

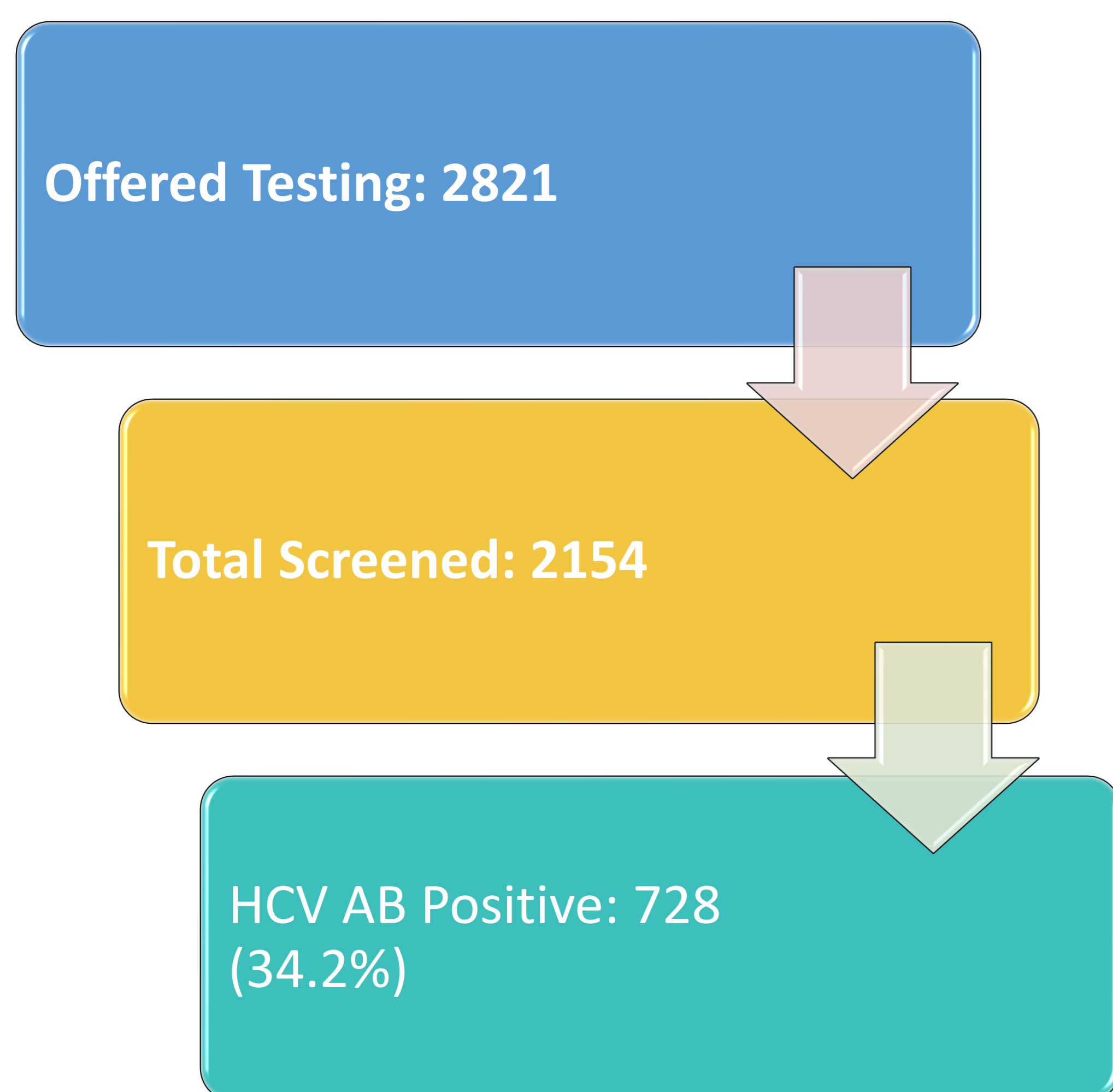
BACKGROUND AND AIMS

HepCare Europe is a three-year, **EU-funded project** involving collaboration with four member states. The **vision** for the project is to create an innovative, **integrated system** for Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) **screening and treatment among key ‘at-risk’ groups**, including people who inject drugs and the homeless, through **outreach** to the community and integration of primary and secondary care services.

With clinical sites in **Dublin, London, Seville and Bucharest**, and economic evaluation in Bristol UK, the consortium has developed a number of work packages, including **HepCheck**, focused on operationalizing the multiple components of testing, care and cure that are key components of the strategy to eradicate HCV in the EU. Consortium members include UCD (Ireland) SAS (Spain) SVB (Romania) University of Bristol and University College London (UK).

RESULTS

FIG 1: OVERALL SCREENING RESULTS



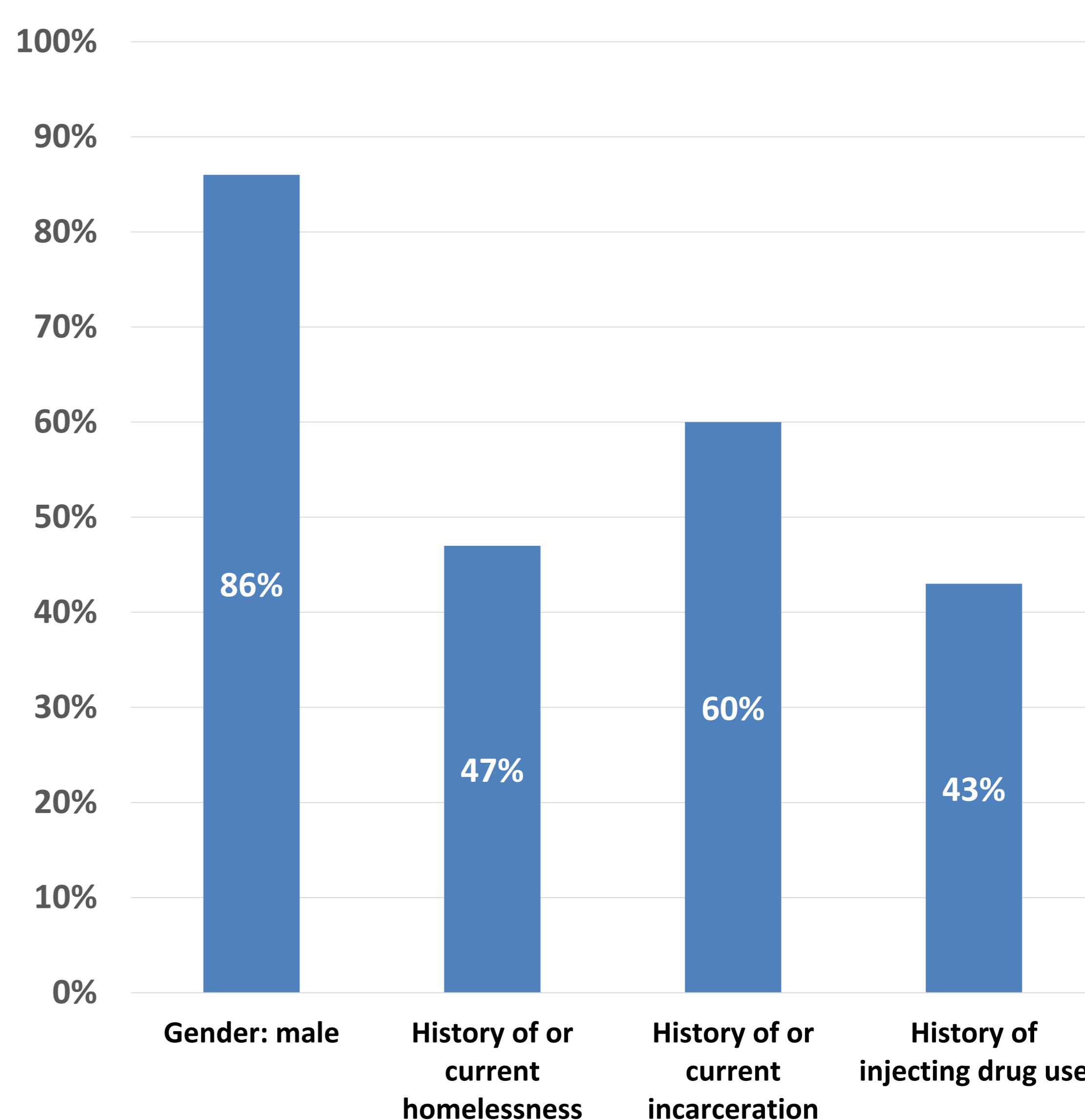
* Figure 2 shows cohort characteristics.

METHOD

- The **HepCheck** component of the project offered **screening** for HCV across the four clinical sites: Dublin, London, Seville and Bucharest.
- Point of care testing was offered to ‘at- risk’ groups who are frequently marginalized with respect to health service engagement.
- Screening was conducted in prisons, opioid substitution treatment clinics and in homeless services.

RESULTS

TABLE 1: COHORT CHARACTERISTICS



- In-depth analysis of cohort characteristics is ongoing and includes identification of HCV acquisition, risk factors, HCV related liver disease, other blood borne viruses and linkage to care

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CONCLUSIONS

- Community based screening across four EU sites highlighted similar (comparable) risk-factors.
- This cohort are being identified as they transition in and out of services yet are not being captured, further evaluated and cured of their HCV.
- Our data reinforces the need to improve linkage to care by developing engagement interventions within these community settings.

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