



AN OVERVIEW OF HARM REDUCTION POLICY IN SOME NIGERIAN COMMUNITIES

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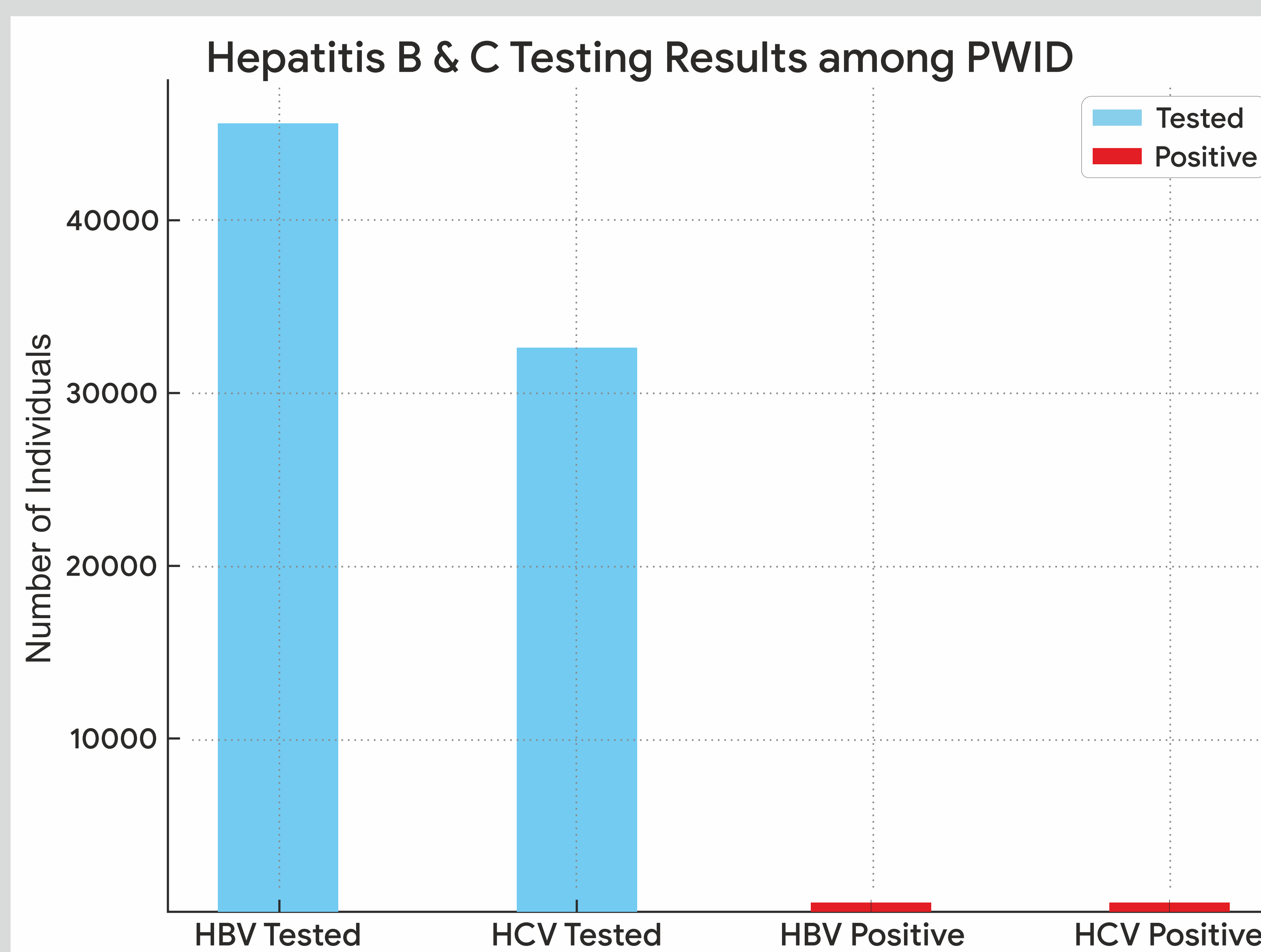
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BACKGROUND

Nigeria's population in 2023 was estimated to be about 200 million people, with about 14 million people (representing 14.4% of Nigeria's population between 15-64 years of age) using drugs as of 2018 (UNODC). Out of the 14.3 million people using drugs in Nigeria, 80,000 persons were found to be injecting drugs and about half of these (40,000) were reported to have shared syringes already being used by someone else, UNODC (2018). HIV prevalence rose steeply amongst people who inject drugs from 3.4% in 2014 to 10.9% in 2020, a much higher prevalence than the national prevalence of 1.4% among the general population, the country has a hepatitis B prevalence rate of 8.1 per cent and hepatitis C of 1.1 per cent according to the 2018 Nigeria AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIIS) report. These data reveals that drug related harms are a Nigerian national public health emergency.

APPROACH

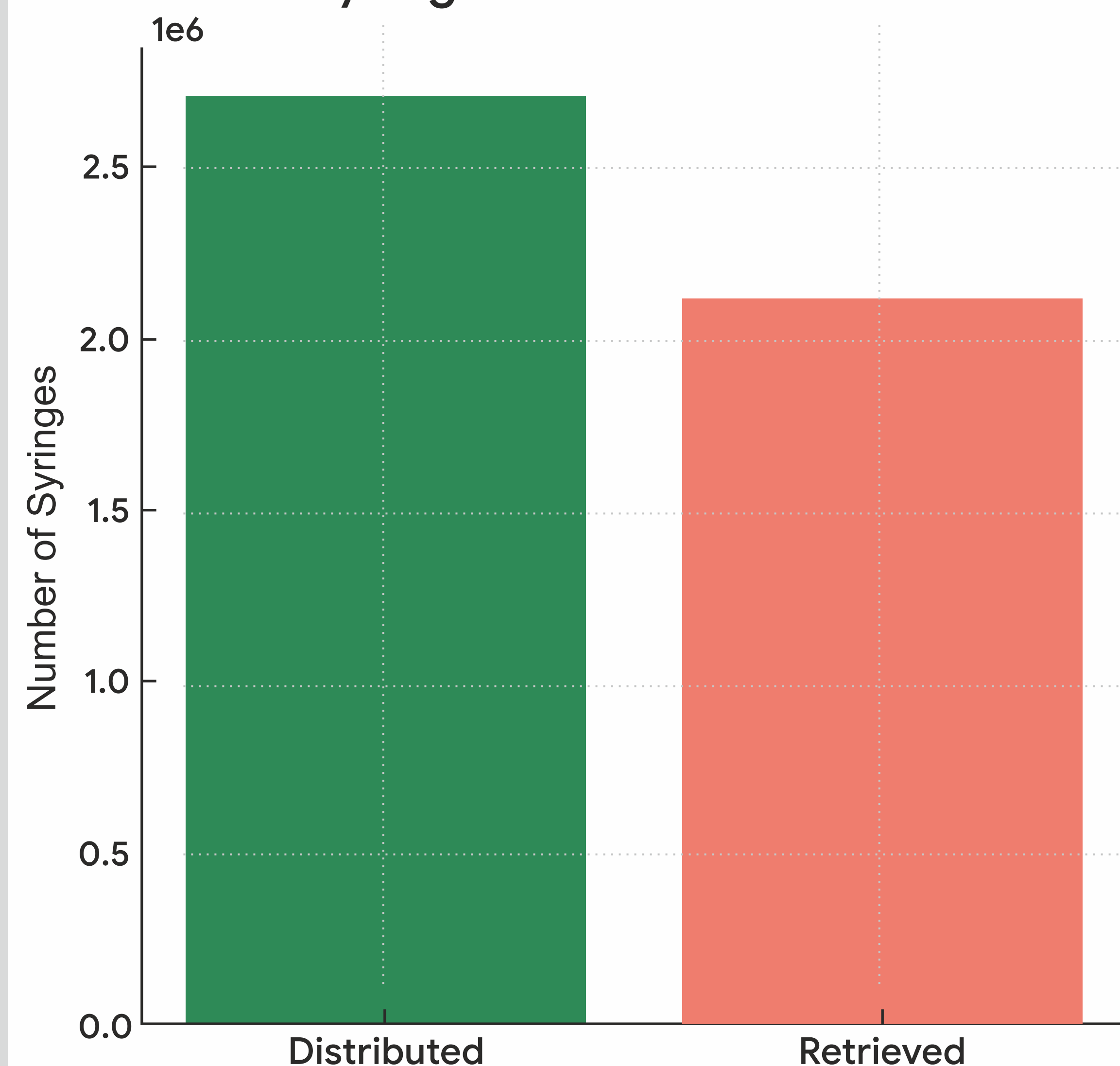
This is a qualitative study using convenience sampling methods from the Feredal Ministry of Health and FHi 360; a Non-profit Development Organization.



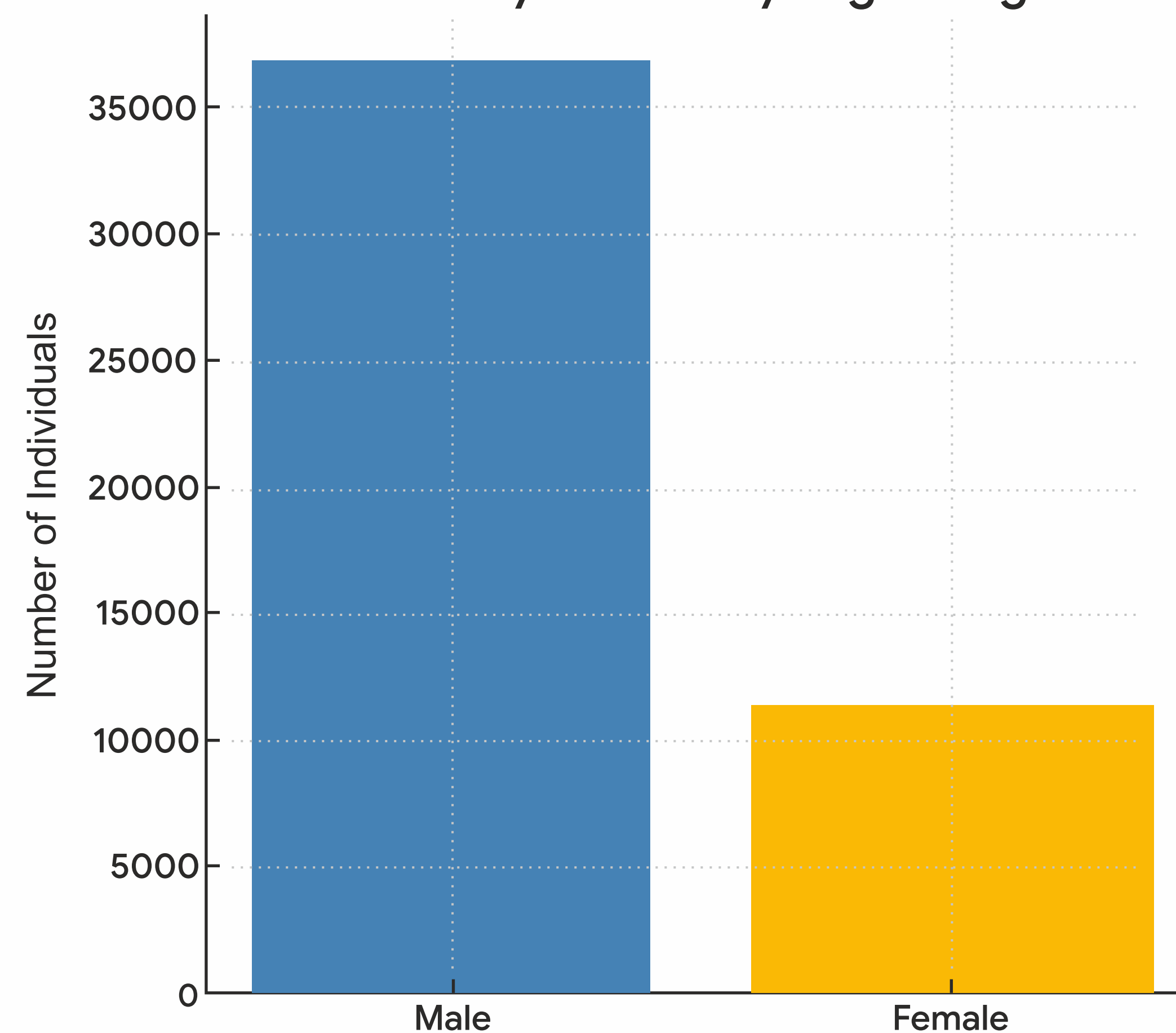
CONCLUSION

- These data demonstrate a high degree of progress has been made in implementing Harm Reduction Program in Nigeria.
- The wide implement of the NSPs shows he government readiness to use harm reduction interventions to reduce harms related to injecting drug use in the country, and the need for expanded and sustained viral hepatitis prevention, testing and Treatment.
- Continuous funding by the government and other Grant collaborators will yield better results in the future.

Needles & Syringes Distributed Vs Retrieved



PWID Reached by Needle Syringe Program



ANALYSIS

- Reports from the implementation of the Needle Syringe Program in 7 out of the 36 states in Nigeria indicated a total of 48,205 People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) comprising 36,865 males and 11,340 females were reached through the Needle Syringe Programs. 2,715,153 needles and syringes were distributed while 2,099,427 needles retrieved, at a retrieval rate of 77%, between July, 2022 and November, 2023.
- Of 45,498 PWID tested during this period for Hepatitis B, 341 were diagnosed and of 32,587 PWID tested during this period for Hepatitis C 440 were diagnosed.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

No conflict of interest and no financial grant was received for this study.