

MONKEYPOX IN BELGIUM: SURVEILLANCE DATA OF THE OUTBREAK

Amaryl Lecompte

BREACH 23/11/2022

Outline

- A new outbreak: steps taken
- Epidemiological curves
- Geographical distribution
- Demographics of cases
- Transmission and exposure setting
- Vaccination status among cases
- Conclusion

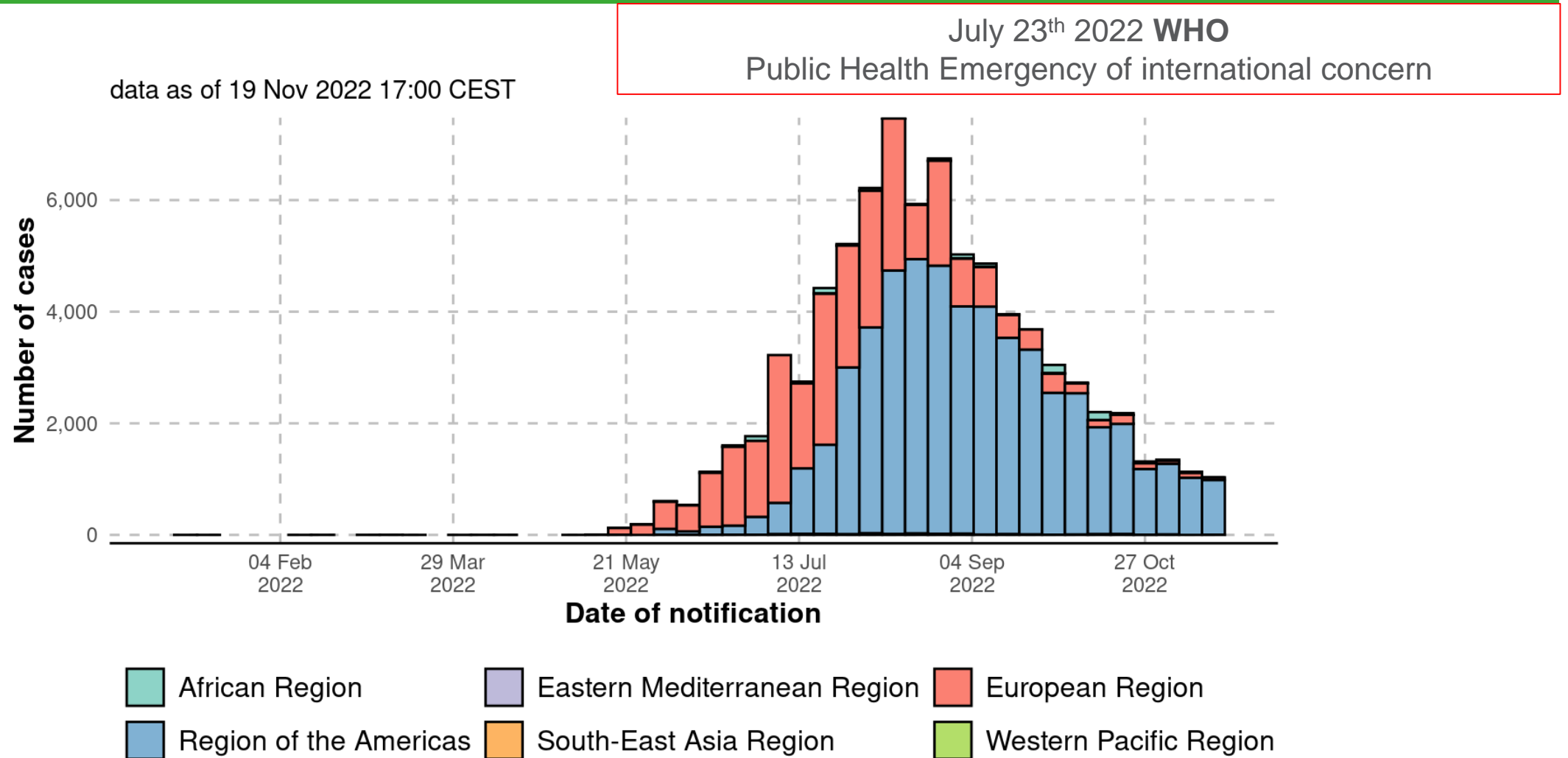
A new outbreak: steps taken

- May 13th 2022: EpiPulse notification from Portugal
 - May 17th : UK 7 confirmed MPX cases
 - May 18th : first confirmed case in Belgium
 - ➔ urgent interdisciplinary Risk Assessment Group (RAG) + follow-up
- Also cases in Spain, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, France, ...
 - ➔ Role of ECDC
 - Coordination of data collection
 - Online meetings for exchange

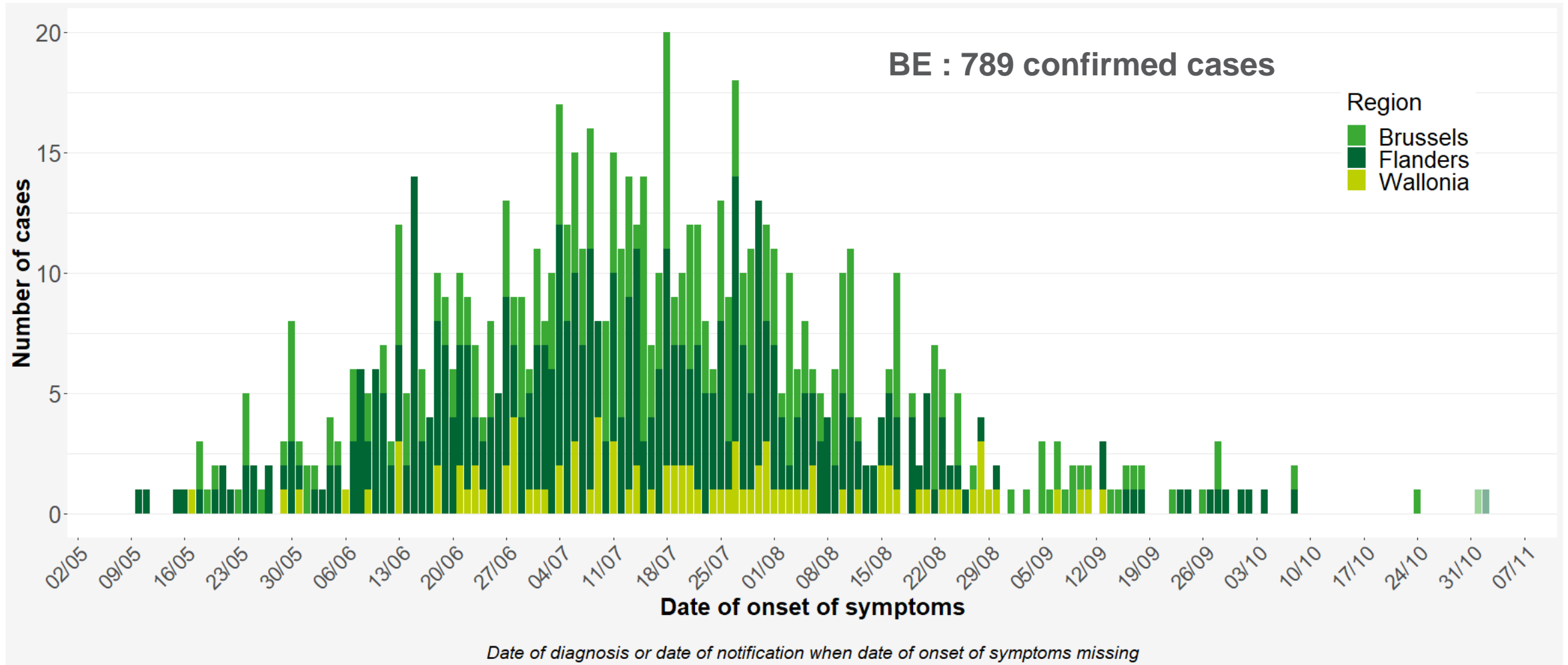
Data collection: method

- Dataflow Belgium: mandatory notification
 1. Notification of probable and confirmed cases to the regional authorities (MD, Lab)
 2. Contact tracing + completion of ECDC linelist by the regional health authorities
 3. Sharing of pseudonymized data with Sciensano
 4. Reporting (inter)nationally

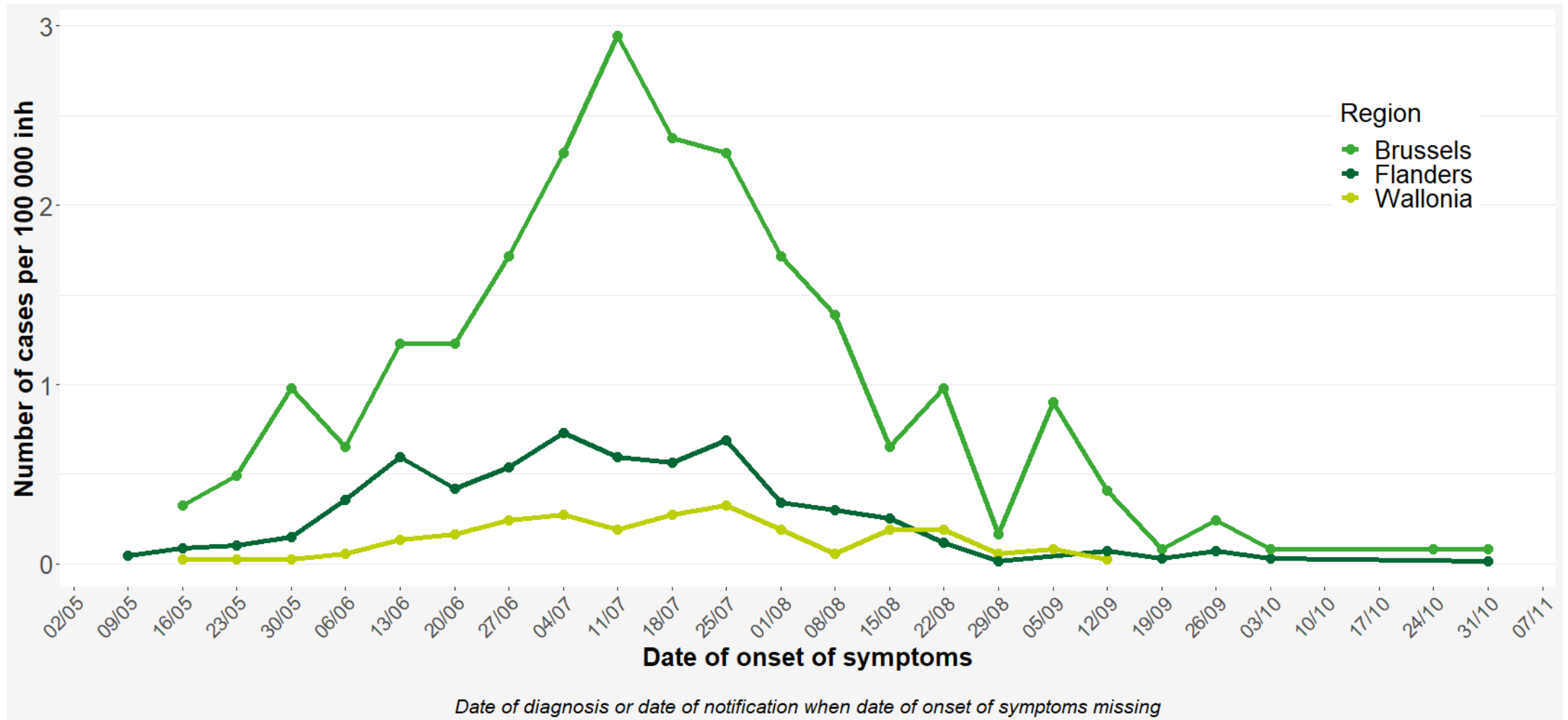
Global epicurve



Epicurve Belgium

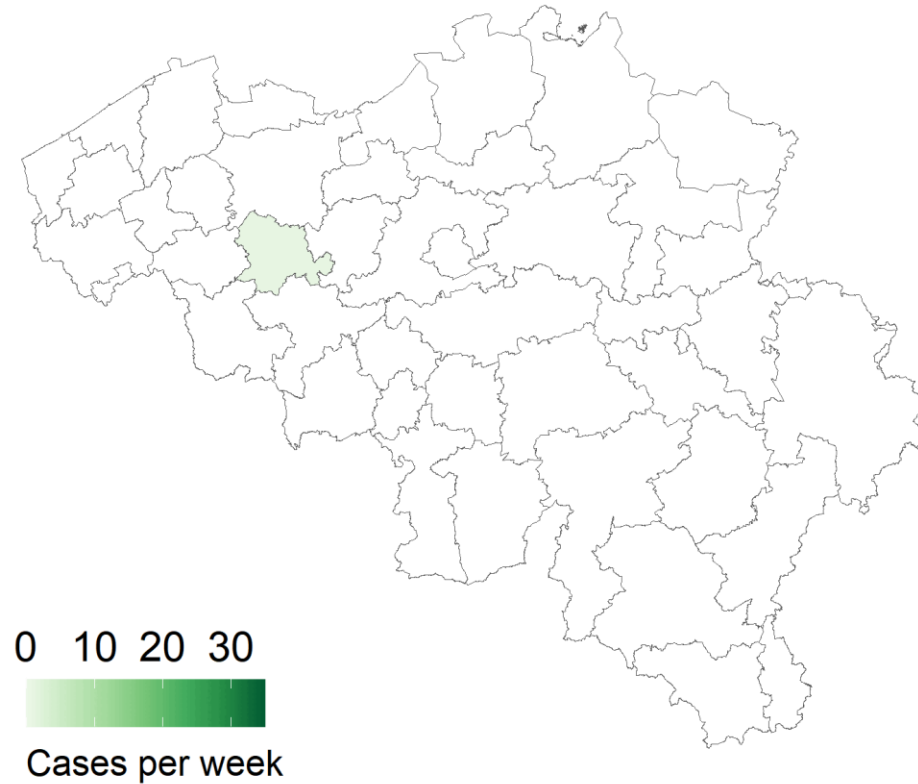


Geographical distribution: per region

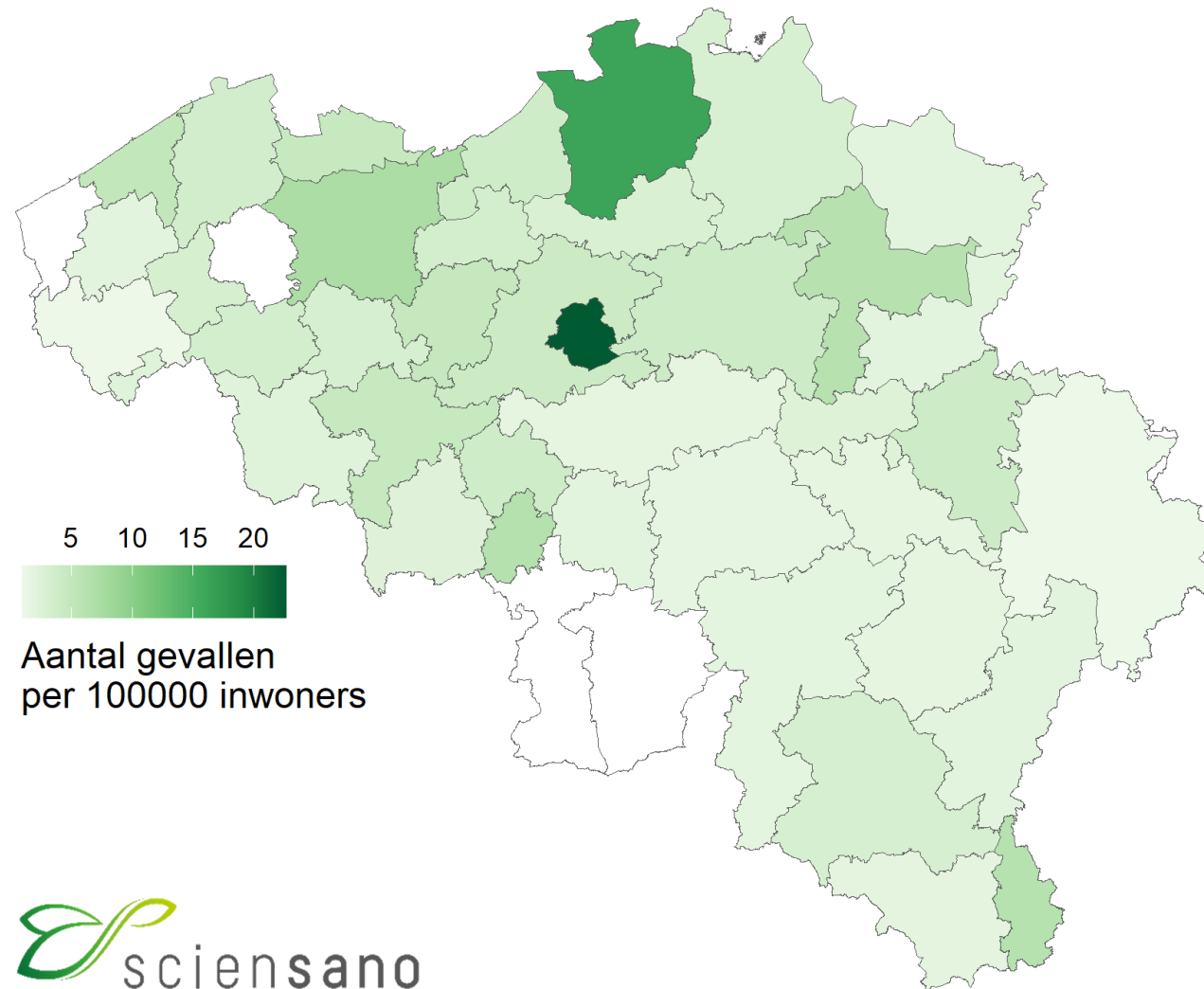


Geographical distribution: cases per district per week

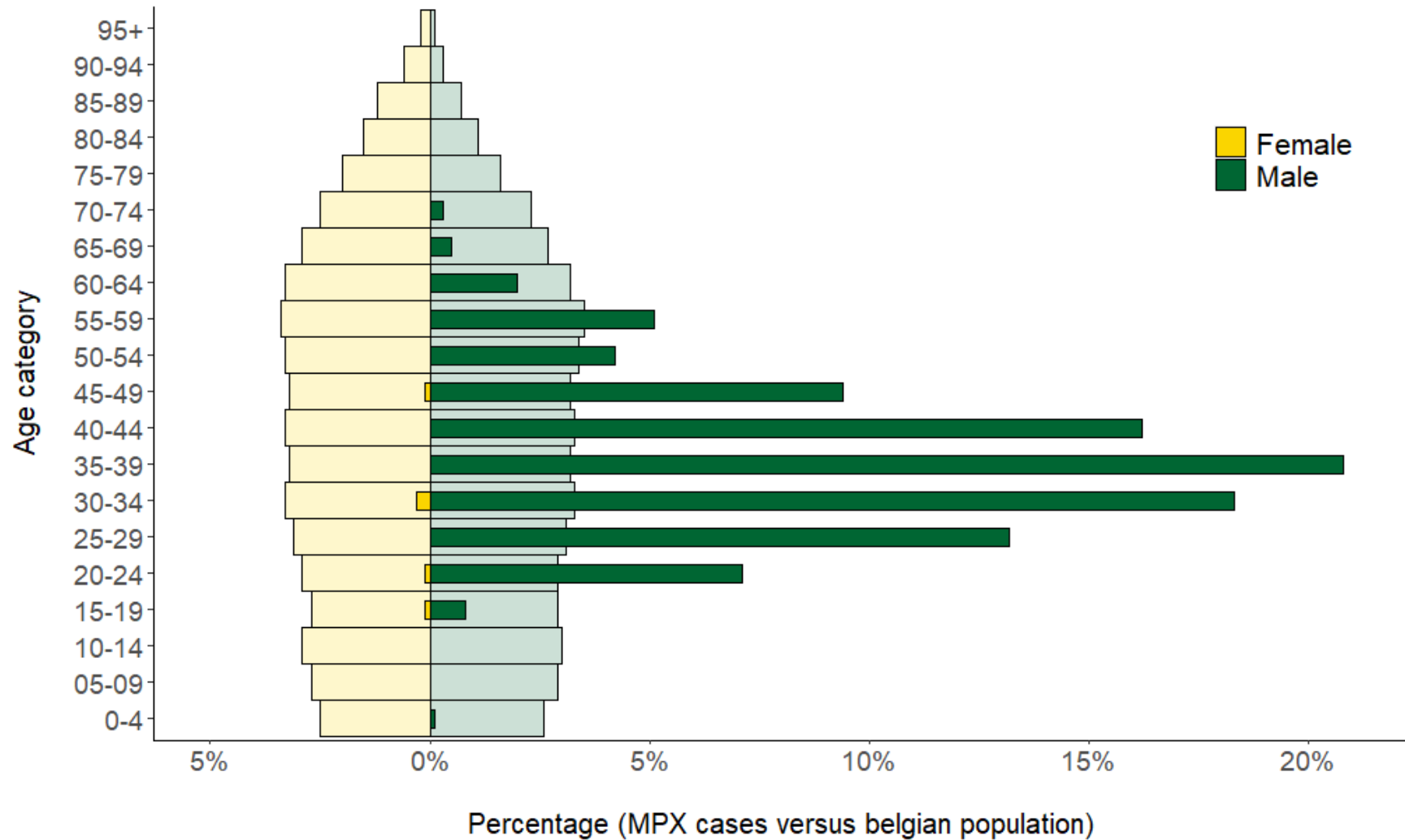
2022-19



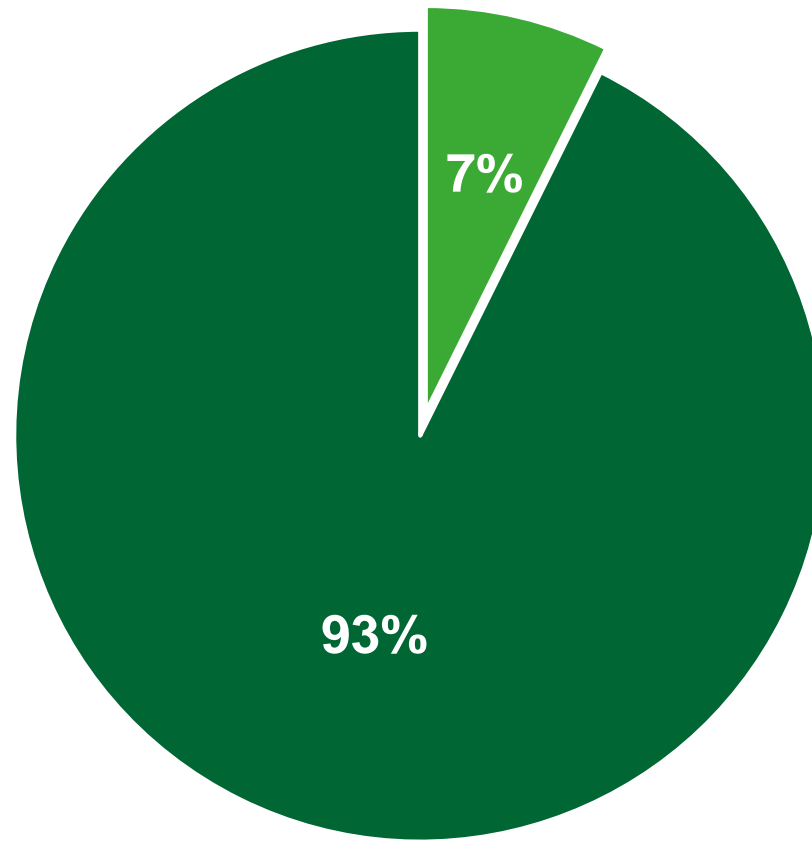
Cumulative incidence per district



Demographics: age & sex



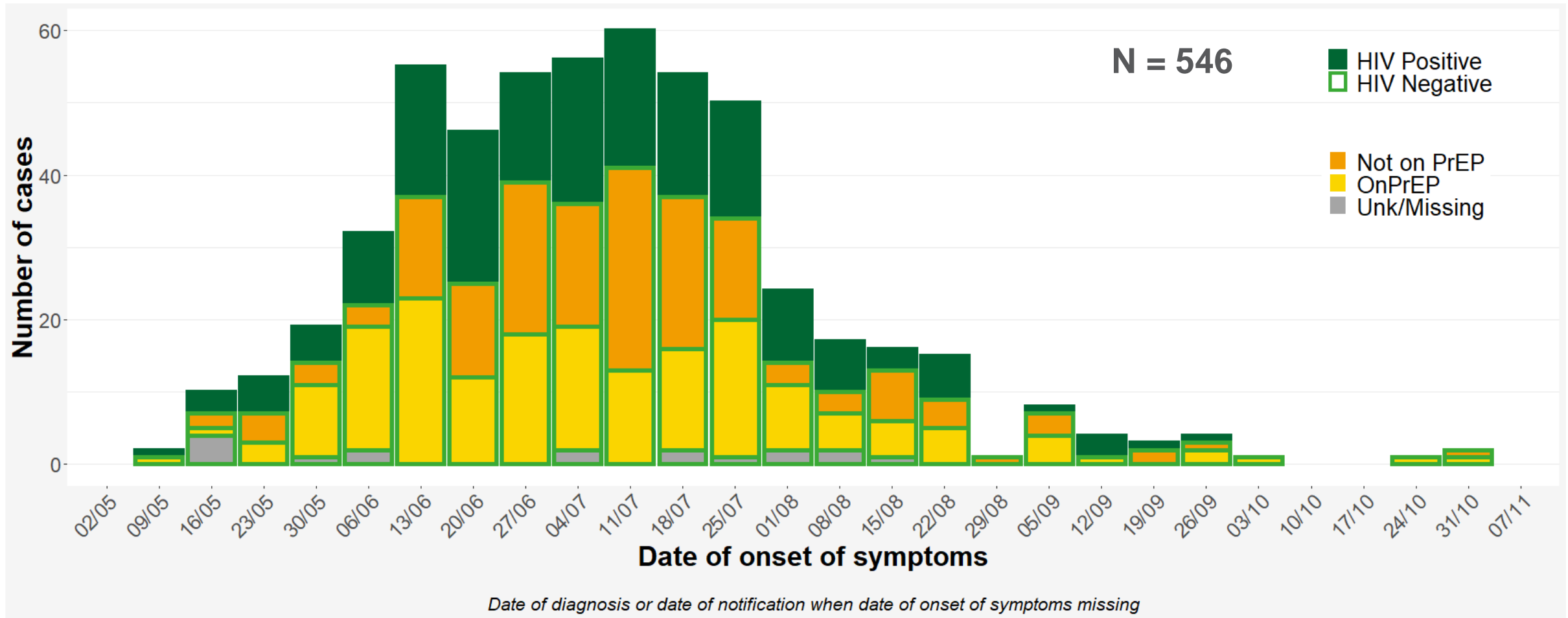
Demographics: sexual orientation



N = 695

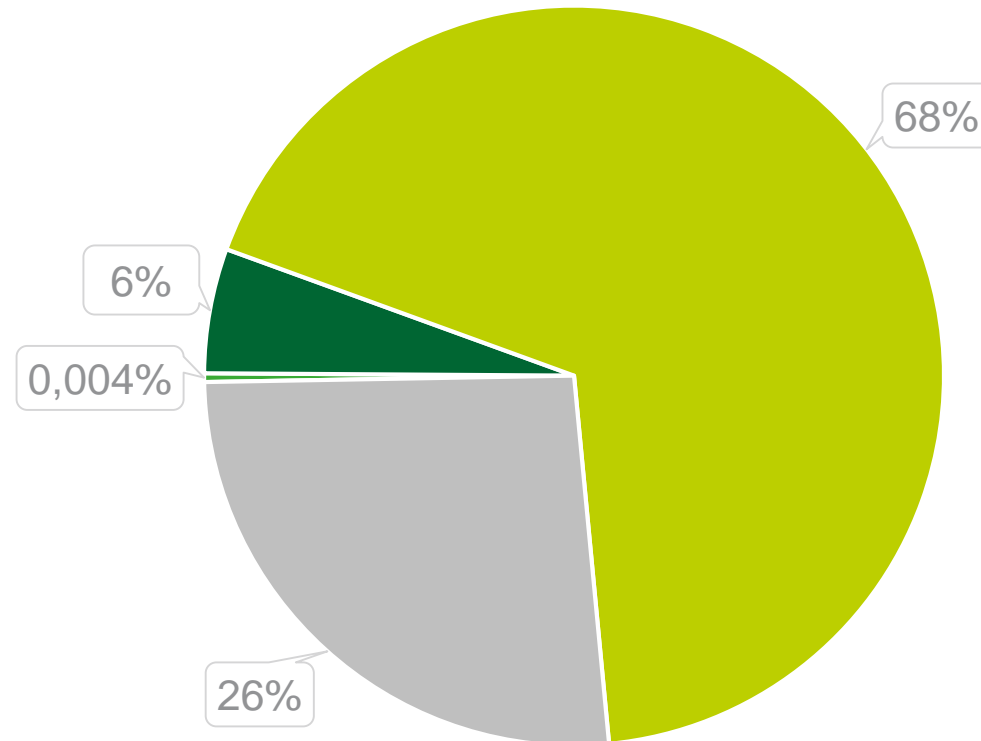
■ Hetero ■ MSM

Demographics: HIV status & PrEP use



Transmission

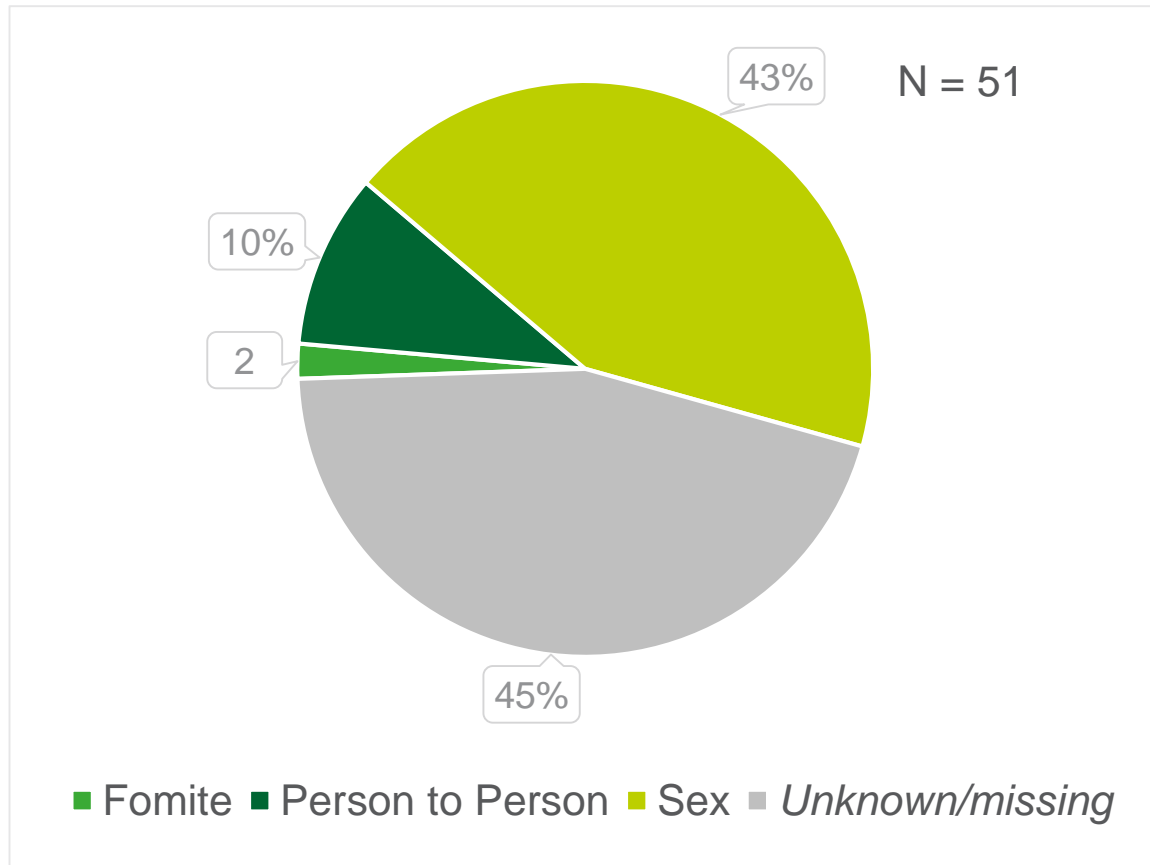
N = 789



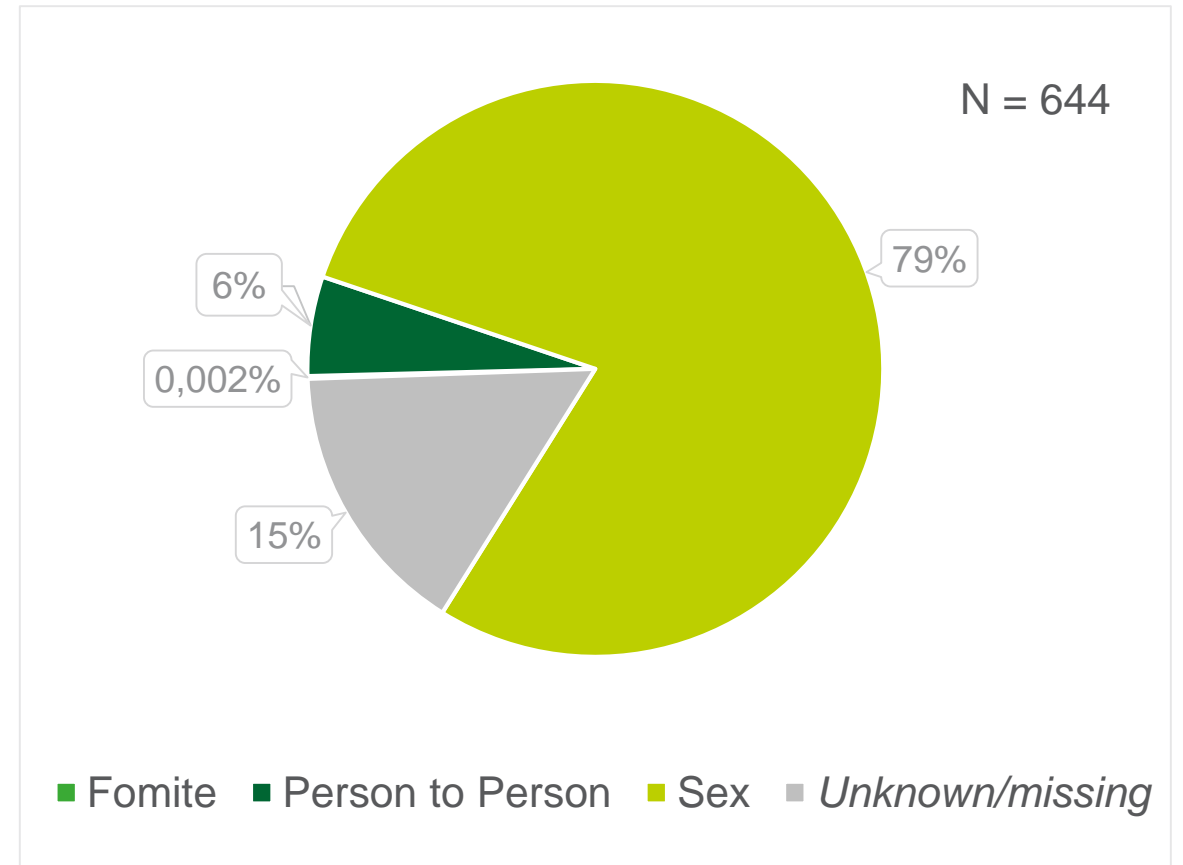
■ Fomite ■ Person to Person ■ Sex ■ *Unknown/missing*

Transmission stratified by sexual orientation

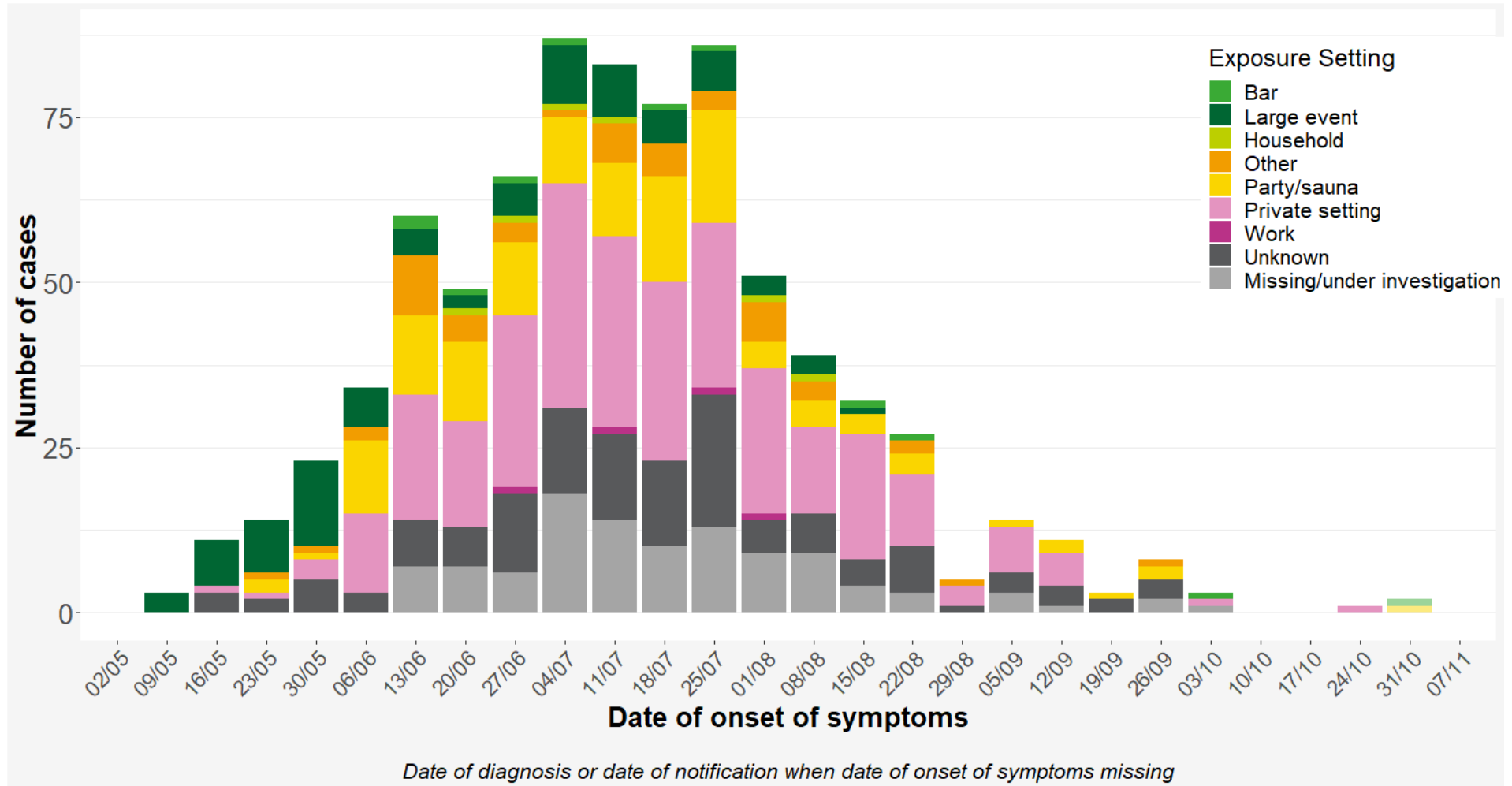
Hetero



MSM



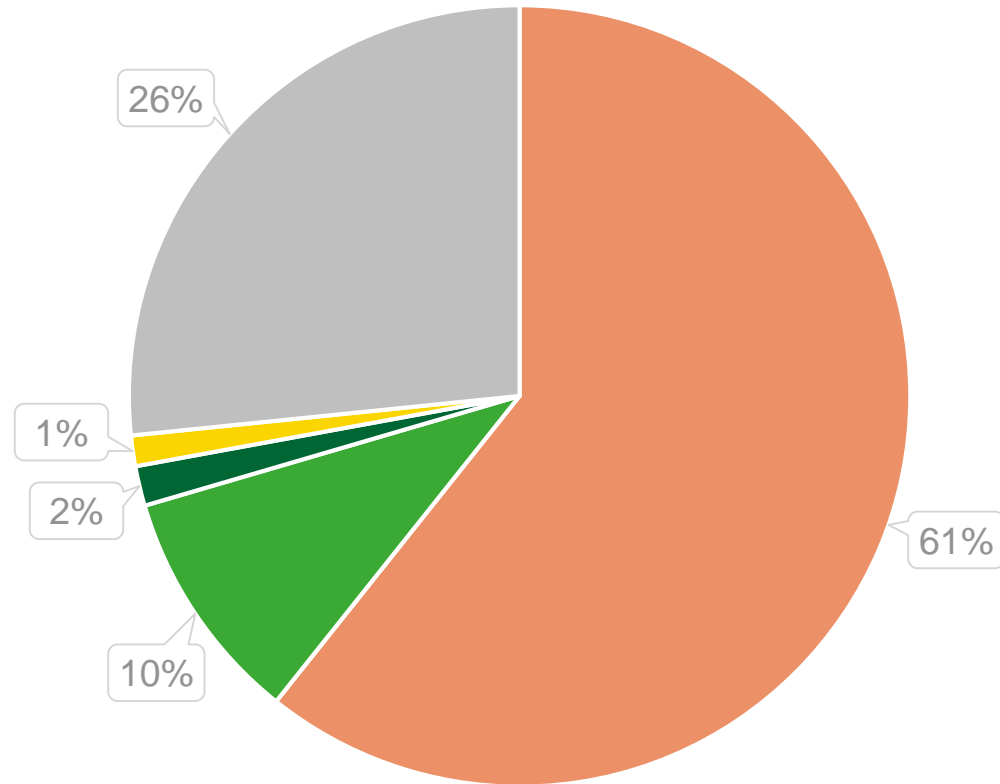
Exposure Setting



Vaccination against Monkeypox

- Previously received smallpox vaccine
 - Stopped in 1976 in Belgium
- Post-exposure preventive vaccination
Start: beginning of June 2022
- Primary preventive vaccination
Start Belgium: beginning of August 2022 (*criteria loosened over time*)
(France : mid July 2022)

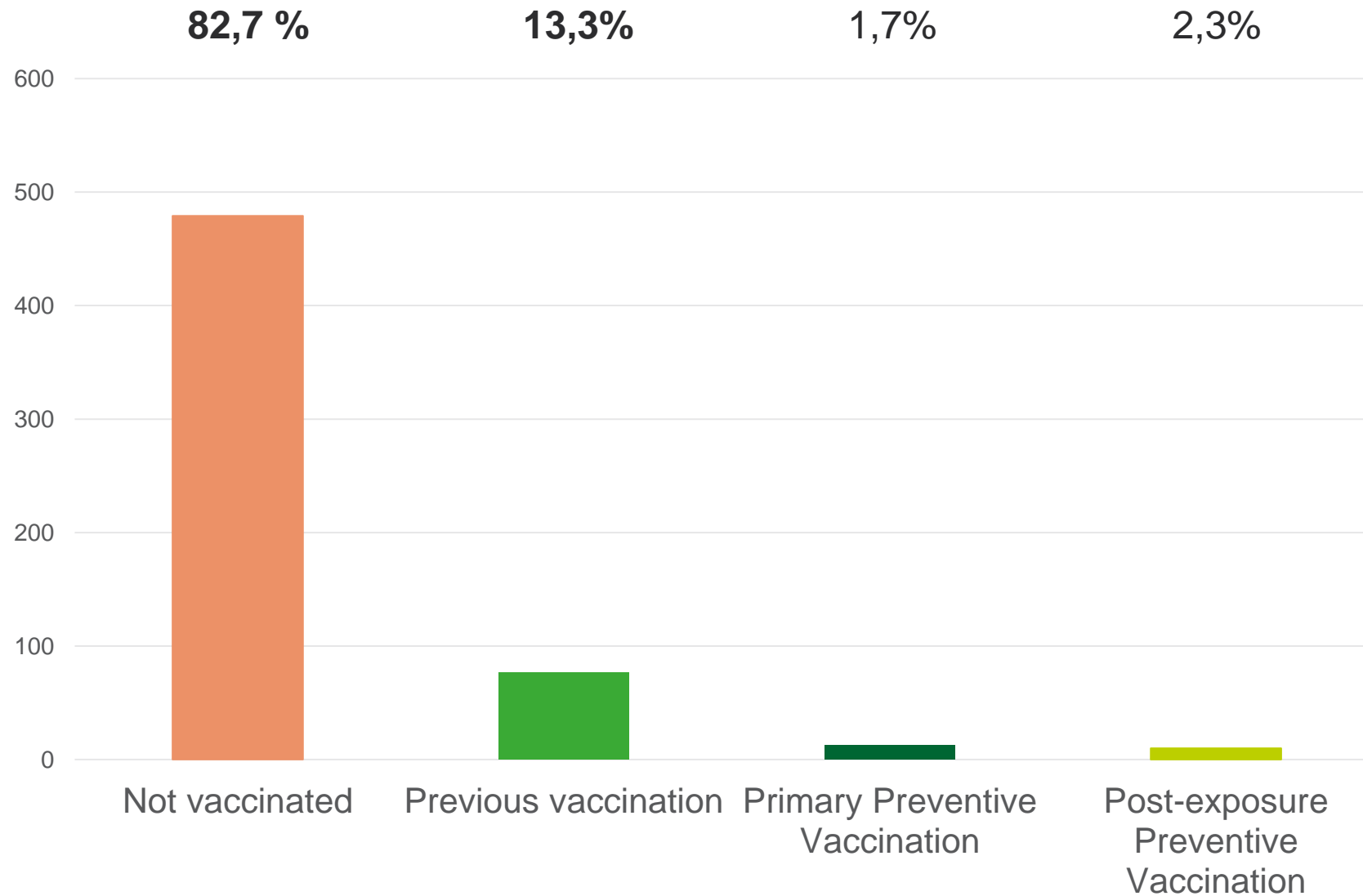
Vaccination status of cases



N = 789

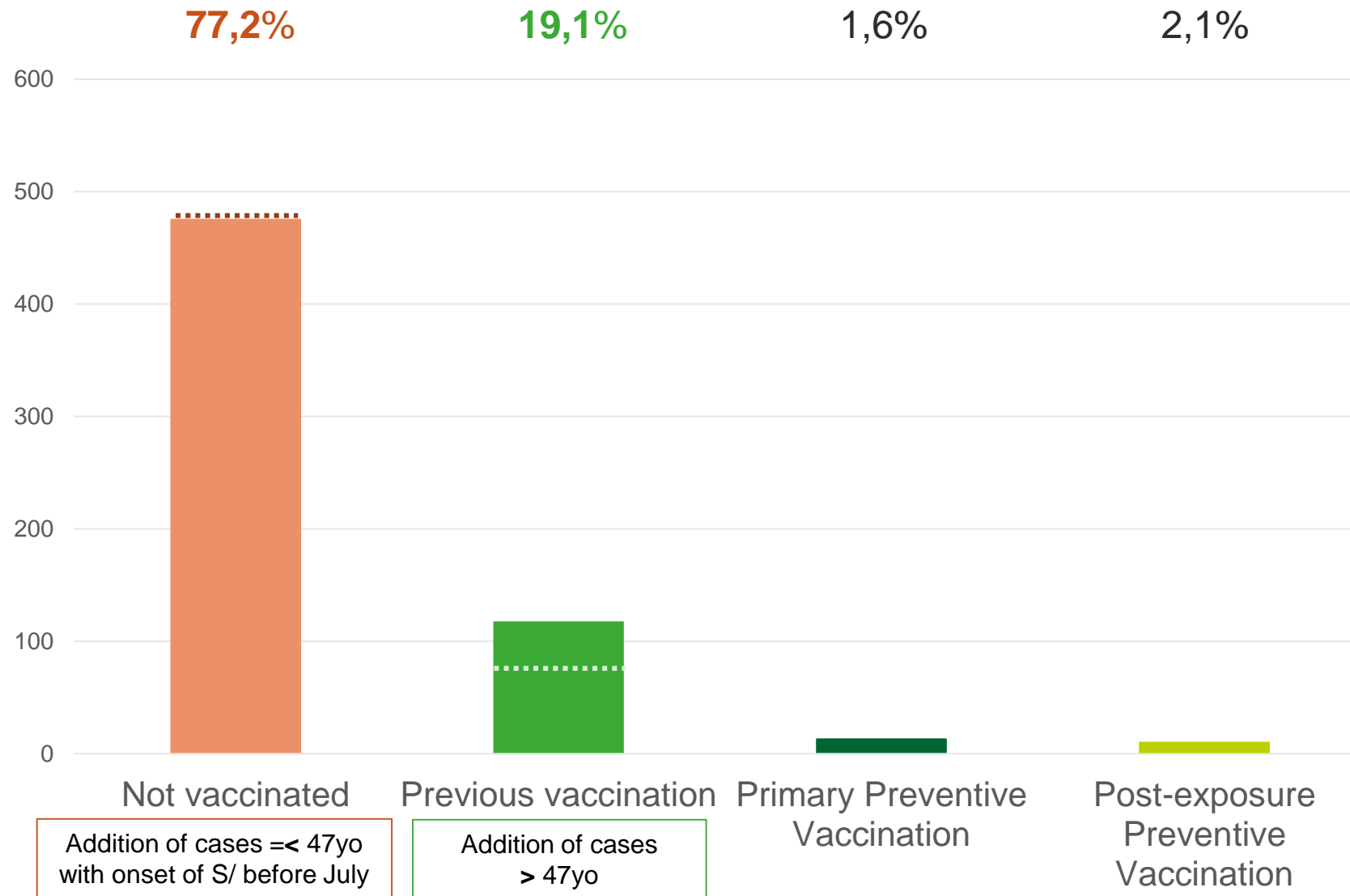
- Not vaccinated
- Previous vaccination
- Primary Preventive Vaccination
- Post-exposure Preventive Vaccination
- Unknown/missing*

Vaccination status of cases



N = 579

Vaccination status



Conclusion

- Outbreak in Belgium/Europe is under control
 - International approach
 - Vaccination effect probable (although no data to quantify exactly + duration unknown)
 - Information dissemination + (temporary) behavior change
 - Continued surveillance needed
- MPX underlines the need for preparedness for new outbreaks

Many thanks to:

Clinicians, laboratories and regional health authorities

Members of the Risk Assessment Group(RAG) and prevention organizations

Weekly bulletin

<https://www.sciensano.be/nl/biblio/apenpokken-mpx-epidemiologische-situatie>

<https://www.sciensano.be/nl/biblio/variole-de-singe-mpx-situation-epidemiologique>

Contact

<Amaryl Lecompte> • <amaryl.lecompte>@sciensano.be • +32 2 642 51 10