



**36th South African
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Transfusion Congress**

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SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The effect of reduced deferral periods on the donor deferral rate at the Western Cape Blood Service, South Africa

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Western Cape Blood Service
Do something remarkable

Background

- ‘Deferral’ refers to the act of delaying blood donation for a donor, either permanently or for a temporary period of time, according to specific criteria.
- Donation is delayed because of potential risk to the donor’s safety or to the person receiving their blood product.
- Deferral of donors is well known to negatively effect donor return^{1,2,3}.



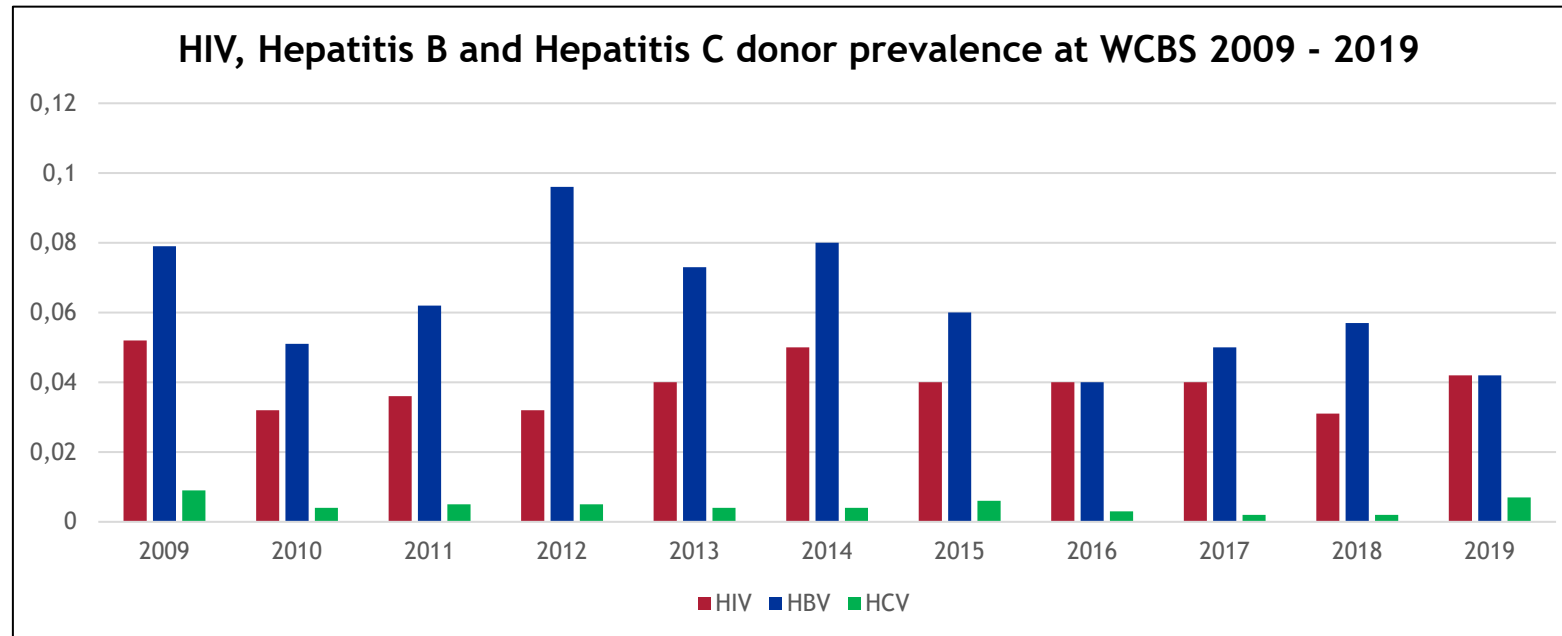
1. D Halperin et al. The effect of short-term, temporary deferral on future blood donation. *Transfusion* 1998; Vol 38:181-183

2. Brian Custer et al. The consequences of temporary deferral on future whole blood donations. *Transfusion* 2007; Vol 47:1514-1523

3. Shimian Zou et al. Donor deferral and resulting donor loss at the American Red Cross Blood Services, 2001 through 2006. *Transfusion* 2008; Vol 48: 2531-2539.

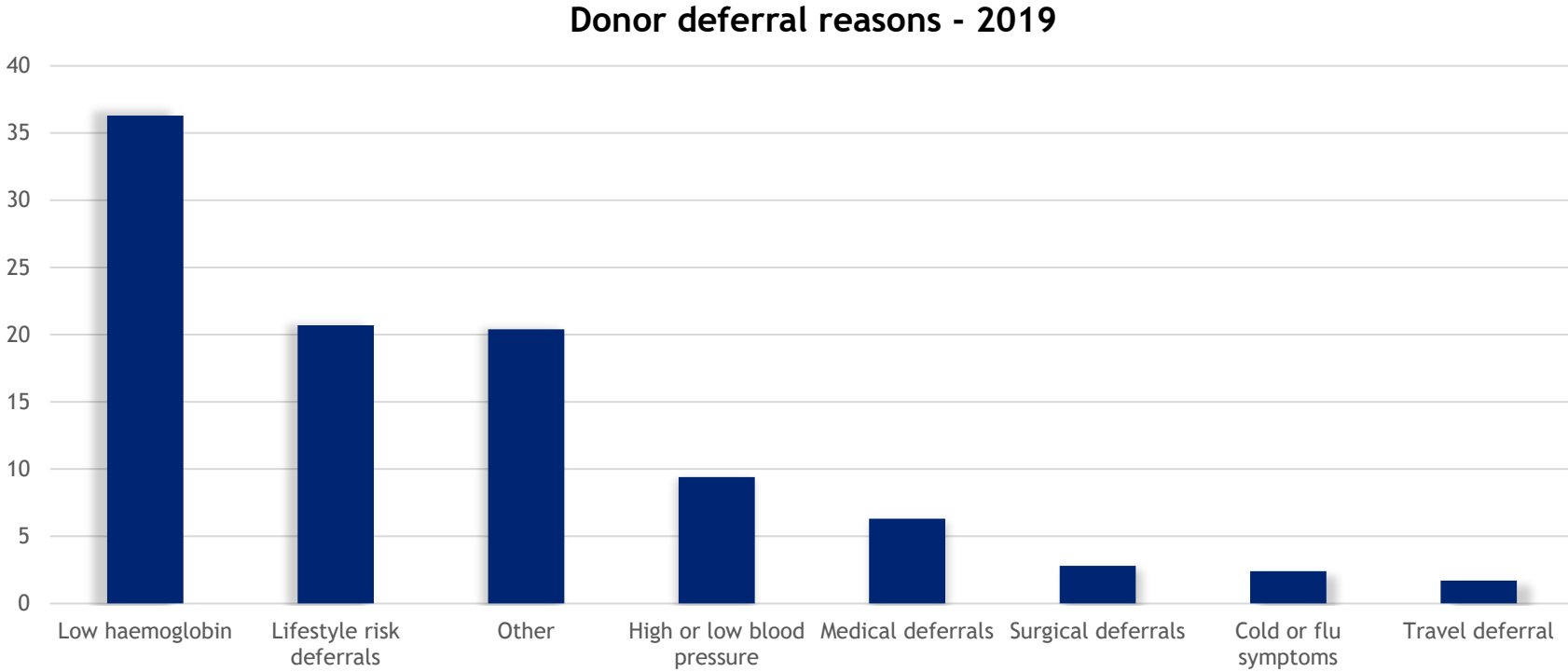
Background

- Donor prevalence for HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C is a way of monitoring blood product safety.



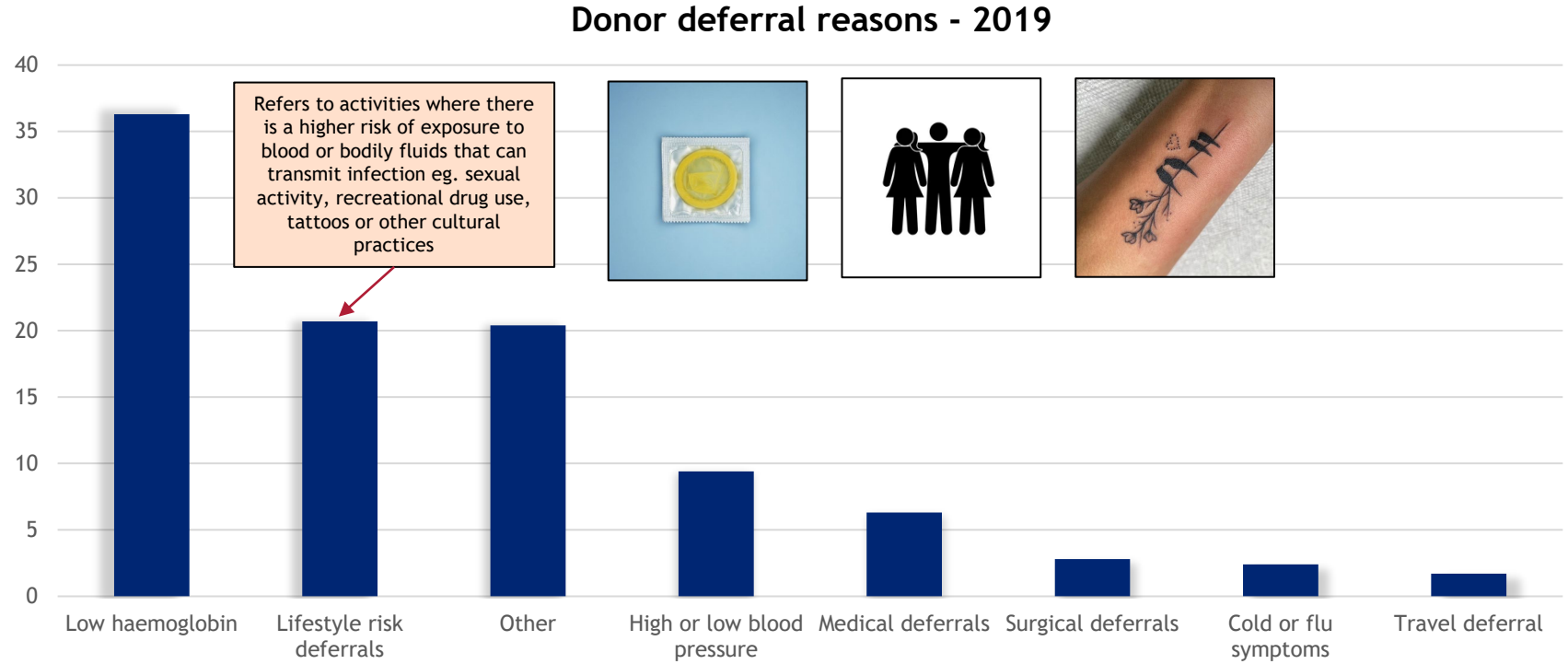
Background

- In 2019, WCBS deferred an average of 22.6% of donors.



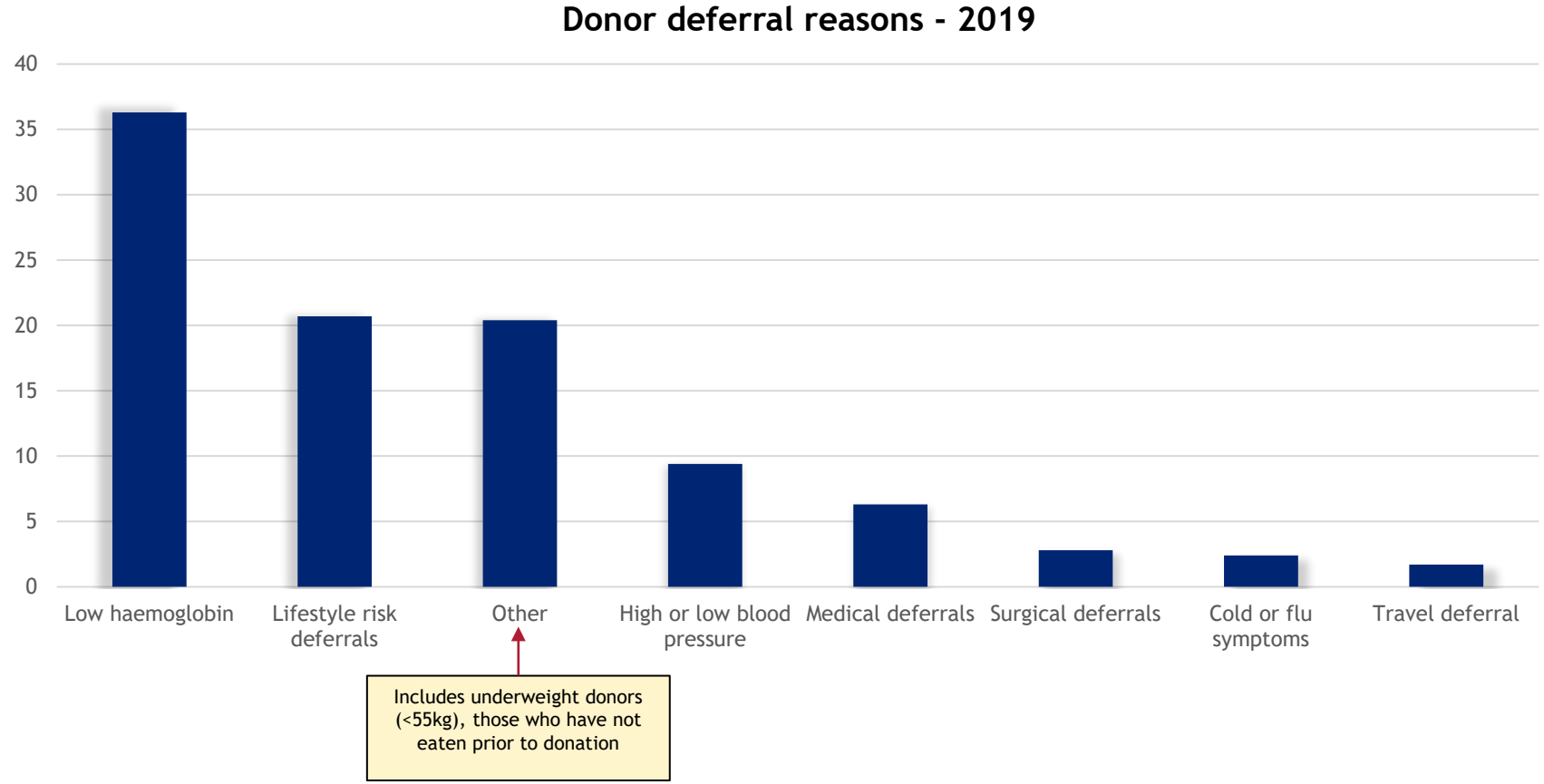
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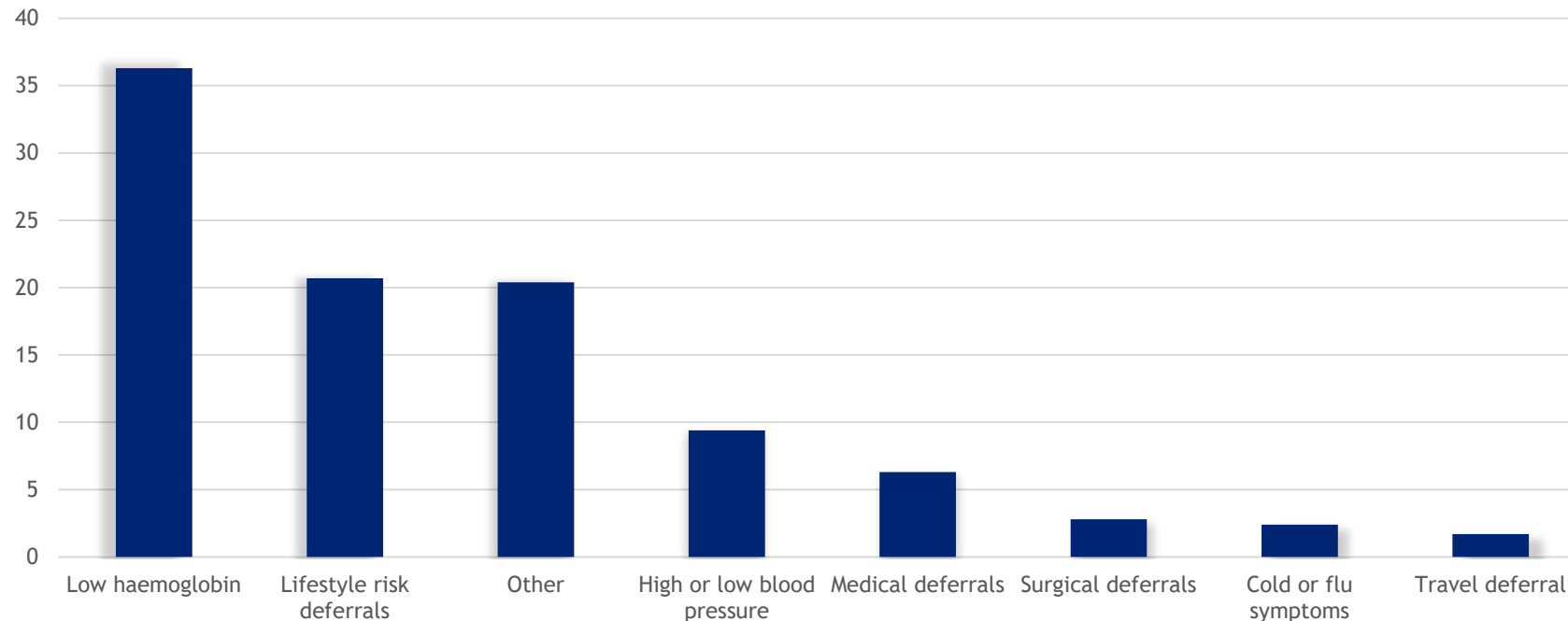
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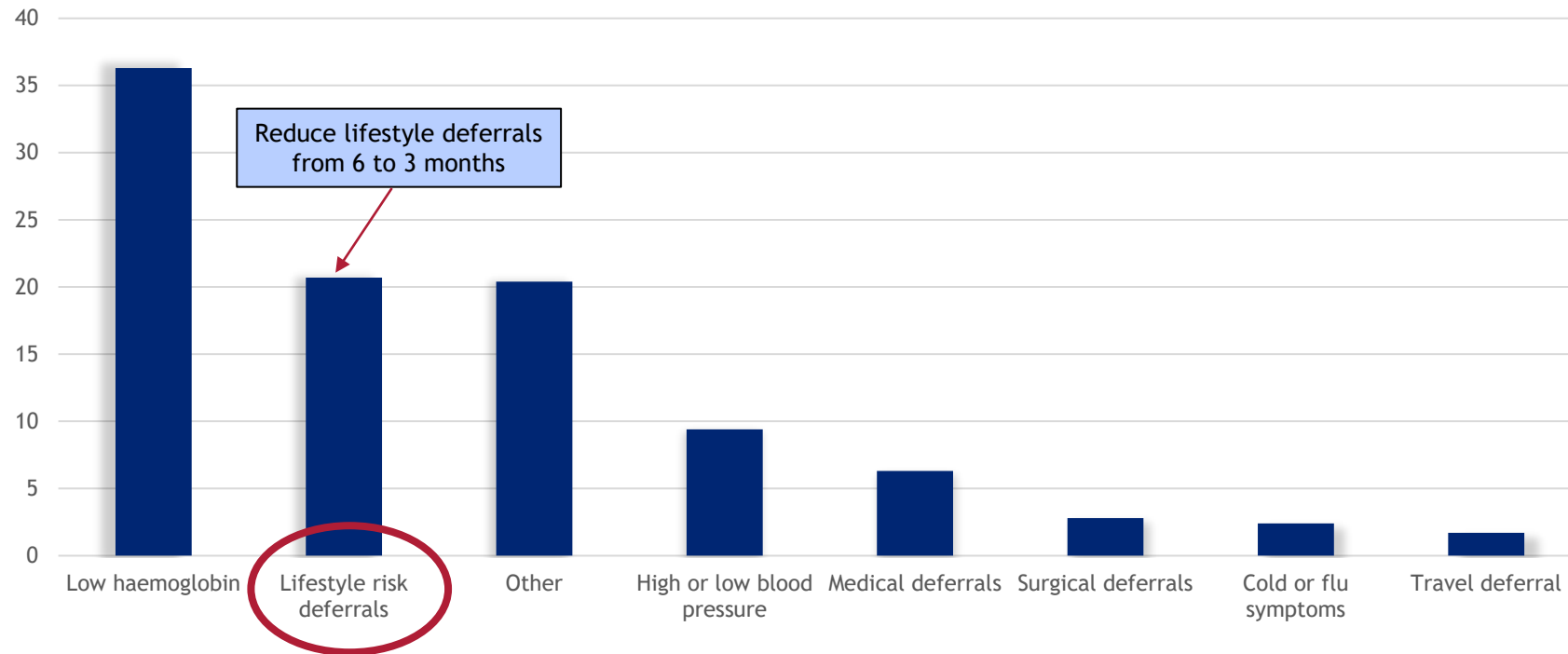
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- Decision made to revise the deferral periods for certain criteria in April 2020.
- Decision based on national and international changes, and confidence in NAT testing.



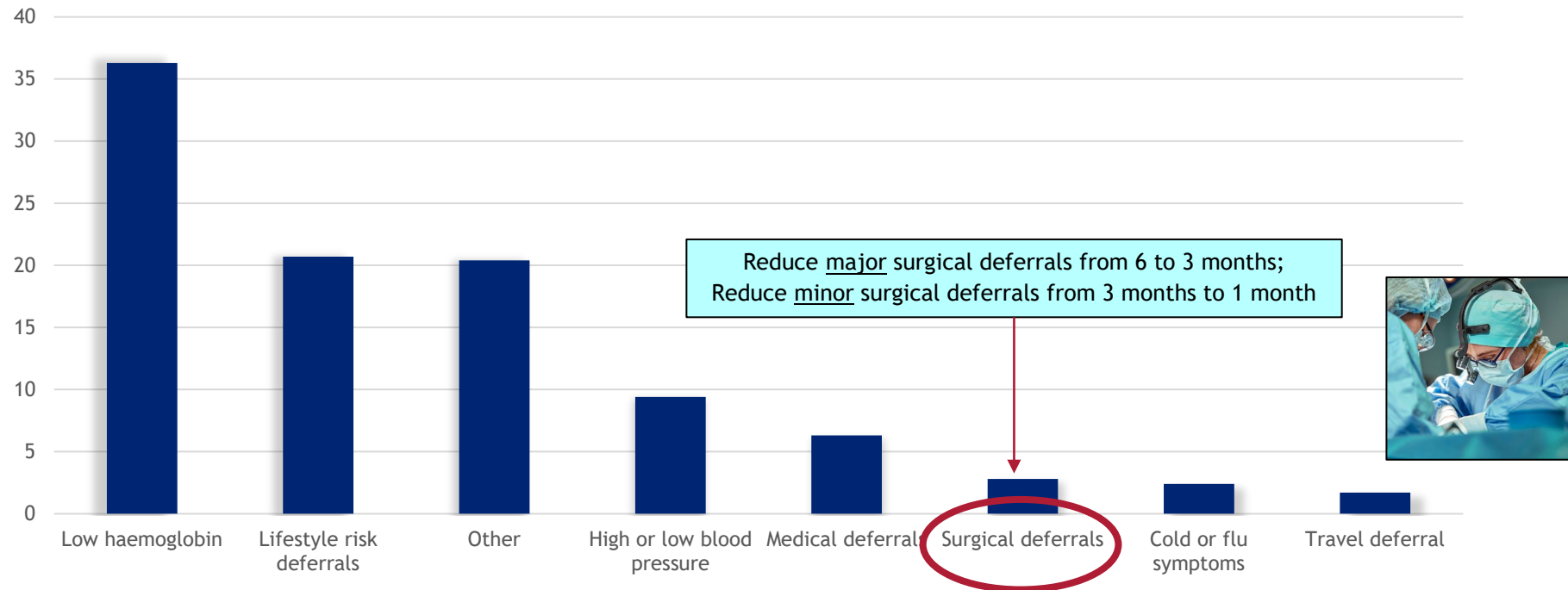
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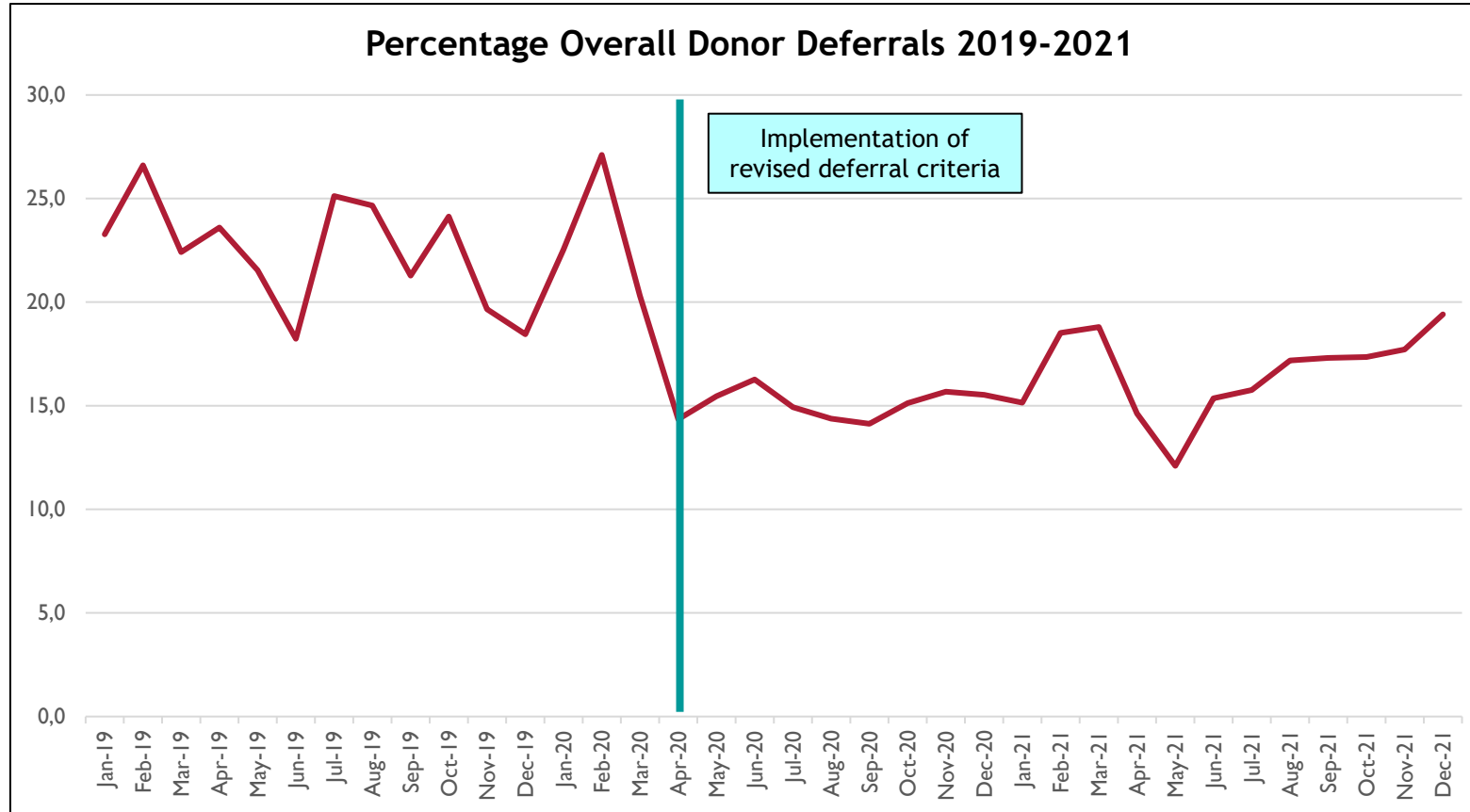
Aim

To review how the overall donor deferral rate changed following implementation of multiple reduced donor deferral periods at WCBS clinics in the Cape Town Metropole (CTM).

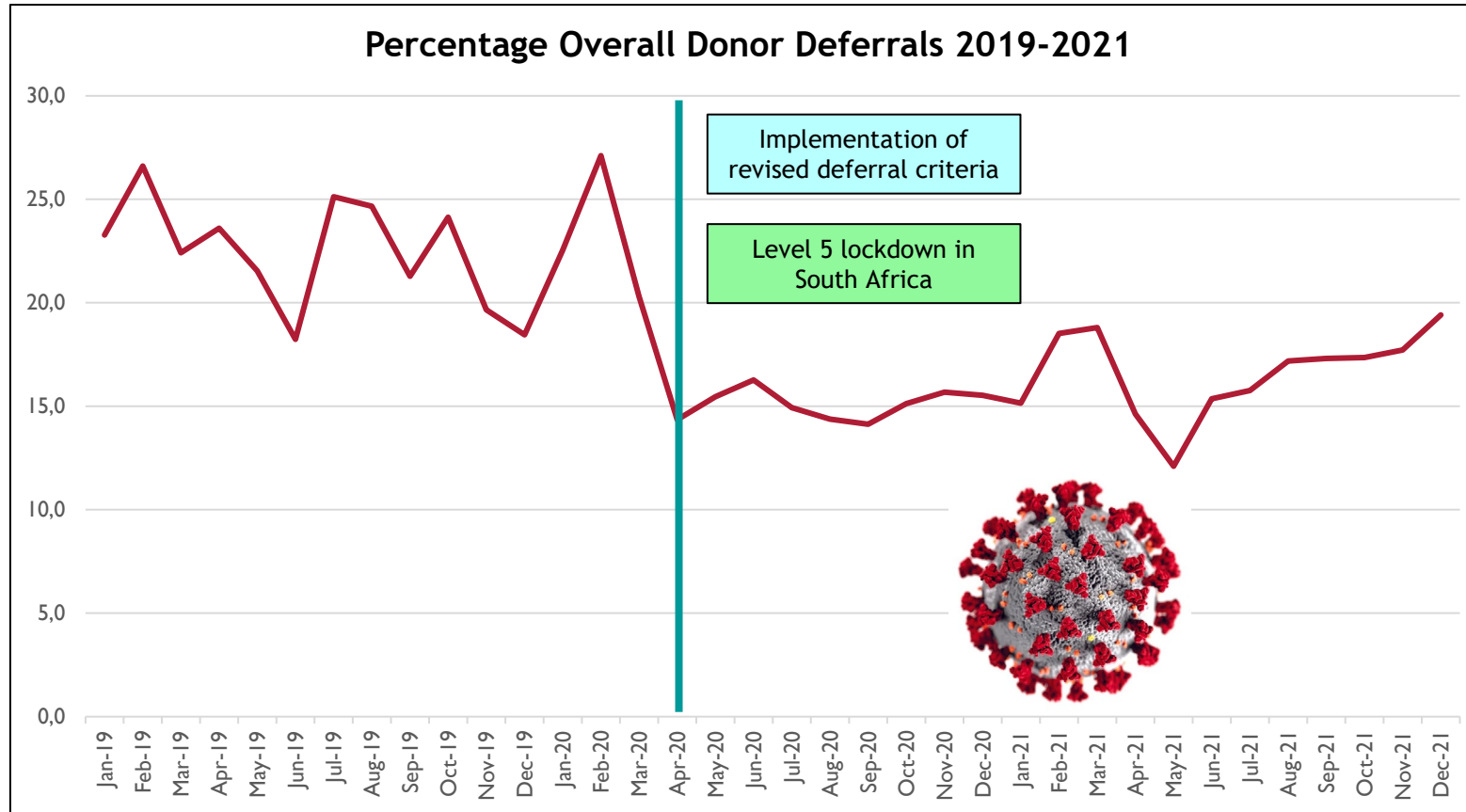
Method

Retrospective analysis of clinic data from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021.

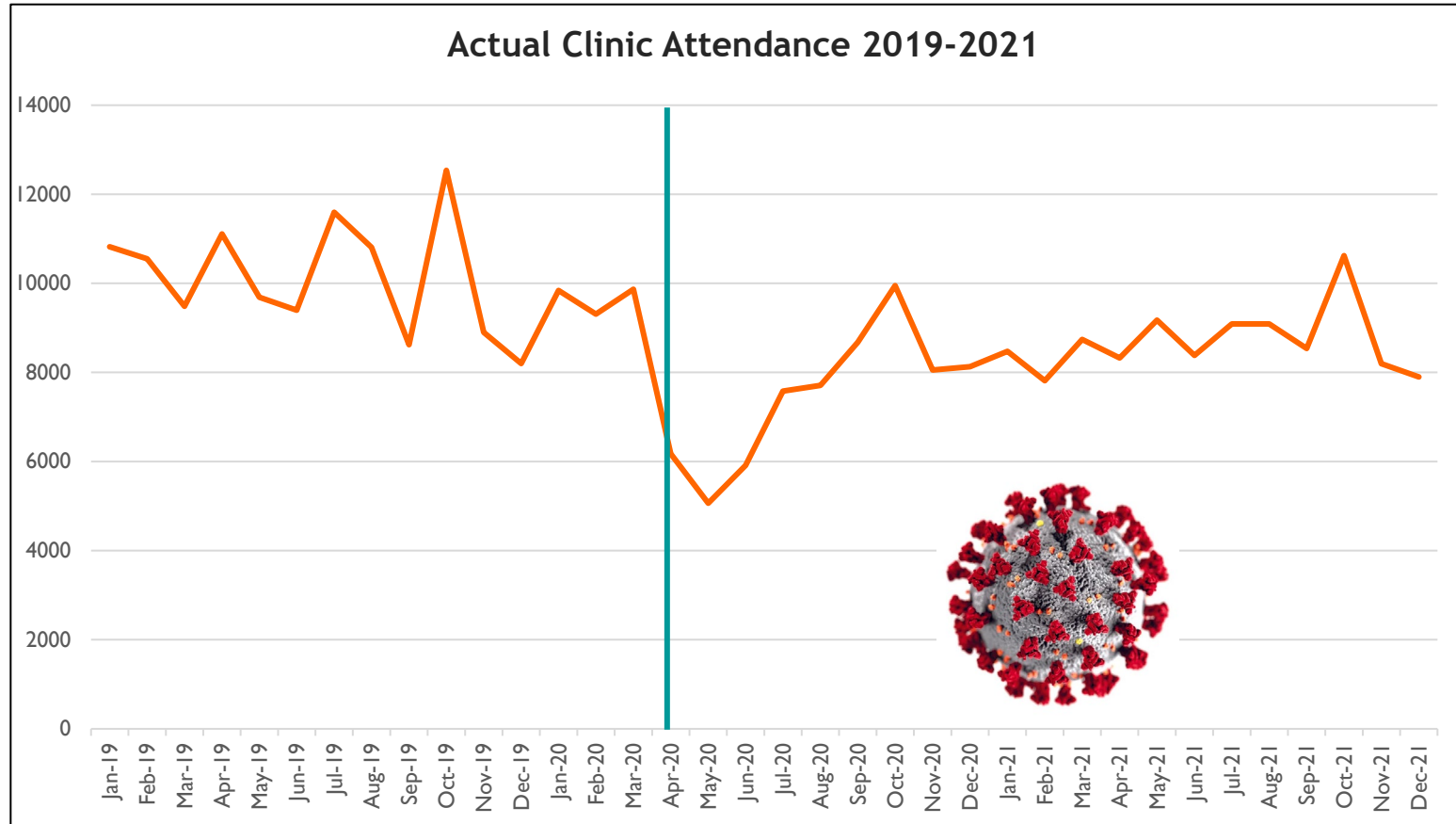
Results



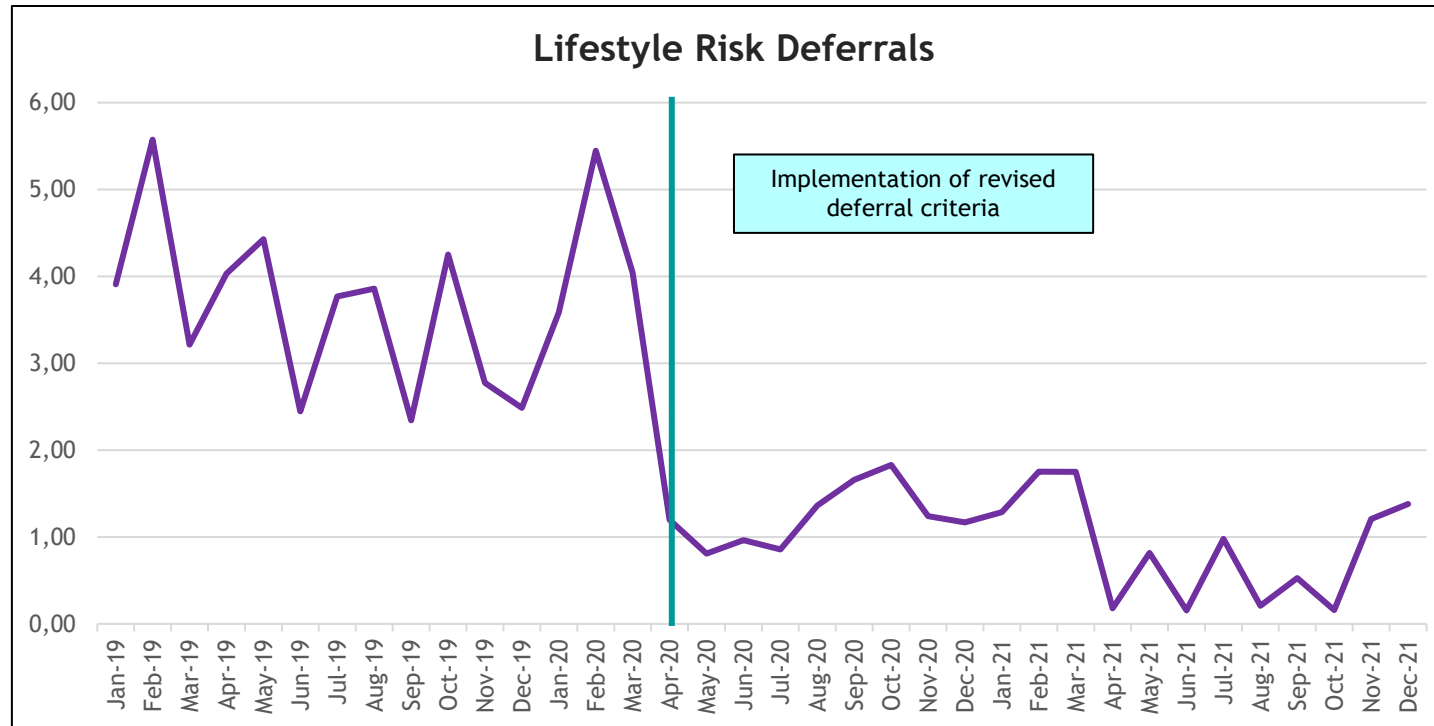
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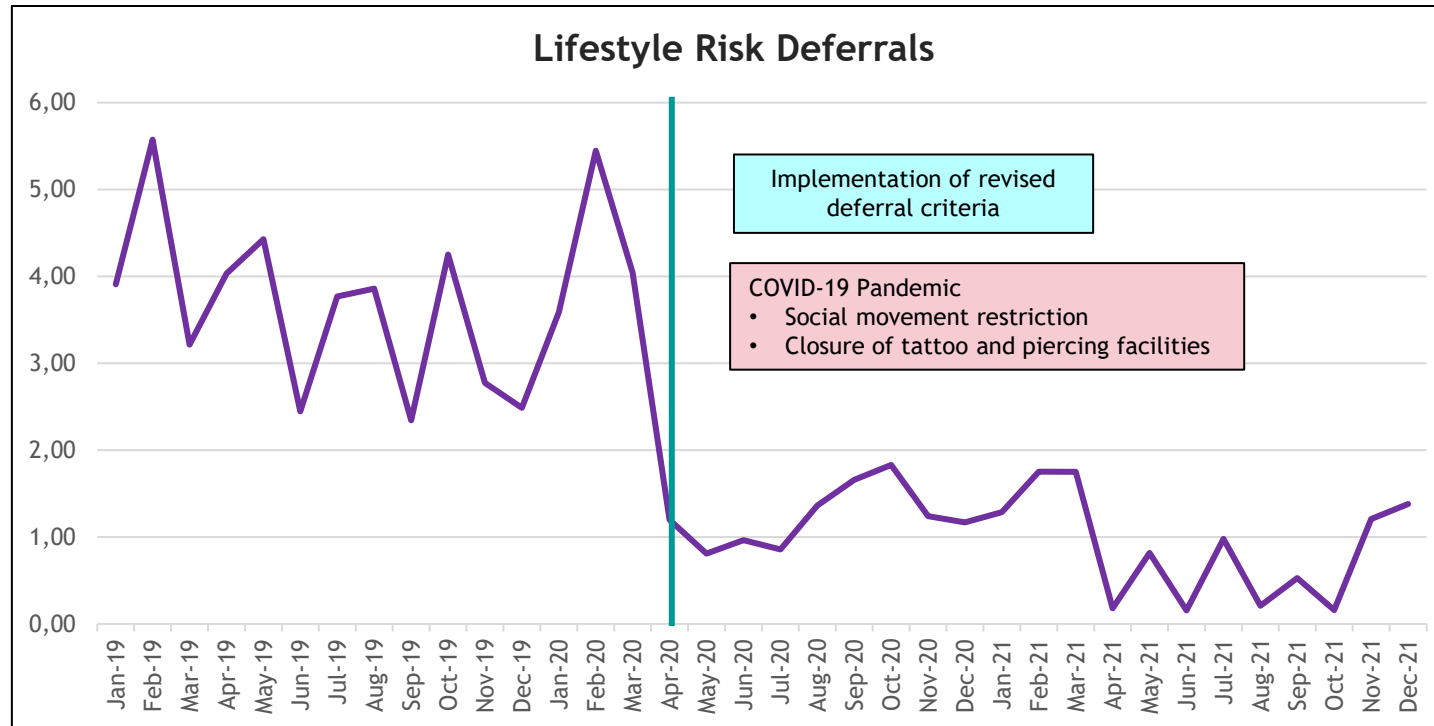
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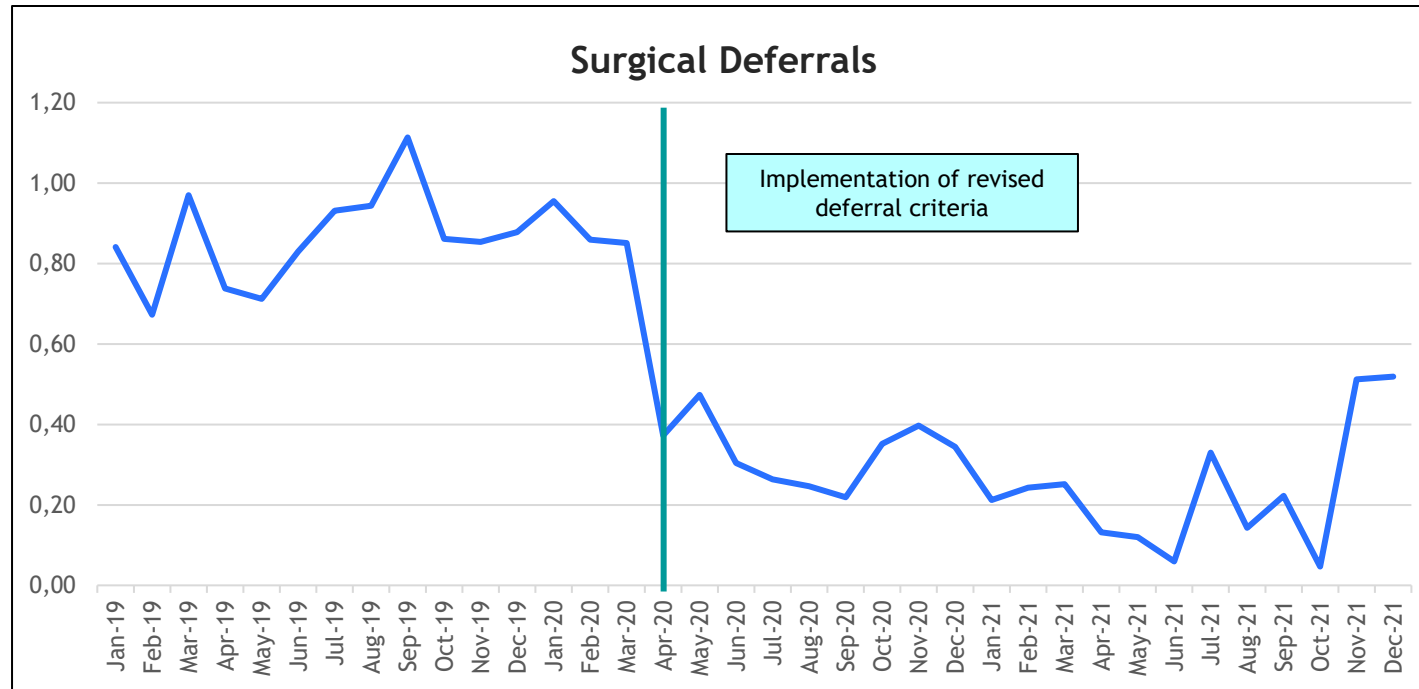
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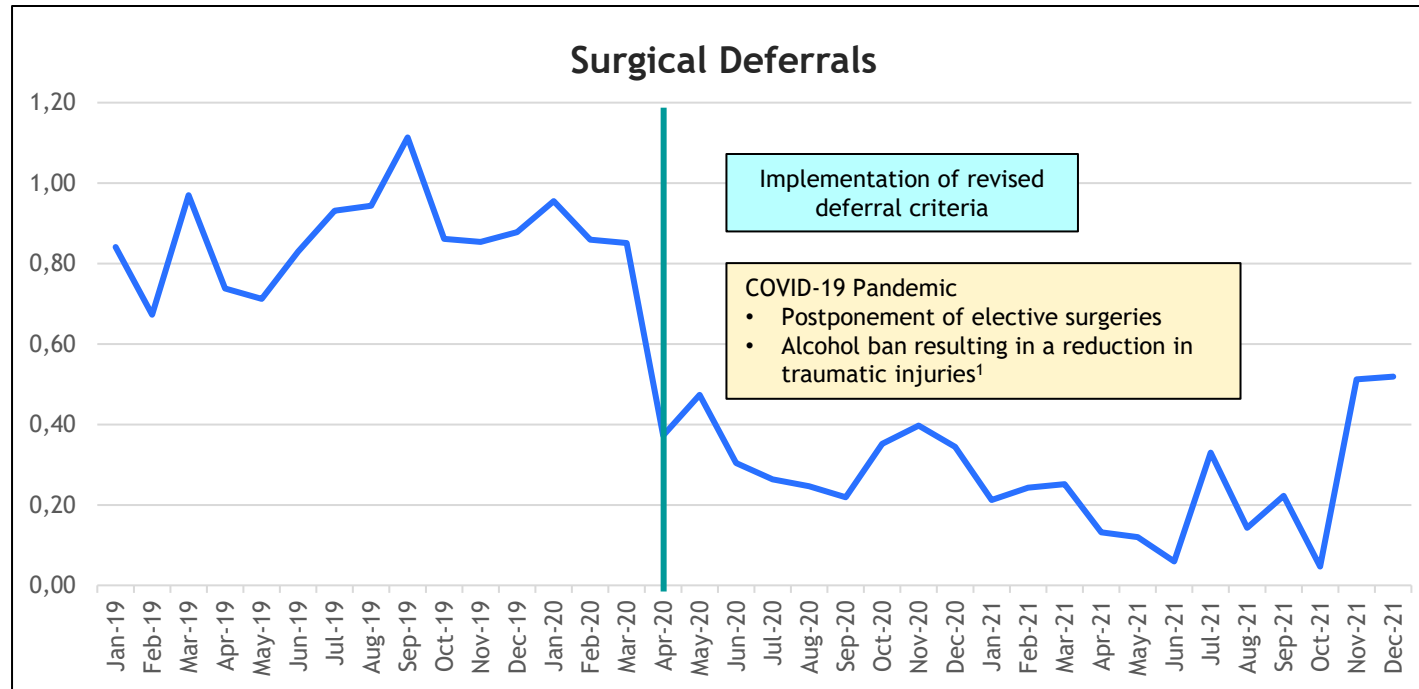


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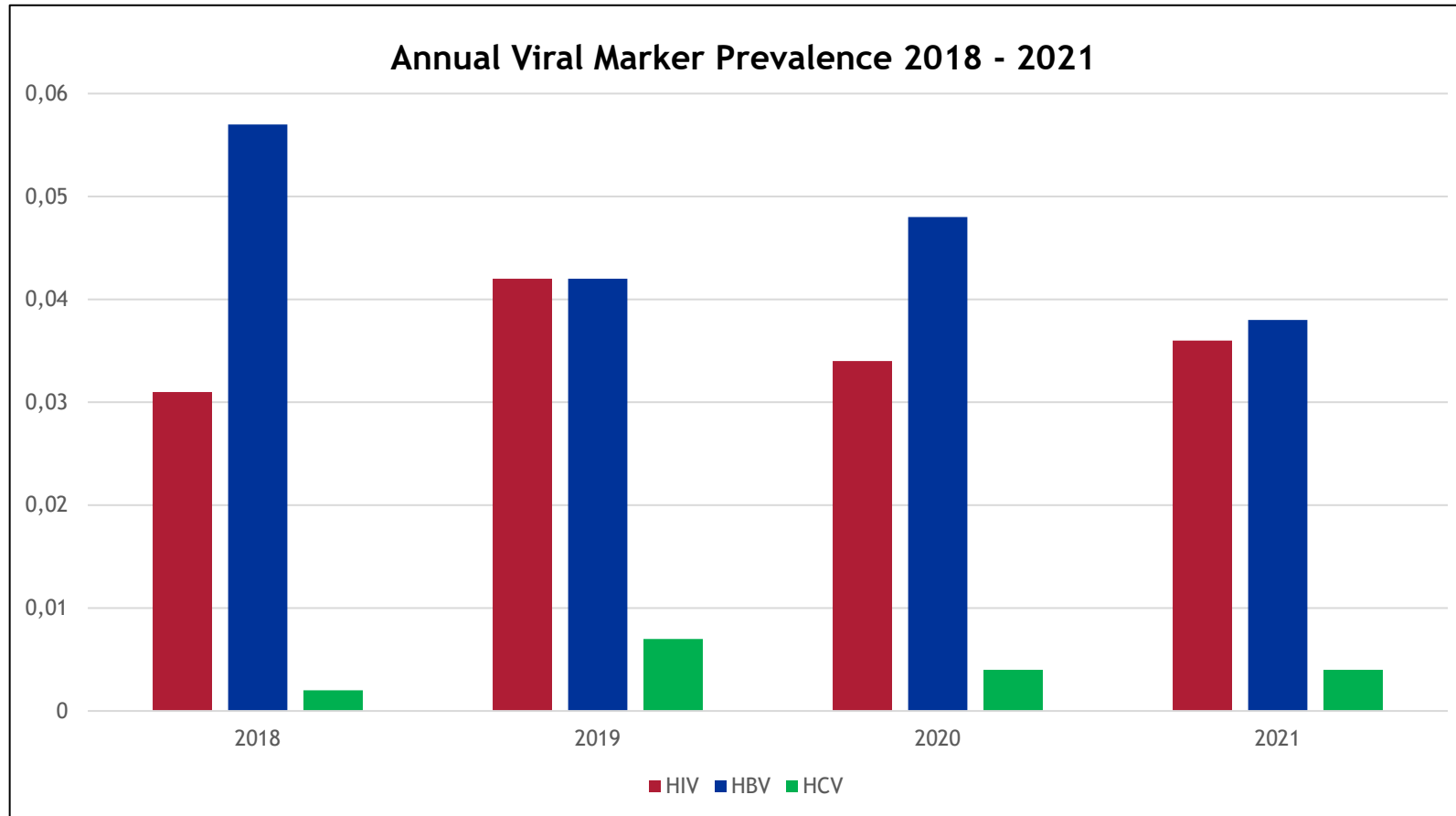
Chu, K.M., Marco, J.-L., Owolabi, E.O., Duvenage, R., Londani, M., Lombard, C. and Parry, C.D.H. (2022), Trauma trends during COVID-19 alcohol prohibition at a South African regional hospital. *Drug Alcohol Rev.*, 41: 13-19. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.13310>

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Results



Conclusion

- The implementation of revised deferral periods in April 2020 contributed to the reduction in the overall donor deferral rate at WCBS.
- Blood product safety presumed not to be compromised as donor viral prevalence rates have remained stable over the three-year study period.
- A major limitation to the analysis of this data is the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on donor behaviour.
- The lowered deferral rate helped to compensate for the decline in blood collections following the start of the pandemic.