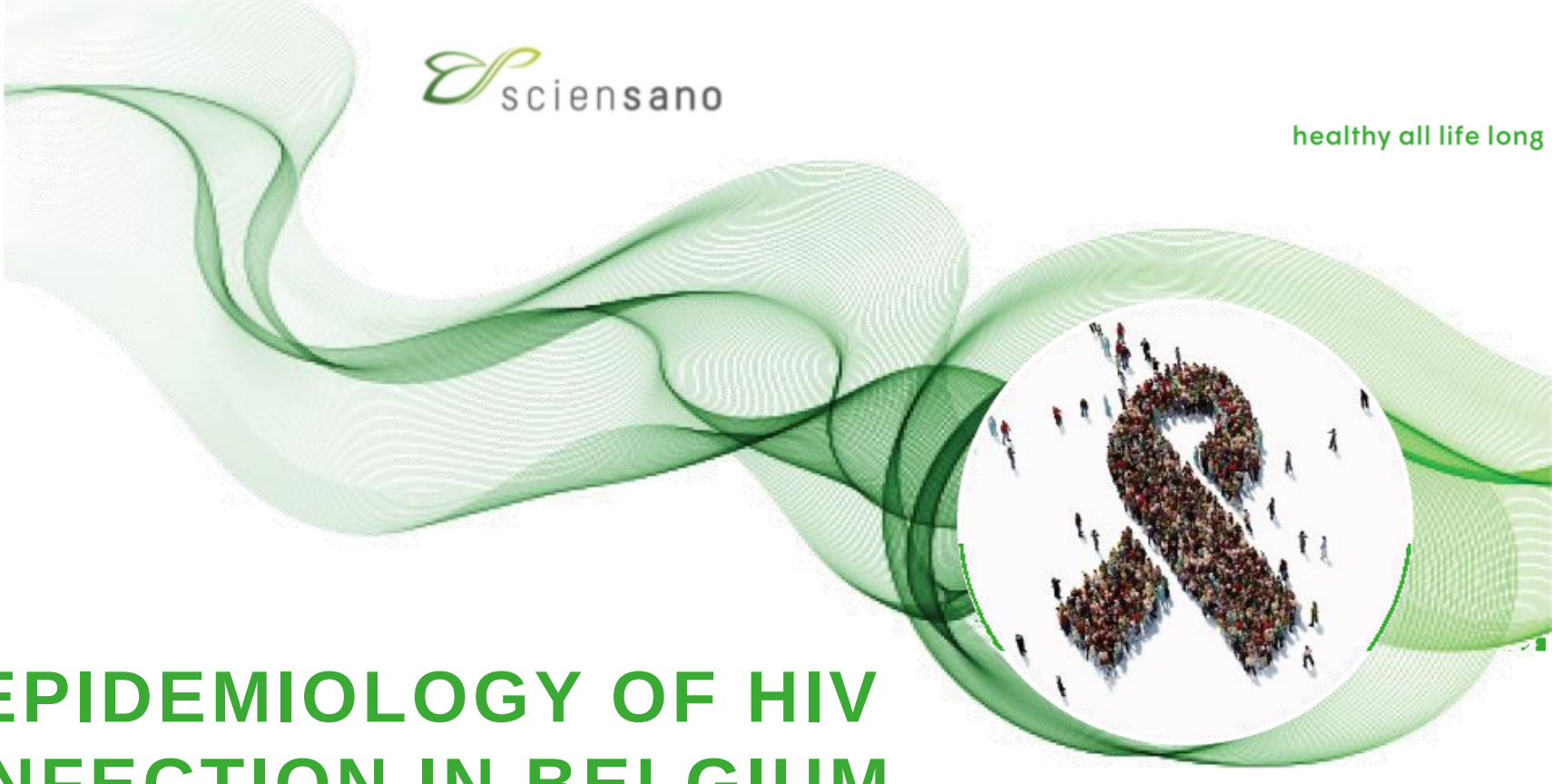


Decorative green wavy lines that flow across the top and right side of the slide, framing the title and the circular inset image.

EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HIV INFECTION IN BELGIUM

DATA 2020

Deblonde J, De Rouck M, Lecompte A, Montourcy M,
Serrien B, Van Beckhoven D

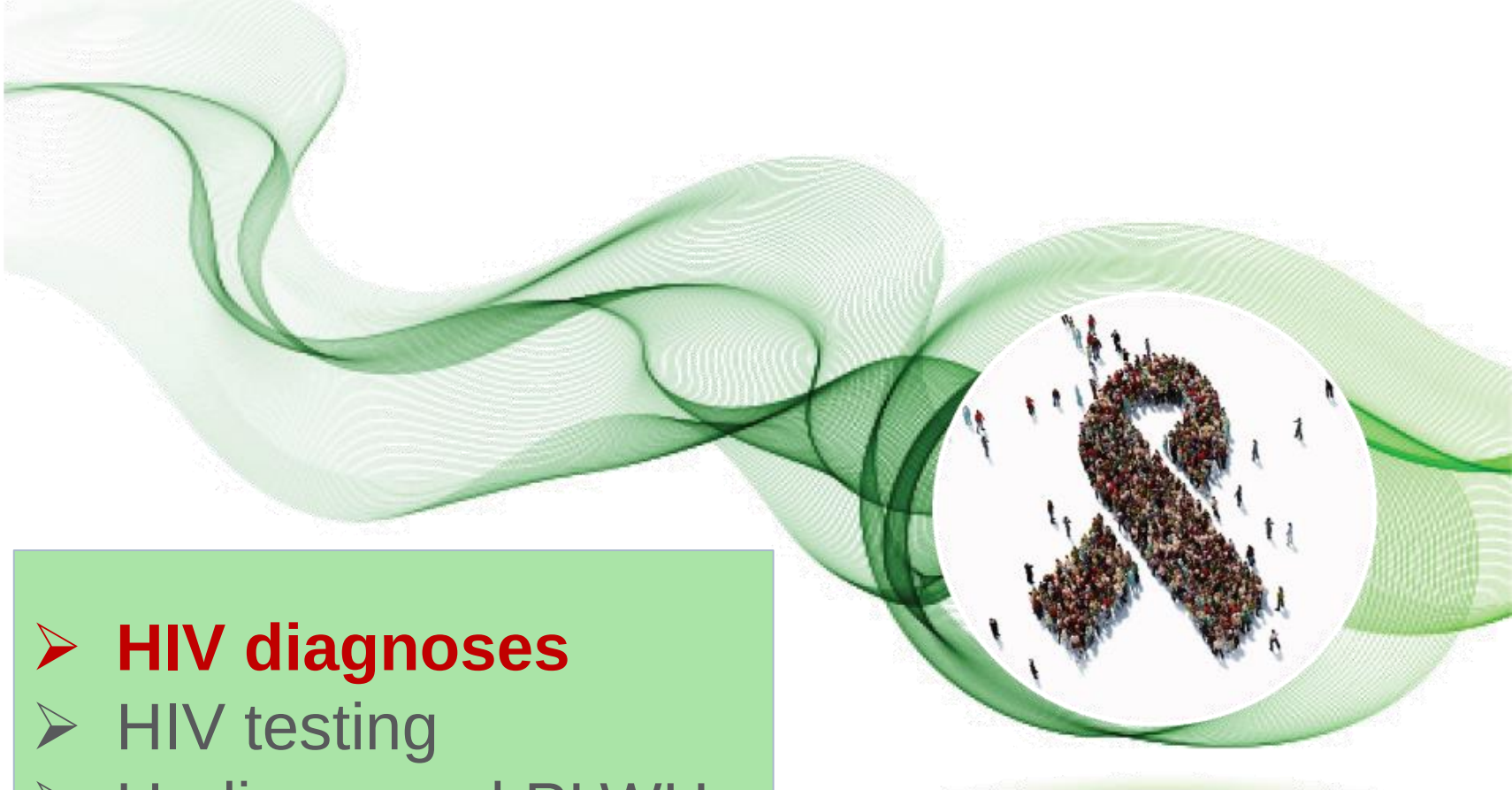
BREACH symposium 30 November 2021

OUTLINE

- HIV diagnoses
- HIV testing
- Undiagnosed PLWH
- Continuum of care
- Other STIs
- Conclusion

- Impact of COVID on HIV care – S. Vandecasteele
- PrEP update – J. Deblonde

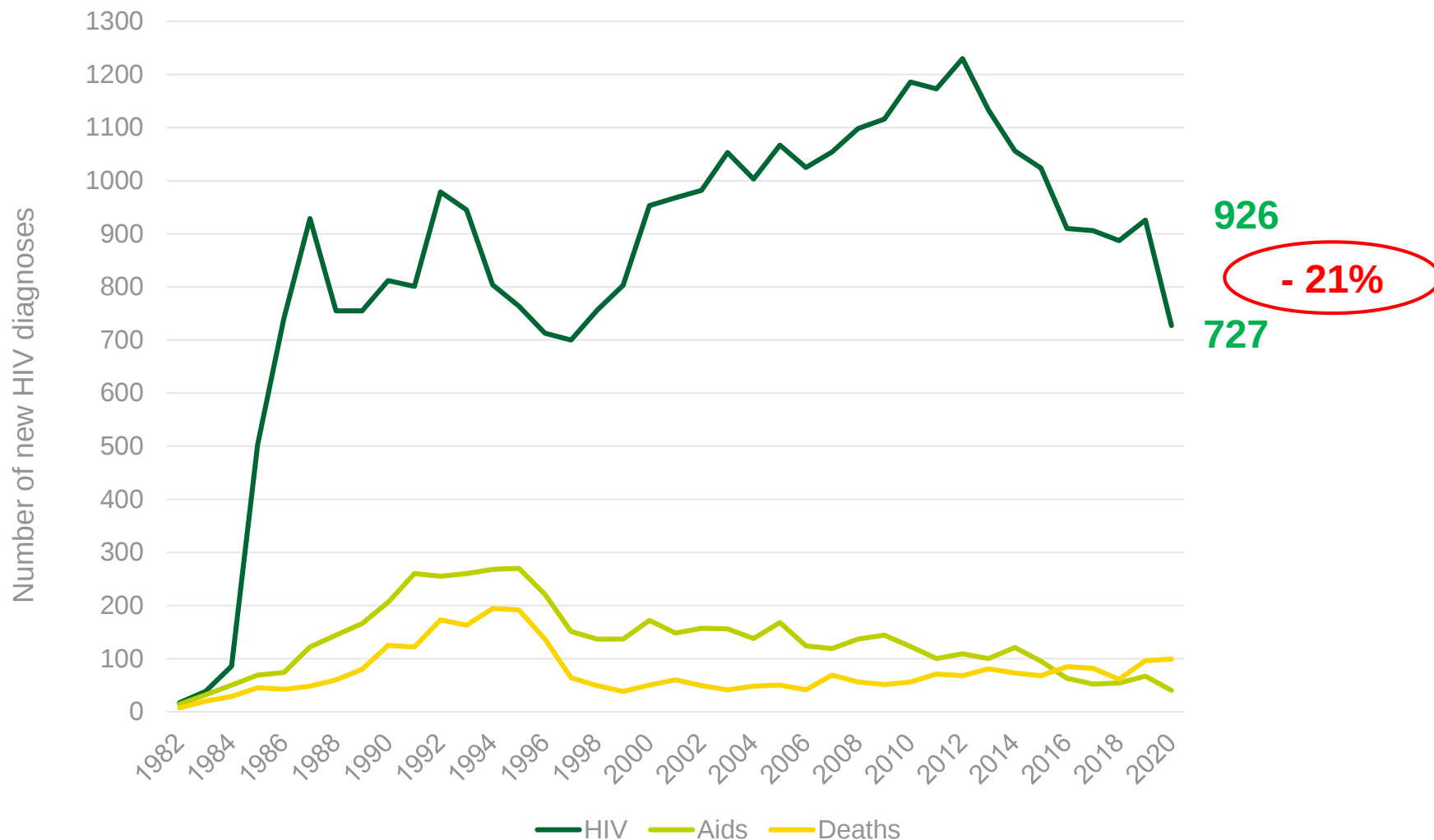




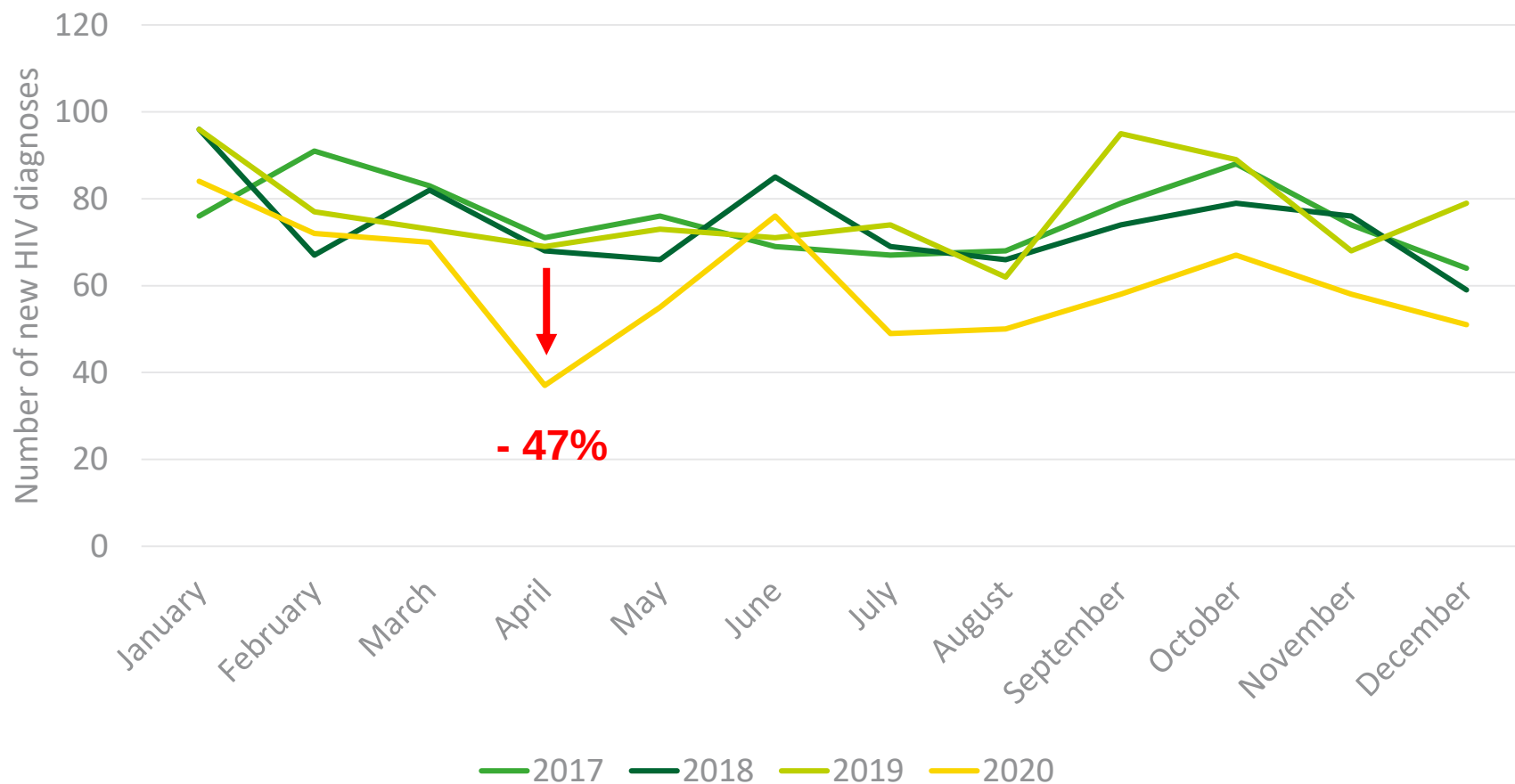
➤ **HIV diagnoses**

- HIV testing
- Undiagnosed PLWH
- Continuum of care
- Other STIs
- Conclusion

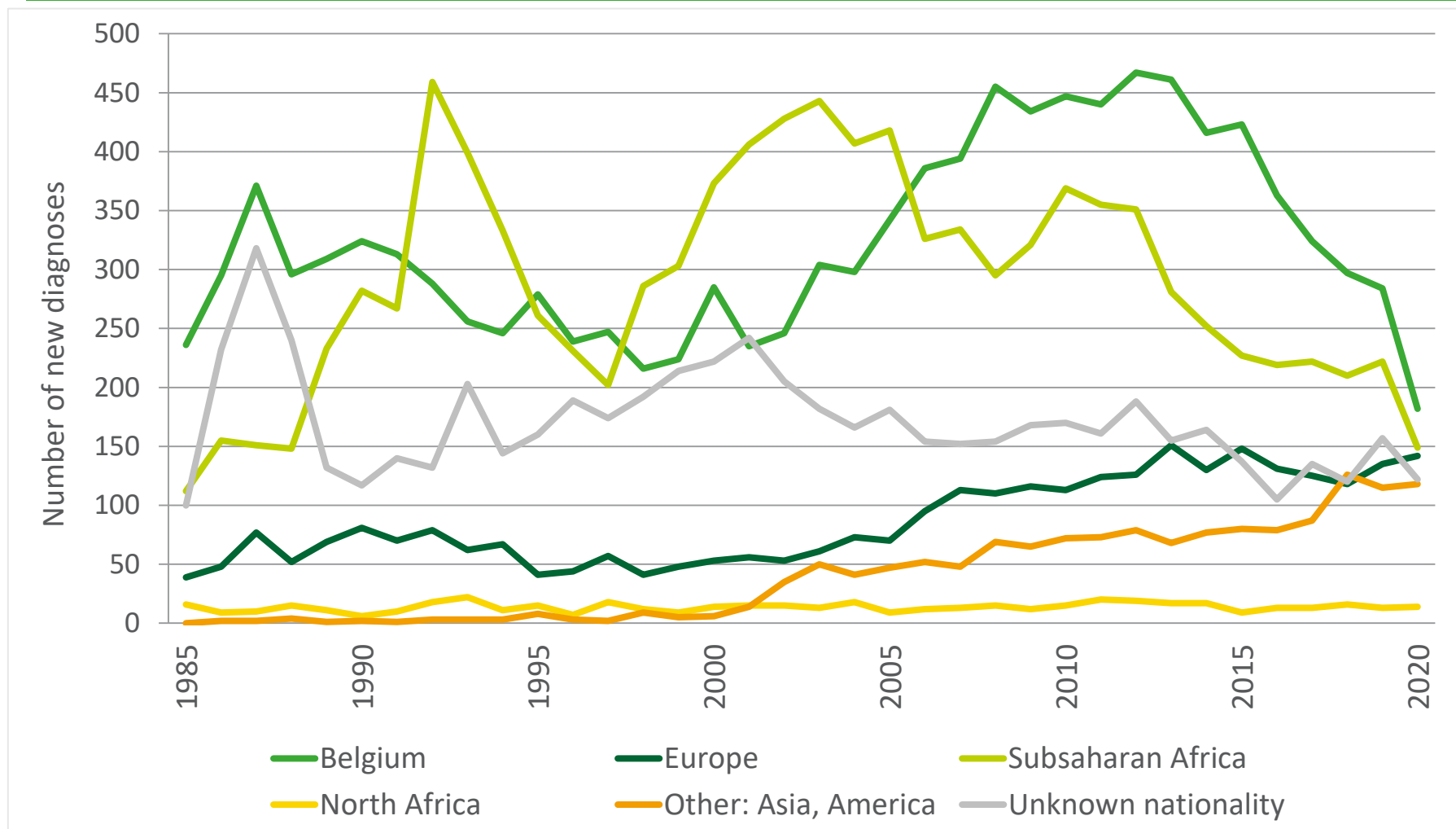
Number of HIV diagnoses, AIDS and deaths per year, 1982-2020



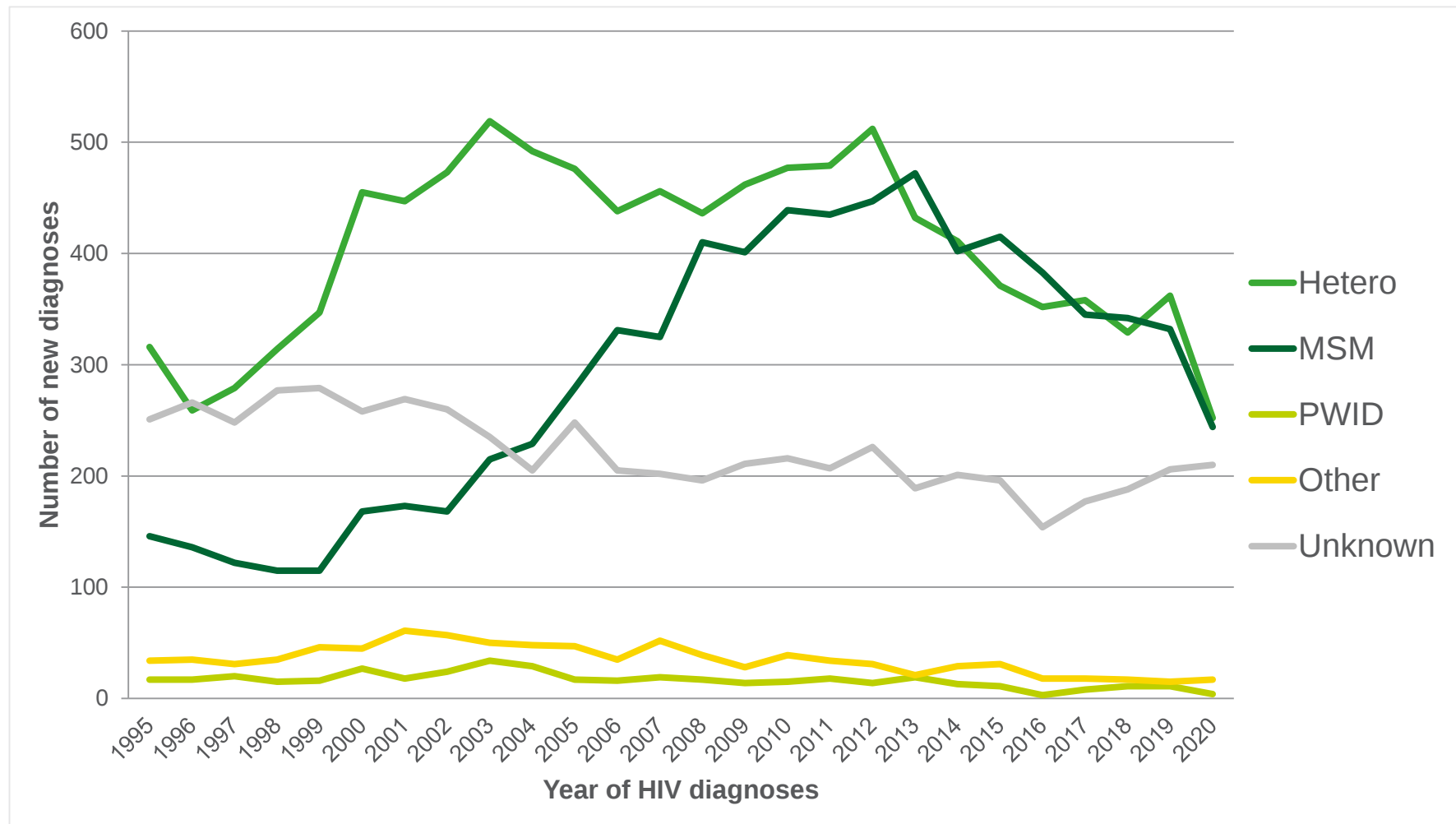
Number of HIV diagnoses per month, 2017-2020



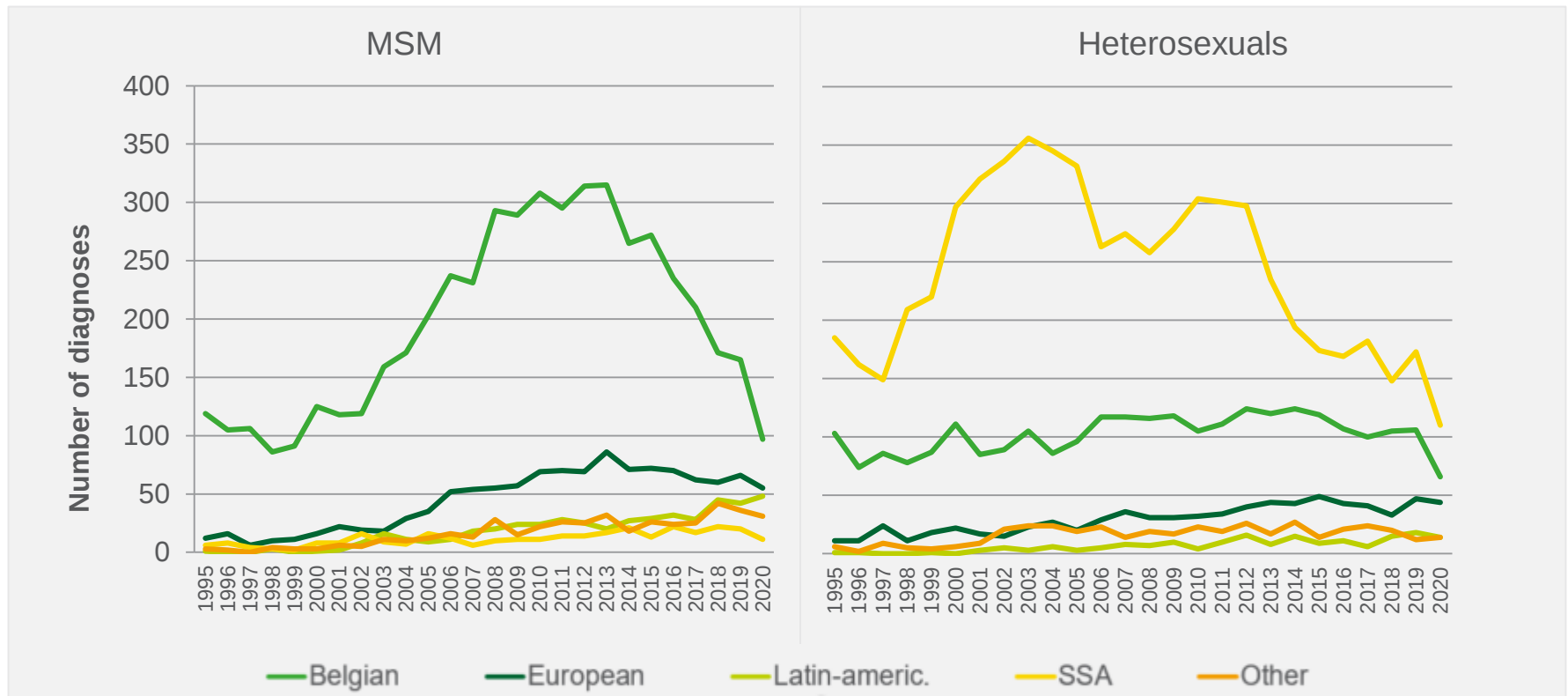
Number of HIV diagnoses by grouped nationalities, 1985-2020



New HIV diagnoses by mode of transmission, 1985-2020

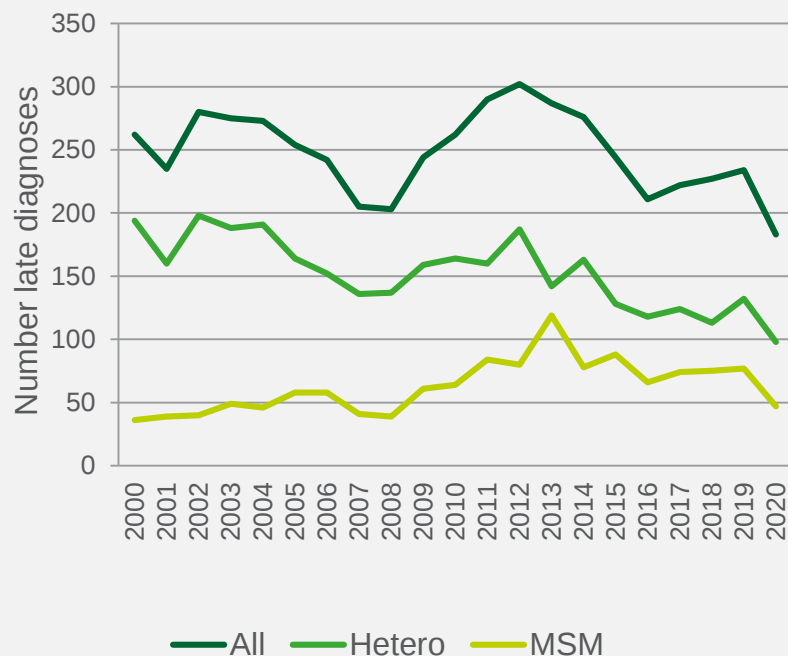


Number of HIV diagnoses by probable mode of transmission and nationality, 1995-2020



Earliness of HIV diagnoses: late diagnoses (<350 CD4/mm³) & acute infection

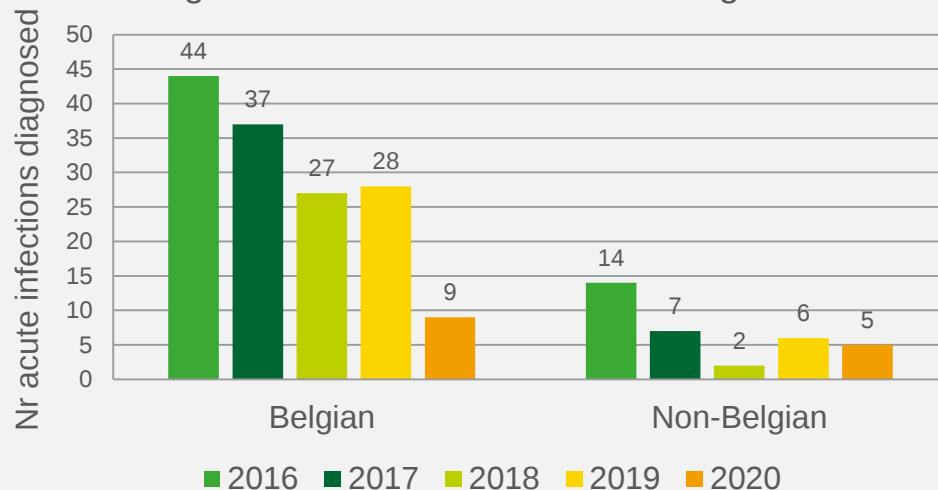
Late diagnoses



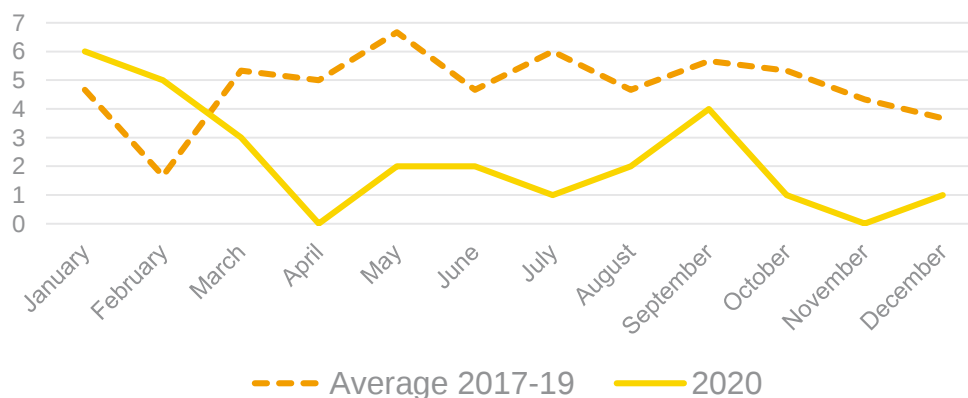
Late diagnoses: missing data for 31%

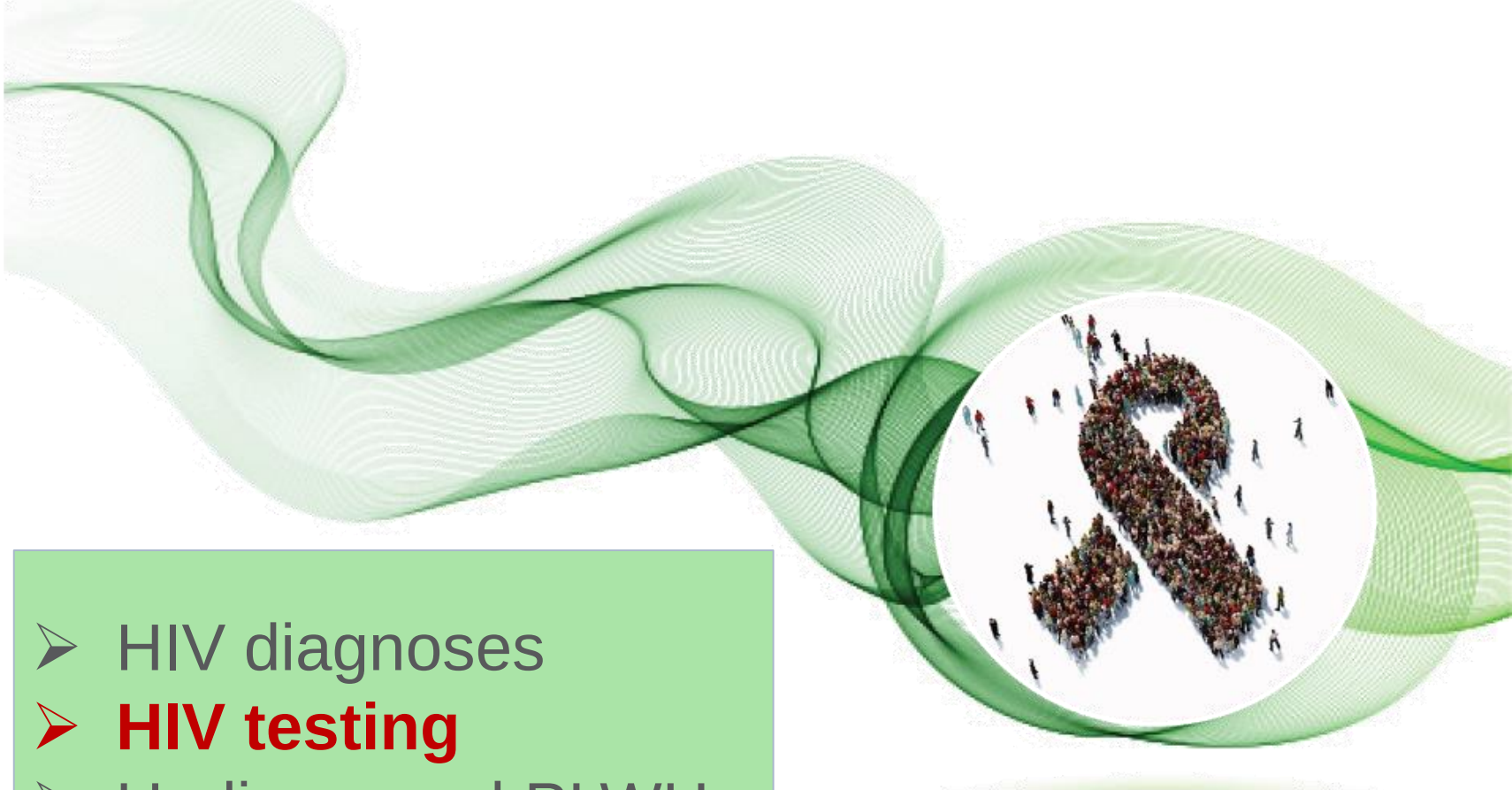
N late diagnoses (reported):
183 in 2020
234 in 2019

Diagnoses of acute infections among MSM



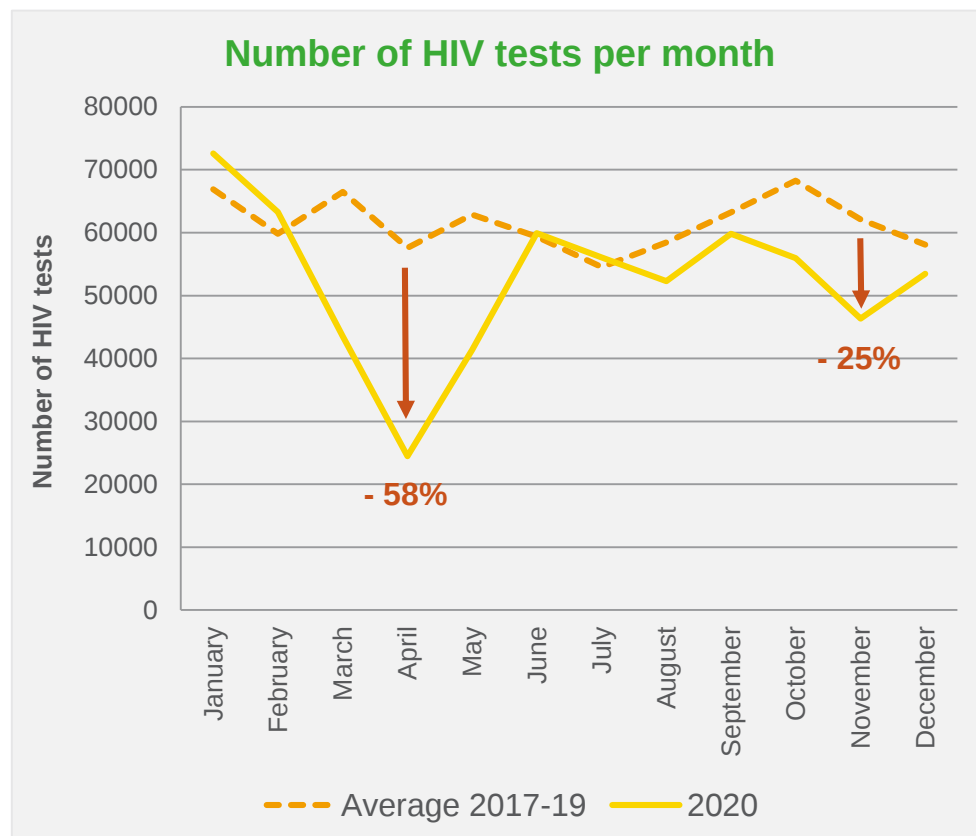
Monthly diagnoses of acute infection



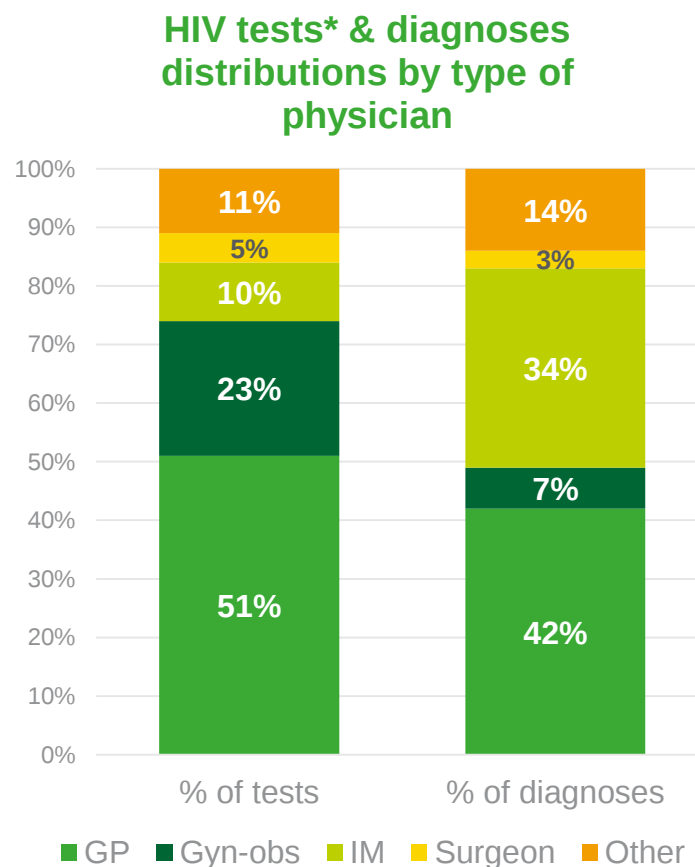
- 
- HIV diagnoses
 - **HIV testing**
 - Undiagnosed PLWH
 - Continuum of care
 - Other STIs
 - Conclusion

HIV testing

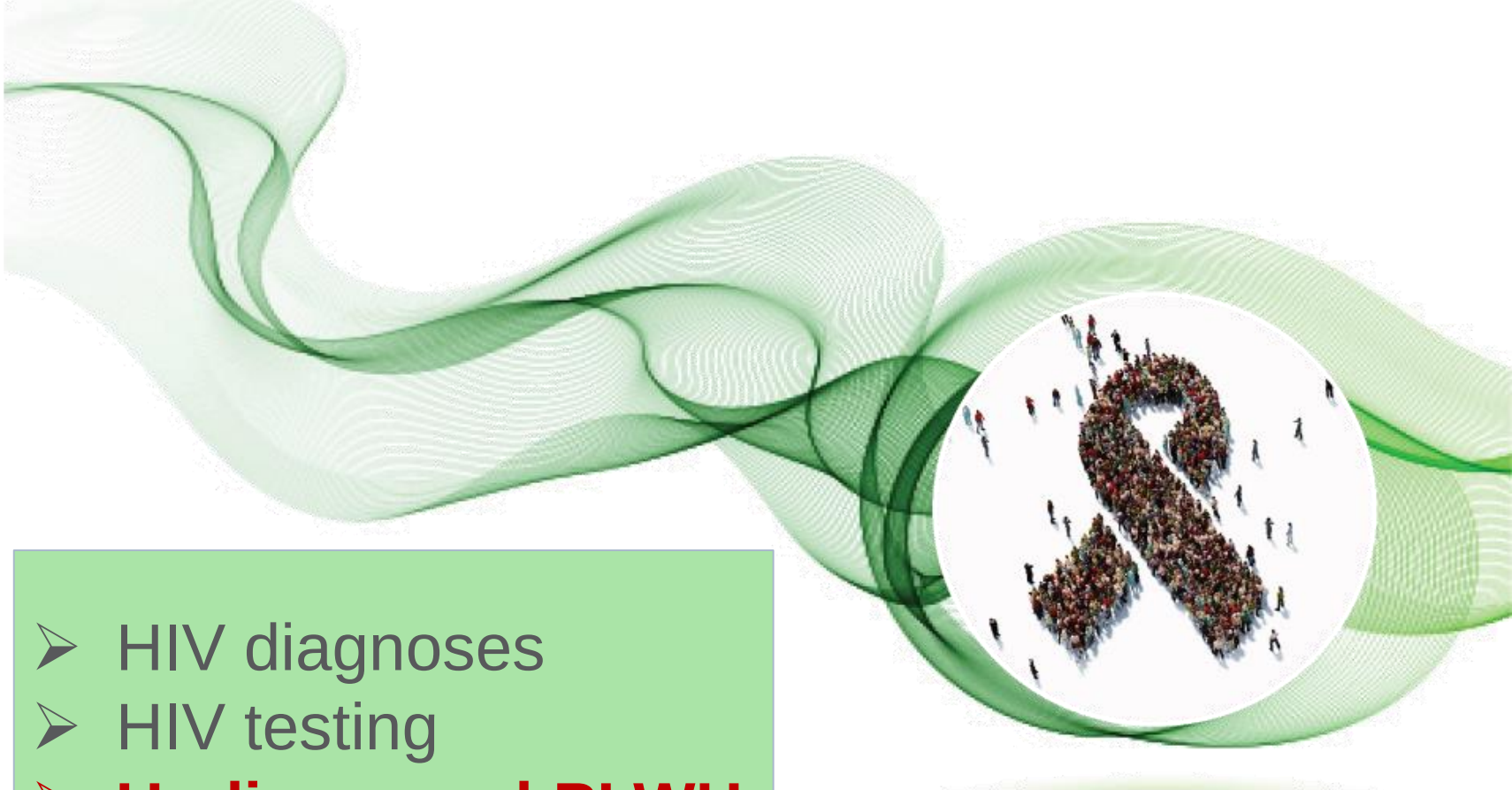
56 HIV tests performed per 1000 inhabitants in 2020 (62/1000 in 2017-19)



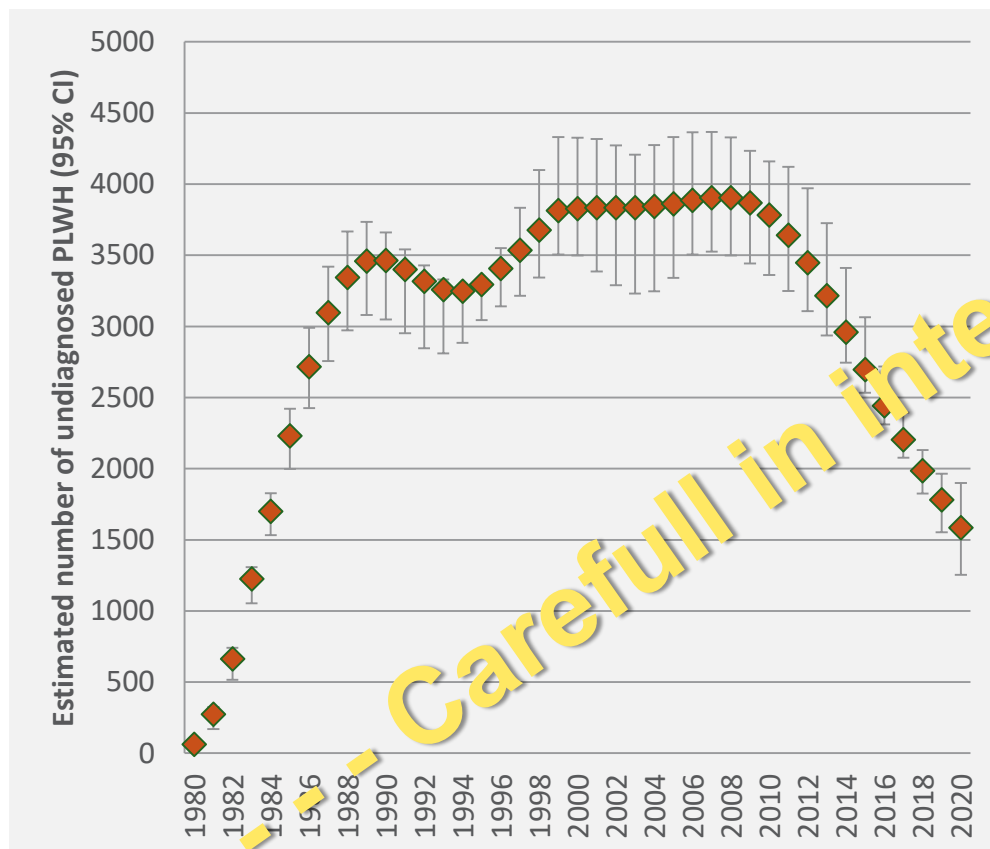
Source: RIZIV/INAMI



* Reimbursed tests

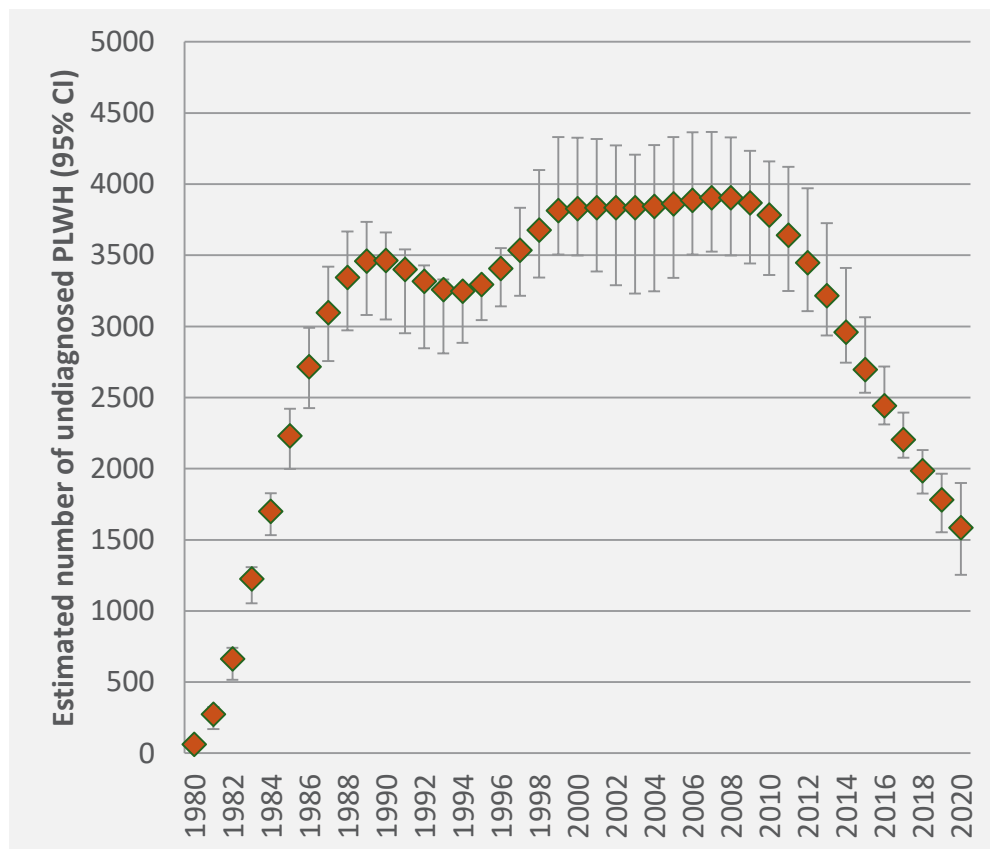
- 
- HIV diagnoses
 - HIV testing
 - **Undiagnosed PLWH**
 - Continuum of care
 - Other STIs
 - Conclusion

Estimates of undiagnosed PLWH per year (based on ECDC statistical model)

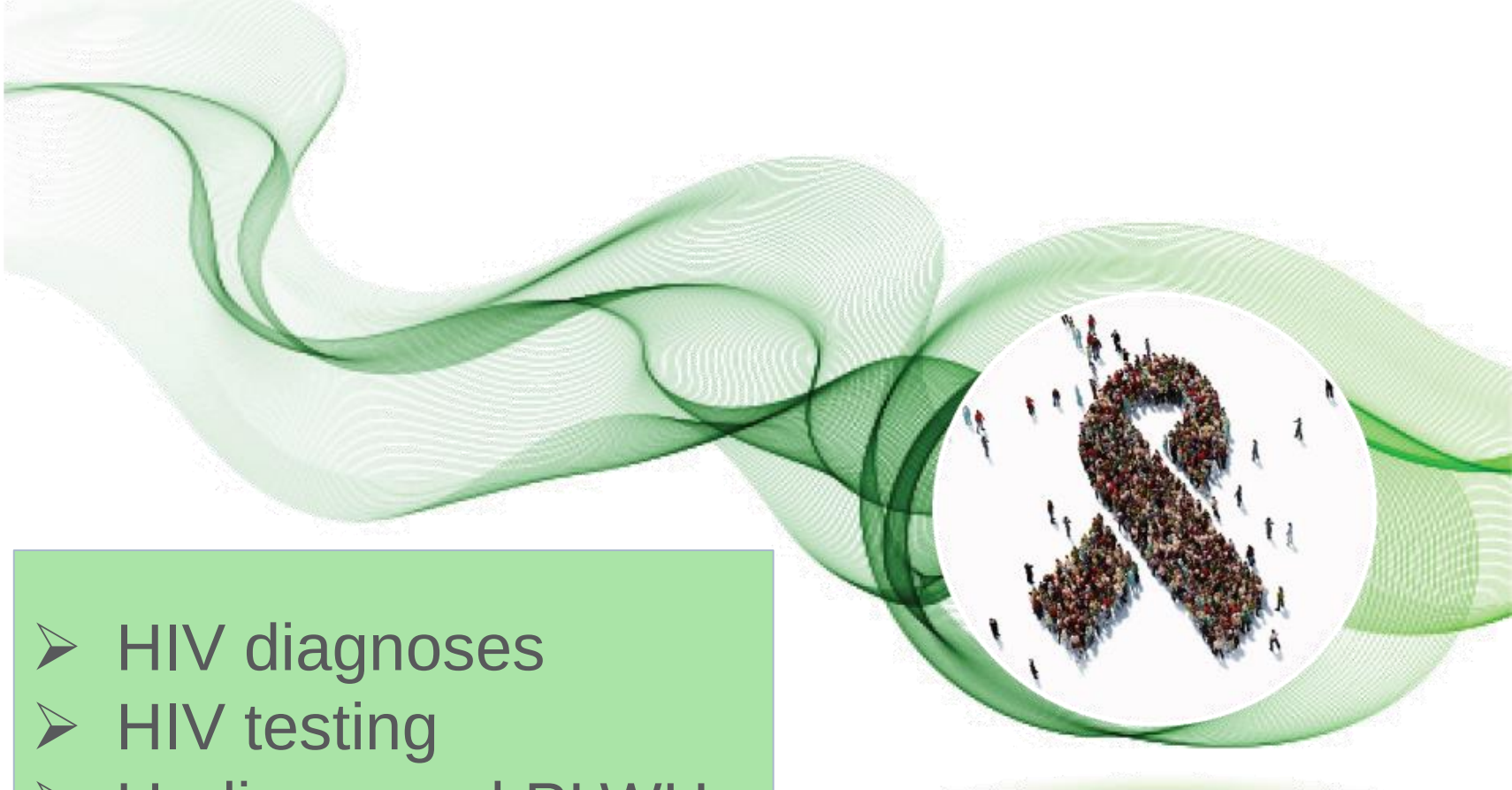


2020	Estimated nr undiag. PLWH
Total	1585 [1254 – 1900]
MSM	557 [412 – 697]
Belgian	208 [139 – 271]
Non Belg.	366 [281 – 435]
Heterosexual	1037 [635 – 1285]
Belgian	254 [171 – 319]
SSA	500 [391 – 626]

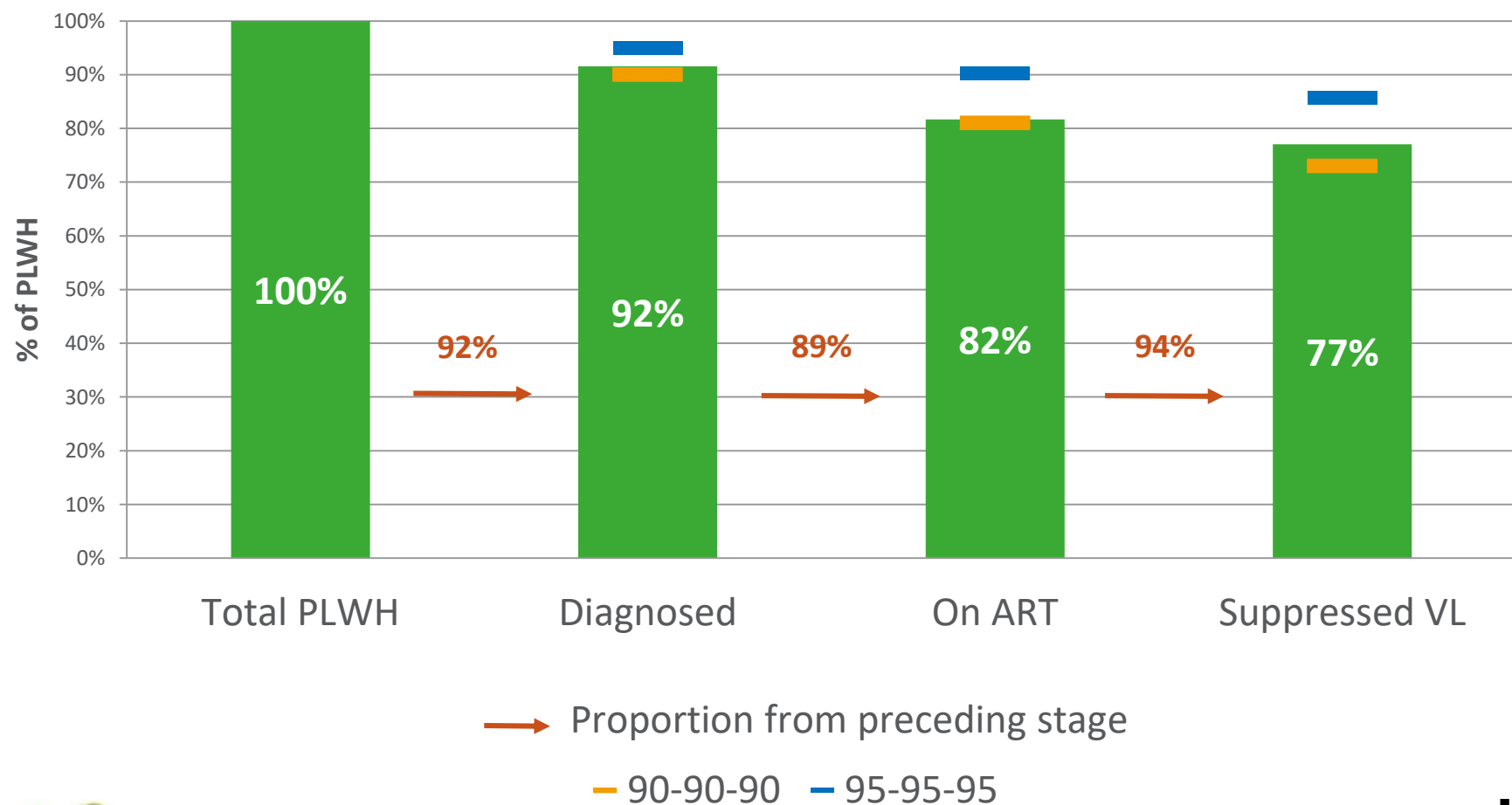
Estimates of undiagnosed PLWH per year (based on ECDC statistical model)

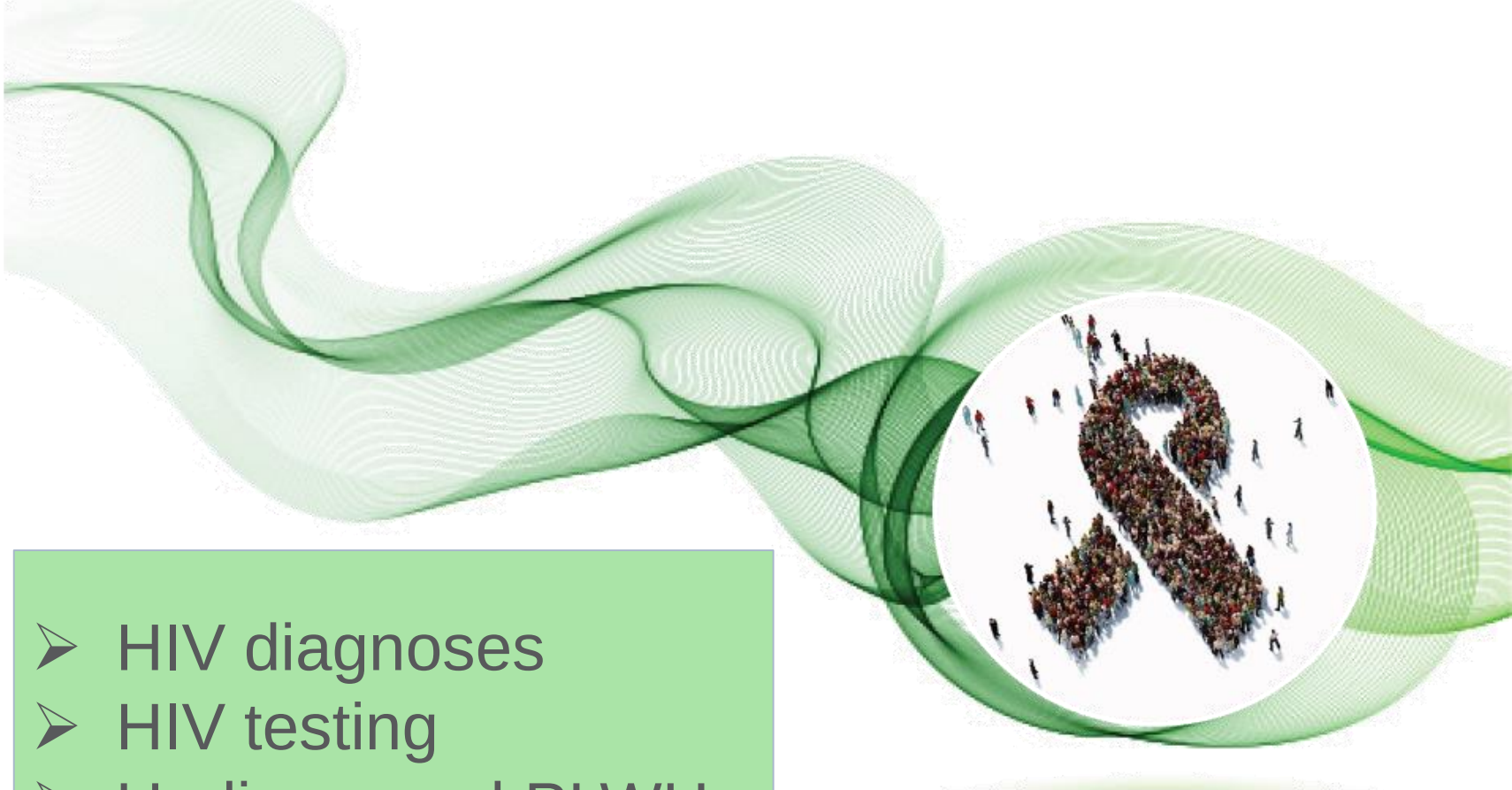


2020	Estimated nr undiag. PLWH
Total	1585 [1254 – 1900]
MSM	557 [412 – 697]
Belgian	208 [139 – 271]
Non Belg.	366 [281 – 435]
Heterosexual	1037 [635 – 1285]
Belgian	254 [171 – 319]
SSA	500 [391 – 626]

- 
- HIV diagnoses
 - HIV testing
 - Undiagnosed PLWH
 - **Continuum of care**
 - Other STIs
 - Conclusion

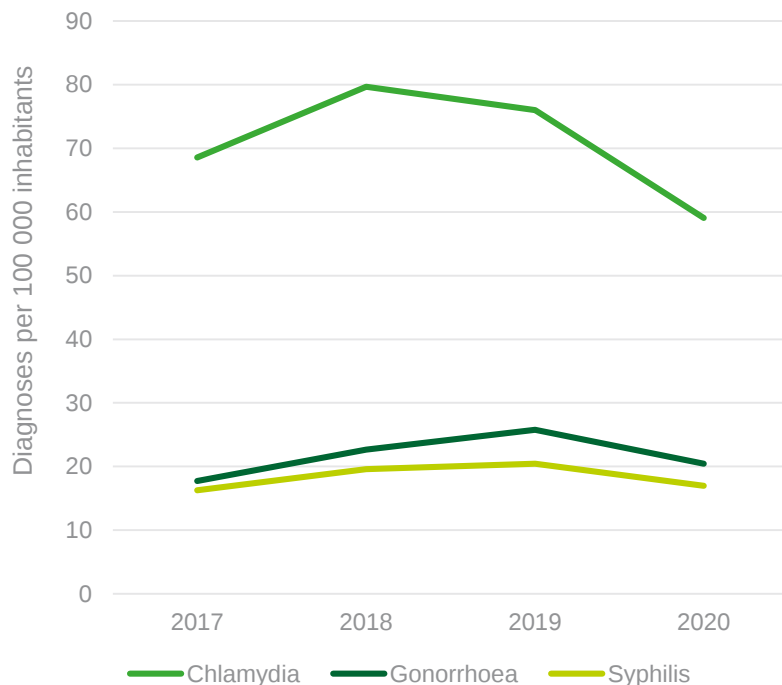
Estimates of the continuum of HIV care, 2020



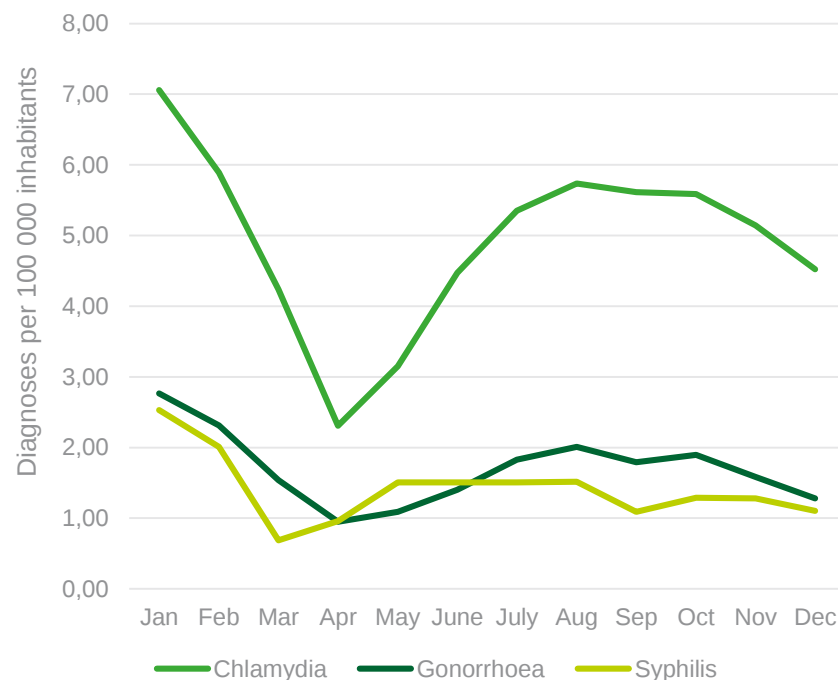
- 
- HIV diagnoses
 - HIV testing
 - Undiagnosed PLWH
 - Continuum of care
 - **Other STIs**
 - Conclusion

Reported STI diagnoses (/100 000 inh.), by year & month, 2017-20, Sentinel labs (PRELIMINARY)

Yearly diagnoses



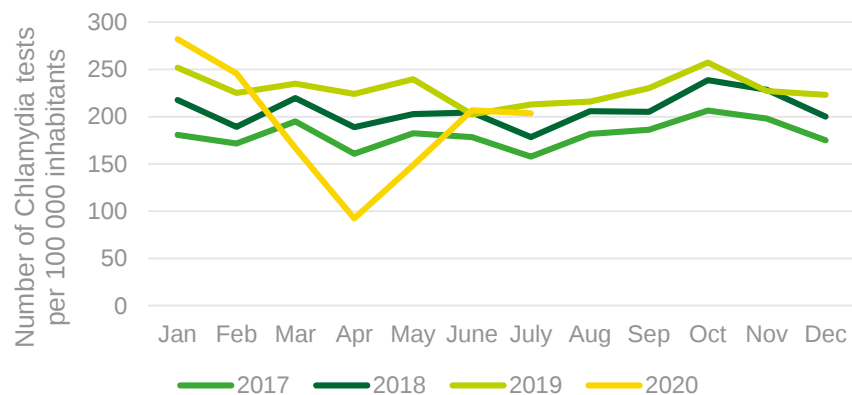
Monthly diagnoses in 2020



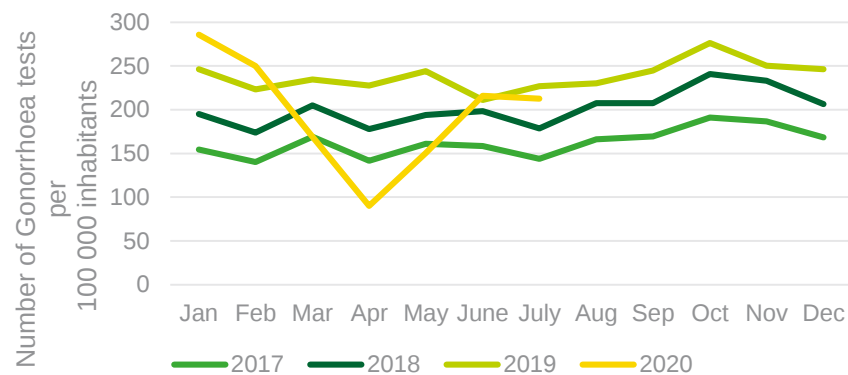
- Strong COVID impact on diagnoses & data reporting
- Work on data completeness going on

Monthly number of STI tests performed, Belgium, 2017-2020

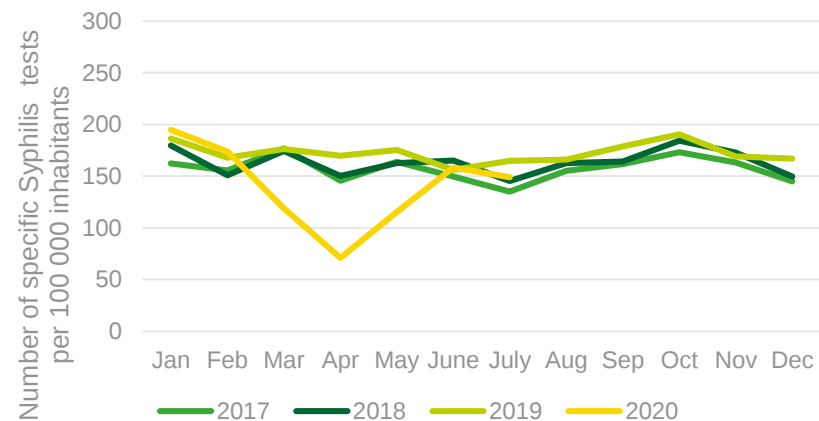
Chlamydia testing

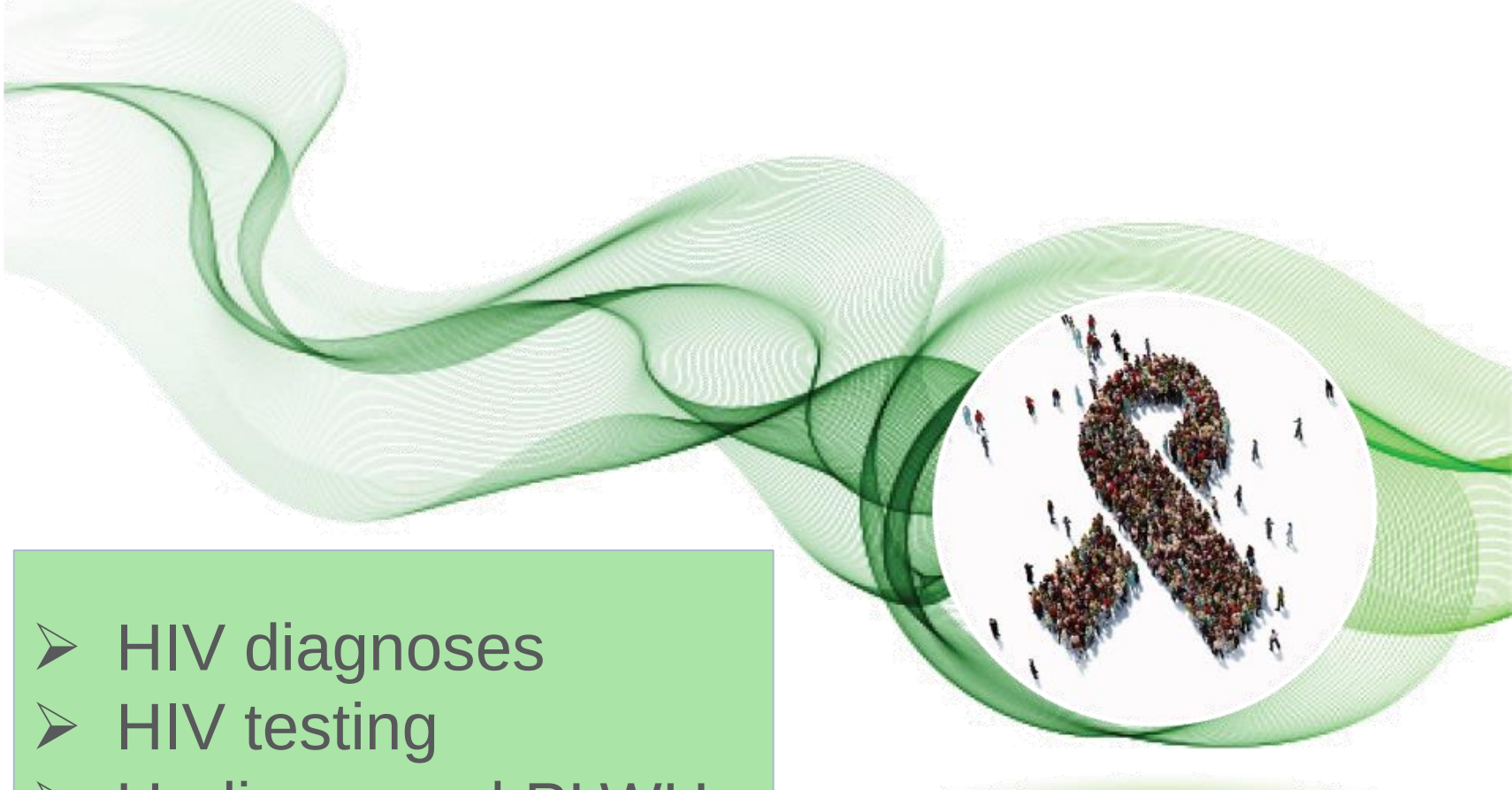


Gonorrhoea testing



Syphilis testing



- 
- HIV diagnoses
 - HIV testing
 - Undiagnosed PLWH
 - Continuum of care
 - Other STIs
 - **Conclusion**

Conclusion: diversity of the HIV epidemic

- Diversity of profiles of people diagnosed with HIV:
 - Decreasing diagnoses among Belgian MSM & SSA heterosexuals & Belgian heterosexuals
 - Increasing or stable diagnoses among Europeans & Latino-American MSM
- Target of 90-90-90 globally reached: 77% population viral suppression
 - Maintenance in HIV care requires attention
 - Testing & diagnosis is key for entry in HIV care -> support & diversification of testing offer & target
- **Importance of inclusive & accessible prevention, testing & care**
Particularly for vulnerable populations during crisis time

Remark: **Missing data** hampers trends follow-up by subpopulation -> importance of complete reporting by diagnosing physicians

Conclusion: Contrasting effect of COVID (I)

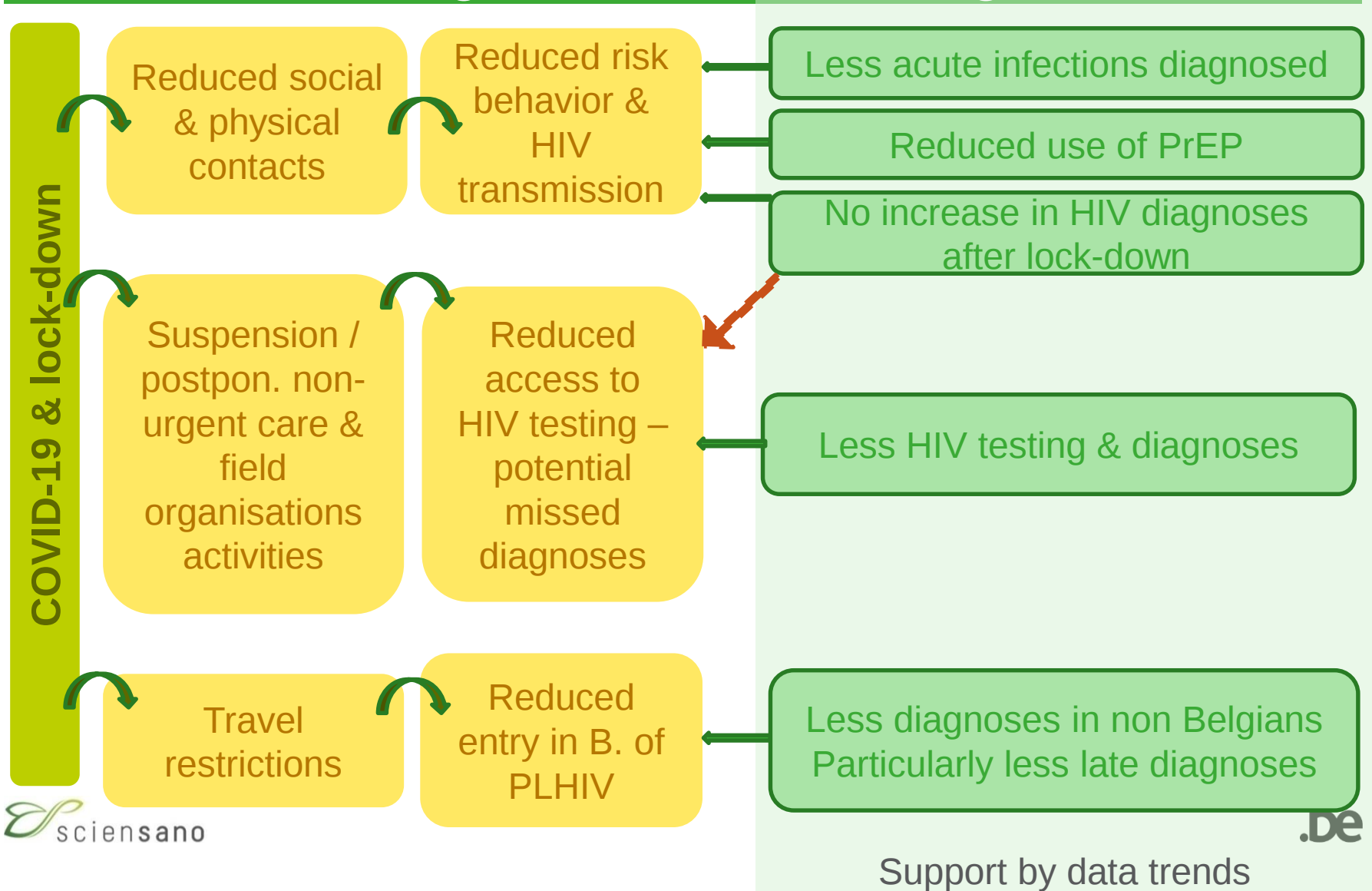
- Strong impact of the COVID-19 epidemic and sanitary measures on HIV diagnosis, testing, (care and PrEP):
 - Reduction in testing during lock-down periods, but usual testing rates outside of those periods
 - Reduction in diagnoses, during the lock-down but also during the following periods.
- Elements suggesting a sustained reduction in risk behavior leading to less HIV transmission:
 - Sustained reduction in diagnosis of acute infections after the main lock-down period
 - (Reduction in PrEP use)
 - No catch-up in HIV diagnoses after the lock-down period, when testing is again available
 - In line with surveys showing reduction in casual sex during lock-down

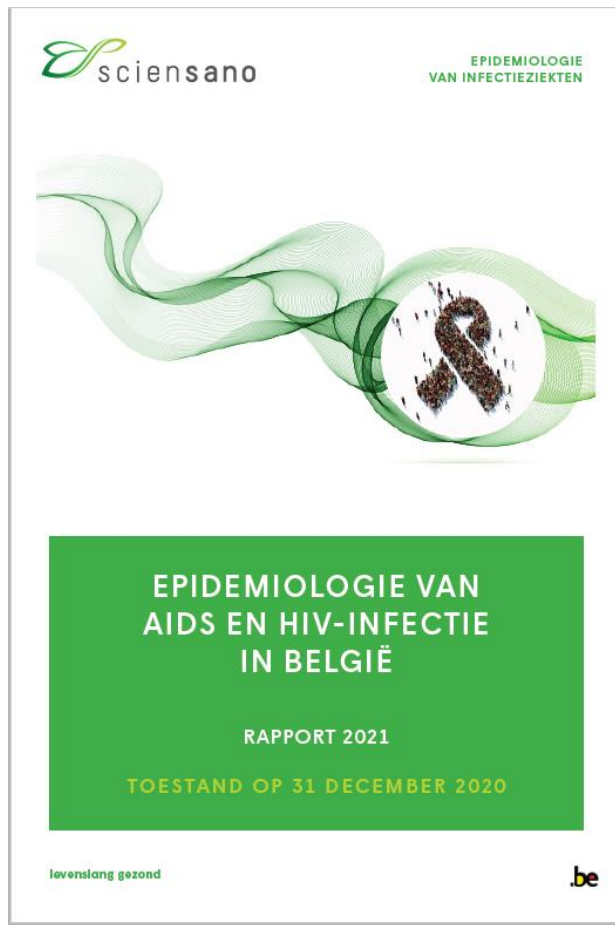
Conclusion: contrasting effect of COVID (II)

- But increased barriers to HIV testing:
 - Might be exacerbated for patients with preexisting irregular or difficult access to healthcare
 - Leading to delay in diagnoses? Not seen in data 2020 - To be followed-up in 2021
- Potential impact of restrictions in travel & migration on the HIV epidemic in Belgium

Final reflection

Illustration of effects of COVID-19 on HIV diagnoses and testing





FR: <https://doi.org/10.25608/zepg-vg62>

NL: <https://doi.org/10.25608/bbbj-e471>

Contact: HIV_STIsurveillance@Sciensano.be

Thanks to the ARLs & HRCs

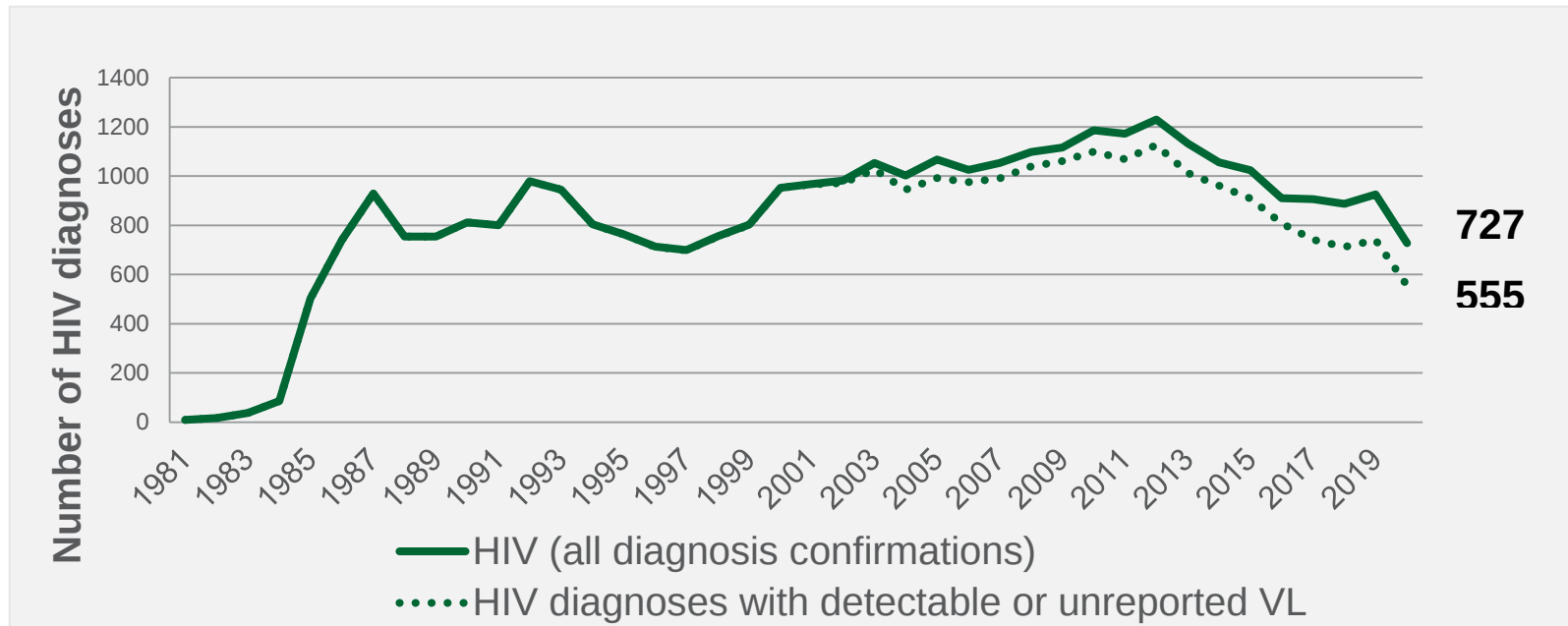
Thanks to the annual report stakeholder group

Thank you for your attention

Thank you André Sasse !



HIV diagnoses according to VL at diagnosis (undetectable vs detectable or unreported)



- 172 with undetectable VL at diagnosis confirmation in B. ~ already on ART
- At least 24% not truly new diagnosis <-> first confirmation in Belgium
 - Proportion increasing over time
 - Overestimation of burden
- To be consolidated & included in analysis / interpretation in coming years