

# Hepatitis B & Incarceration in Maine

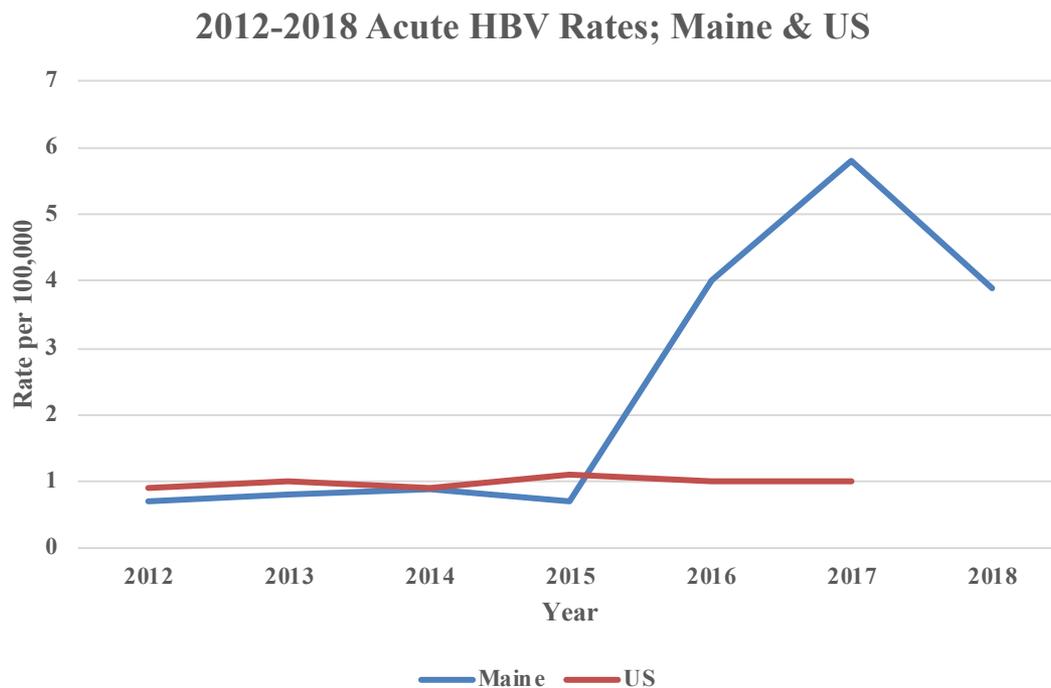
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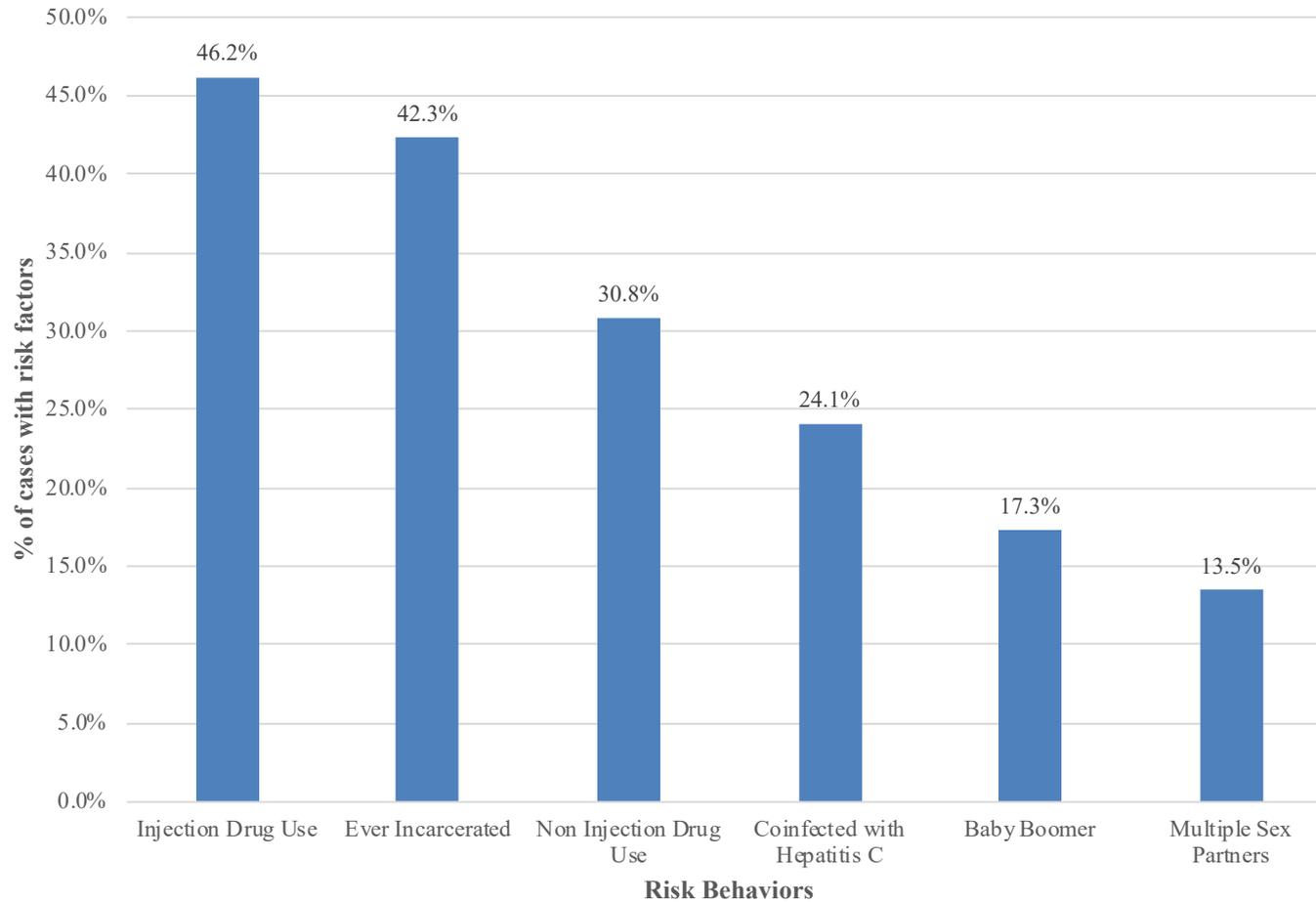
# 2012-2018 Acute Hepatitis B Rates; Maine & U.S.



- 2015-2018: 457% increase in Acute HBV rate.
- 2015-2017: 729% increase in Acute HBV rate.
- Maine has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate for Acute HBV in US (2017 CDC).

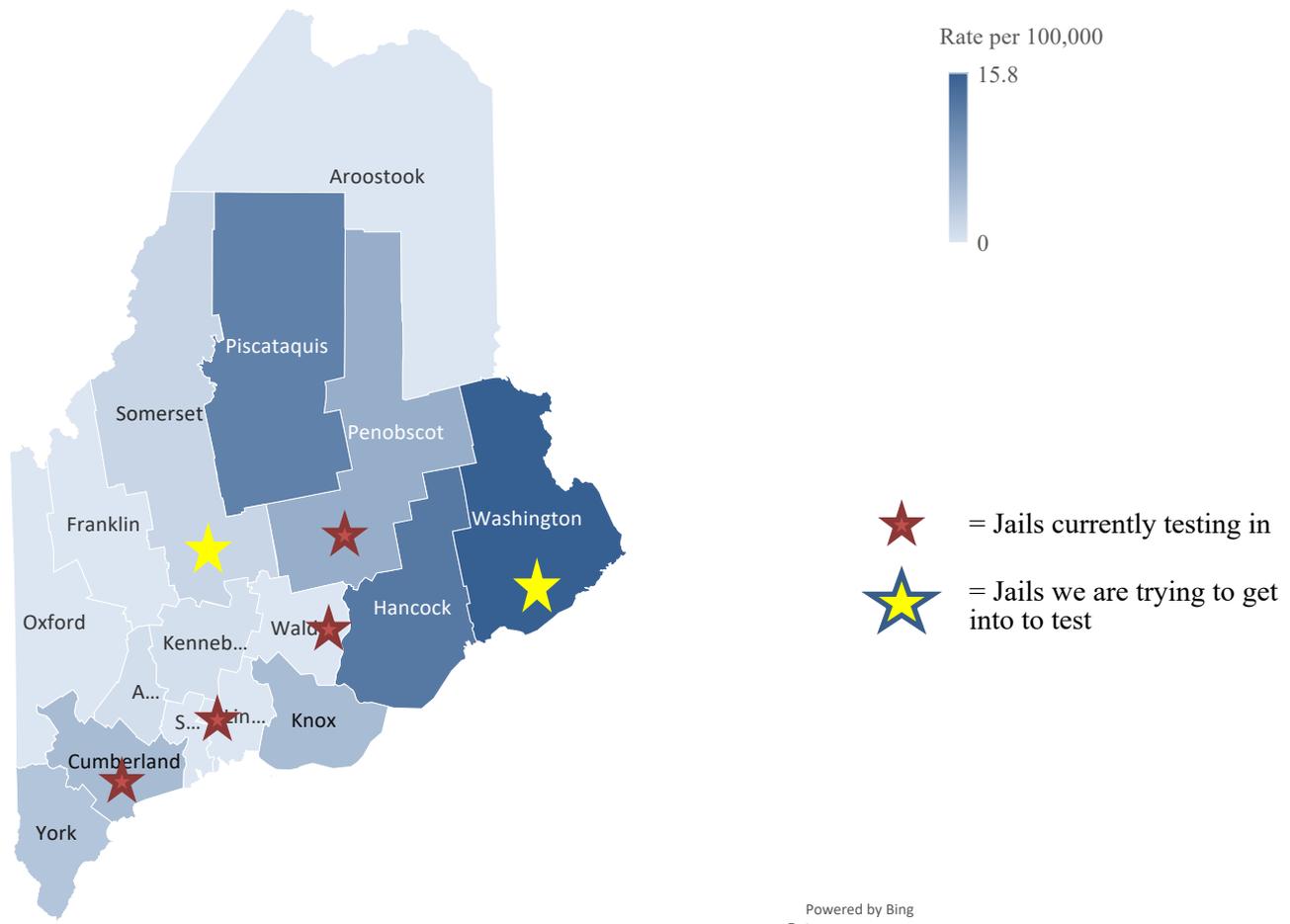
# 2018 Acute Hepatitis B Risk Factors; Maine

2018 Acute Hepatitis B; Maine Statewide Risk Factors



# 2018 Acute Hepatitis B; Rates by Maine County & Location of MECDC Testing

2018 Acute HBV Rates by Maine County



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# Hepatitis Testing & Linkage to Care Project

- Focusing on Maine's highest burden geographic areas.
- Targeting highest risk individuals; people who:
  - Inject drugs
  - Are incarcerated
  - Are experiencing homelessness
- Testing in facilities connected to highest risk individuals:
  - Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs)
  - County Jails
  - Recovery centers
  - Shelters
- Prisons:
  - Prisons in Maine already conduct testing

# Testing Logistics

- Testing team consists of a pharmacist (project manager) and two nurses.
  - At least one nurse is certified to draw blood onsite
- Screen anyone at facility who opts-in with rapid antibody to hepatitis C test.
  - If positive, patient can opt-in for blood draw
- Blood draw sent to commercial lab for testing:
  - Hepatitis C RNA (HCV RNA)
  - Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)
- If hepatitis B or C are confirmed, provider appointment is set up.
  - If incarcerated, account is set up so that person can make appointment upon release

# Hepatitis Educational Presentations

- Educational presentation given to high-risk populations prior to testing in hopes of increasing testing opt-in.
- Train-the-trainer model for facility staff.
- Hepatitis 101.

# Vaccinations in Jail

- Project does not include vaccination.
- Jail's medical contractor would not allow outside entity to provide vaccinations.
- Jail's medical contractor does not provide vaccinations.
- Patients vaccinated by FQHC after released from jail at follow up appointment.

# Who pays for this testing in jails?

## First year:

- Federal CDC's 1702 grant paid for:
  - Antibody to hepatitis C testing
  - Staff time
- FQHC paid for HCV RNA
- No HBsAg done
- Limited HIV rapid testing paid by HIV prevention grant

## Second year:

- Federal CDC's 1702 grant paid for:
  - Antibody to hepatitis C testing
  - HCV RNA
  - HBsAg
  - Staff time
- Limited HIV rapid testing paid by HIV prevention grant

# Challenges of Testing in Jails

- Took many months to convince some jails to allow us to test.
- Fear of cost of treatment.
  - Even though FQHC would pay for treatment
- Used a supportive jail administrator from different county to persuade reluctant jails.
- Medical contractor had stigma and prejudices.
- Medical contractor would not assist with testing or vaccination.
- Current lawsuit against Maine Dept. of Corrections.

# Thank you

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