

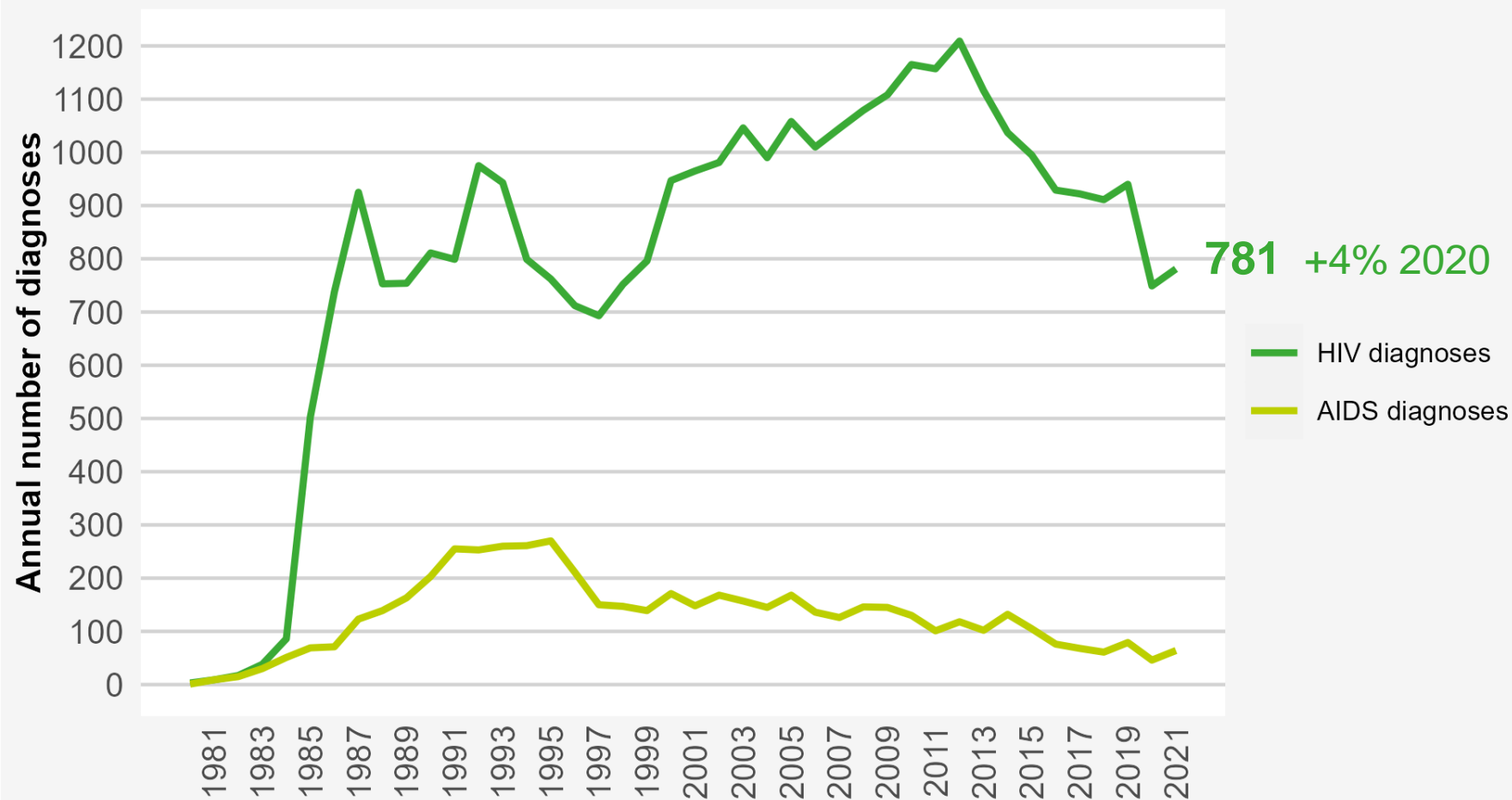
EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HIV & STI IN BELGIUM

DATA 2021

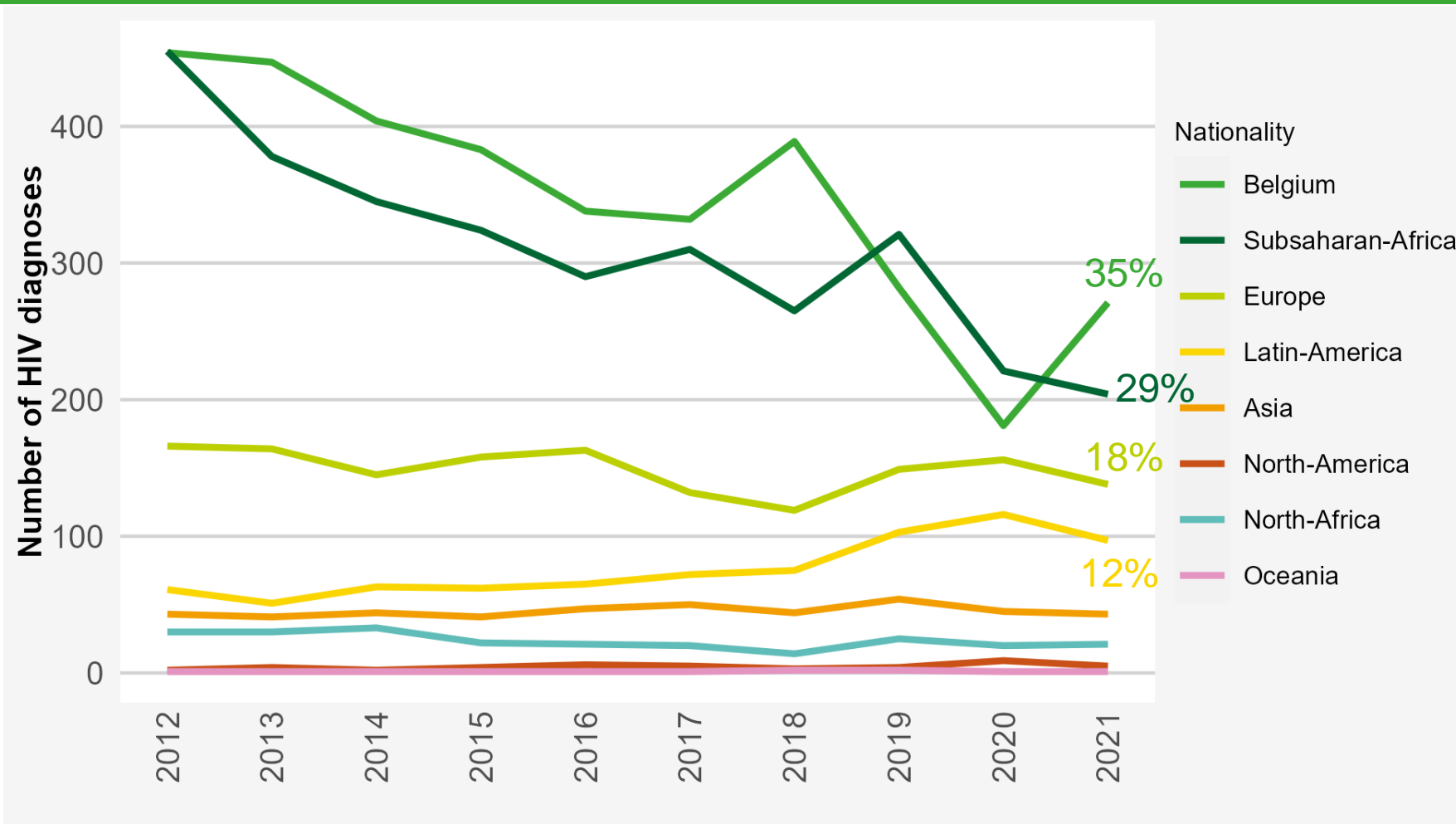
Deblonde J, Serrien, B, De Rouck M, Lecompte A,
Montourcy M, Van Beckhoven D

BREACH symposium 23 November 2022

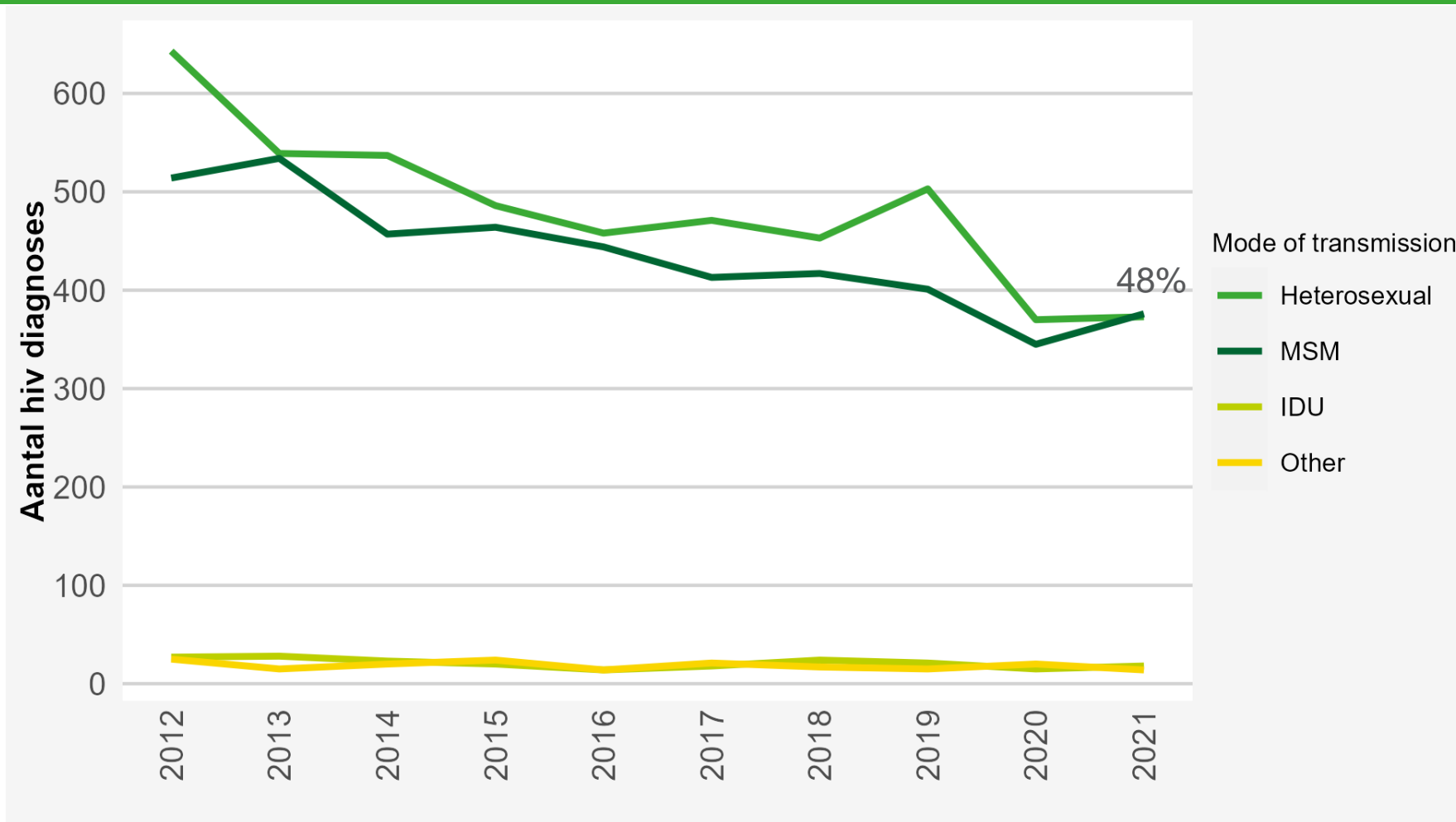
Number of HIV diagnoses & AIDS per year, 1982-2021



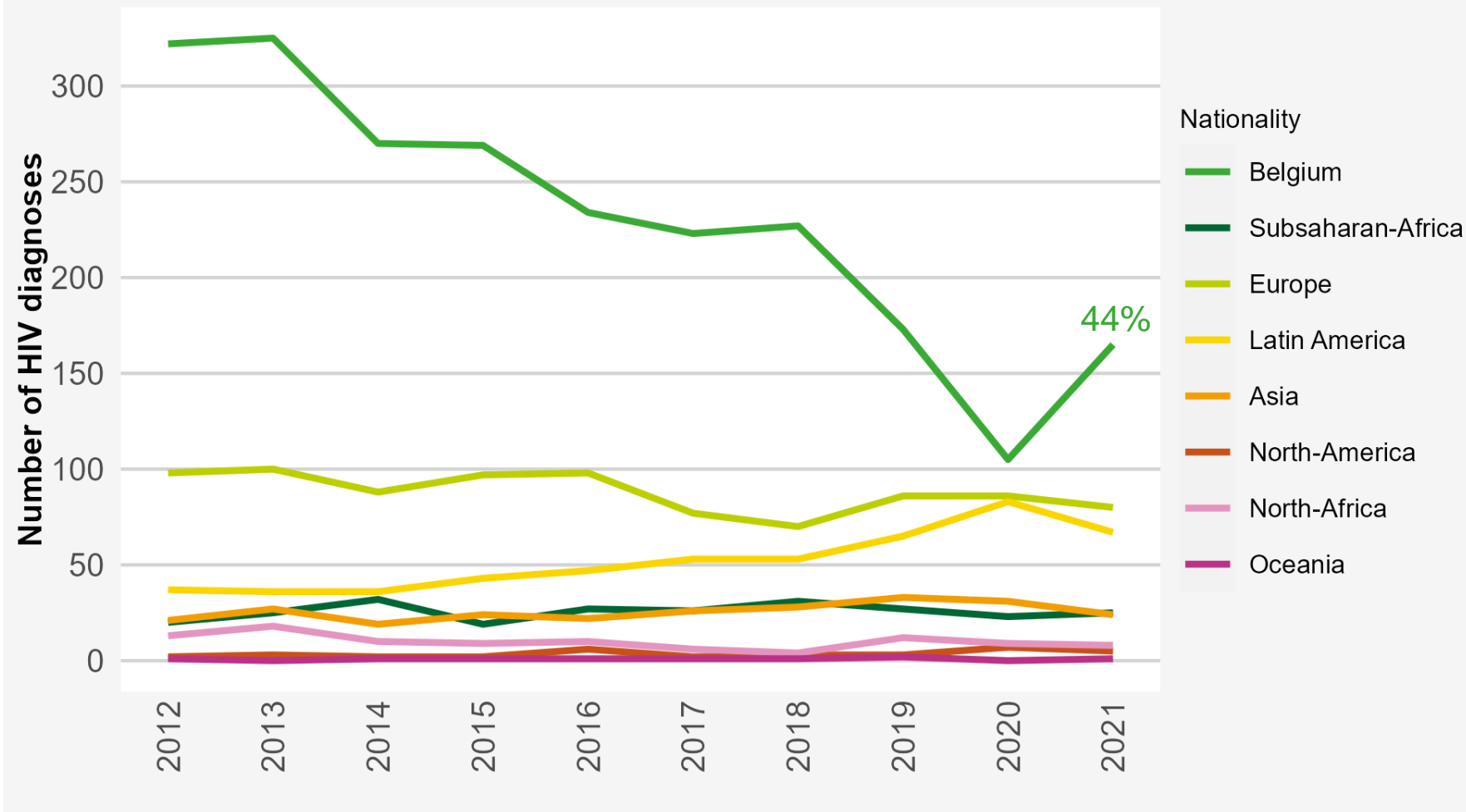
Number of HIV diagnoses by grouped nationalities



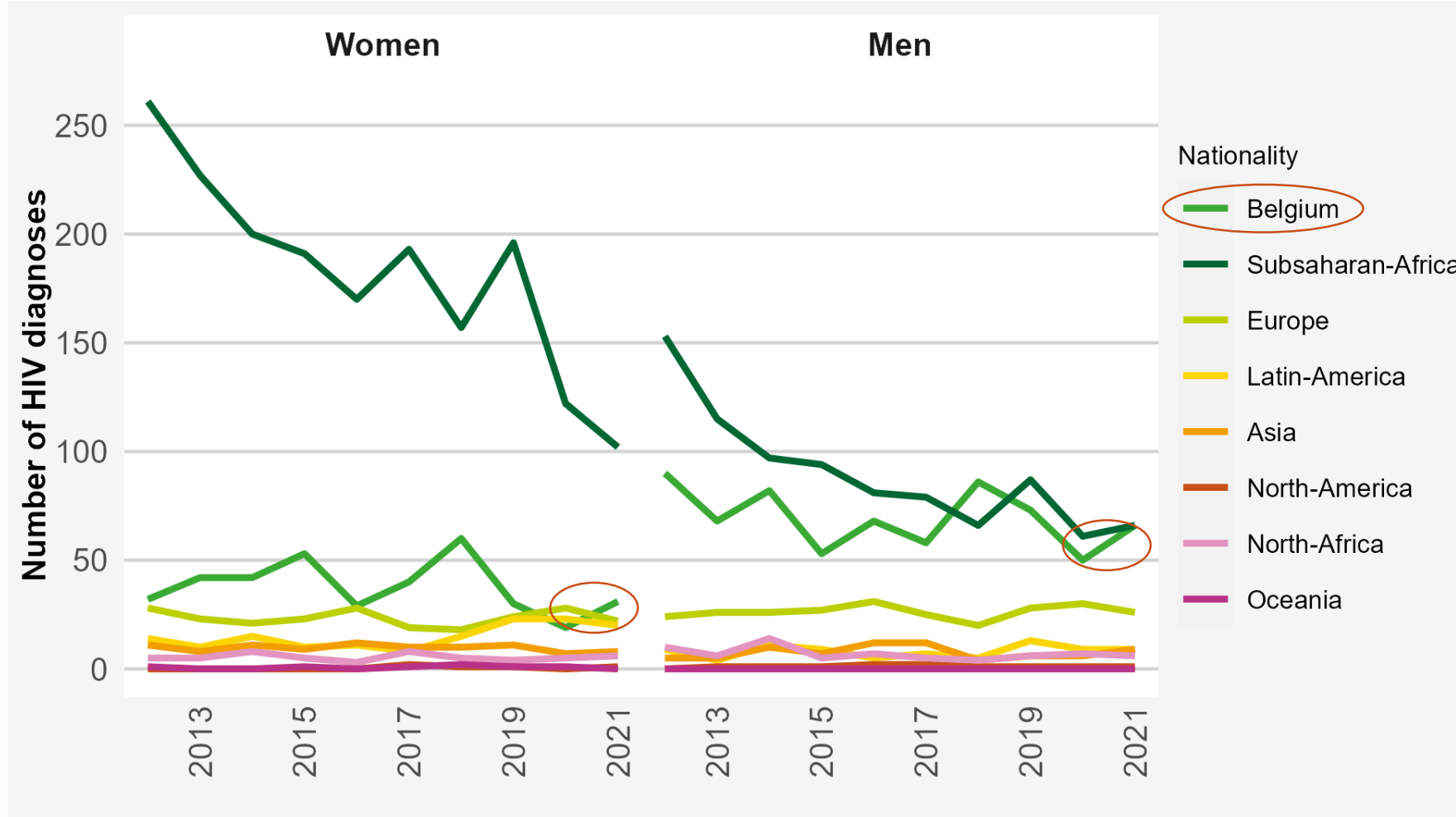
New HIV diagnoses by reported mode of infection



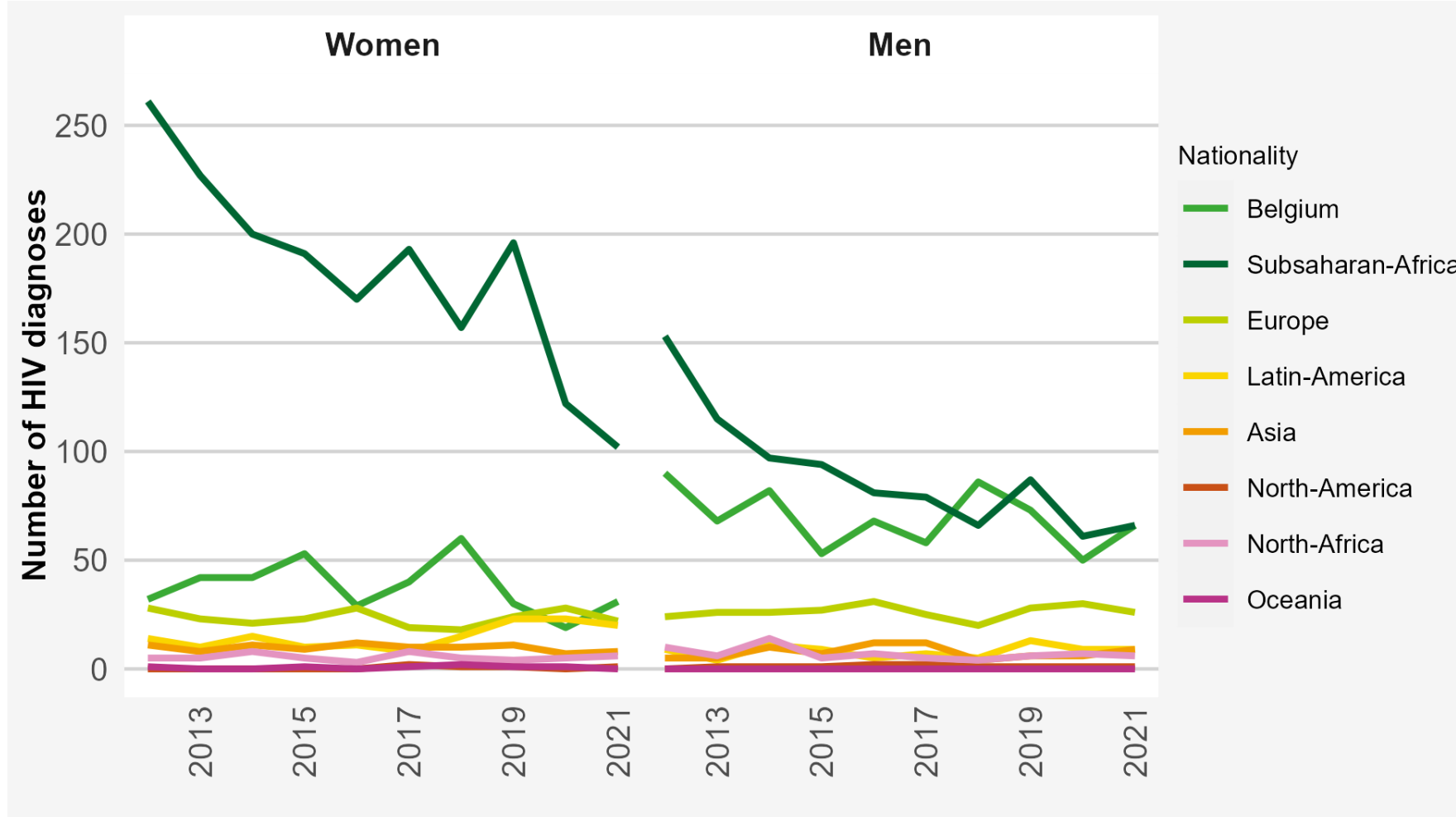
Number of HIV diagnoses by nationalities (grouped) among MSM



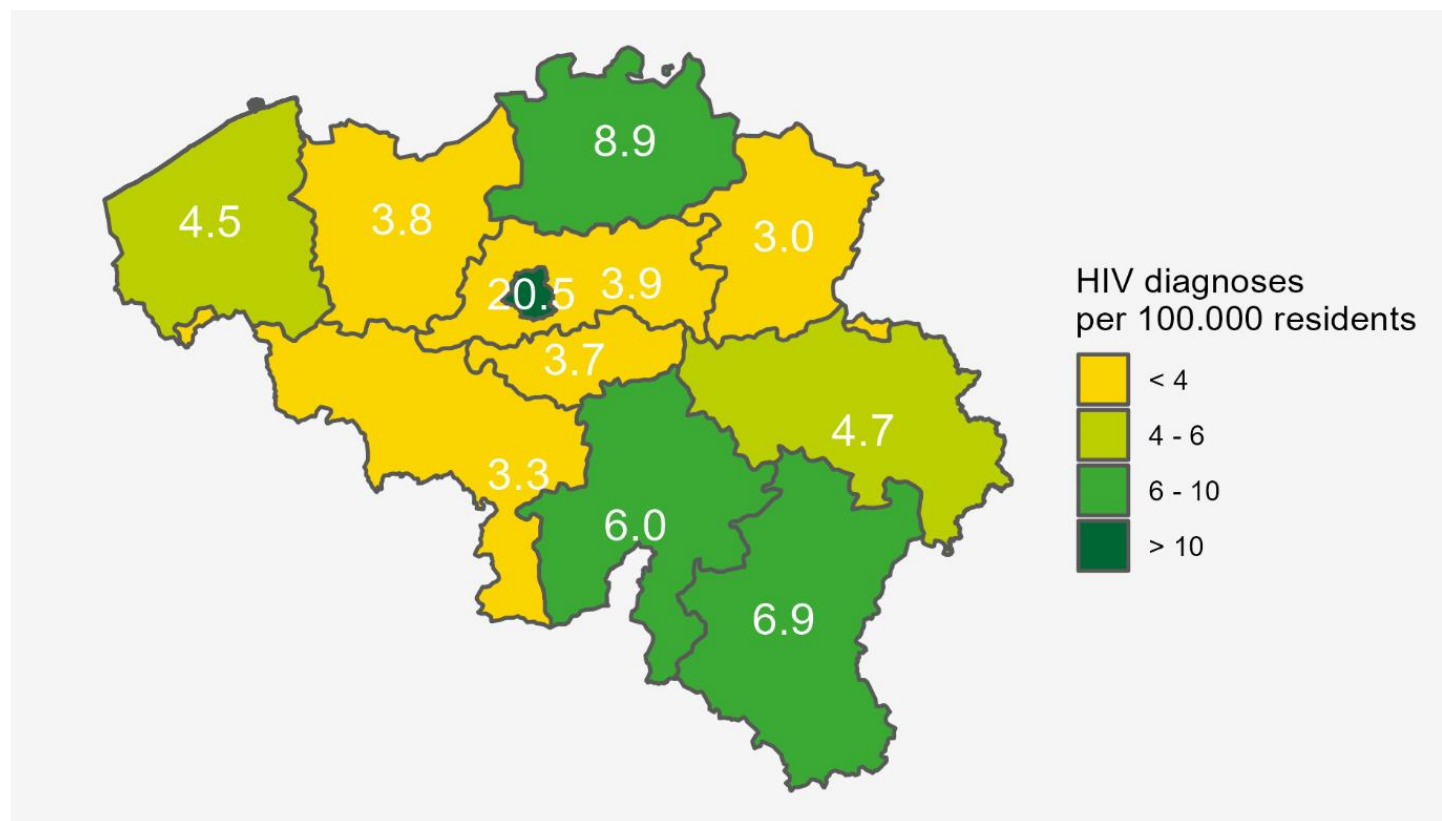
Number of HIV diagnoses by nationalities and sex among heterosexuals



Number of HIV diagnoses by nationalities and sex among heterosexuals



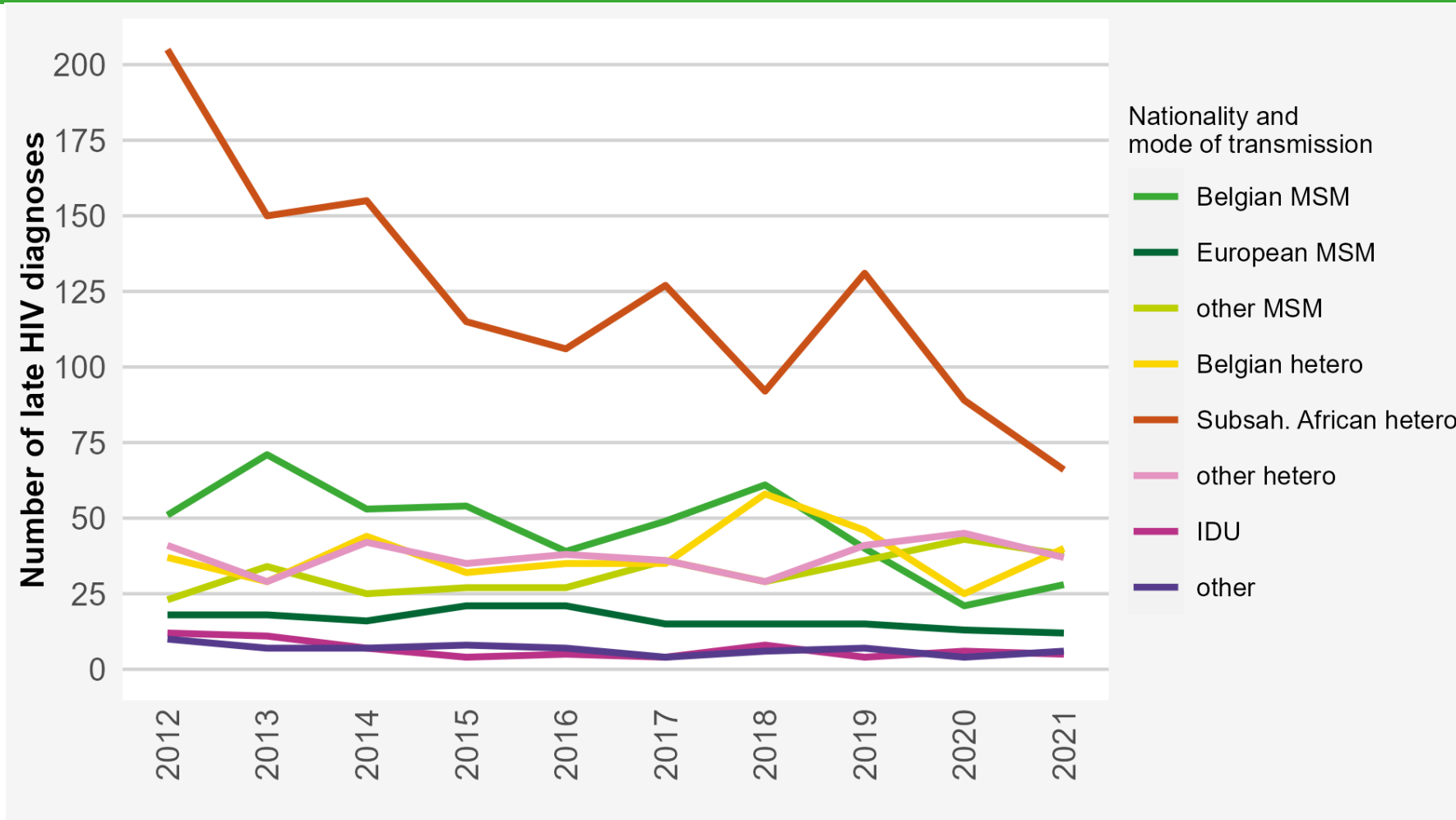
HIV diagnoses (/100 000) per provinces, 2021



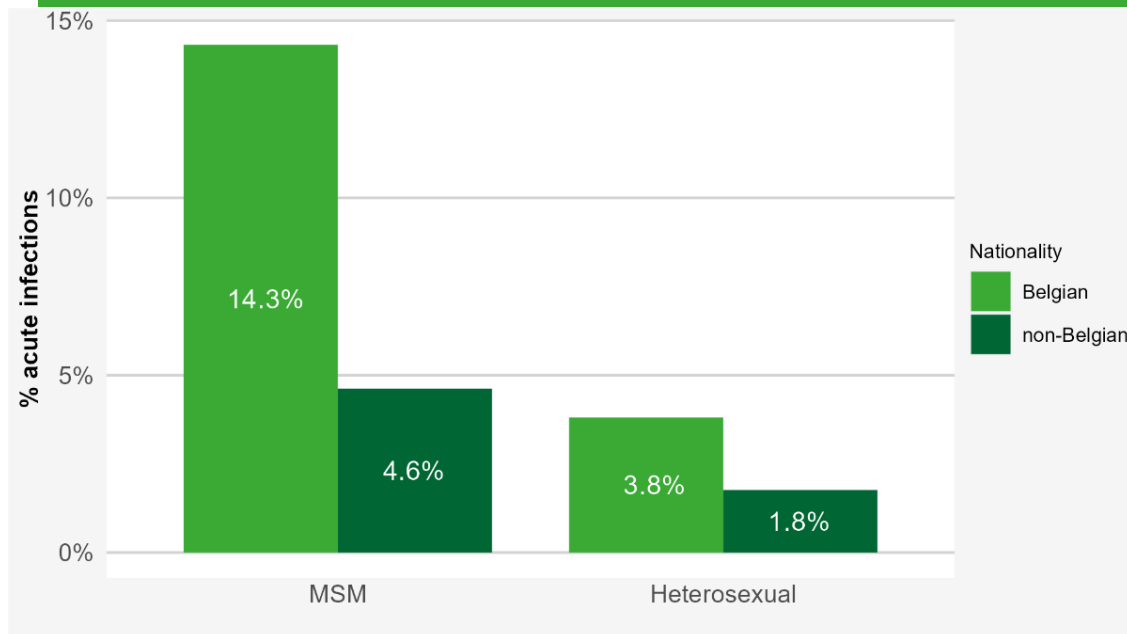
Urbanization setting:

Dense:	13.2	diag / 100 000 pop
Intermediate:	3.7	diag / 100 000 pop
Rural:	3.6	diag / 100 000 pop

Timing of HIV diagnosis: late diagnoses

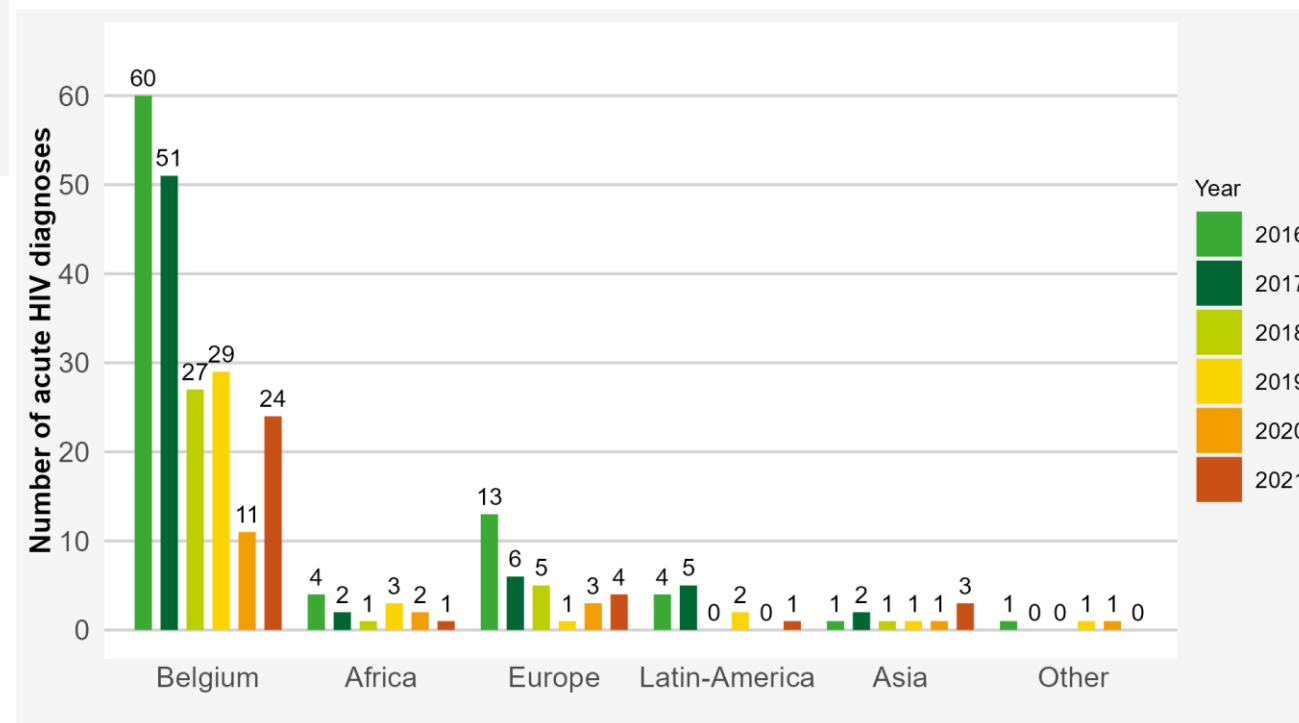


Timing of diagnosis: acute infections, 2021

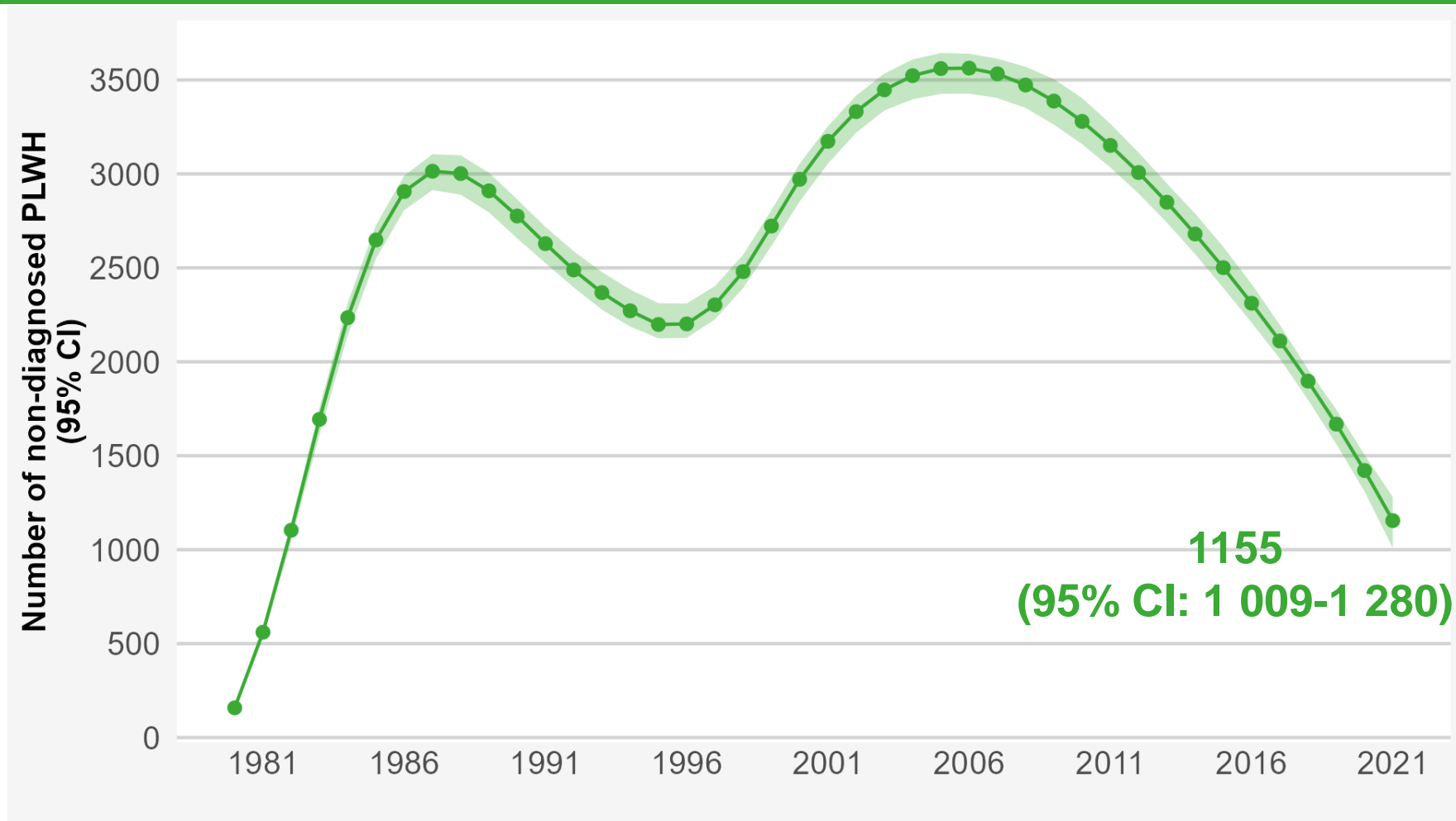


Proportion of acute infections among HIV diagnoses, 2021

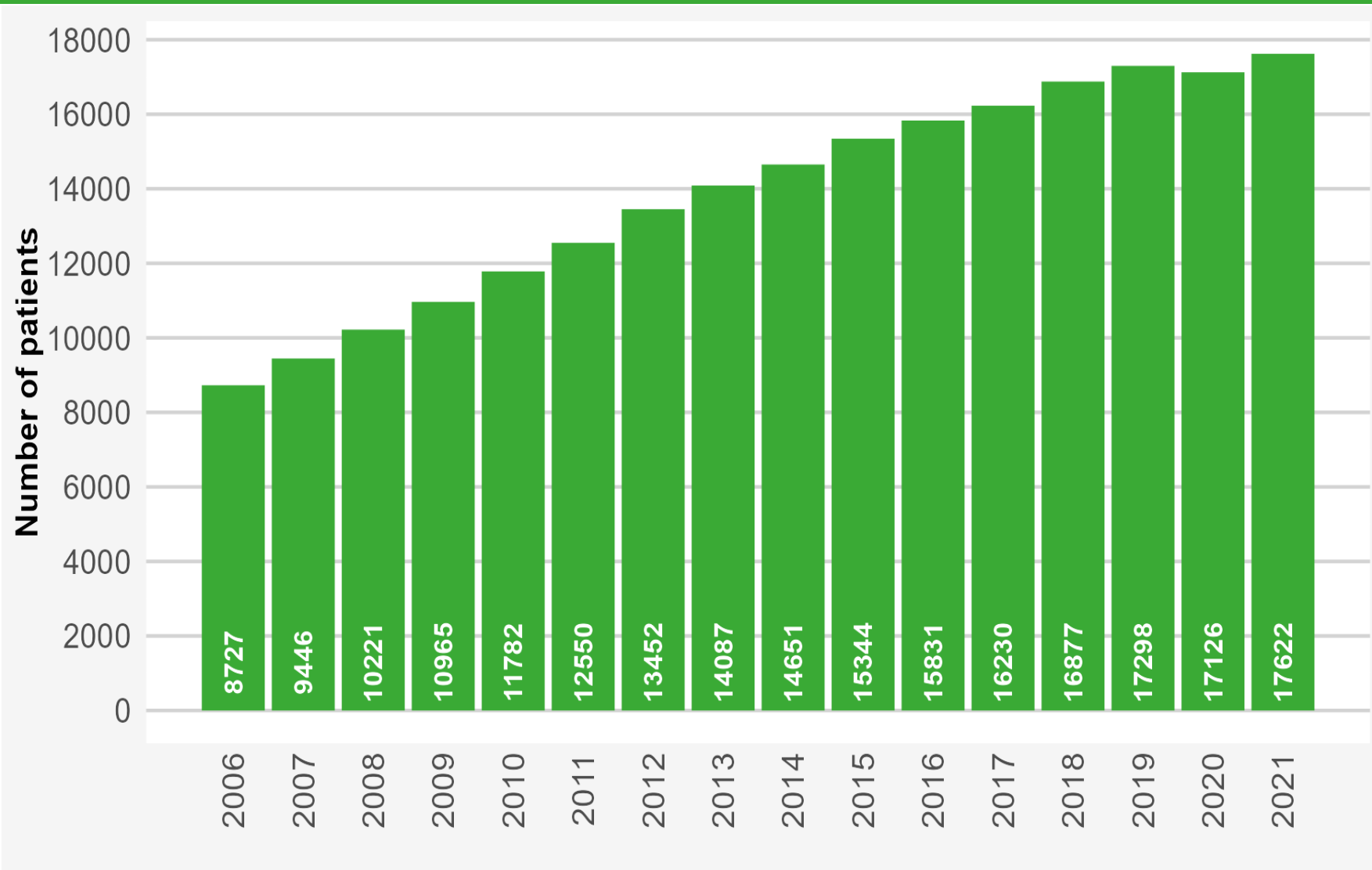
Number of acute infections among MSM 2016-2021



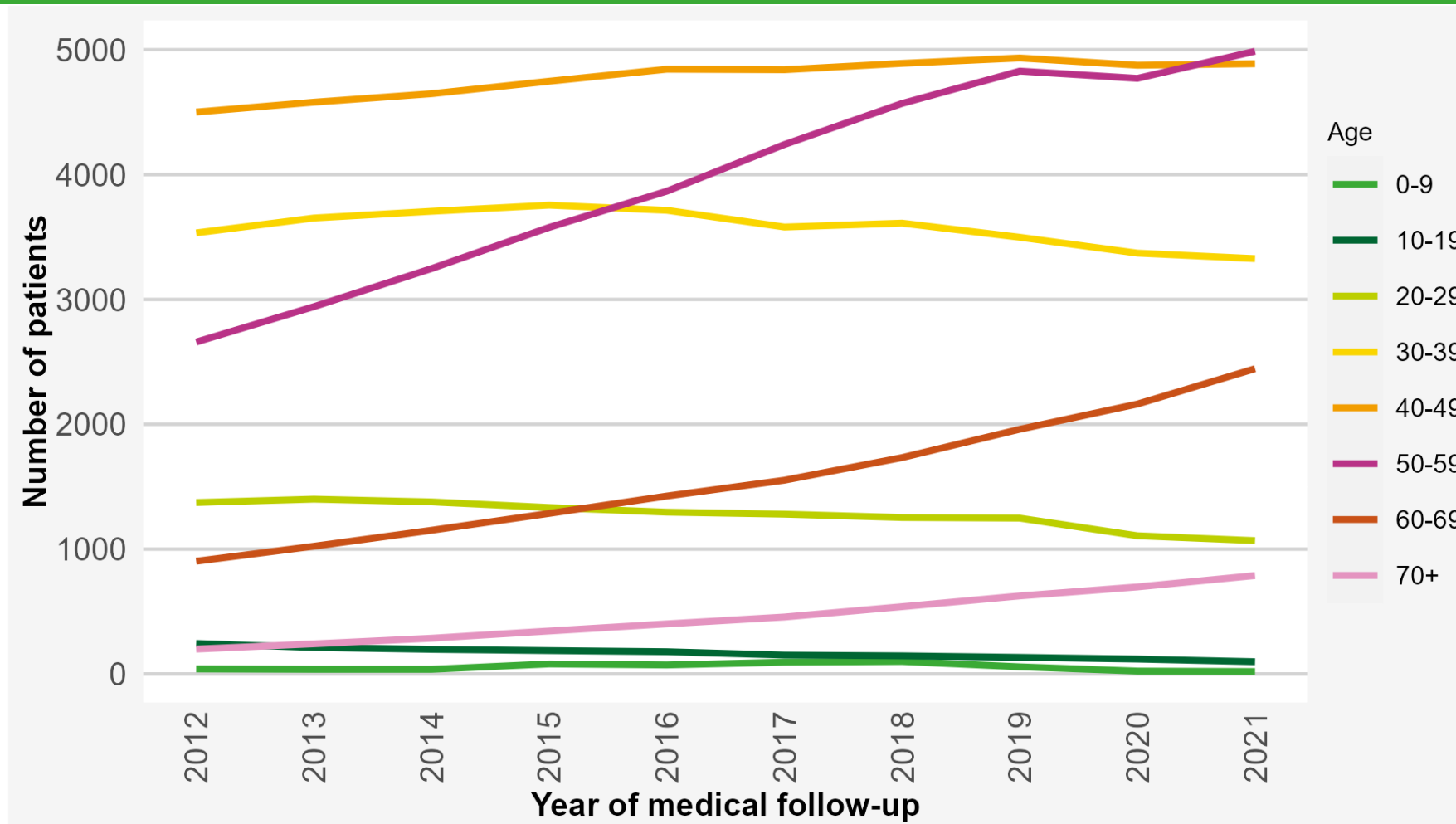
Estimates of undiagnosed PLWH per year (based on ECDC statistical model)



Number of patients in HIV care per year

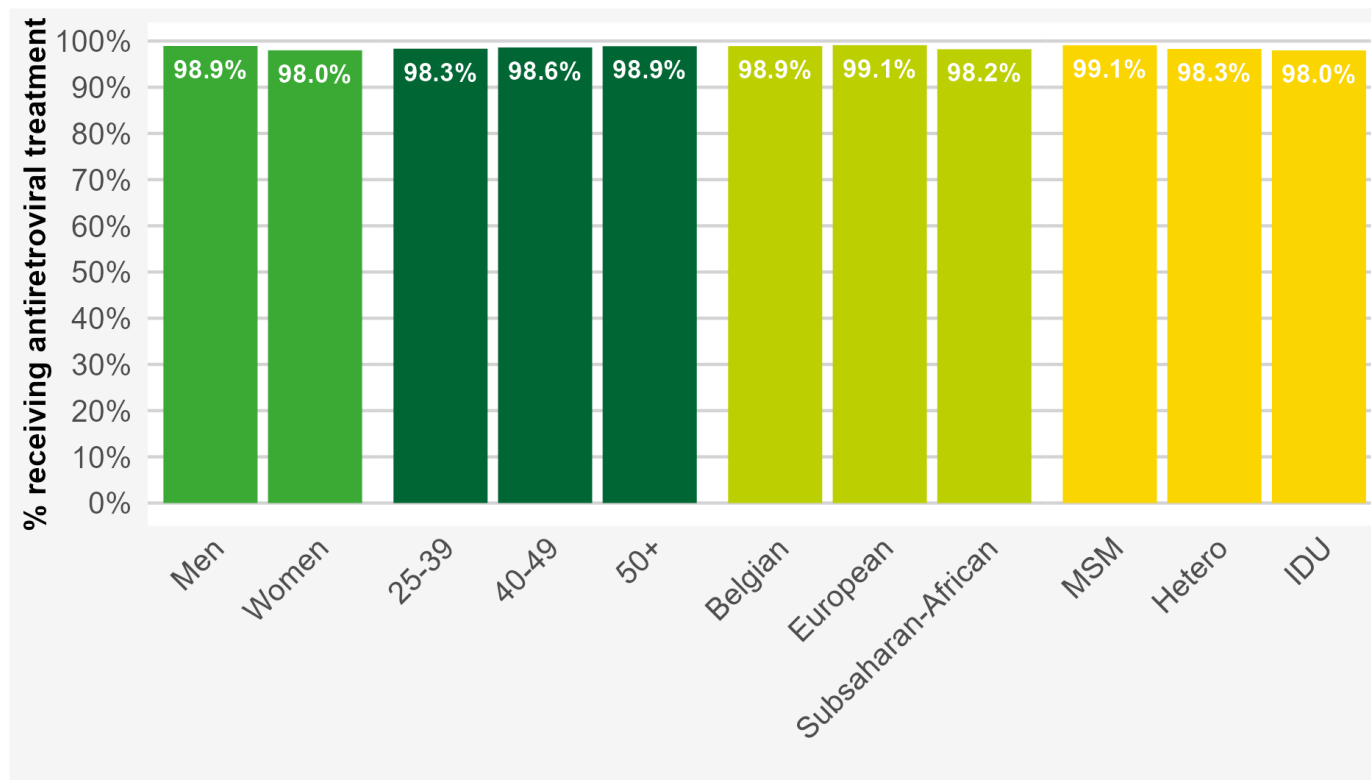


Aging of HIV patients: Nr of patients per age & year of HIV care



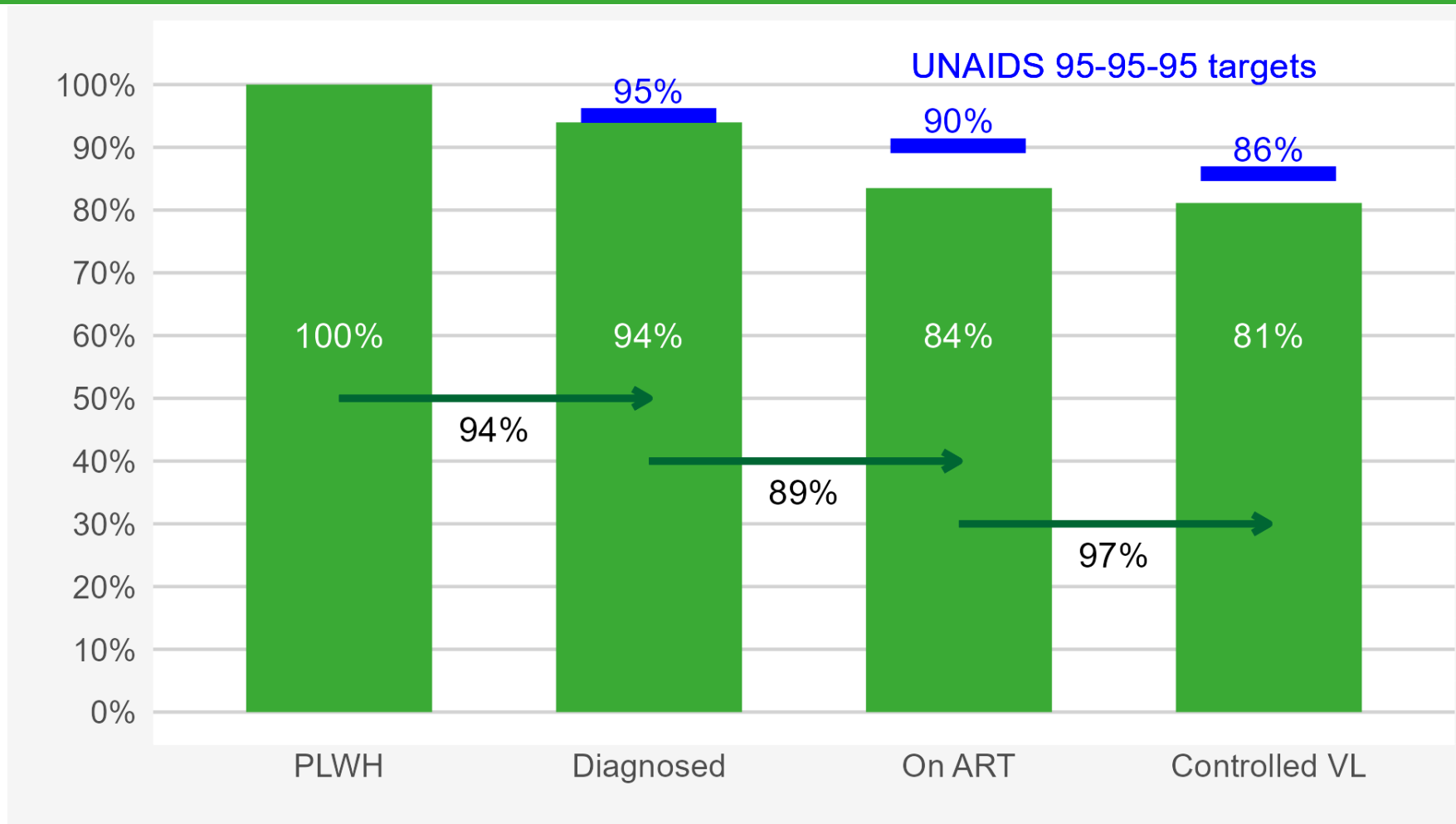
Optimal ART coverage and VL suppression

➤ 98.6% on ART

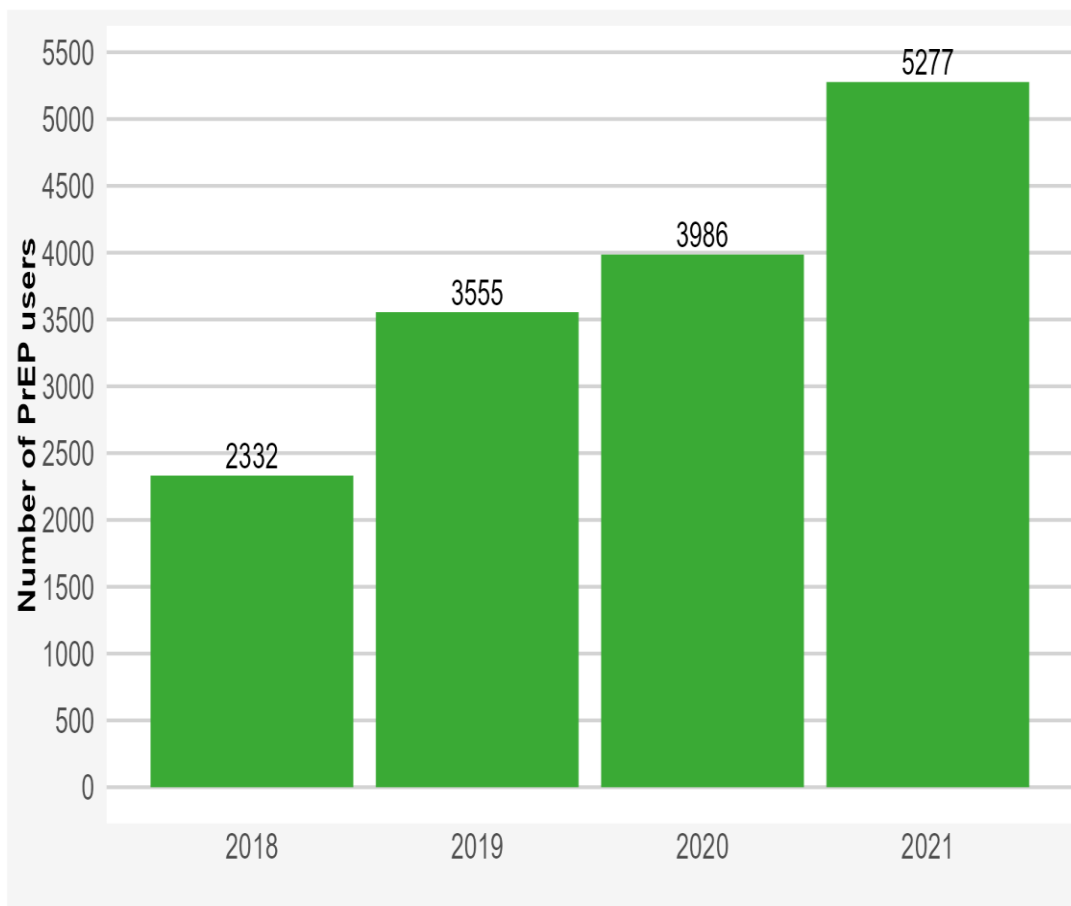


➤ VL control (< 200 copies / ml) : 97% among ART ≥ 6 months

Estimates of the continuum of HIV care, 2021



PrEP delivery



❖ 99% male

❖ 30-39 years: 35%

❖ 40-49 years: 27%

Average yearly use:

❖ Occasional (30-90): 37%

❖ Frequent (120-270): 42%

❖ Daily (≥ 300): 21%

❖ New users: 35%

Source: Pharmanet – public pharmacies
Exclusive of hospital pharmacies (9% of PrEP pills)

PrEP consultations in HRC

- ❖ 98% MSM
- ❖ 71% Belgian
- ❖ 24% Chemsex
- ❖ 4 HIV seroconversions

Infection diagnoses 2021	%
At least one STI	25
Chlamydia	14
Gonorrhea	13
Syphilis	6
Hepatitis C	0.3
Hepatitis B	0

Chemsex in PrEP, Barcelona: 63% Chemsex; 49% worried about chemsex; 18% said needed help

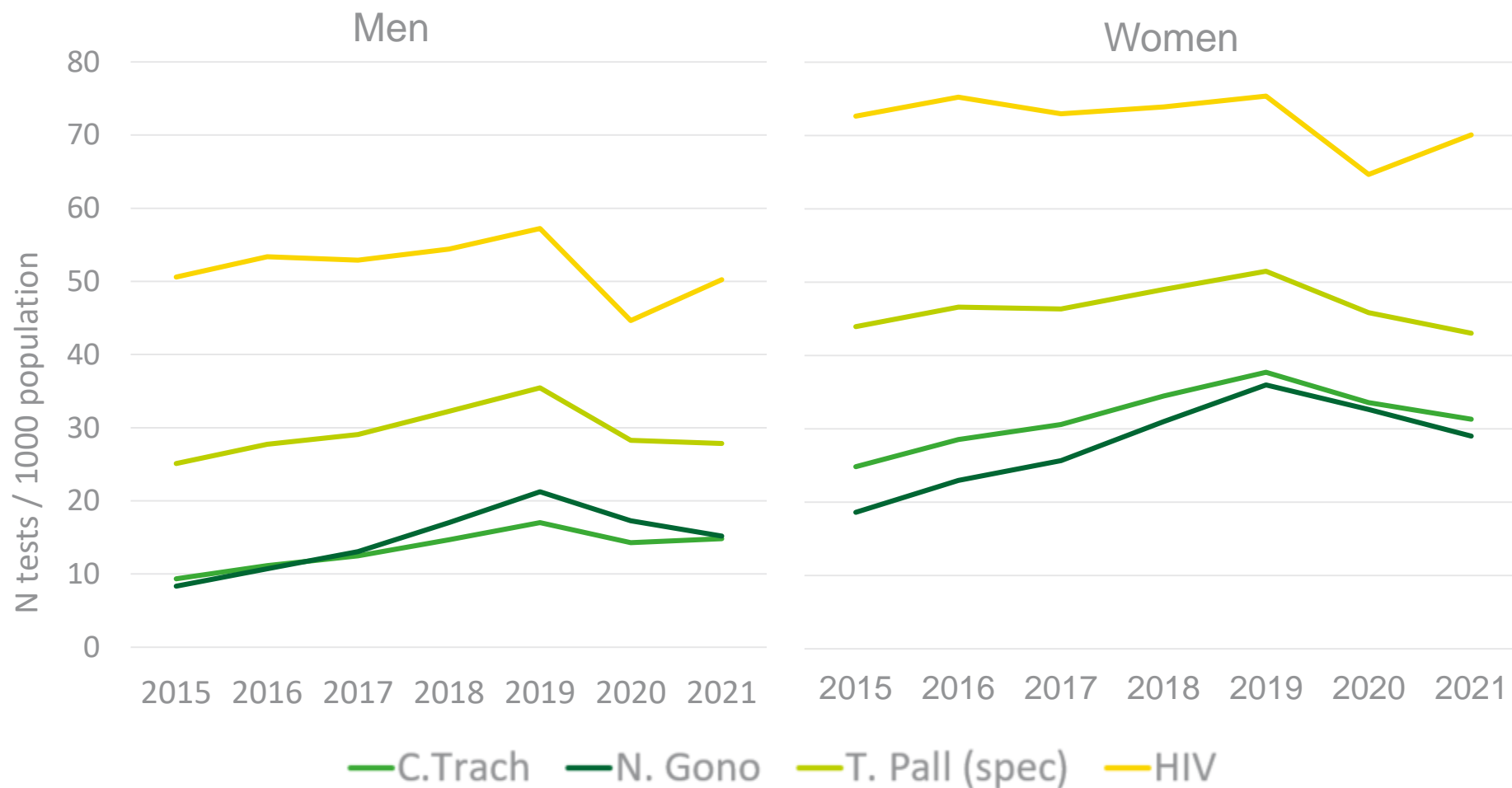
Authors plead for “A comprehensive, interdisciplinary approach”

De La Mora L. AIDS Behav. 2022 Dec; 26(12). doi: 10.1007/s10461-022-03730-5.

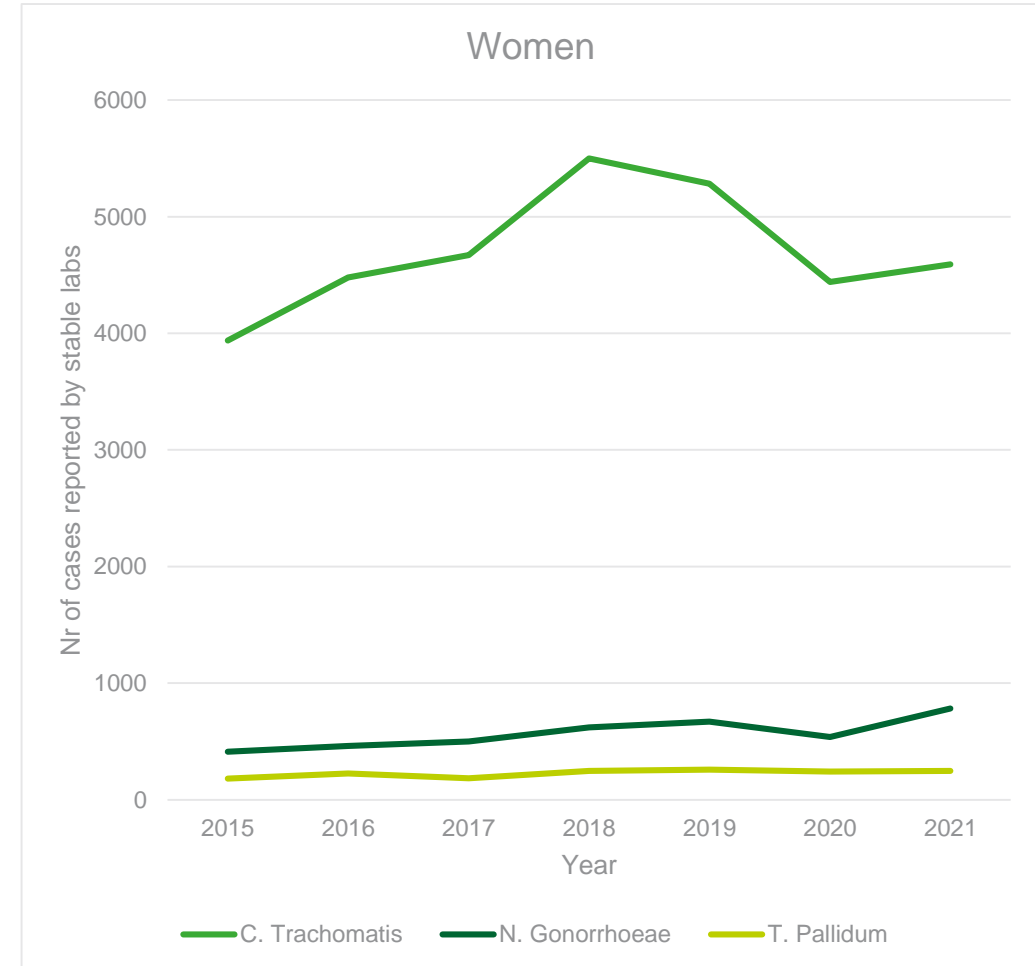
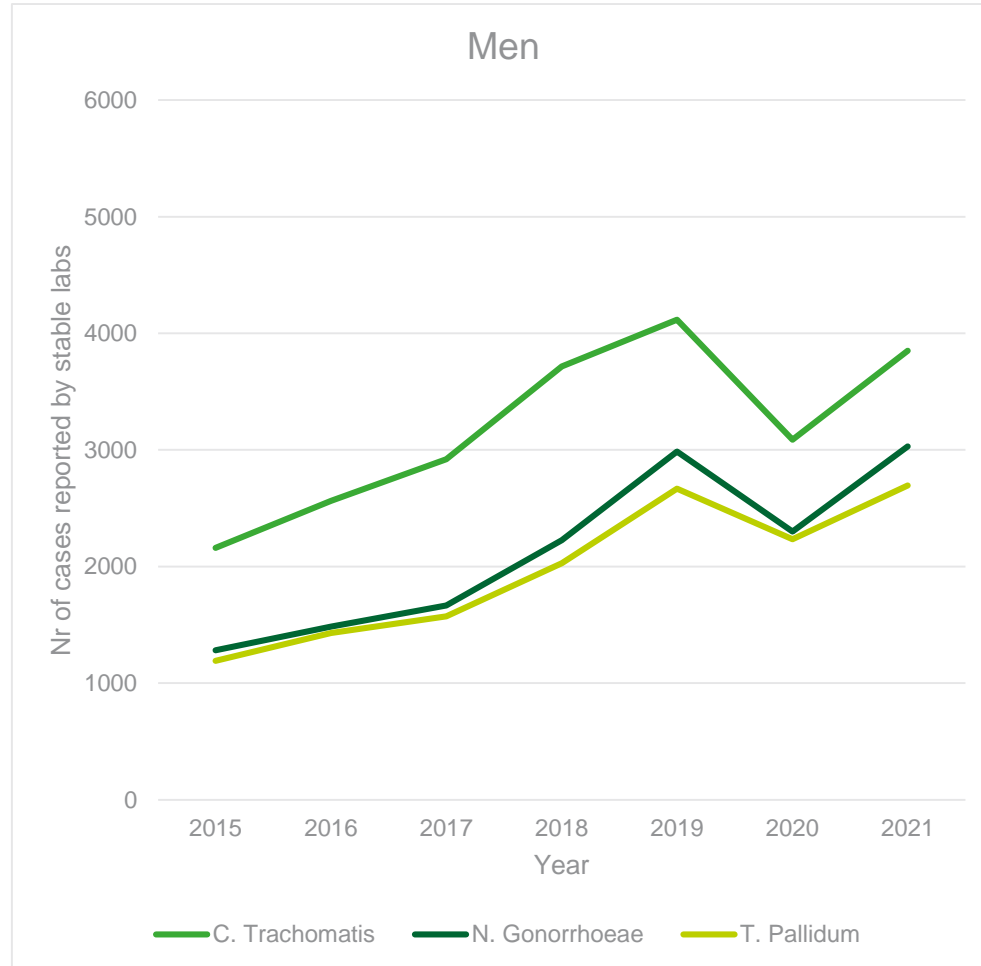
PROMISE, Belgium (ITM): 36.5% Chemsex; 21.9% willing to reduce chemsex activities; 23.4% experiencing negative consequences.

Vanbaelen T., et al. *Do PrEP users engaging in chemsex experience this as problematic and how can they best be supported? Findings from an online longitudinal study in Belgium.* (2022). Not yet published.

STI & HIV testing, 2015-2021



STI diagnoses: selection of consistently reporting sentinel laboratories (preliminary)



STI: discussion

- Increasing STI diagnoses among men
 - Sharp increase in 2021
 - More insight needed on the testing & diagnosis trends:
 - Better disentangle testing & diagnosis trends
 - Symptomatic vs asymptomatic testing
 - PrEP weight in the increasing trend?
- Importance of a representative and stable laboratory network
 - Underrepresentation of labs in Wallonia

Conclusion

- ❑ High standards of care
- To reach 95-95-95
 - ❑ ↑ **early testing / diagnosis**
 - ❑ ↑ **retention in HIV care**
- ❑ 4% increase in number of HIV diagnoses - Driven by Belgians
 - ❑ Catch-up of delayed diagnoses?
 - ❑ Signs of increased HIV transmission among MSM
- ❑ Scale up further to impact on rapid transmission
 - ❑ **Early testing**
 - ❑ **Prevention: panel of strategies including PrEP**

*Thanks to the ARLs & HRCs
& Pharmanet*

Thanks to the annual report stakeholder group

Annual HIV reports – data 2021

FR: <https://doi.org//10.25608/9mcv-2433>

NL: <https://doi.org/10.25608/9bnm-ht18>

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