

Figure 1: Hepatitis C Testing and Positives 2005-2011

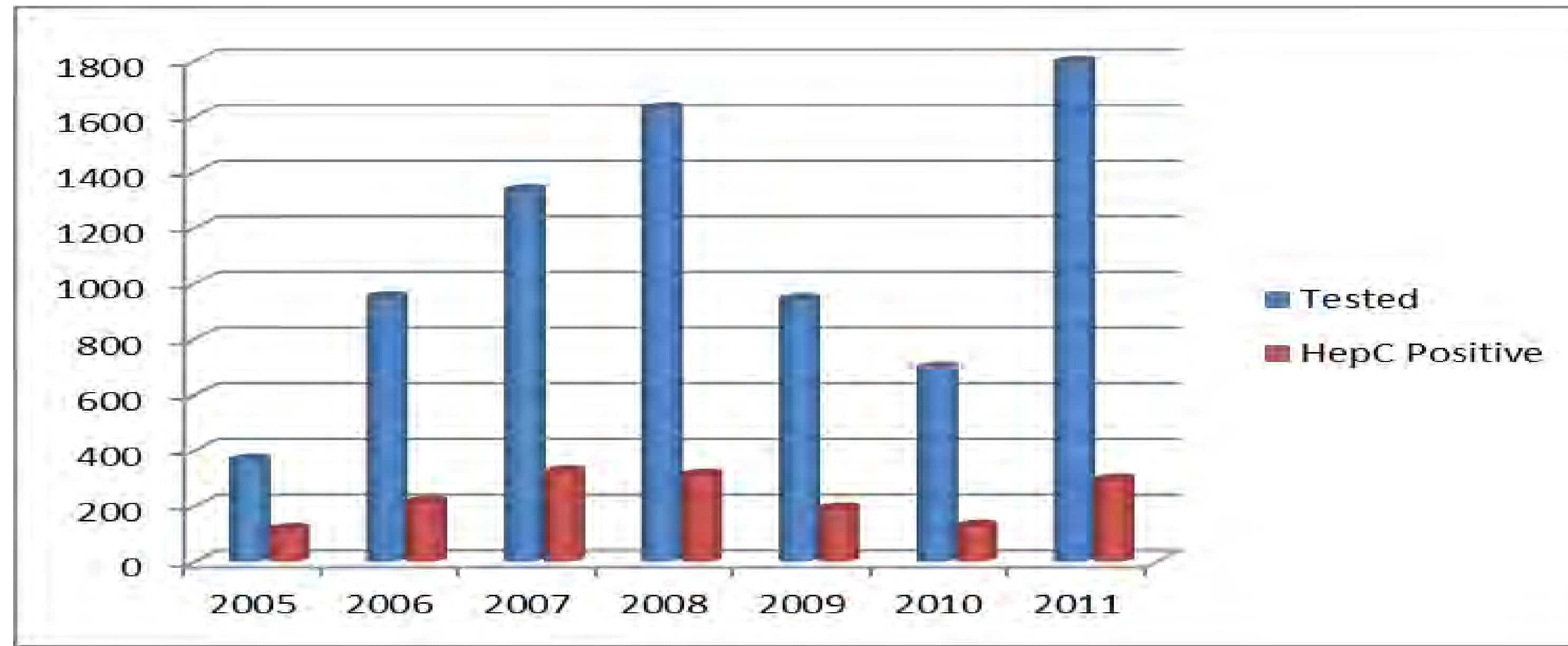


Figure 1 depicts the number of individuals tested by MoHepC Alliance and the number of positive hepatitis C results. An overall infection rate of 20.51% has been found through the targeted populations.

Figure 2: Drug Use Risk Factor testing and Positive rates 2005-2011

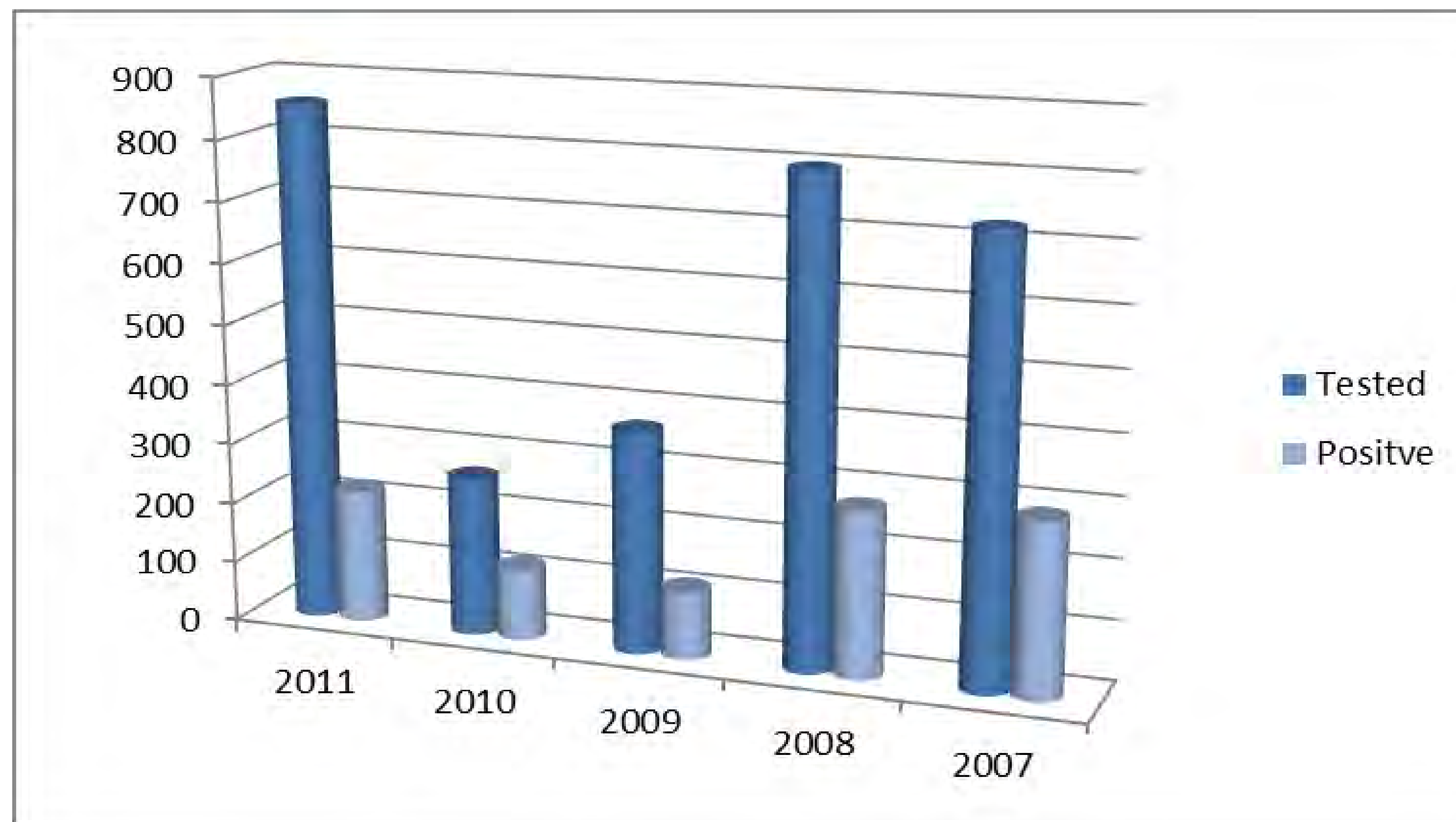


Figure 2 depicts the number of people who indicated drug use as a risk factor who were tested and the number that tested positive for hepatitis C. Overall Infection rate for this at risk population was found to be 33.83%. This represents a 64% increase over the already full targeted population tested by MoHepC Alliance.

Figure 3: % of Tested and % Positive indicated Drug Use 2007-2011

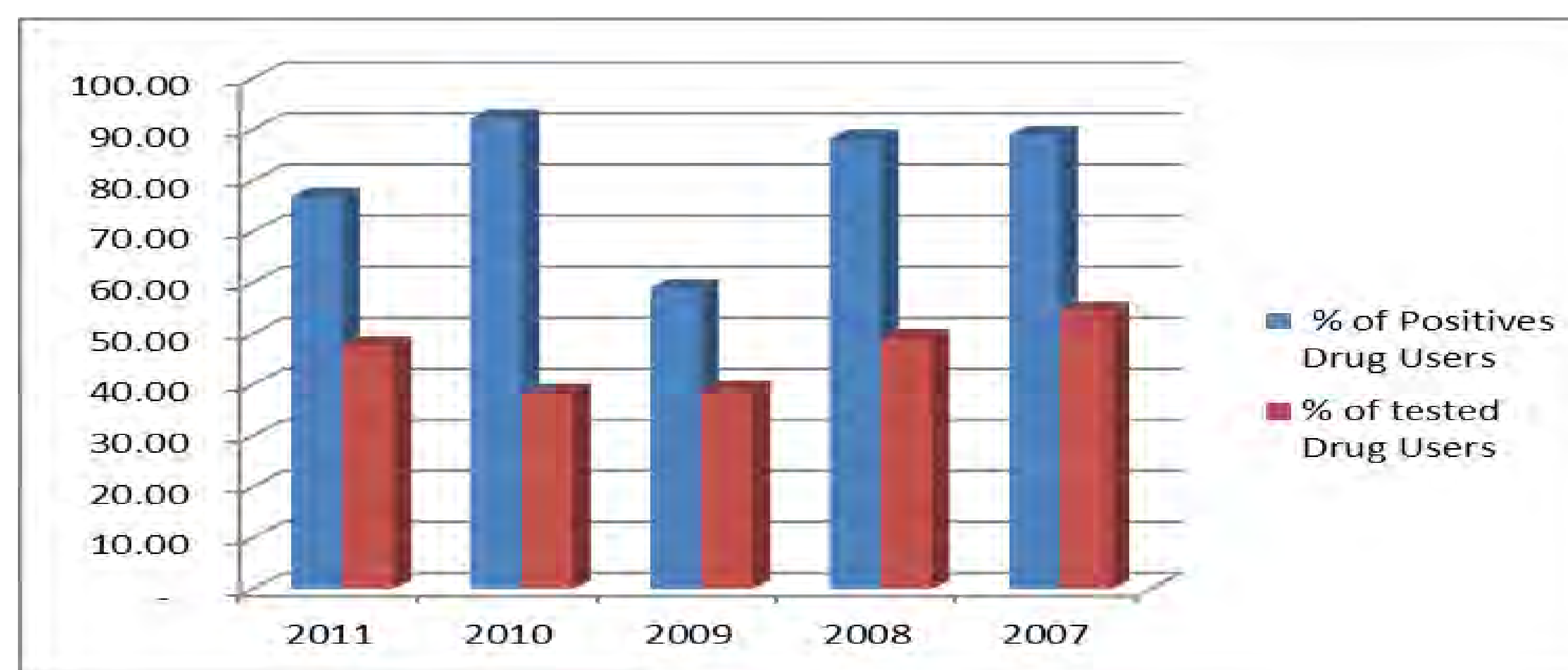


Figure 3 shows the percentage of total tested individuals that referenced drug use as a risk factor and the total % of all positives that were in that at risk group. Overall 47.2% of those tested indicated drug use as a risk factor the correlating positives represent and 81.4% of all the individuals identified as HCV positive. The correlation between drug risk factors and hepatitis C infection is statistically significant as it represents over 3000 individuals indicating drug use as a risk factor.

MOHEPC ALLIANCE HEPATITIS C OUTREACH PROGRAM PROVIDING FULL SPECTRUM OF SERVICES DIRECTLY TO AT-RISK POPULATION GROUPS

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Introduction to Hepatitis C and MoHepC Alliance: Hepatitis C can be asymptomatic, a mild sickness that lasts several weeks, or a lifelong degenerative illness resulting in liver failure and death. The seemingly dormant nature of hepatitis C can take up to 20 years for the symptoms to materialize resulting in unknown liver damage, cancer and a general progression of the disease. Early detection can help to eliminate the disease before long term liver damage or cancer develops. While Hepatitis C is the most common blood-borne infection in the United States with 3.9 million people infected, 75% of those are unaware of their infected state. An additional 20,000 people are estimated to be infected each year, two thirds from illegal drug use. It is estimated that 64% of illegal drug users are infected with hepatitis C. In the next decade it is estimated that 150,000 Americans will die from hepatitis associated liver cancer or end stage liver disease.

MoHepC Alliance is a community focused nonprofit organization with a mission to create awareness through providing education, testing and support for the detection, prevention and treatment of hepatitis C. MoHepC Alliance was founded in 1999 by Executive Director Bruce Burkett. It began as an internet chat and had grown into a dynamic entity providing testing and education in over fifty counties in Missouri and Kansas. MoHepC Alliance has created partnerships with health departments, treatment centers, diagnostic labs, medical professionals and community groups to access and serve at risk populations in both rural and urban environments.

Hypothesis: The outreach programs provided by MoHepC Alliance, which brings outreach services directly to the at-risk populations, produces a much high rate of HCV virus identification then would normally occur through regular acute care testing procedures.

Methodology: MoHepC Alliance provides a unique service. No other organization in the United States offers the full spectrum of hepatitis C education, testing and support. This effective outreach model brings the education directly to the individuals in the at-risk populations providing education on risk factors, prevention and treatment. The program methodology is as follows: patient attend free education programs; patient takes hepatitis C testing after educational program; patient meets with medical professional in facility offering testing and given results; patient is offered HeptaMax (PCR) at reduced or free rates based on funding availability to pinpoint viral load; patients are referred to attending physicians in their area; patients are referred to support groups in their area; patients are offered counseling on treatment options and life style adjustments including help in accessing reduced cost drug, testing and medical treatment programs.

Results: MoHepC outreach programs produces an overall identified infected rate of 21.7% of those tested while the national rate is estimated at approximately 2% of the general population. This high detection rate points to the effectiveness of MoHepC Alliance's efforts to target and serve at-risk populations. Between 2007 and 2010 MoHepC Alliance tested 2158 drug users for hepatitis C, 36.9% of which were identified as infected. This represent 47% of the total population tested by MoHepC Alliance during that timem however the infected population of drug users represented 83.1% of the total positives identified by MoHepC Alliance. Thus the results of targeting health and treatment centers directly with a full spectrum subsidized or free service and outreach program is very effective.

Conclusion: MoHepC Alliance's outreach programs targeting at-risk populations have a very successful outcome for individuals with Hepatitis C. This program is an example of how a the time and effort of a small organization directed efficiently can resulting in higher than previously reported infection rates then through general screening methods used.

MoHepC Alliance Are you Positive?

Figure 4: 2011 HCV Positives by Age

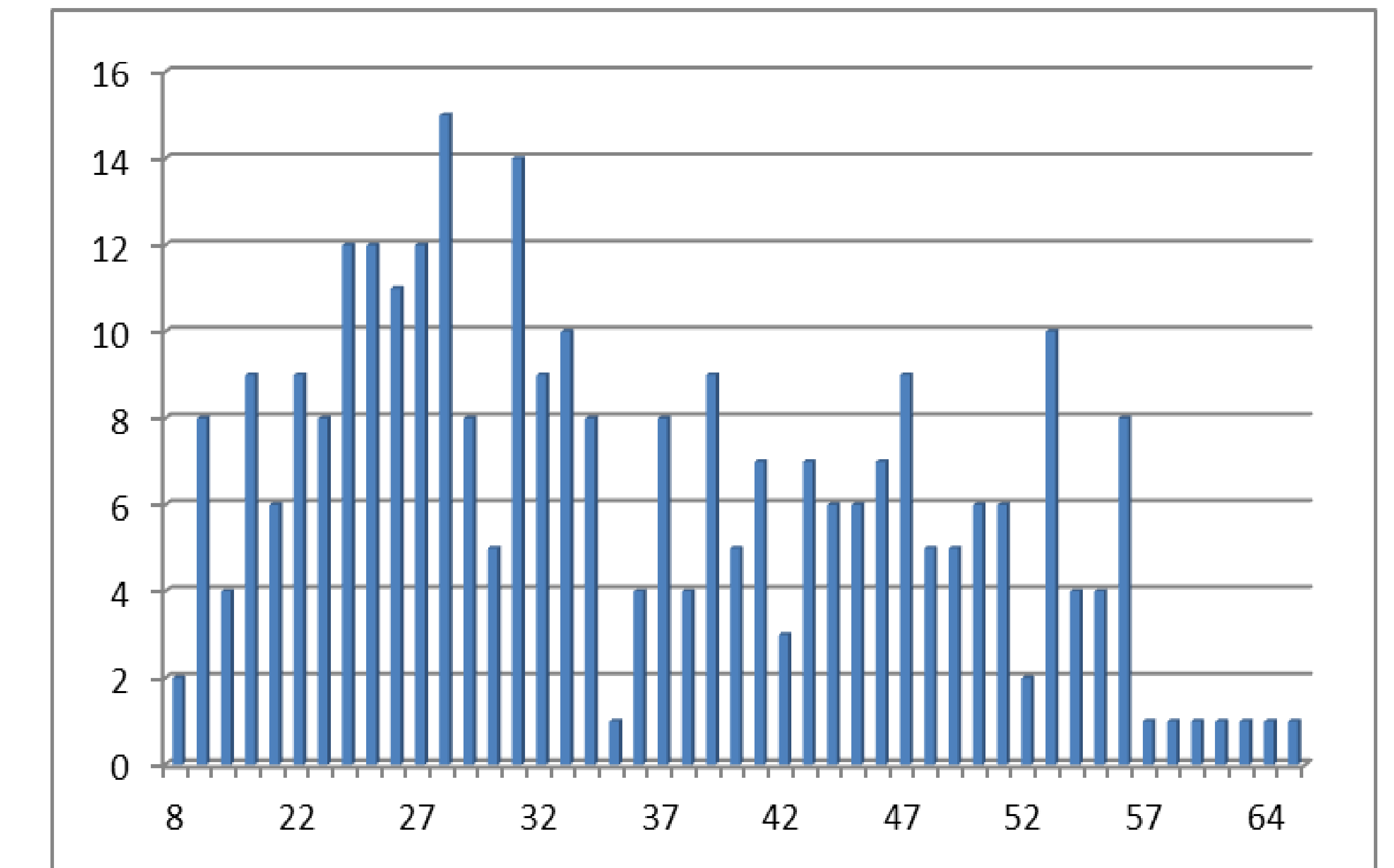


Figure 4 shows the breakdown of the approximately 1800 people tested in 2011 by age bands. This information shows two distinct curves of population groups being tested. The first group is the age 20 to 35 which is often those indicating drug use as a risk factor and are the largest group to show newly infected cases. The second group is the baby boomer population from age 45 to 65 which represents the highest currently infected population segment.

Figure 5: Educational program attendees 2005-2011

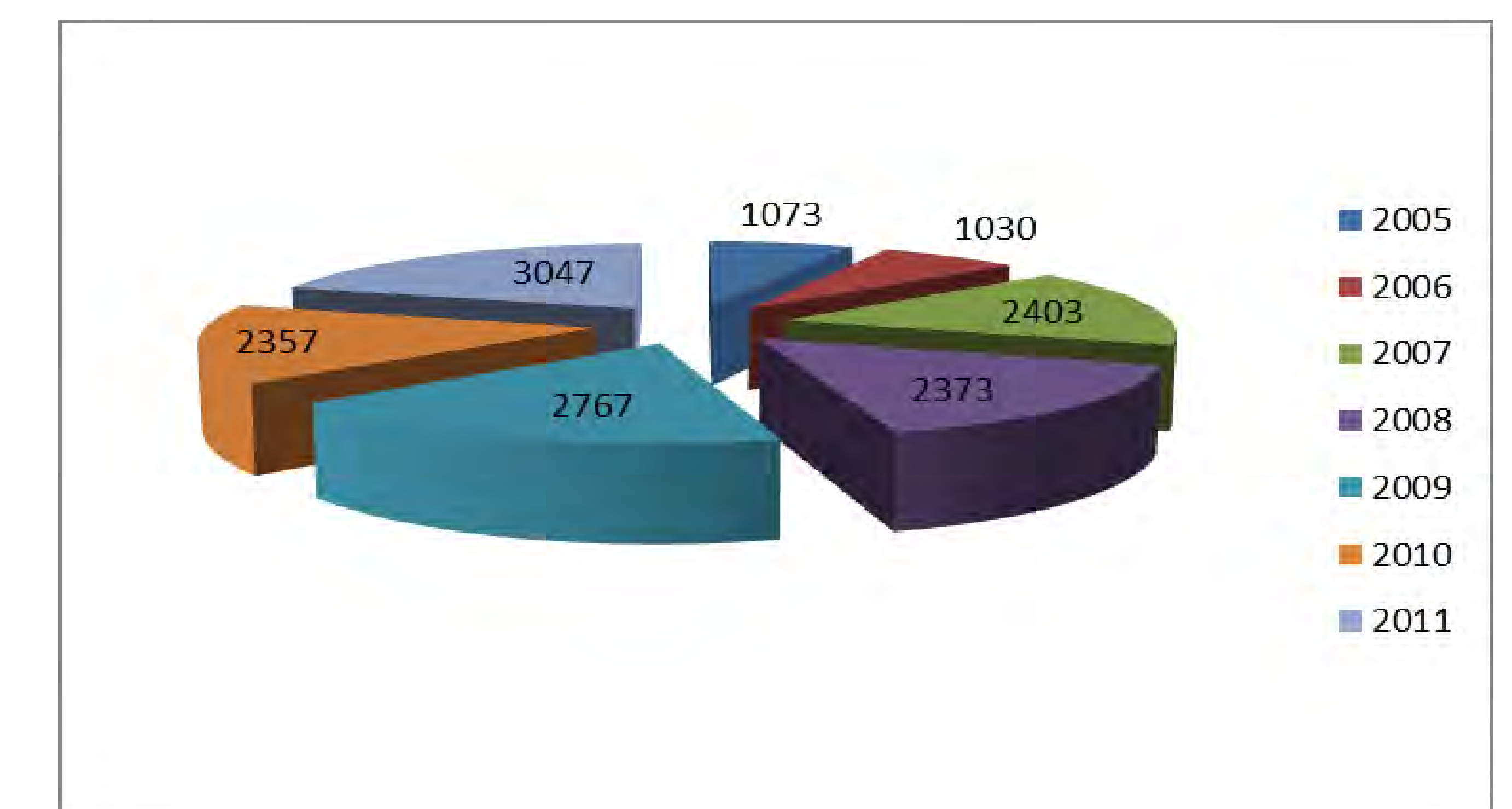


Figure 5 shows the total number of individuals each year that attended educational sessions to learn more about hepatitis C risk factors, life style adjustments, testing opportunities and treatment options. Pre and post tests administered at the sessions show an increase in hepatitis C awareness from 65% before the session to 95 after the session %.