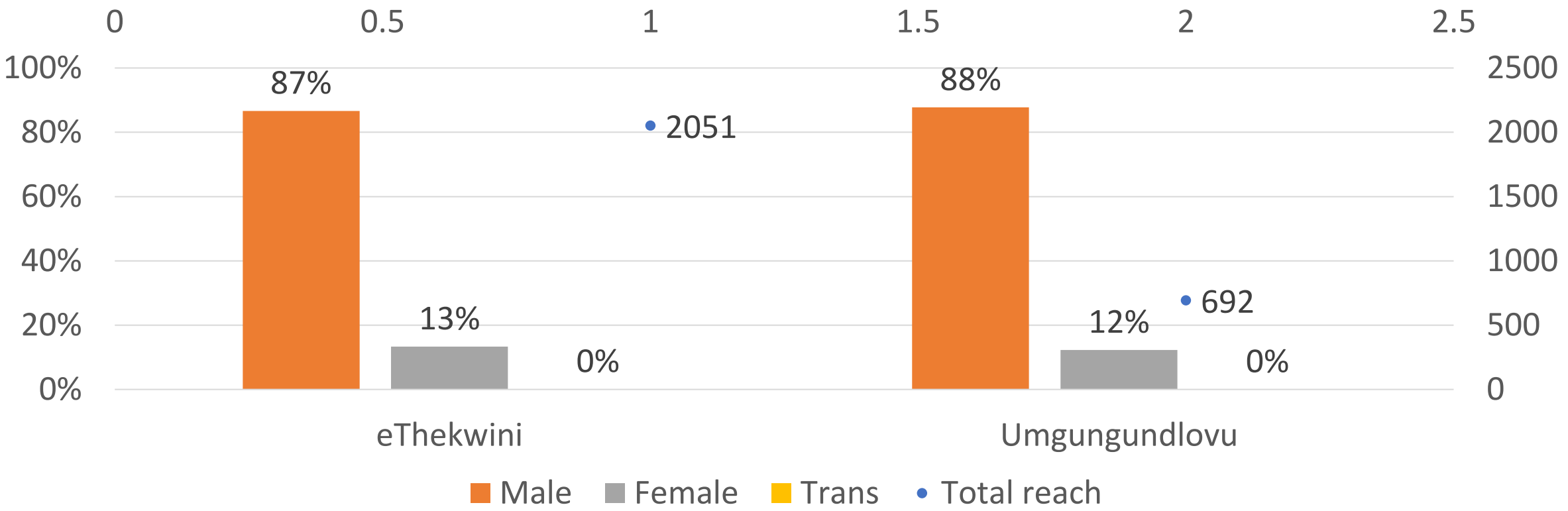
Community-based harm reduction services: KwaZulu-Natal

[03 Nov 2026] Phase 2026a [Jan - Jun 2026]

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Needle & syringe reach, by gender

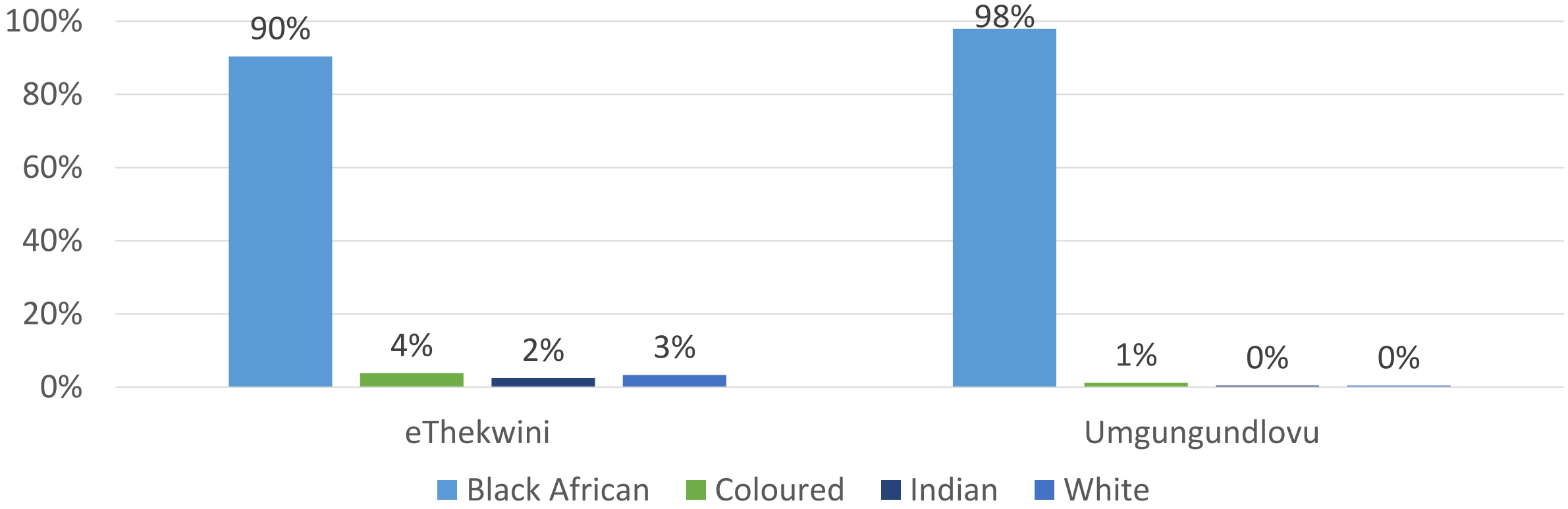
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Needle & syringe reach, by population group

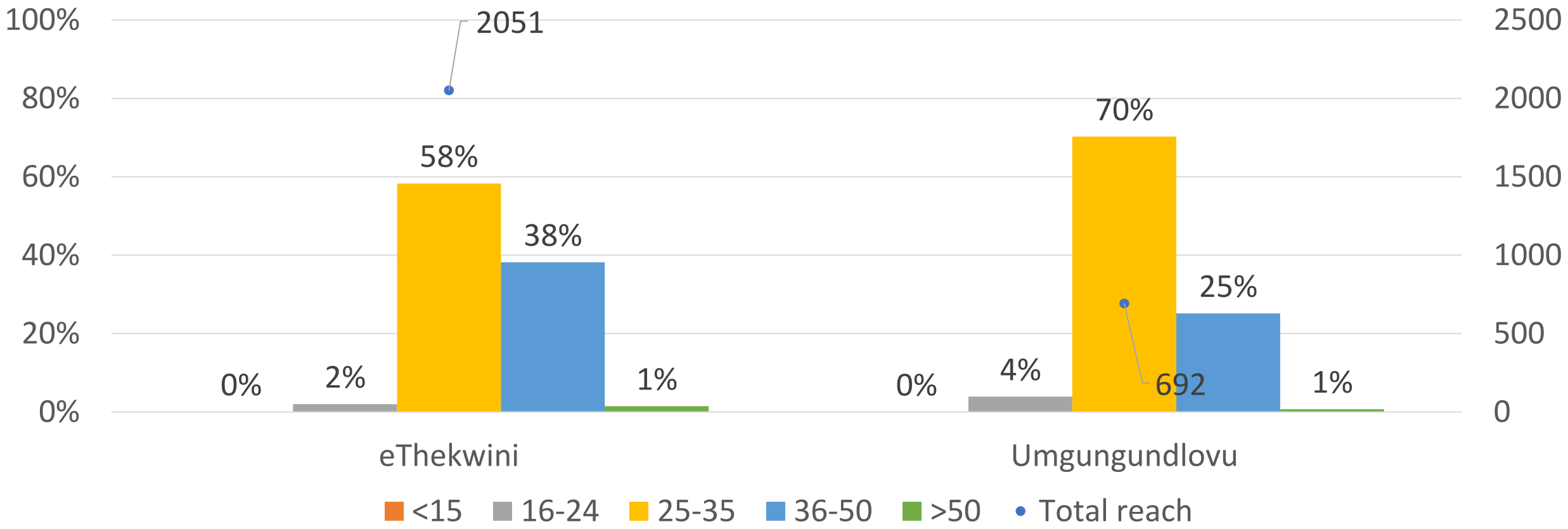
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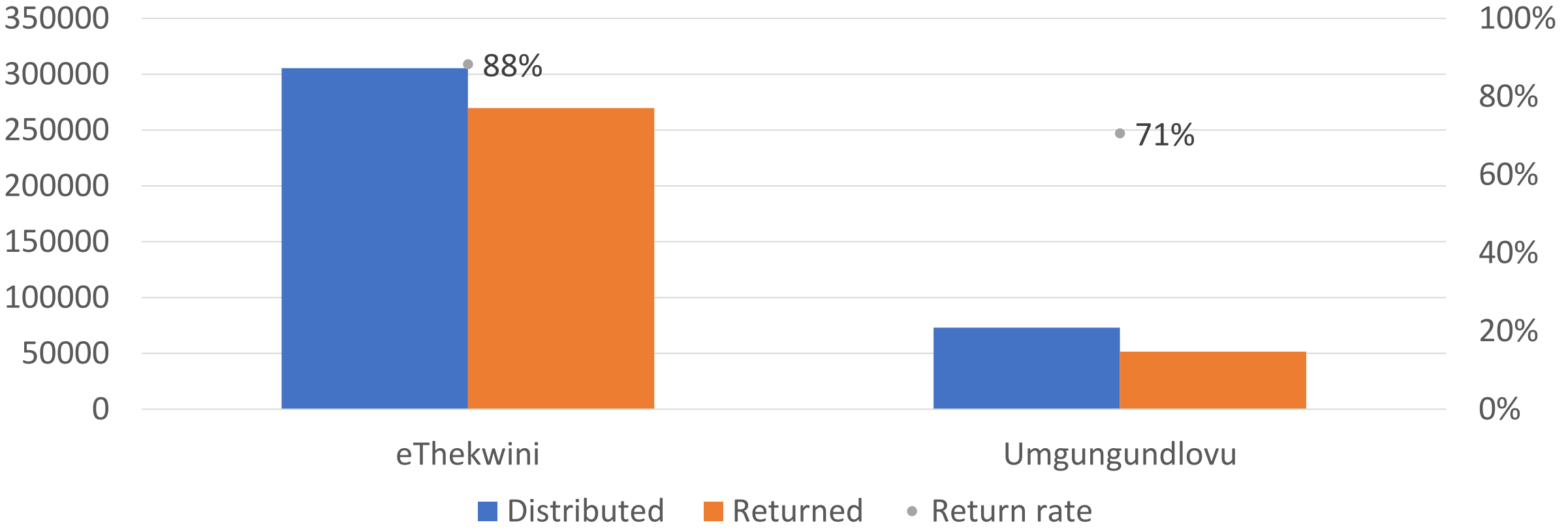
Needle & syringe reach, by age

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Needle & syringe distribution & return

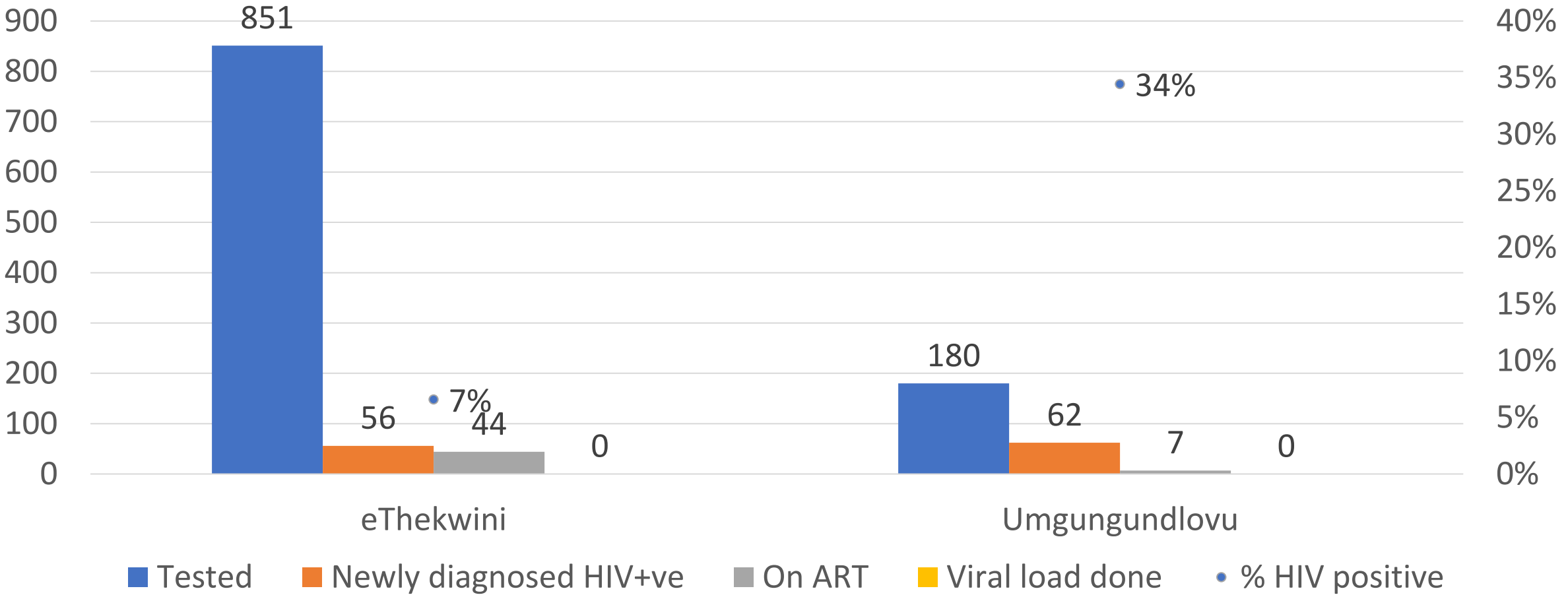
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HIV testing & treatment cascade

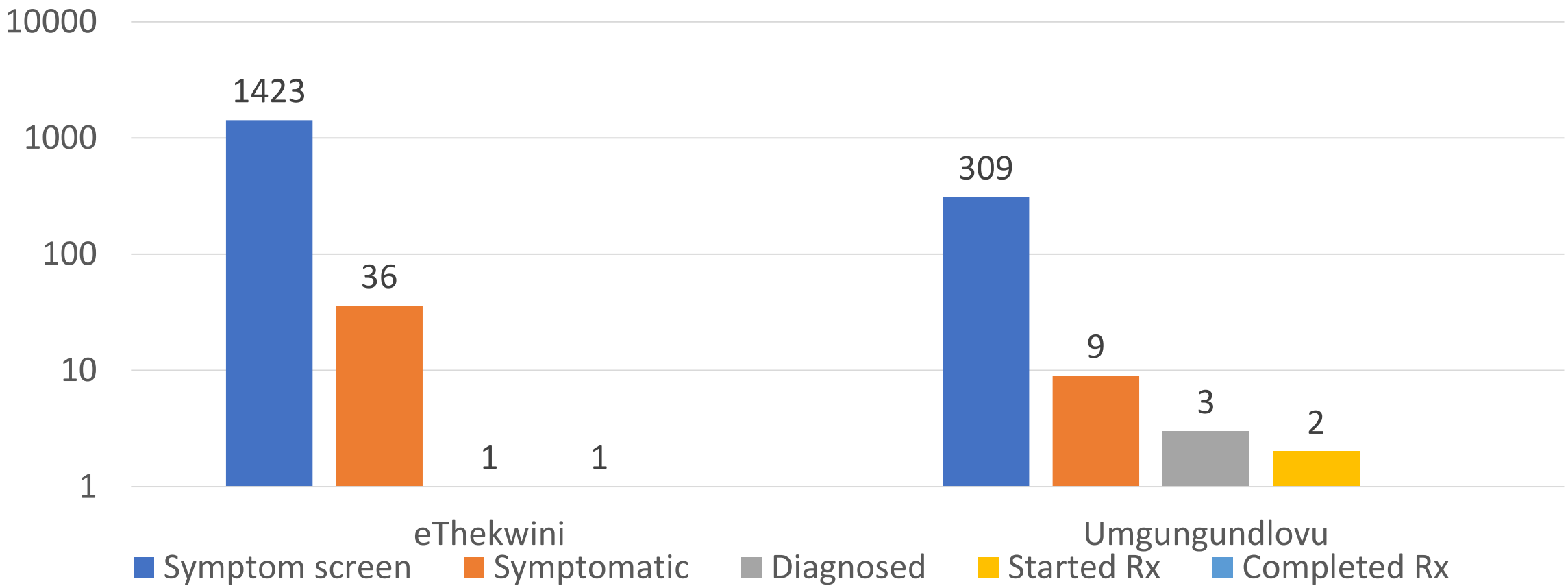
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TB testing & treatment cascade

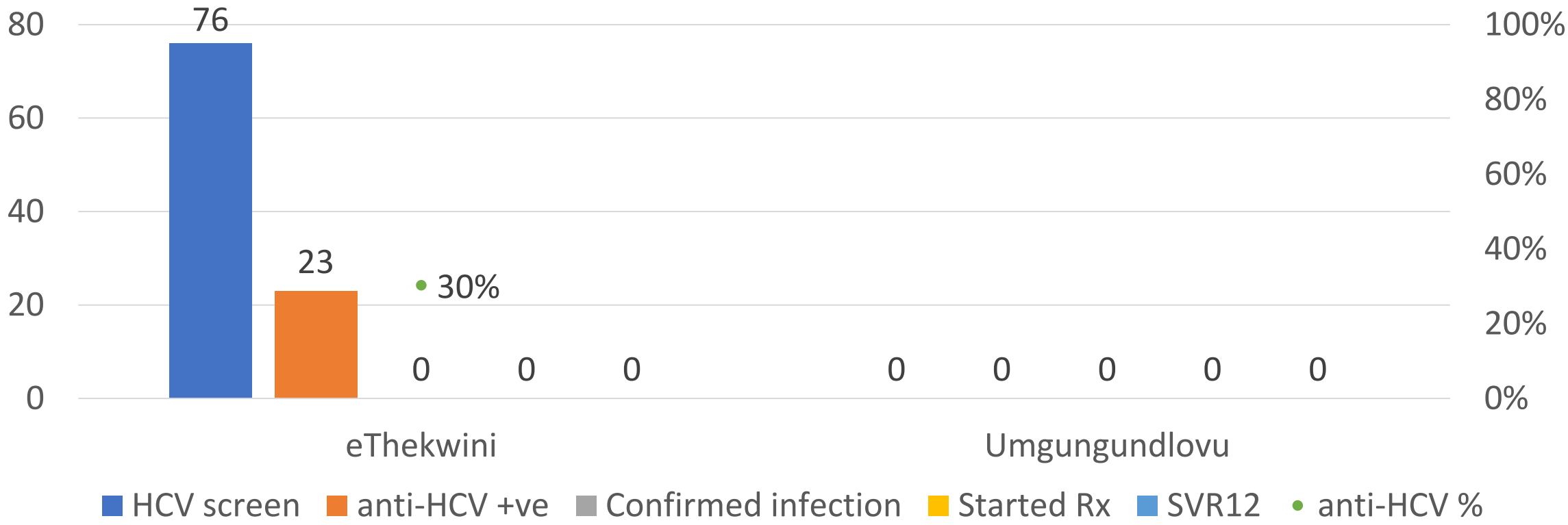
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HCV testing & treatment cascade

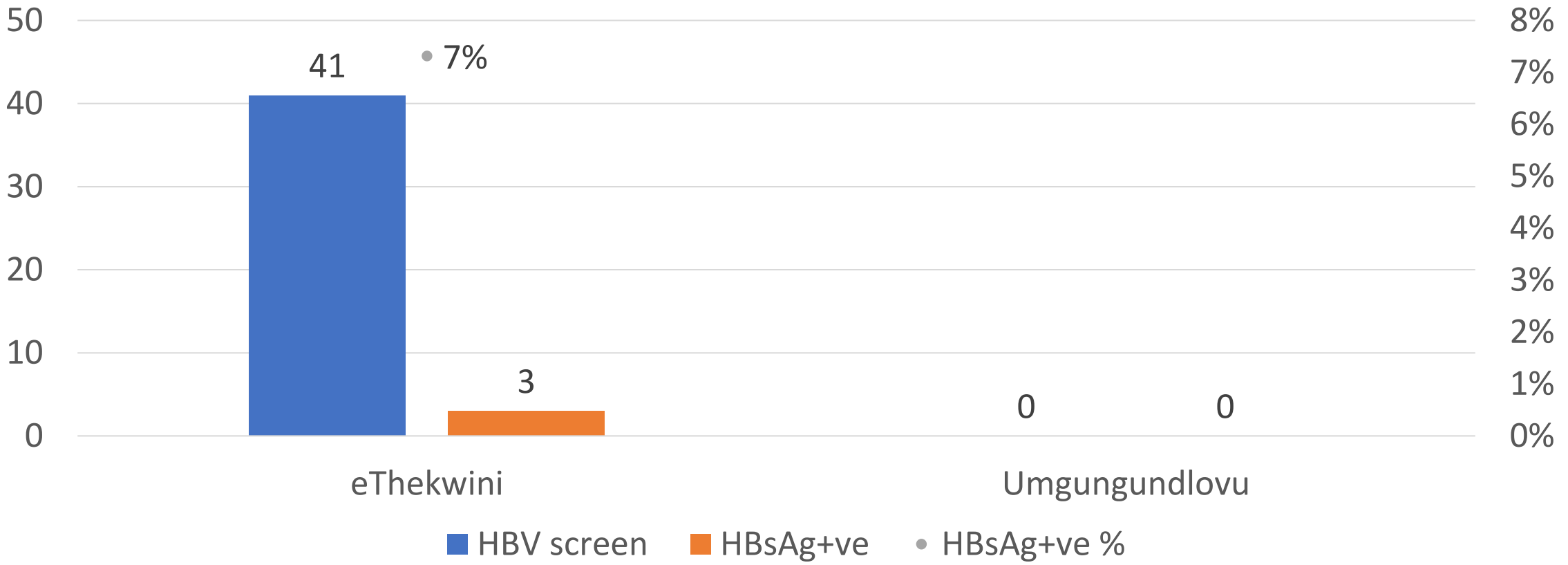
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HBV testing

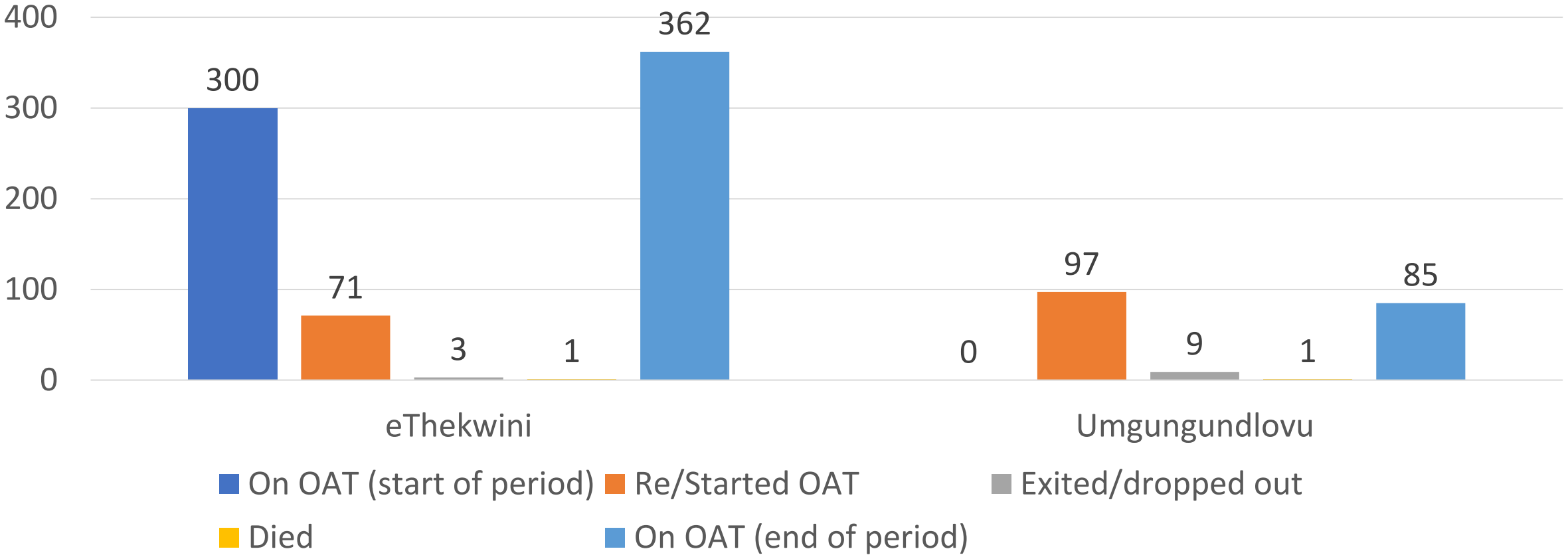
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Opioid agonist therapy

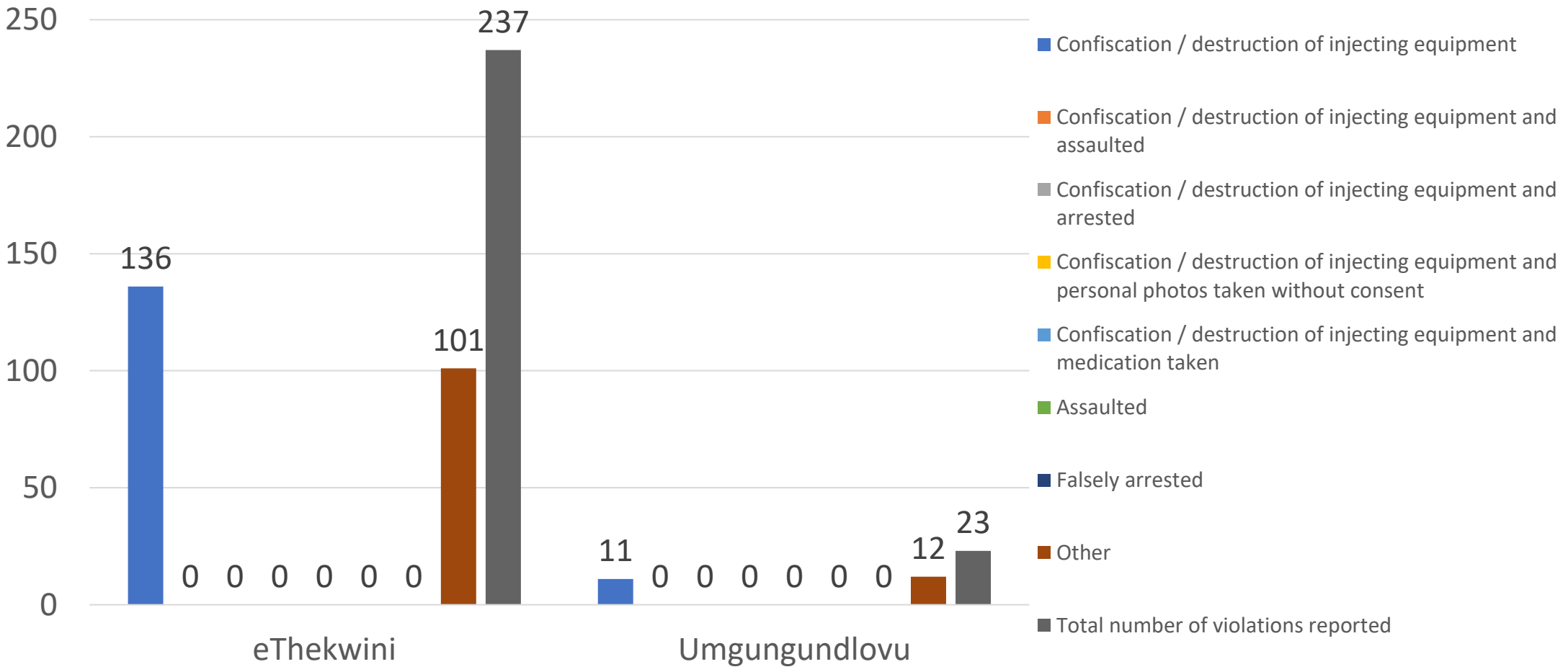
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Human rights violations

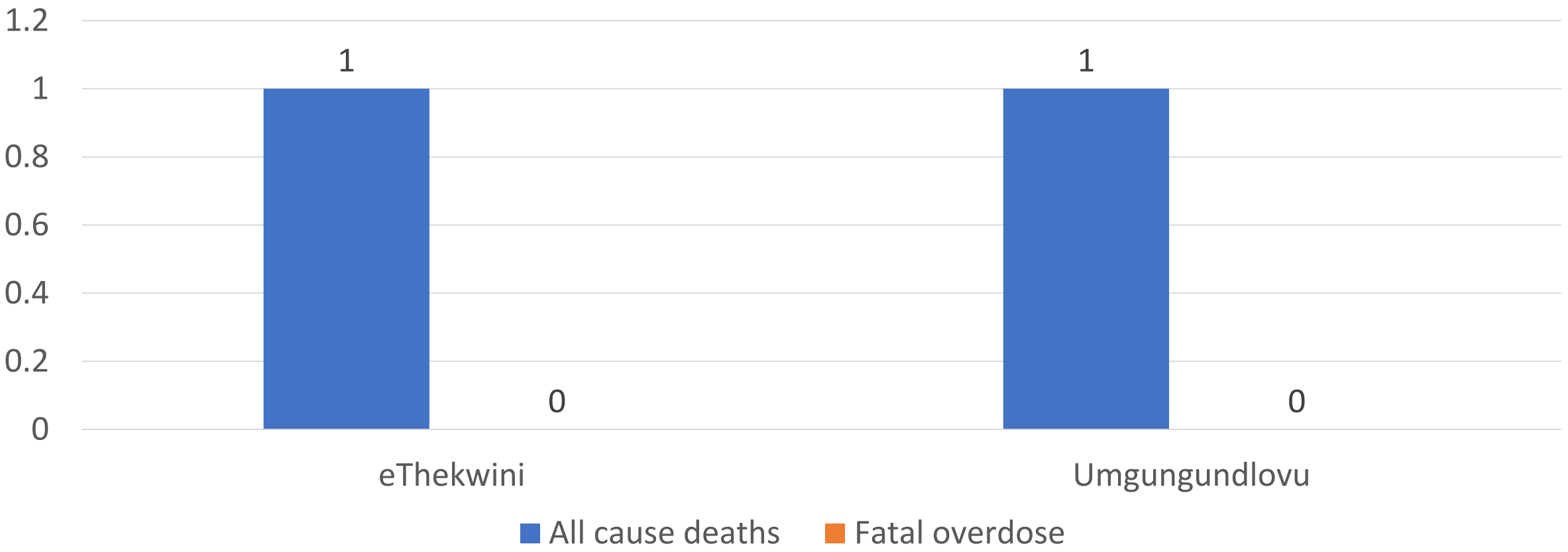
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Mortality & Overdose

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Successes

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Community reach: Services reached 2,743 clients across eThekwini and Umgungundlovu.

HIV testing and case identification: The programme conducted 1,031 HIV tests and identified 118 newly diagnosed HIV-positive clients.

Growth in OAT participation in eThekwini: The reported caseload increased from 300 clients at the beginning of the period to 362 at the end, with 71 new or restarted treatment episodes.

Continued screening for infectious diseases: The data recorded 1,732 TB symptom screens, 76 HCV screens and 41 HBV screens in eThekwini, with positive cases identified through HIV, HCV and HBV testing.

Issues & challenges



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Challenges	Recommendations
Uneven NSP and OAT performance	Provide ongoing support to scale-up NSP and OAT in uMgungundlovu
High HIV burden among PWID in uMgungundlovu	Continue efforts for HIV services and enhanced prevention
Ongoing confiscation of needles/ syringes	Engagement with police and law enforcement to support harm reduction interventions
Incomplete TB treatment outcomes: Four TB diagnoses were recorded and three clients started treatment	Continue efforts to improve integrated TB care
Low HCV testing, no treatment	Ongoing efforts to increase HCV testing and treatment

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