



# SACENDU

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNITY EPIDEMIOLOGY NETWORK ON DRUG USE

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

## SYMPOSIUM

[Memory Mahaso]

Community-based harm reduction services: Western Cape

[March 2025] | Phase 2024b [July – December 2024]



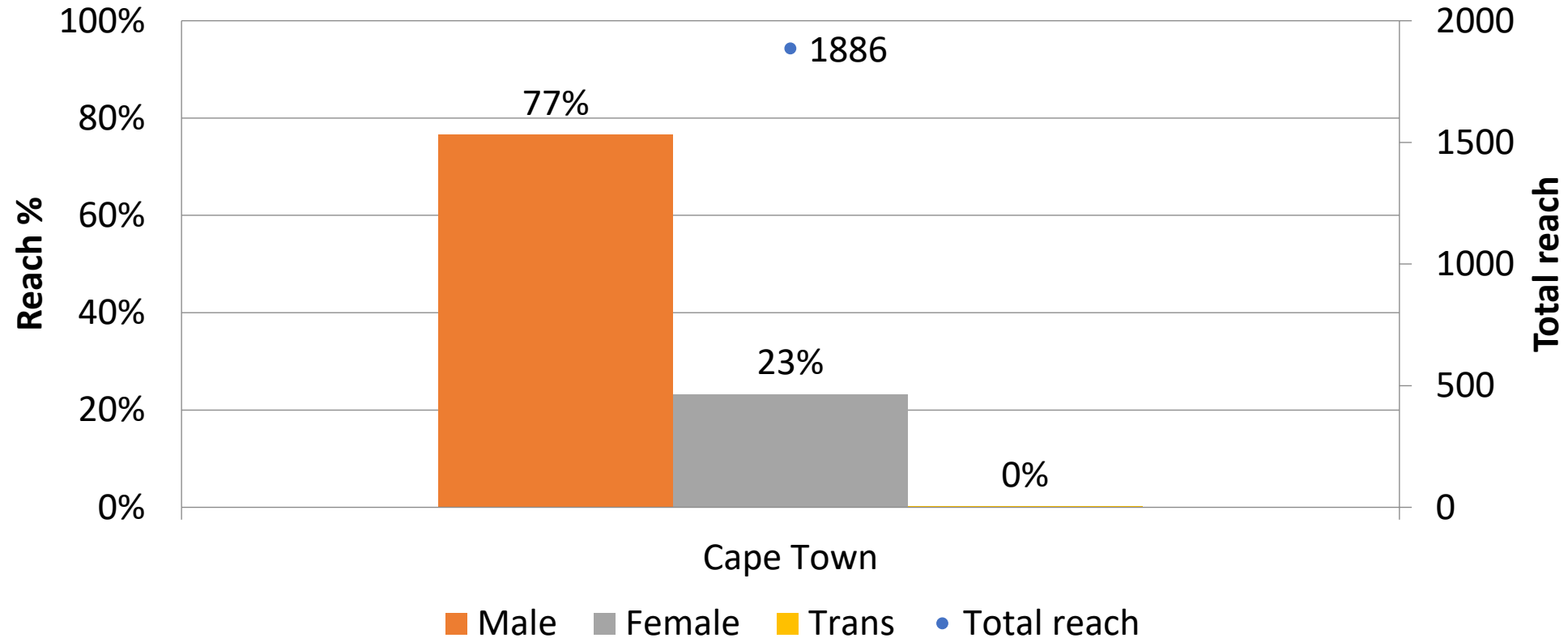
# Needle & syringe reach, by gender



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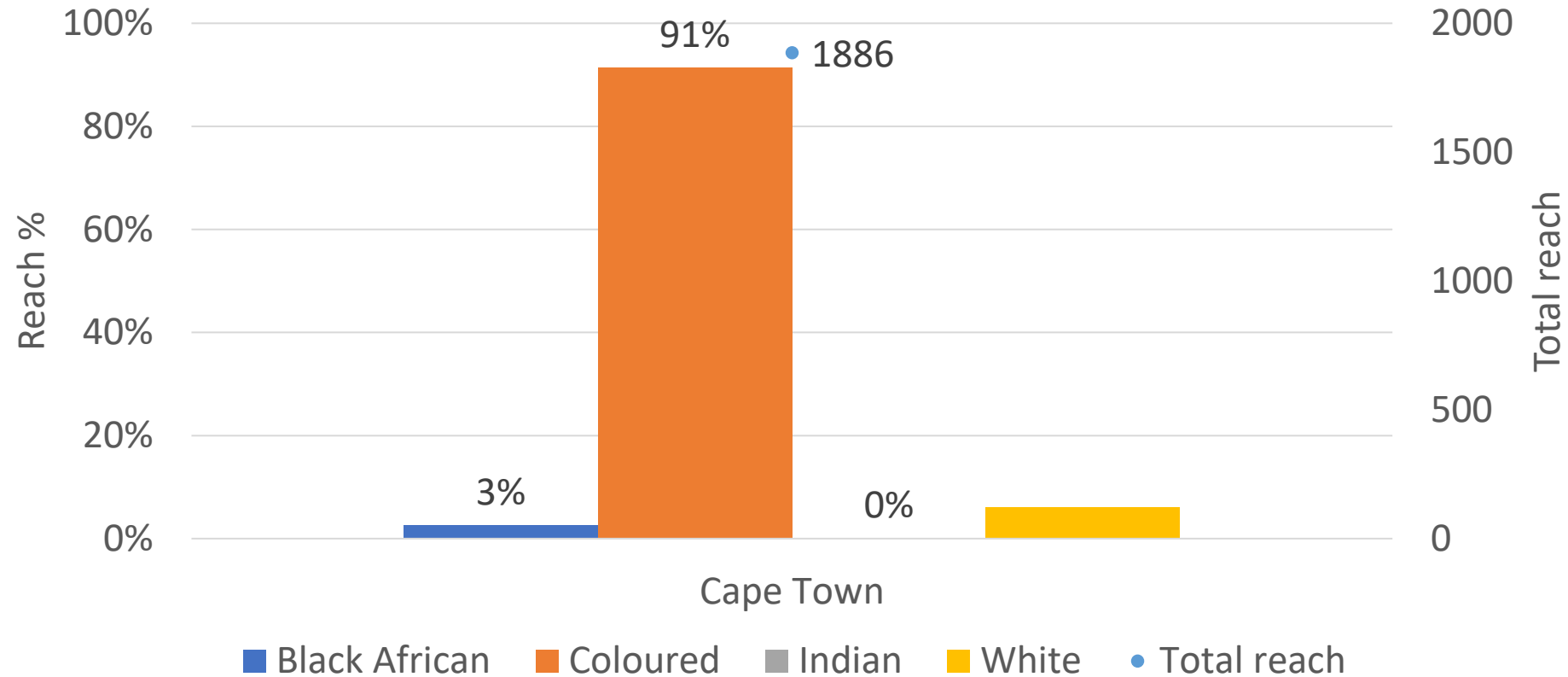
# Needle & syringe reach, by population group



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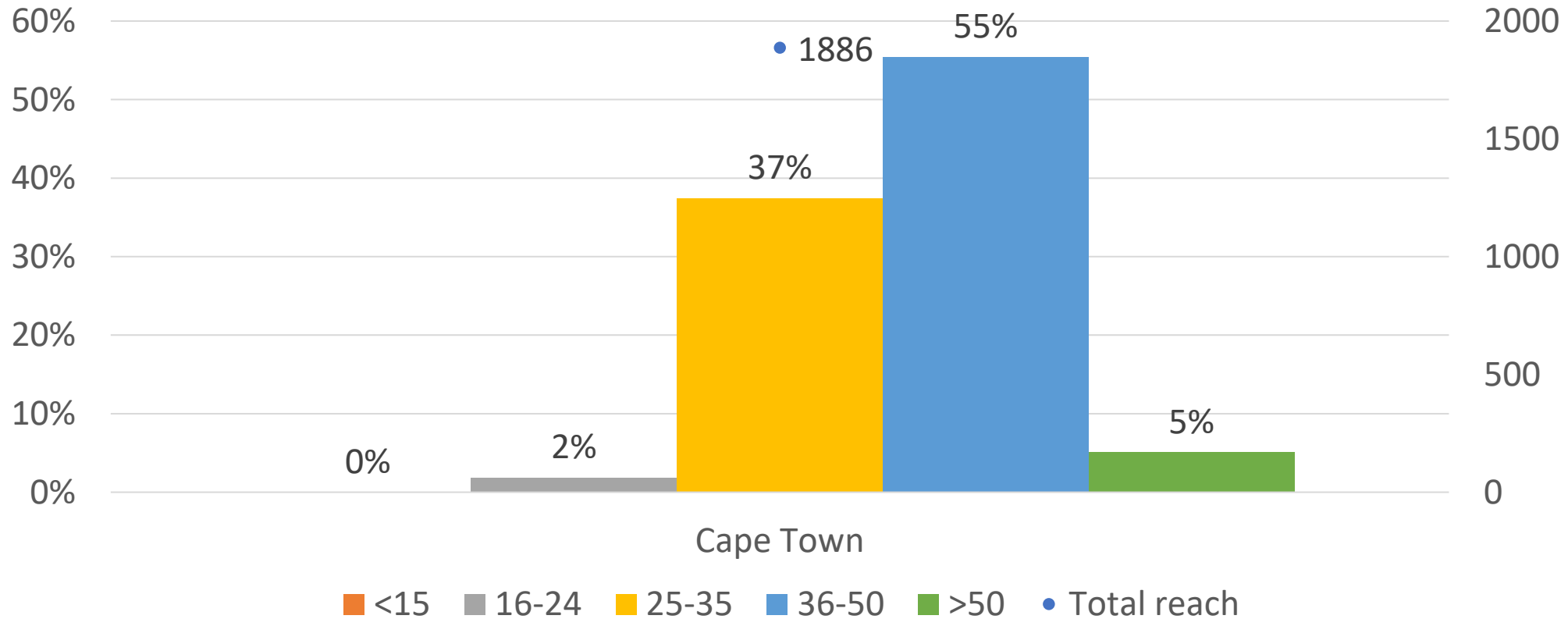
# Needle & syringe reach, by age



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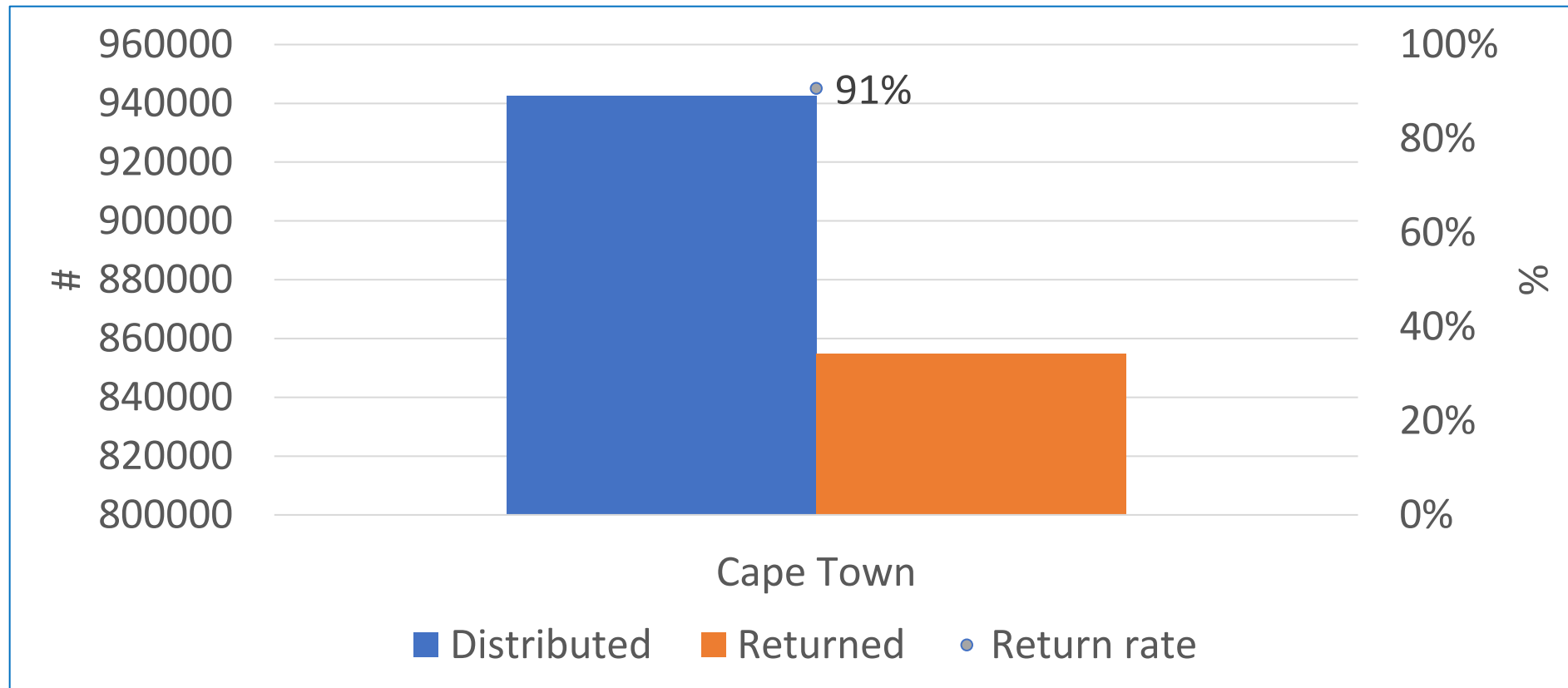
# Needle & syringe distribution & return rate



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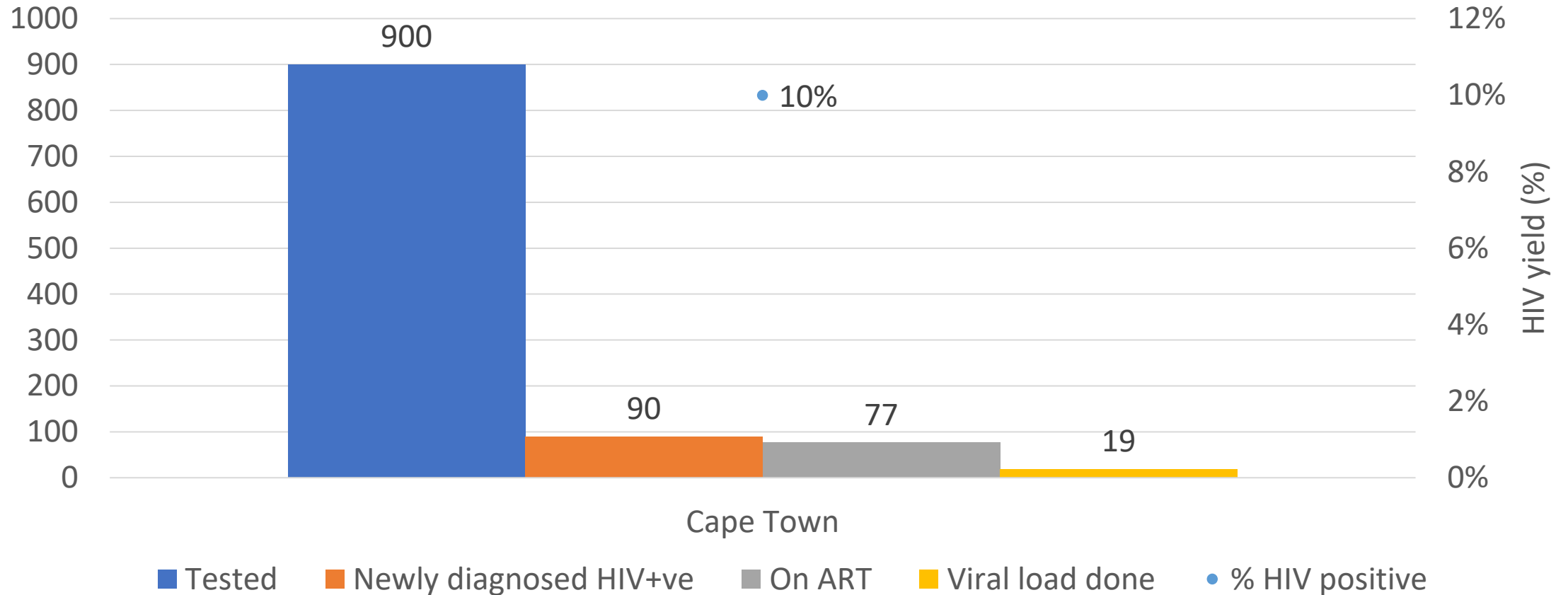
# HIV testing & treatment cascade



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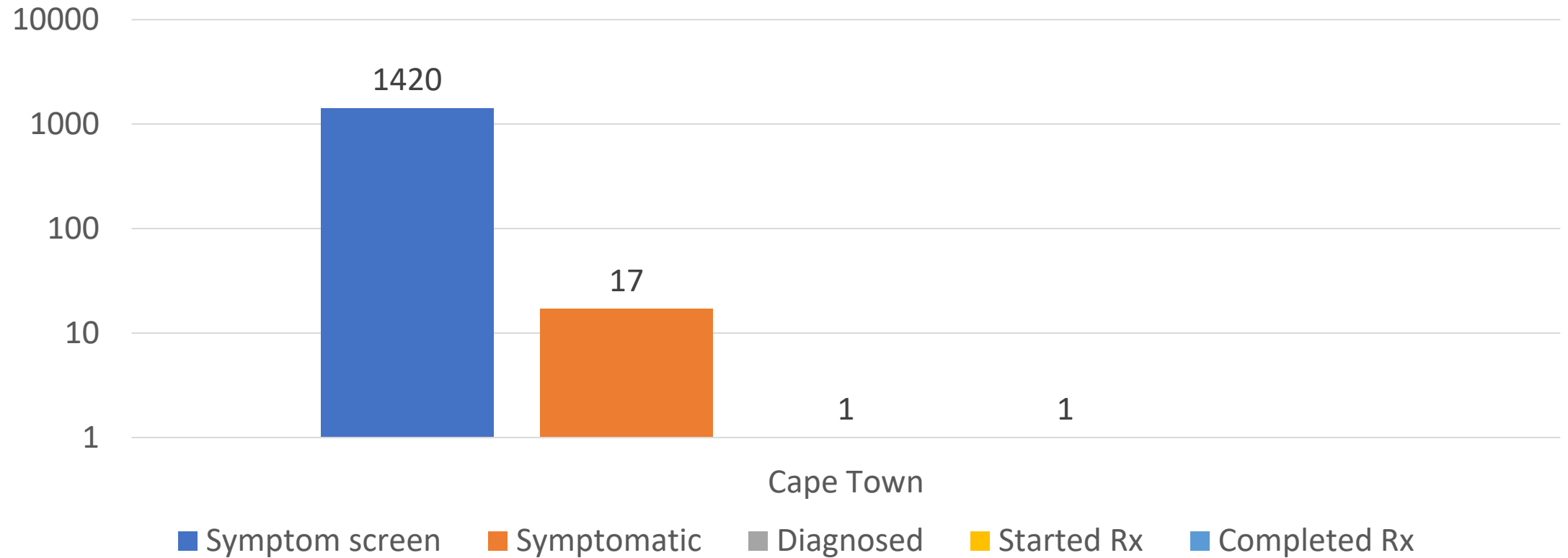
# TB testing & treatment cascade



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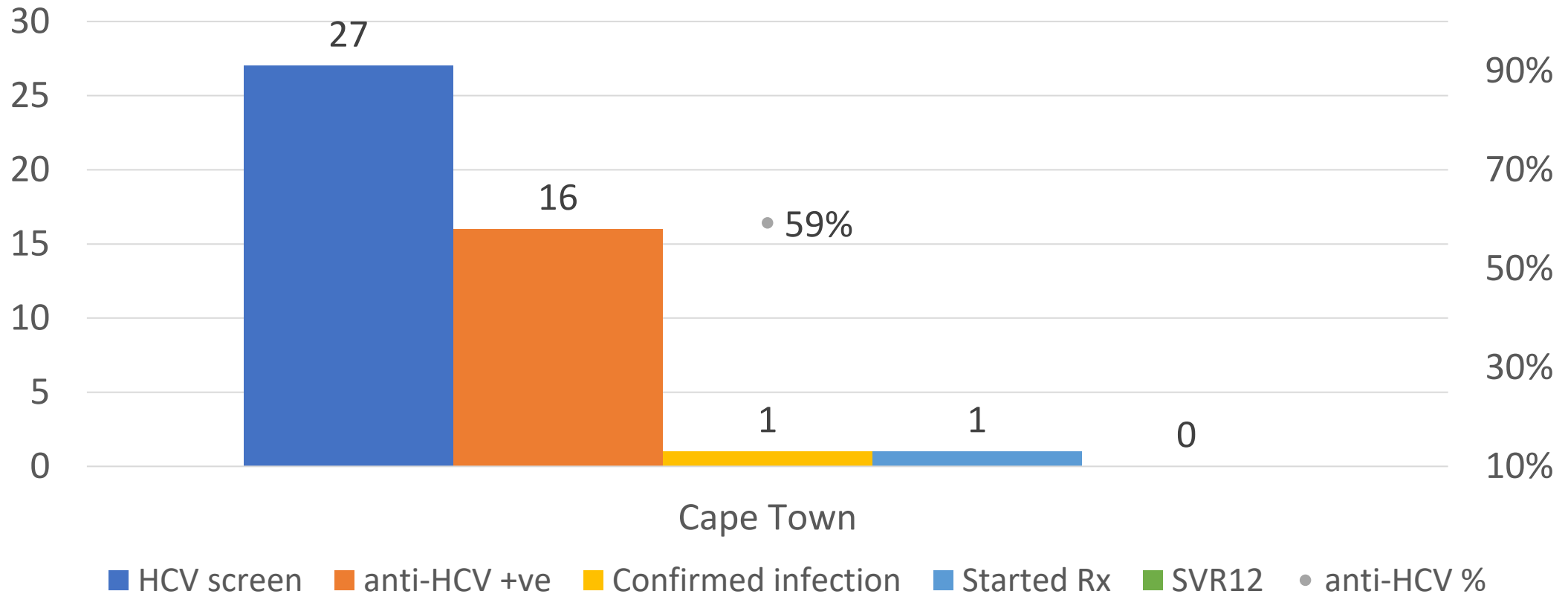
# HCV testing & treatment cascade



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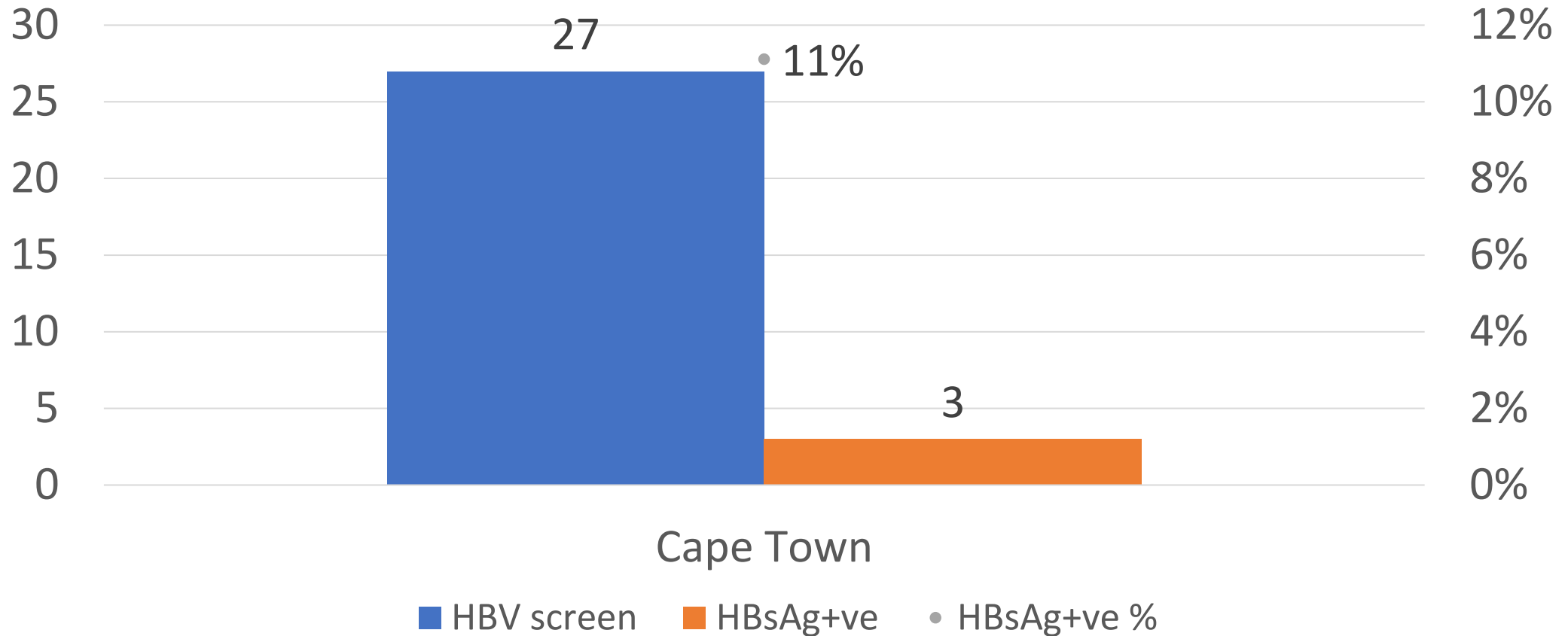
# HBV testing



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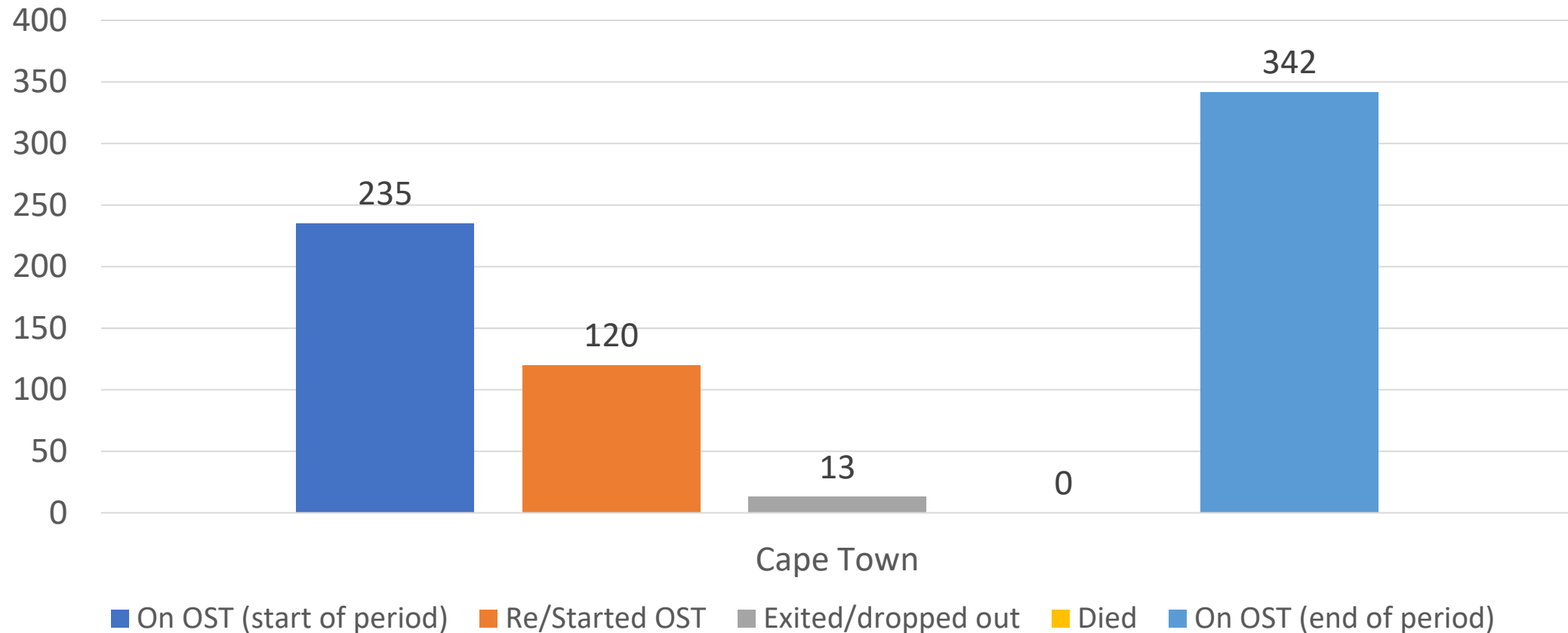
# Opioid substitution therapy



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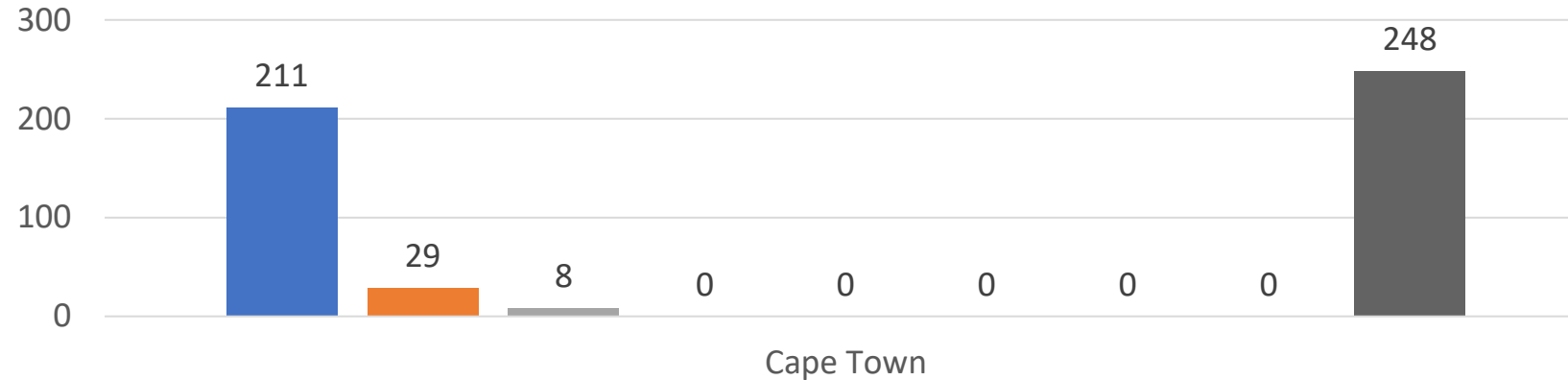
# Human rights violations



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- Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment
- Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and assaulted
- Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and arrested
- Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and personal photos taken without consent
- Confiscation / destruction of injecting equipment and medication taken
- Assaulted
- Falsely arrested
- Other
- Total number of violations reported



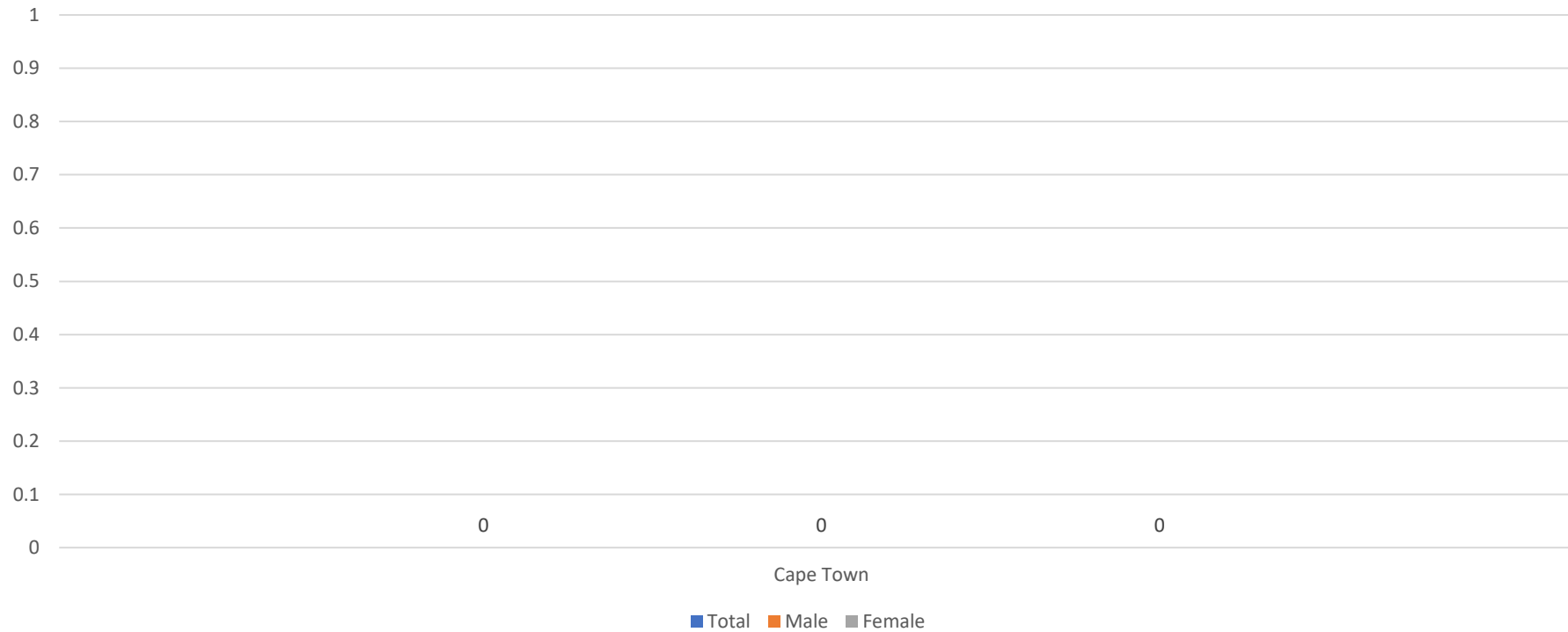
# All cause mortality



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0 fatal overdoses reported



# Issues & challenges



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- REACH and HTS have faced difficulties as the program extended to more hotspots within the sub-district in order to reach more PWUD as part of the expansion. Further engagement to build trust among the cohort and on going health education was required. Delays in additional staff recruitment for programme expansion affected reaching new HTS targets.
- Complaints from community in Oakdale around needles being disposed in the community. To address the community issues:
  - A CAG meeting was arranged in Oakdale with PWUD clients.
  - Additionally, a district clean-up was carried out, and community people were engaged during the clean-up process, District clean-ups in Wynberg are still taking place, with community members assisting twice a week.
  - For Oakdale a Clean-up Ambassador has been appointed, who is overseen by VRCID, to assist with cleanup efforts in the region.
  - Legal Literacy campaigns including the increased BCI on safer needle disposal is being conducted , While clients are educated about their rights, it is equally important to remind them regularly about their responsibilities.



# Successes



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- NACOSA has launched an Economic Empowerment Programme for PWUD in 5 districts (Sedibeng, CPT, ETK, Ekurhuleni and COJ). This program is aimed at vulnerable women and young people who use drugs, Business starter packs and a transportation allowance are included in the courses. 5 students were enrolled in technical skills course in Q11. The program began in September 2024 and will end in January 2025 with graduation ceremony by February 2025.
- Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign held on the 30 October 2024 with WWUD.
- World AIDS Day Event held on the 04 December 2024 brought together a significant number of stakeholders, including Metro Police and Law Enforcement, lack awareness of our Harm Reduction program. Some key activities: Legal literacy sessions, during which clients received dignity packs. Distribution of harm reduction program cards and distribution of donated clothing. Over 200 clients were reached on the day. This effort was a collaboration with VRCID, Reed Street Clinic, SANCA, MES, Wits, and ANOVA.





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## Acknowledgements



**NACOSA**  
NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING ORGANISATION  
FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND IS

