

HIV and Hepatitis Prevention Program Snapshot

Integrated Testing Services HCV Screening: 2022

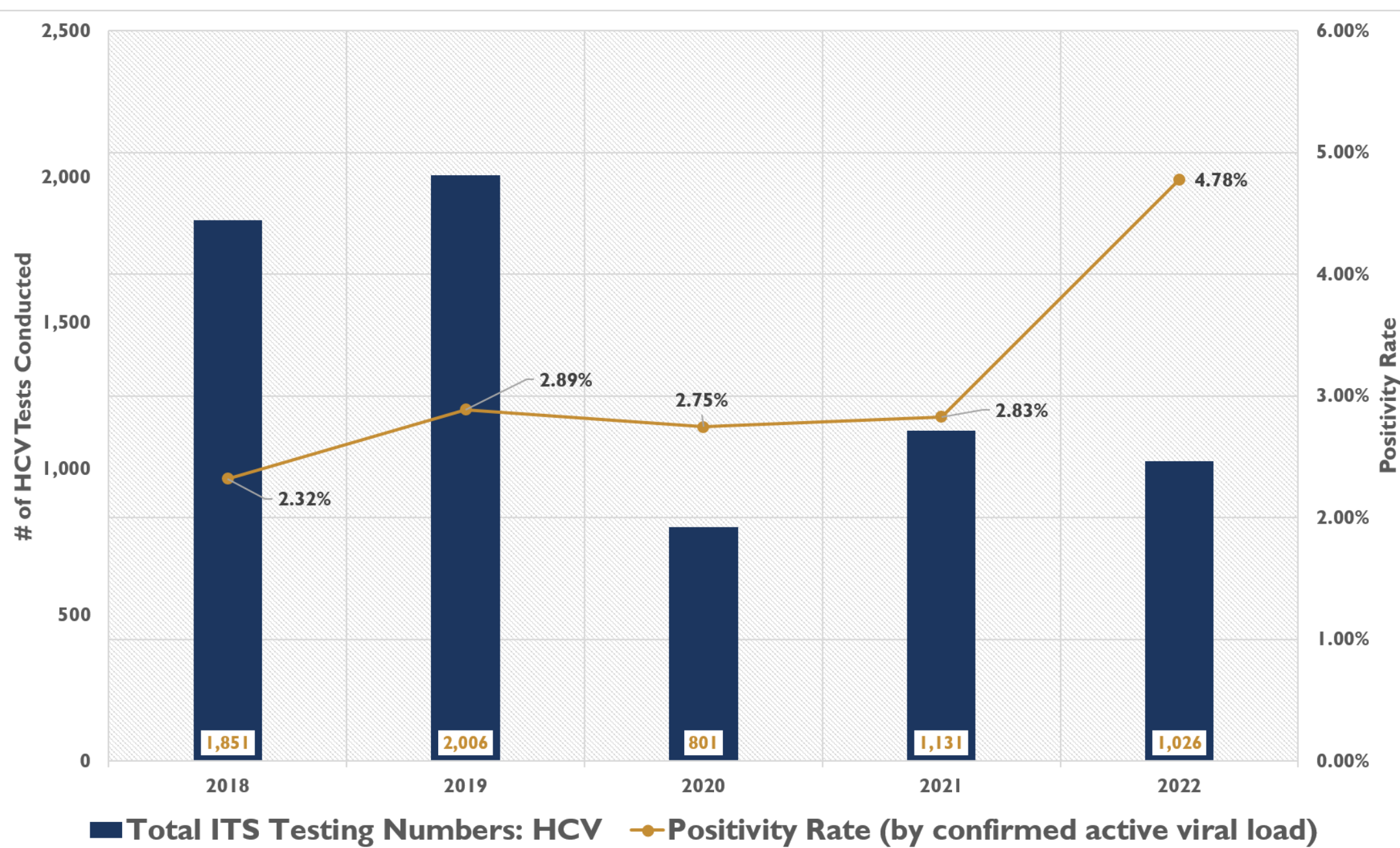
The Integrated Testing Services (ITS) program administered **1,026** hepatitis C (HCV) tests across 12 participating agencies in 2022.

This represents a decrease of 9.3% from 2021, and is 24.7% under the five-year average of 1,363 tests per year.

While the ITS program saw a dramatic decline in the number of HCV tests administered in 2020, correlating to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the program also prioritized the use of HCV test kits for people with a history of injection drug use (PWID) during the same time period. As a result of this modified guidance, total testing numbers are not expected to return to pre-pandemic levels.

The HCV positivity rate (calculated by those individuals identified as having an active viral load) for 2022 was 4.78%, significantly higher than the five-year total of 2.96%. This increase in positivity can be attributed to increased funding the program received to prioritize PWID in outreach efforts in combination with more focused program guidance.

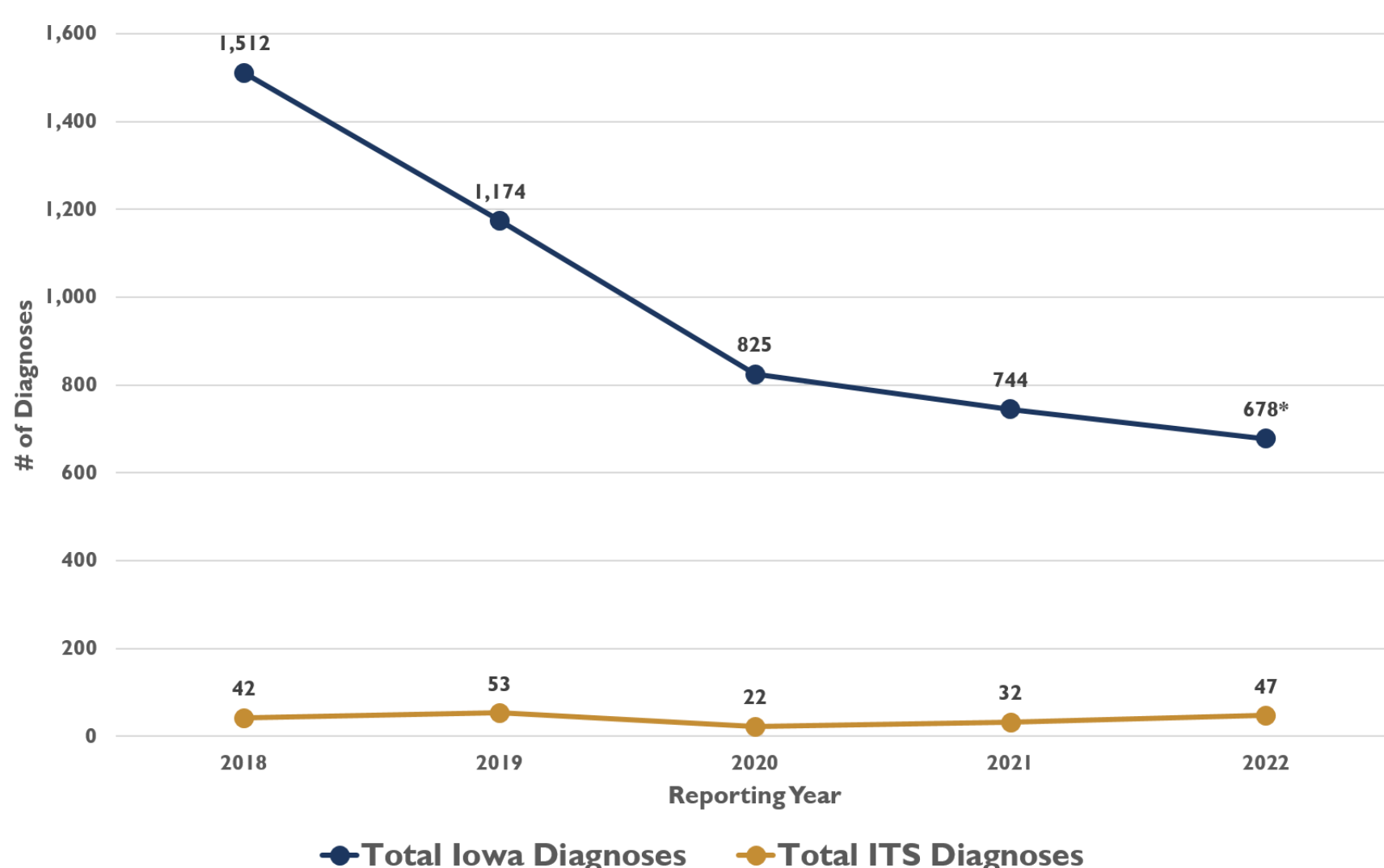
ITS HCV Testing and Positivity 2018 - 2022



**Data are not de-duplicated. Numbers represent tests and not unique individuals.*

The majority of individuals diagnosed with chronic HCV in ITS settings in 2022 (93.88%) reported a history of injection drug use.

ITS HCV Diagnoses vs. State Total 2018 - 2022



**2022 state total displayed above were not final at the time of release. Final numbers may be revised.*

The proportion of individuals diagnosed with chronic HCV in Iowa identified through ITS program activities increased to **6.9% of new diagnoses in 2022** (as compared to 4.3% in 2021 and 4.1% over the five-year period represented).

Compared to 2021, the total number of new HCV diagnoses reported in ITS settings alone increased by **46.9%**. This increase can be attributed to increased funding the program received to prioritize PWID outreach efforts in combination with more focused program guidance prioritizing the use of test kits to those most likely to acquire HCV (PWID).

Overall, Iowa saw a total decline in newly reported chronic HCV cases of 55.2% between 2018 and 2022. Surveillance reports released by Iowa HHS note that this decline was among people in the 'baby boomer' population (born between 1945 and 1965) as well as those less than 40 years of age.

In 2022, preliminary analysis suggest that nearly half (**49.3%**) of all newly reported cases of HCV in Iowa were among PWID.