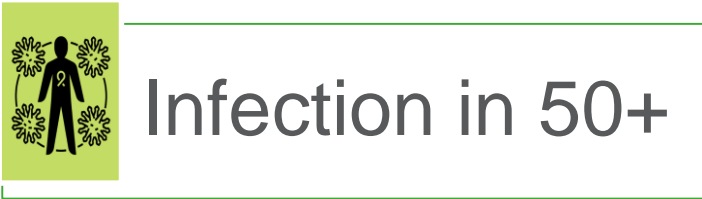
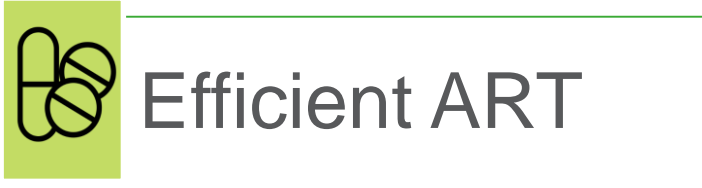




# AGING WITH HIV: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INSIGHT IN BELGIUM

Van Beckhoven D.

# Aging of HIV population



The number of people aged 50 years or older with HIV infection globally increased from 5.4 million in 2015 to 8.1 million in 2020

# In Belgium

In 2021:

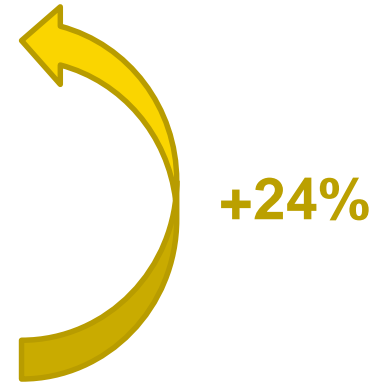
N= **8221 PWHIV 50+**

Prevalence of **1.8** PWHIV / 1000 Pop 50+

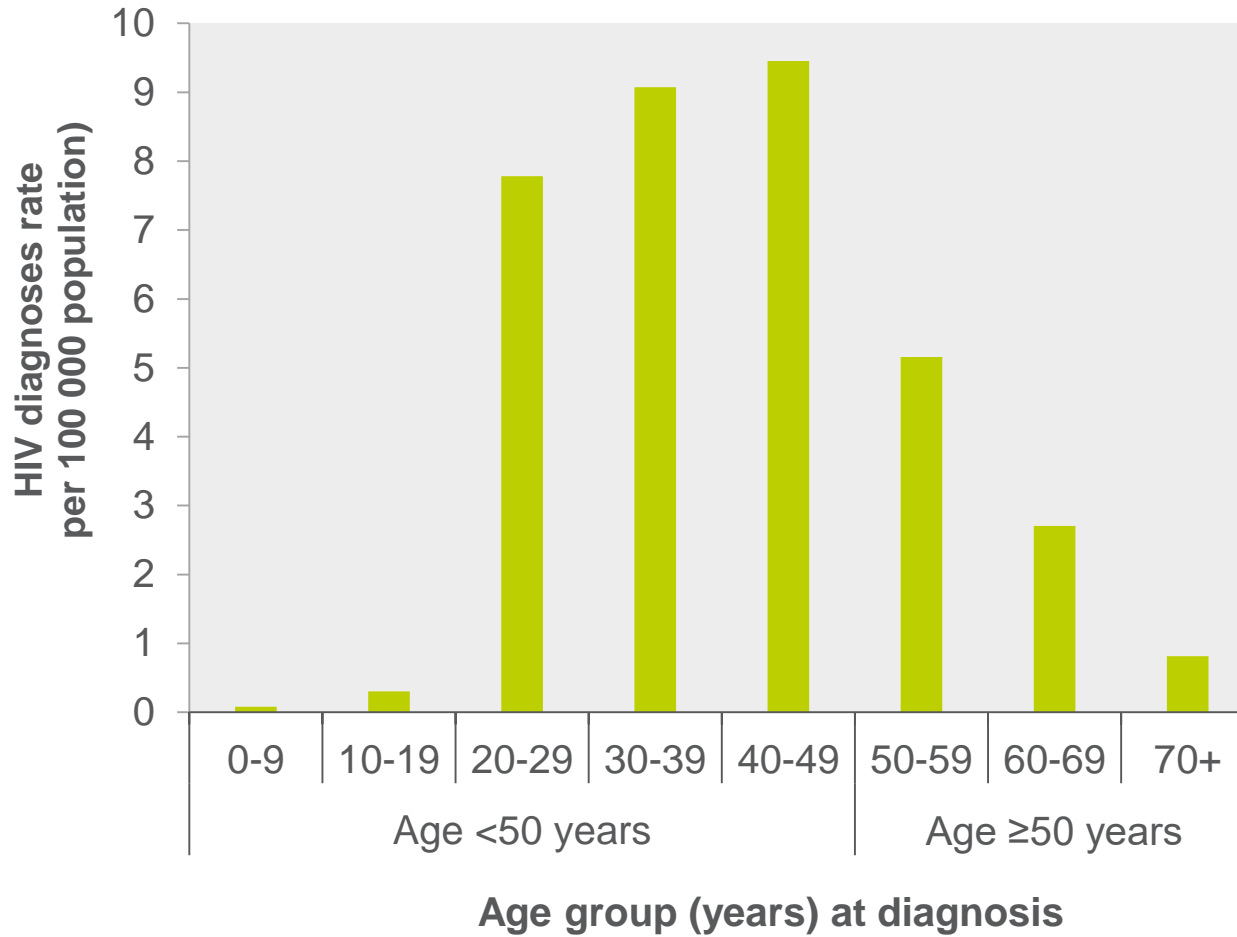
In 2016:

N= **6319 PWHIV 50+**

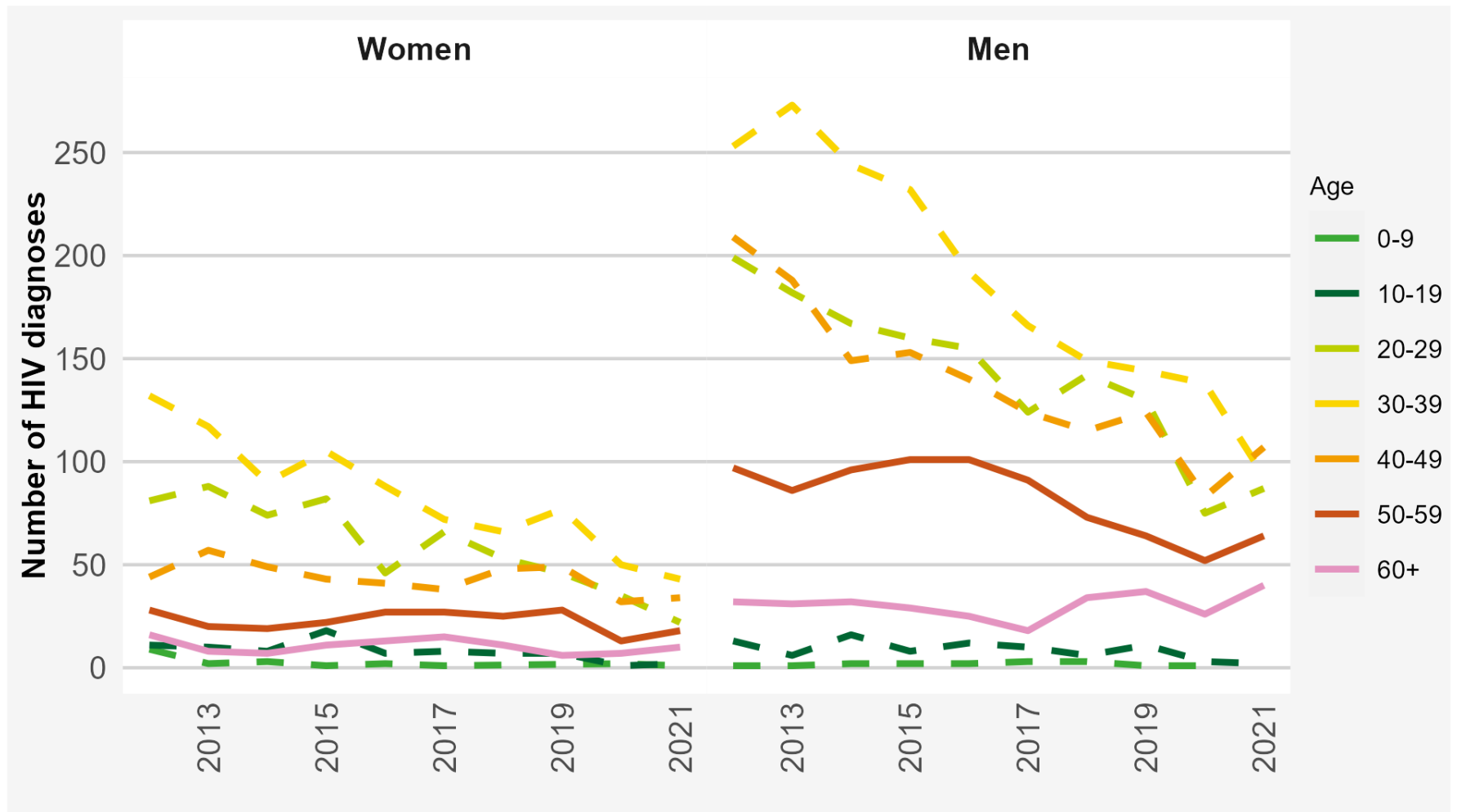
Prevalence of **1.4** PWHIV/ 1000 Pop 50+



# New HIV diagnoses rate by age, 2021



# Increasing proportion of 50+ among newly diagnosed PWHIV, 2012-21



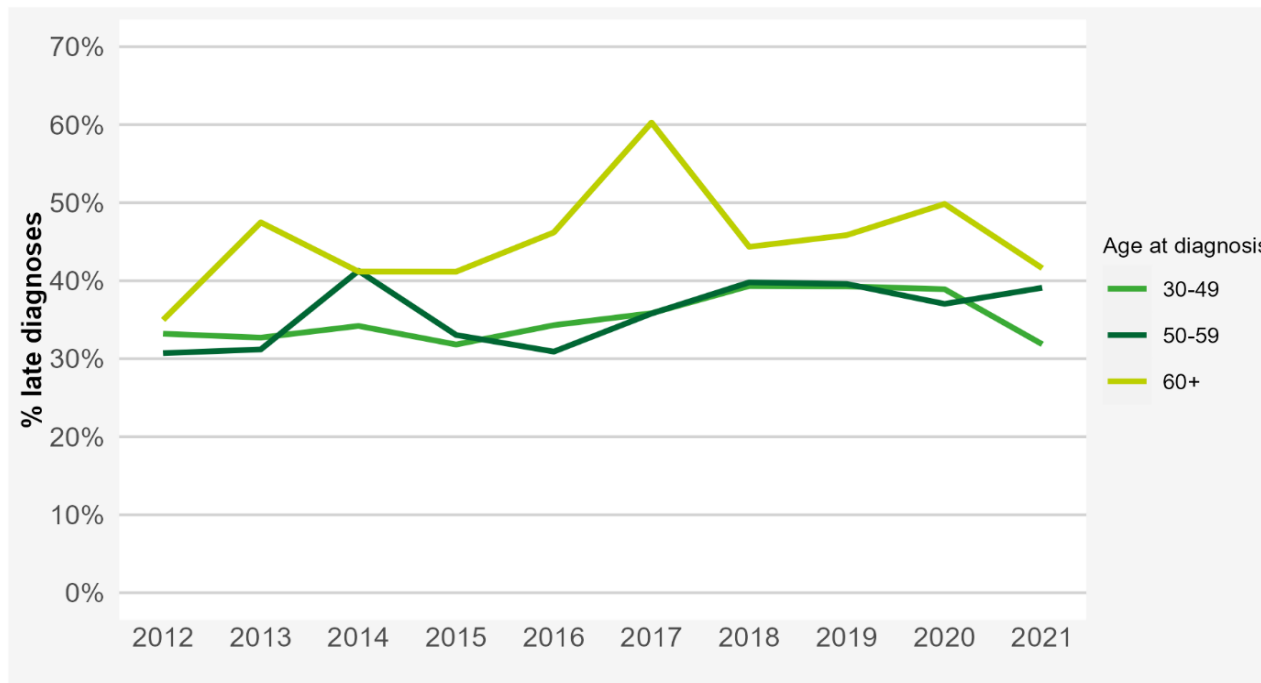
# Characteristics of newly diagnosed patients <50 and 50+, 2021

Age at HIV diagnosis	< 50 years (N=392)	50+ (N=132)
<b>Gender:</b> % Women	26.1%	21.1%
<b>Nationality</b>		
Belgian	44.0%	64.2%
SSA	22.2%	14.7%
European	16.9%	14.0%
Other	16.9%	7.1%
<b>Mode of infection</b>		
MSM	50.3%	45.9%
Hetero	45.4%	50.6%
Other	4.3%	3.5%

# Timing of HIV diagnosis among 50+ PWHIV

- Higher proportion of late HIV diagnoses among 60+

*Proportion of PWHIV diagnosed late by age categories and year*



- Acute infections 50+: 10.6 % of PWHIV diagnosed in 2021

# Delayed Presentation of HIV Among Older Individuals: A Growing Problem

NA-ACCORD

Amy C Justice, MD, PhD,

*“Early diagnosis and treatment of HIV for older individuals is particularly challenging because early signs and symptoms may be attributed to diseases of aging and because neither these individuals nor their care providers perceive them to be at risk for HIV.”*

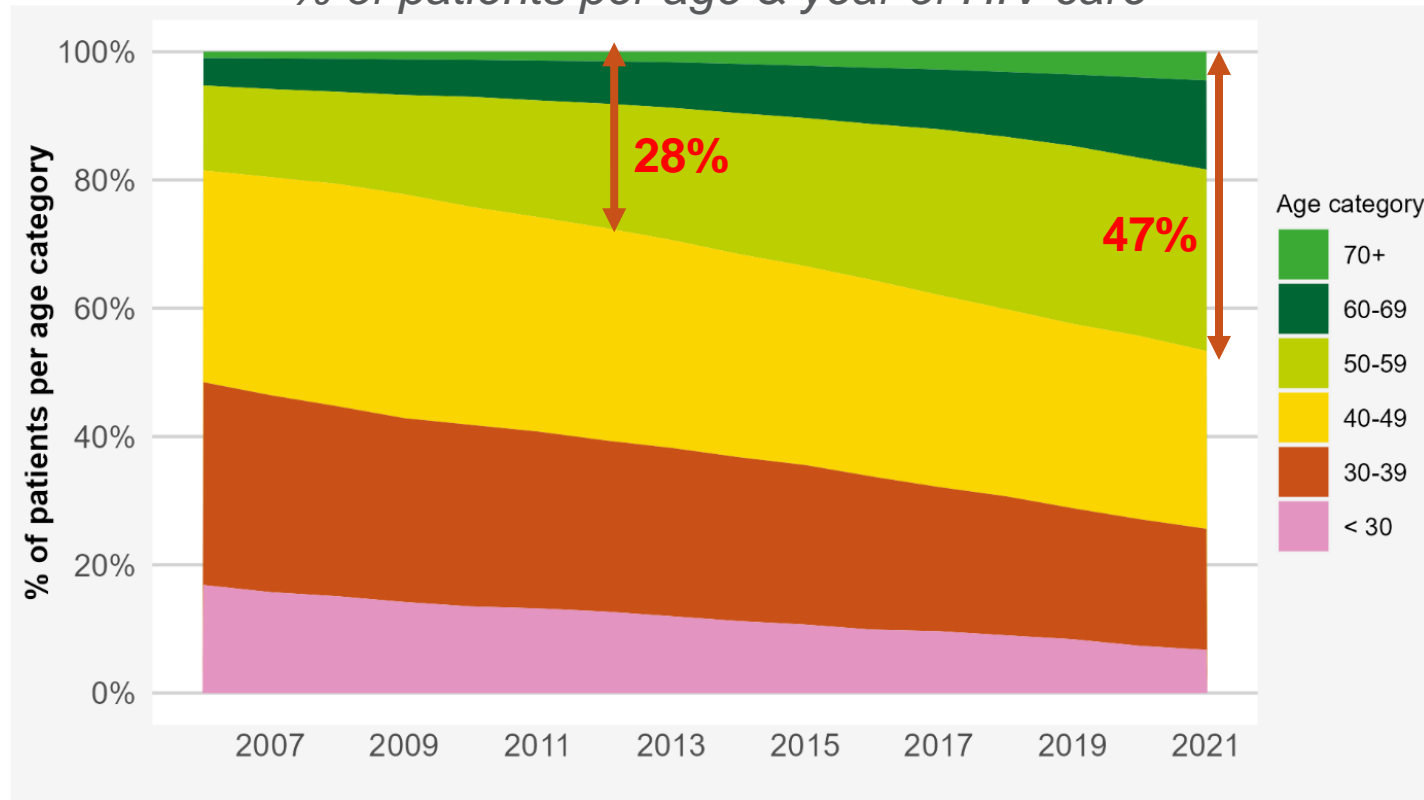
Selection of interventions specifically targeting older individuals:

- Routine clinical discussion of sexual health and substance use
- Improved recognition and response to HIV indicator conditions
- Use of electronic decision support to prompt and facilitate HIV testing
- PrEP among older adults at-risk for HIV
  - 19% of PrEP users aged 50+ in 2021



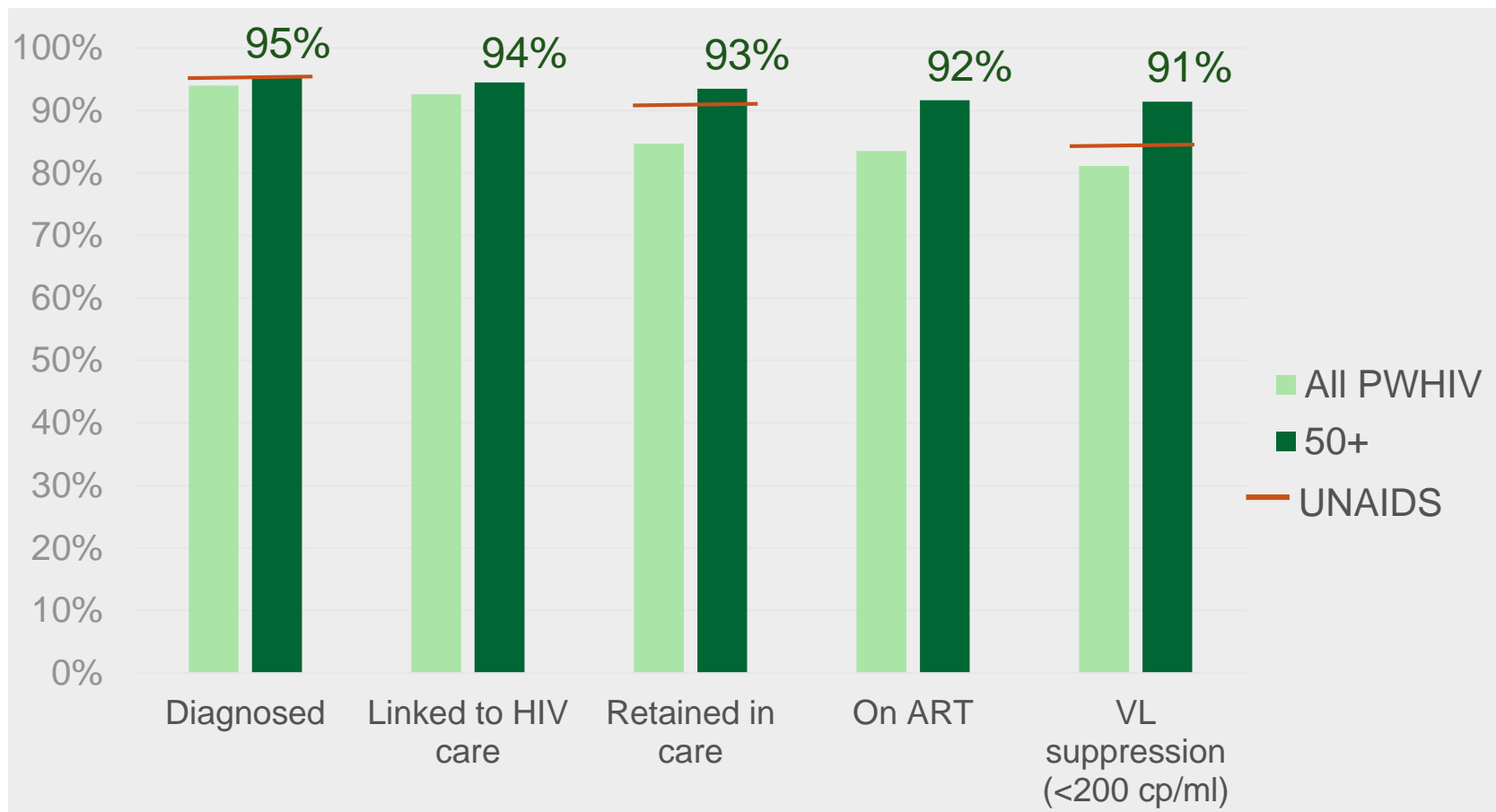
# PWHIV 50+ in care

*% of patients per age & year of HIV care*

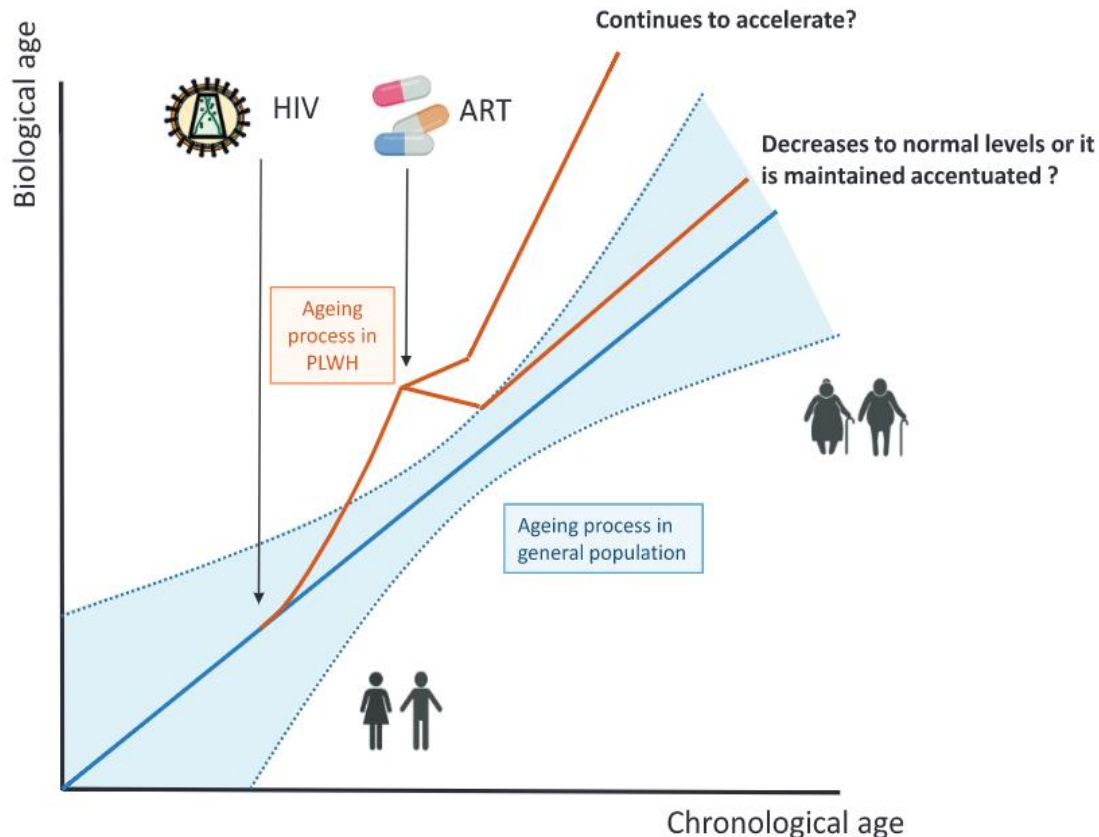


- Mean duration since HIV diagnosis in 2021: 17 years
- ART coverage in HRC in 2021: 98.8%

# People living with HIV: continuum of HIV care, 2021



# Chronological & biological aging

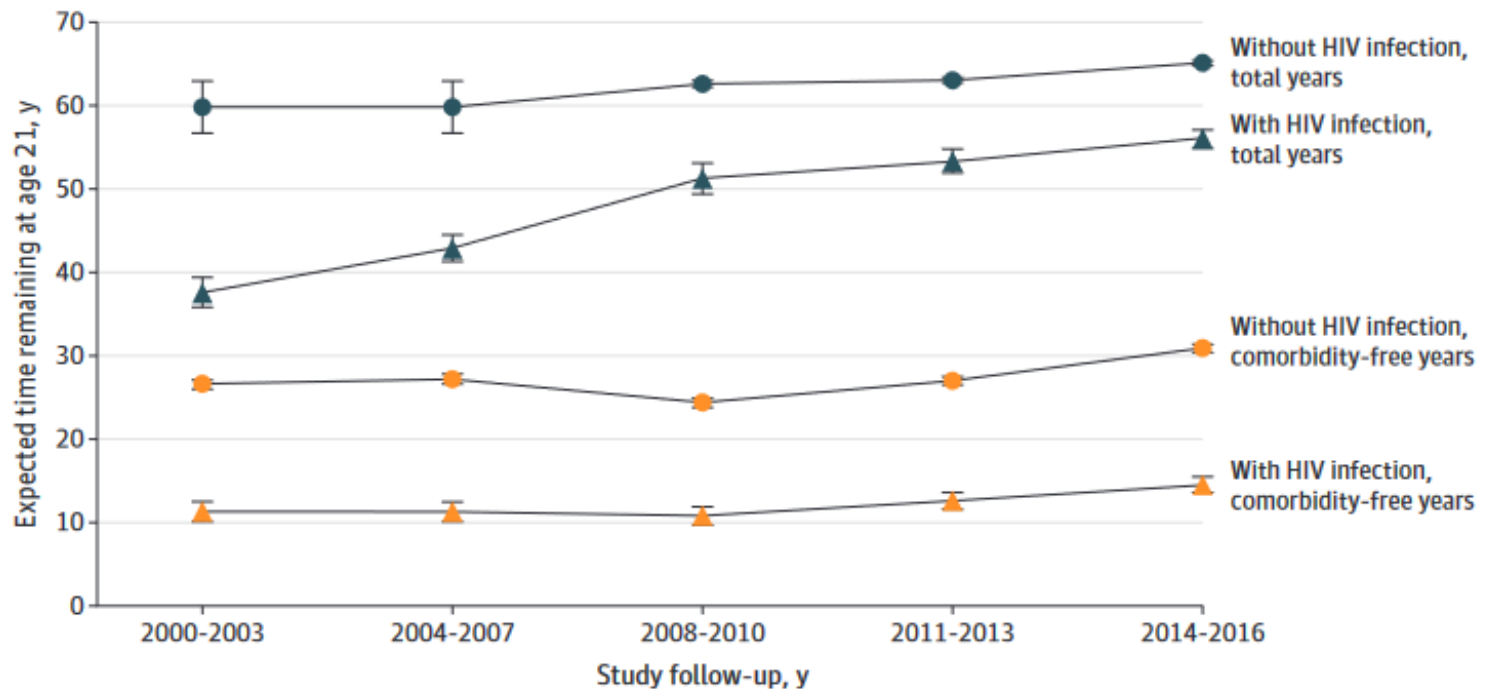


**Figure 1.** Interplay between HIV, ART and ageing. Hypothetical dynamics of the biological ageing process after HIV infection based on the studies performed in PLWH (red line) up to date. In untreated infection, the process seems more accelerated than non-HIV infection (blue line). With the introduction of ART, the biological ageing reverts. In this stage, the biological ageing is probably more accentuated than accelerated but the extent of this reversion remains unsettled.

# Comorbidities

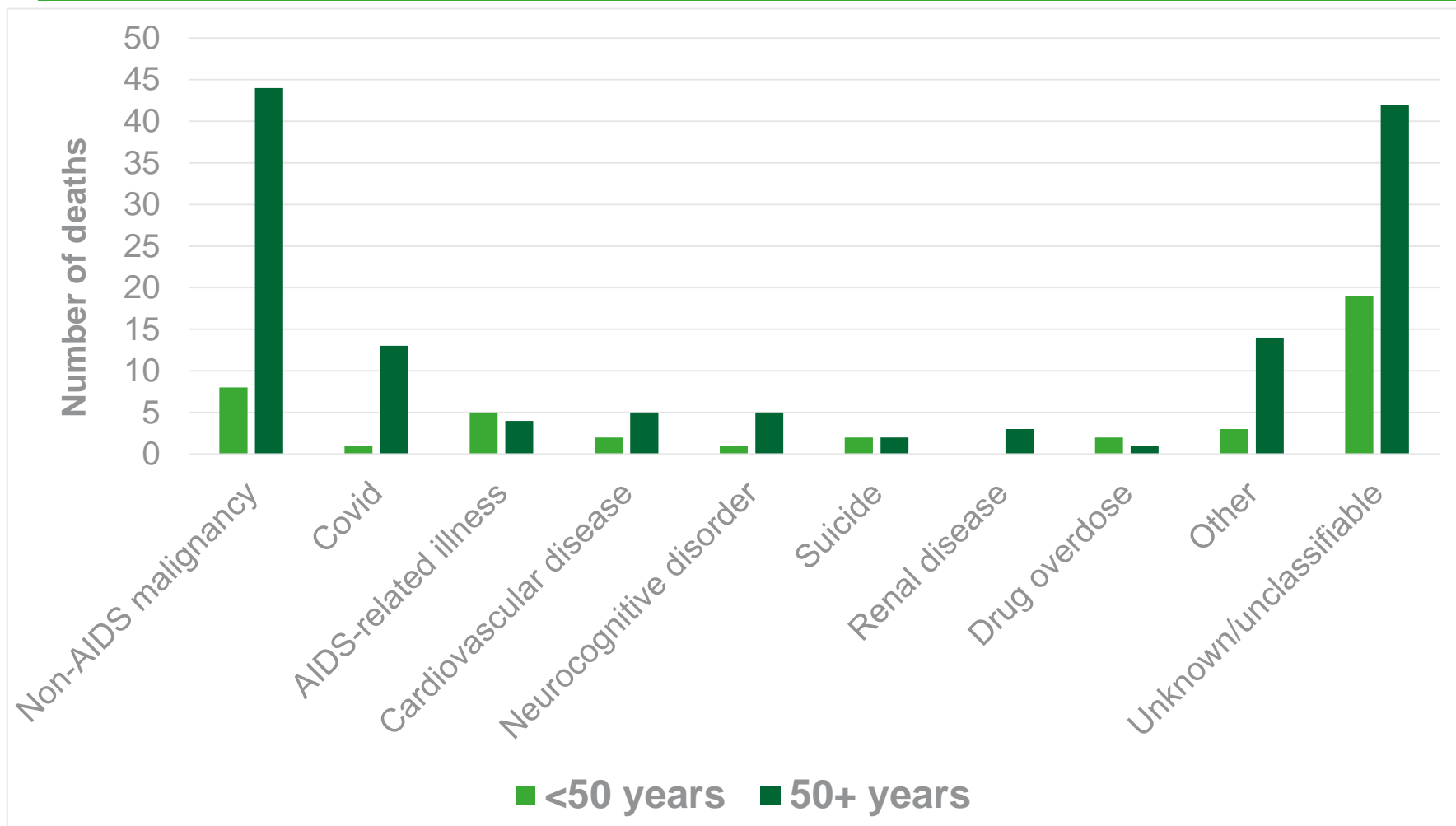


Figure 1. Overall and Comorbidity-Free Life Expectancy at Age 21 Years for Individuals With and Without HIV Infection, Kaiser Permanente, 2000-2016



Source: Marcus J. et al. Comparison of overall and comorbidity-free life expectancy between insured adults with and without HIV infection, 2000-2016. JAMA Netw Open. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.7954>

# Causes of death, HIV reference centres 2018-2021 (preliminary)



# Conclusion

- ❑ In 2021, 8221 PWHIV 50+ ; 1.8 PWHIV / 1000 Pop
- ❑ Late HIV diagnosis close to 50% among 65+  
-> *Efforts towards early testing & diagnosis*
- ❑ Already now: majority of PWHIV in care > 50+
- ❑ Very good HIV CoC as PWHIV 50+ are on average in care for many years
- ❑ Attention to reduce the gap in comorbidity-free years of PWHIV compared to HIV-negative people

*Thanks to the ARLs & HRCs*



Contact: [HIV\\_STIsurveillance@Sciensano.be](mailto:HIV_STIsurveillance@Sciensano.be)