

UPDATE ON HIV, STI AND HEPATITIS B&C EPIDEMIOLOGY

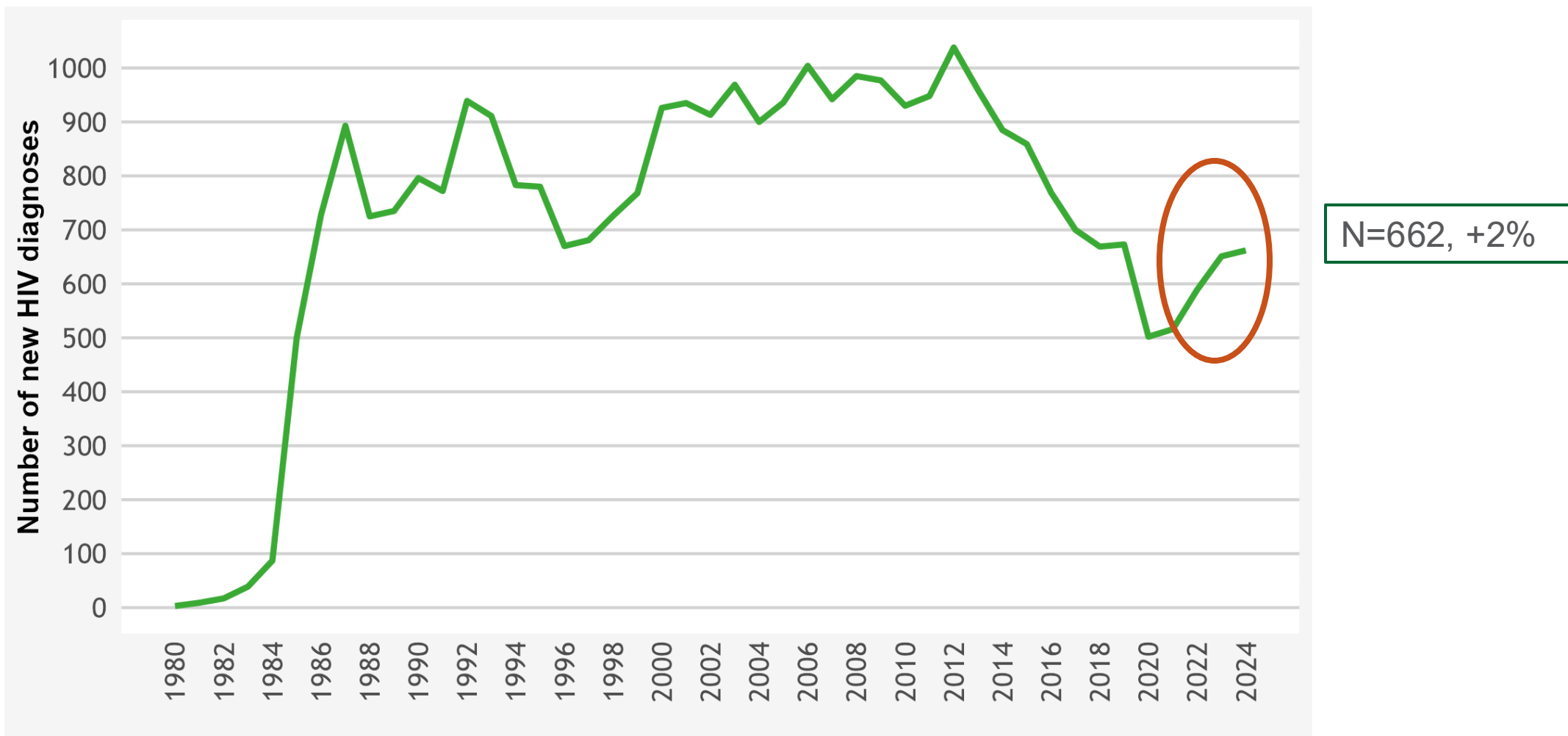
BREACH symposium
27th of November 2025

HIV surveillance in Belgium

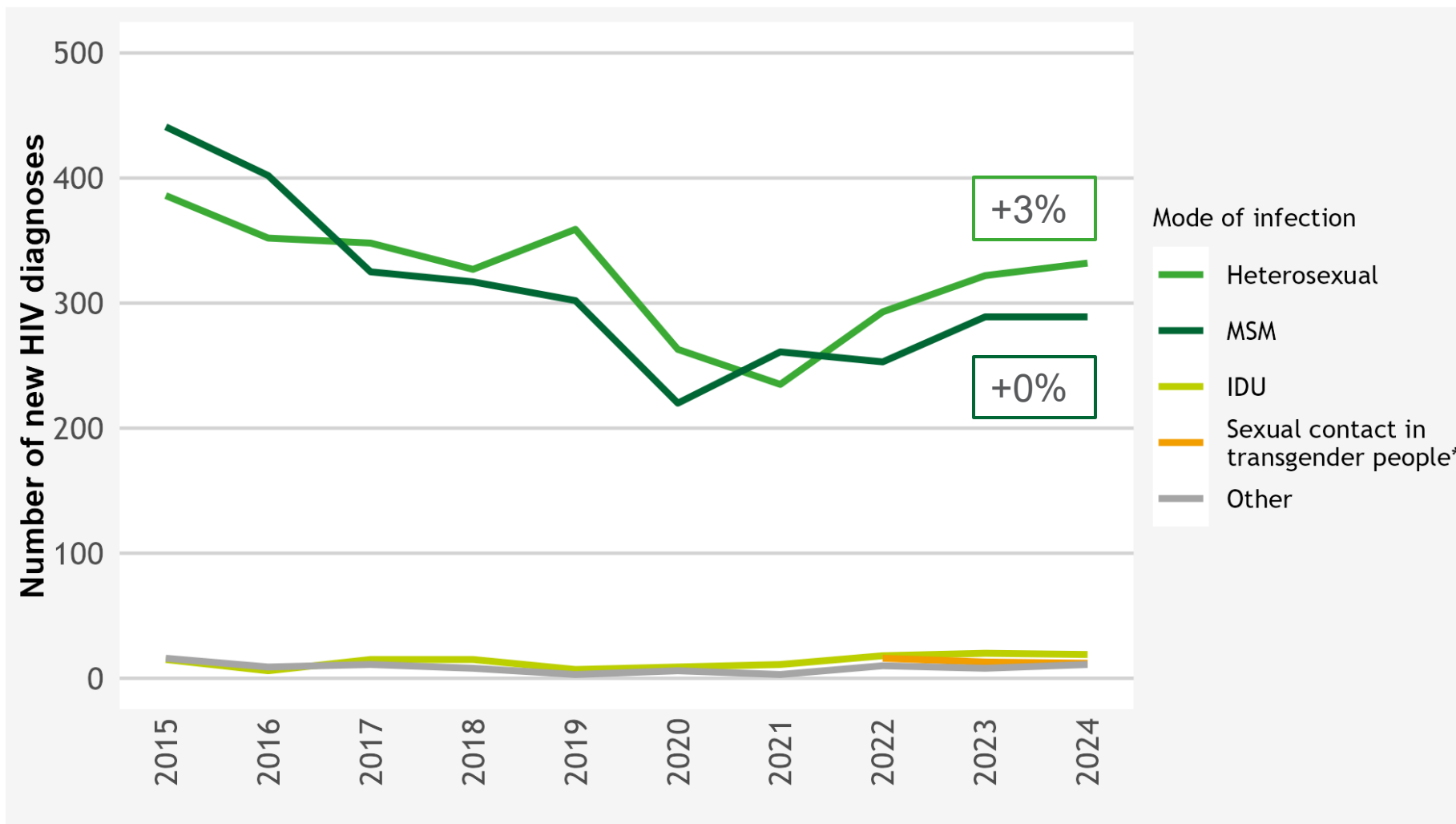
Epidemiological data up to 2024

Jessika Deblonde

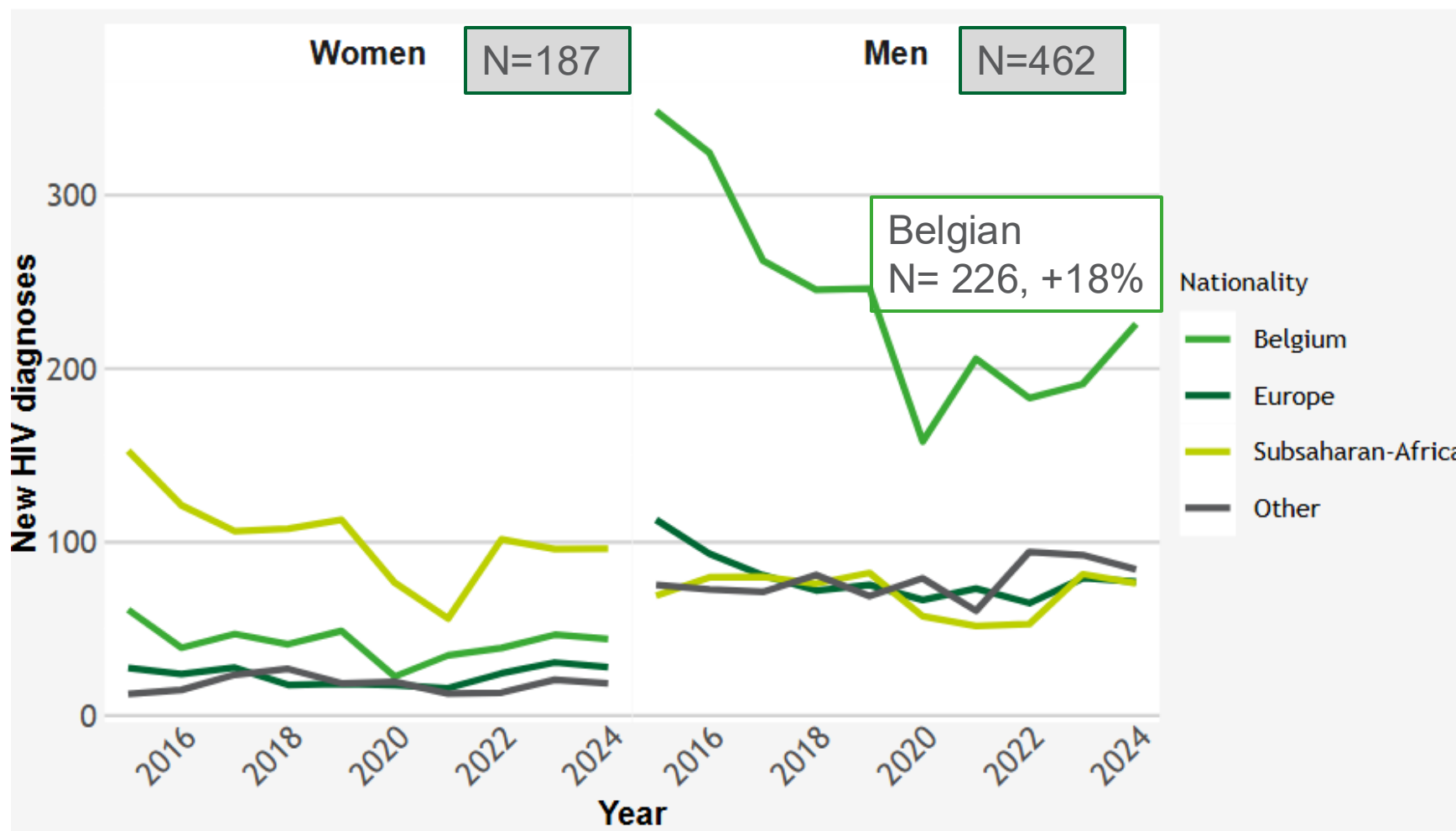
Number of new HIV diagnoses, 1980-2024



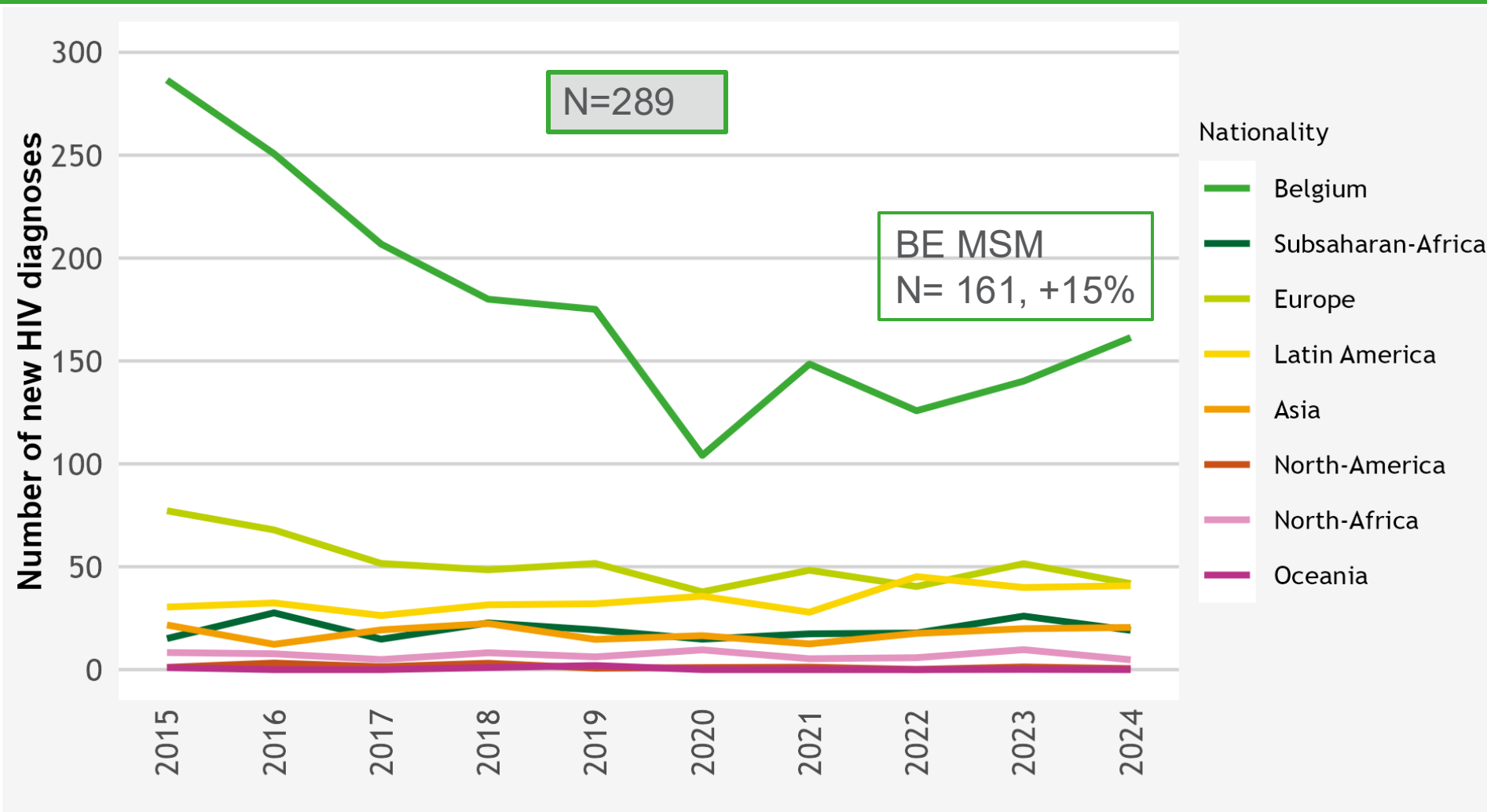
Diagnoses by mode of infection, 2015-2024



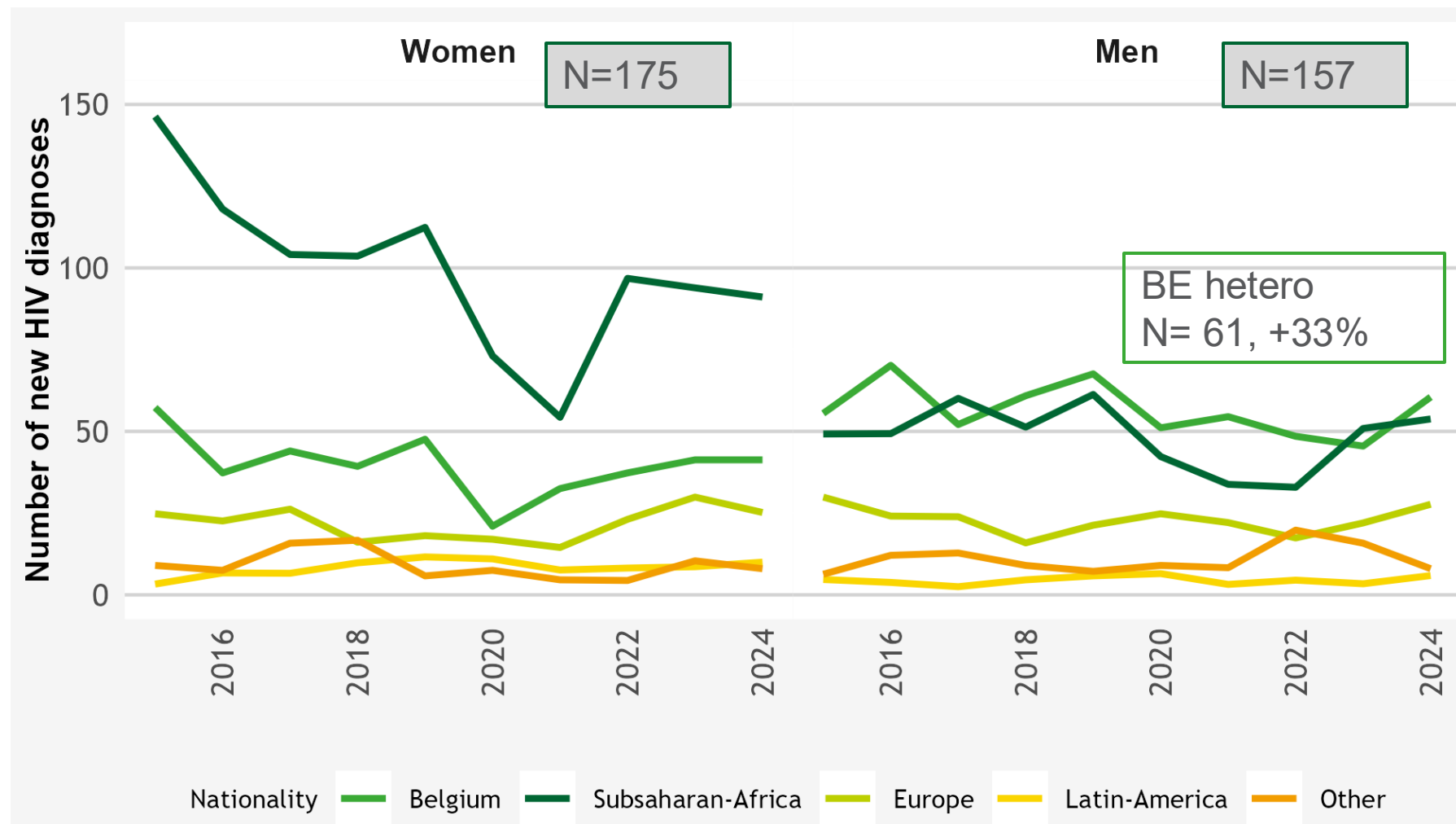
Diagnoses by sex and nationality, 2015-2024



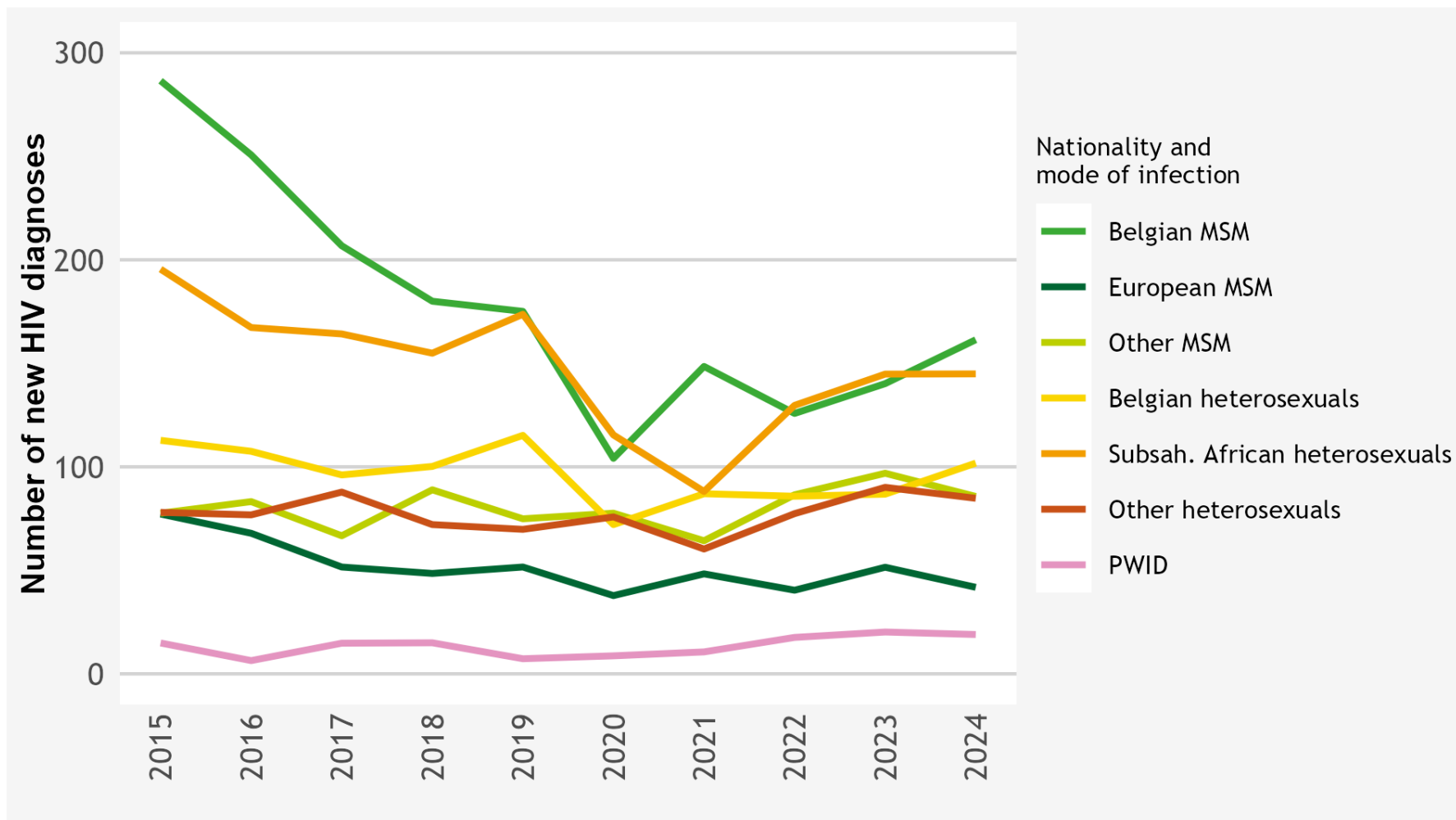
Diagnoses among MSM by nationality, 2015-2024



Diagnoses among heterosexuals by sex & nationality, 2015-2024



Diagnoses by transmission mode & nationality, 2015-2024



Belgian MSM: 24%

SSA hetero

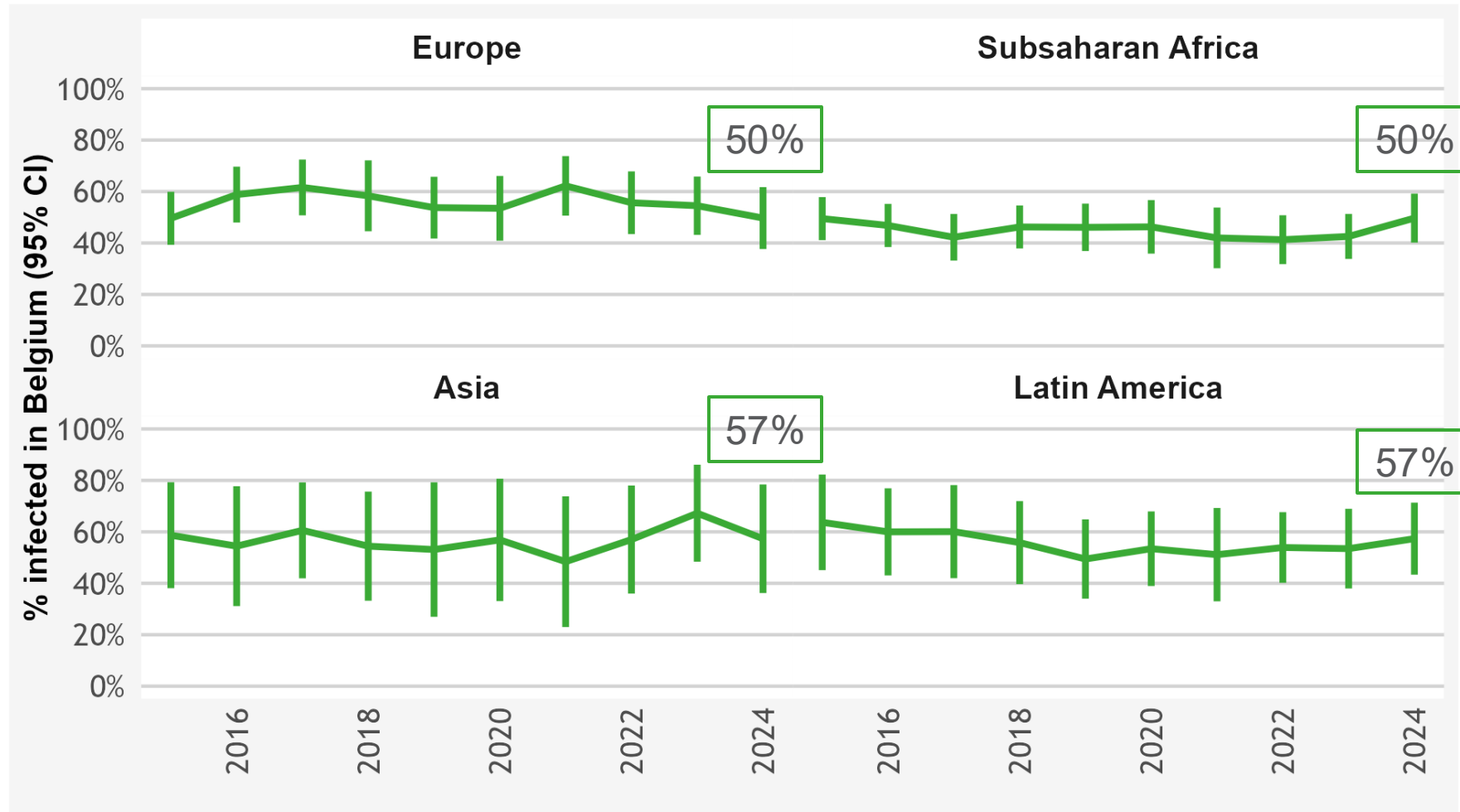
- Women: 14%
- Men: 8%

Belgian hetero

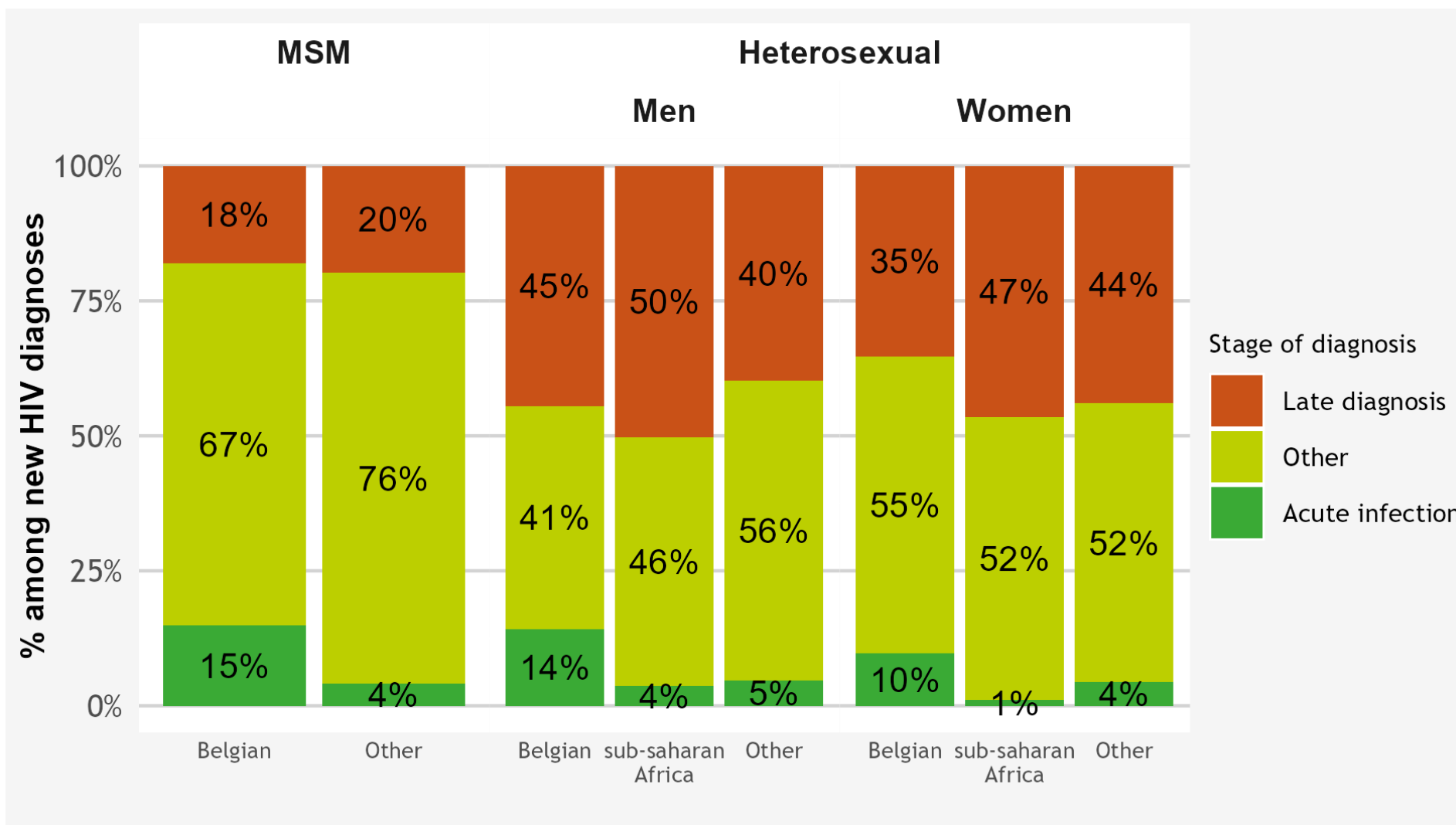
- Women: 6%
- Men: 9%

European MSM: 6%

Estimate of % of people born abroad infected with HIV in Belgium (post-migration), by year of diagnosis and nationality (grouped), Belgium, 2015-2024

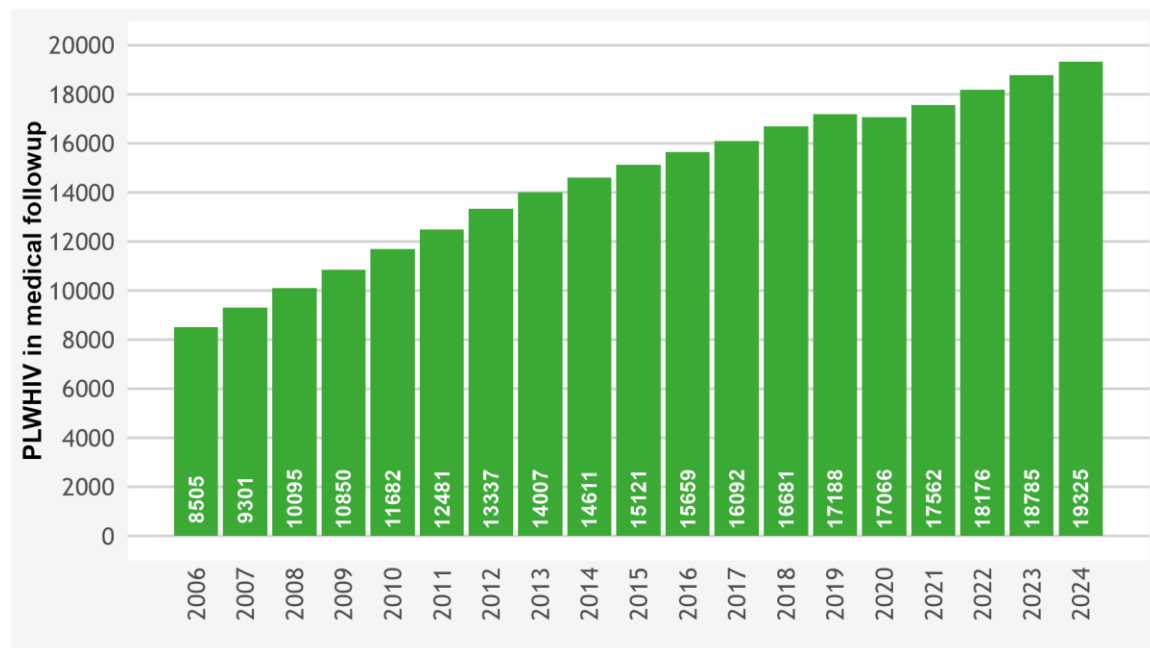


Stage of HIV diagnosis by key population, 2024

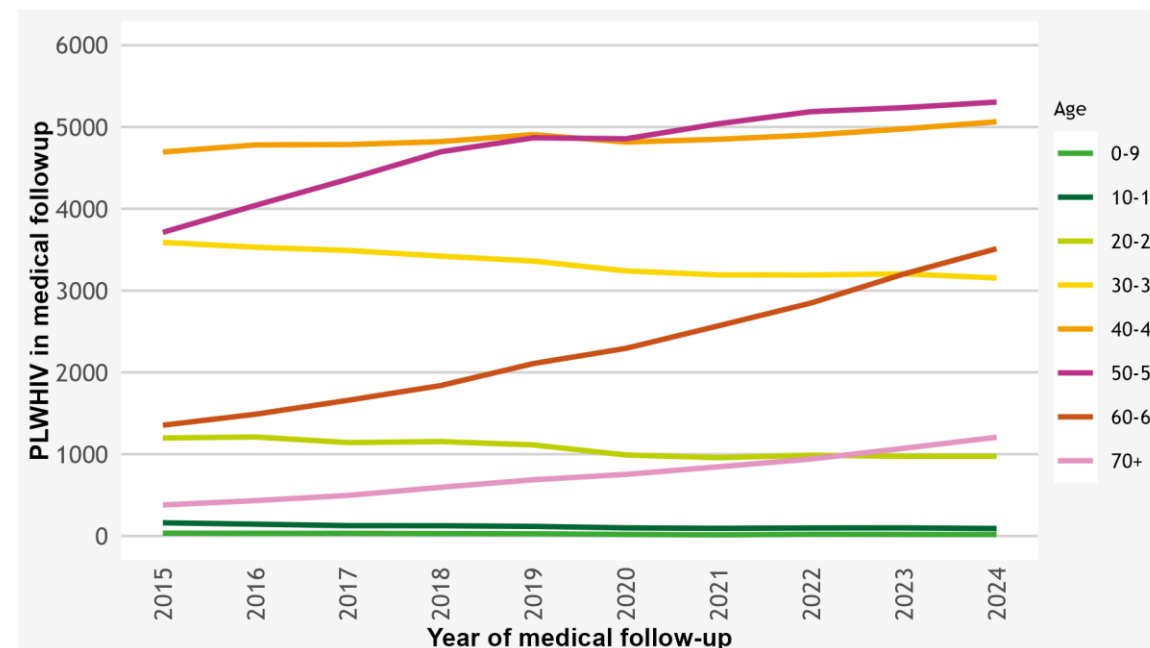


PLHIV in medical follow-up

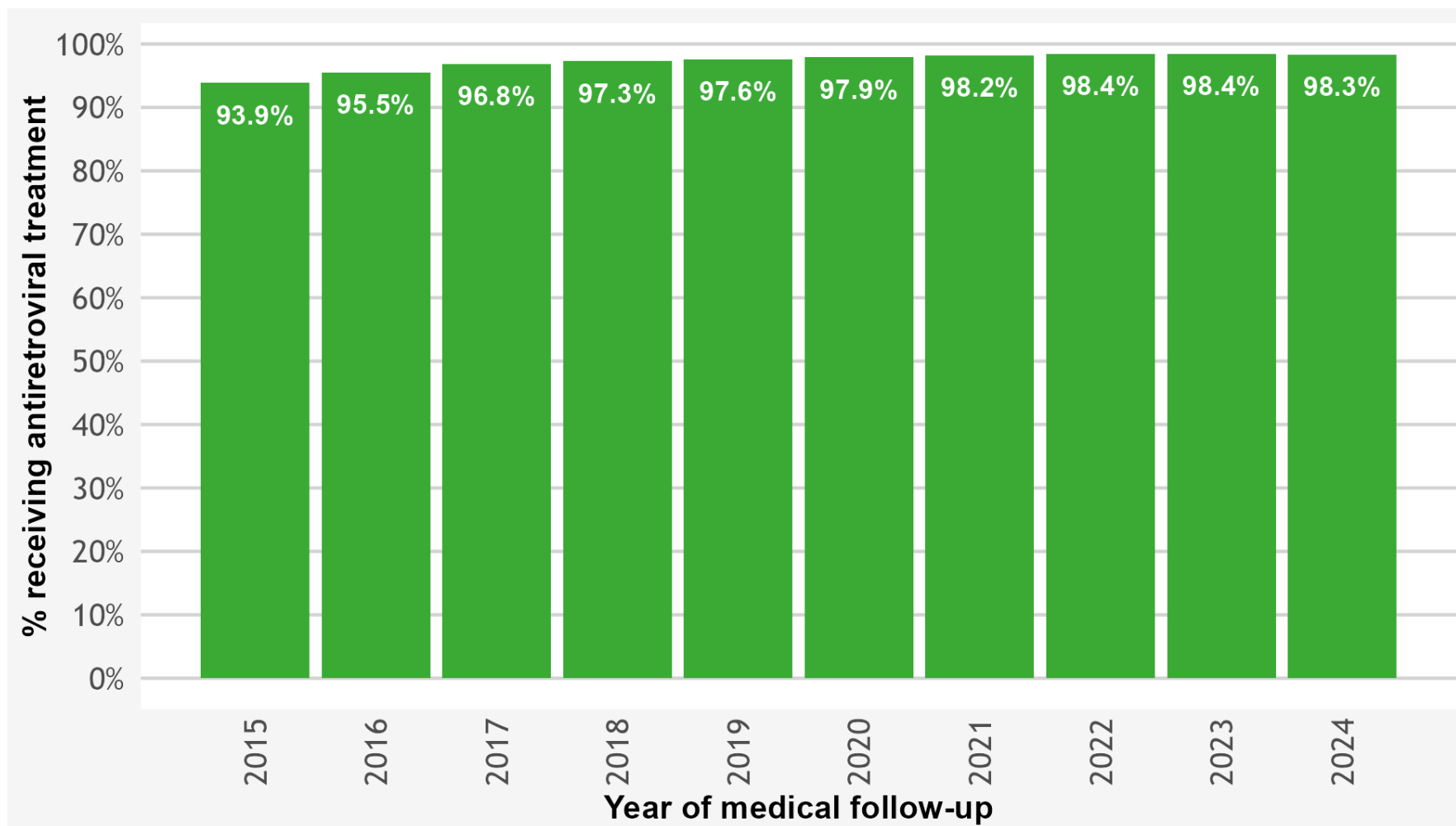
Number of PLHIV in medical follow-up



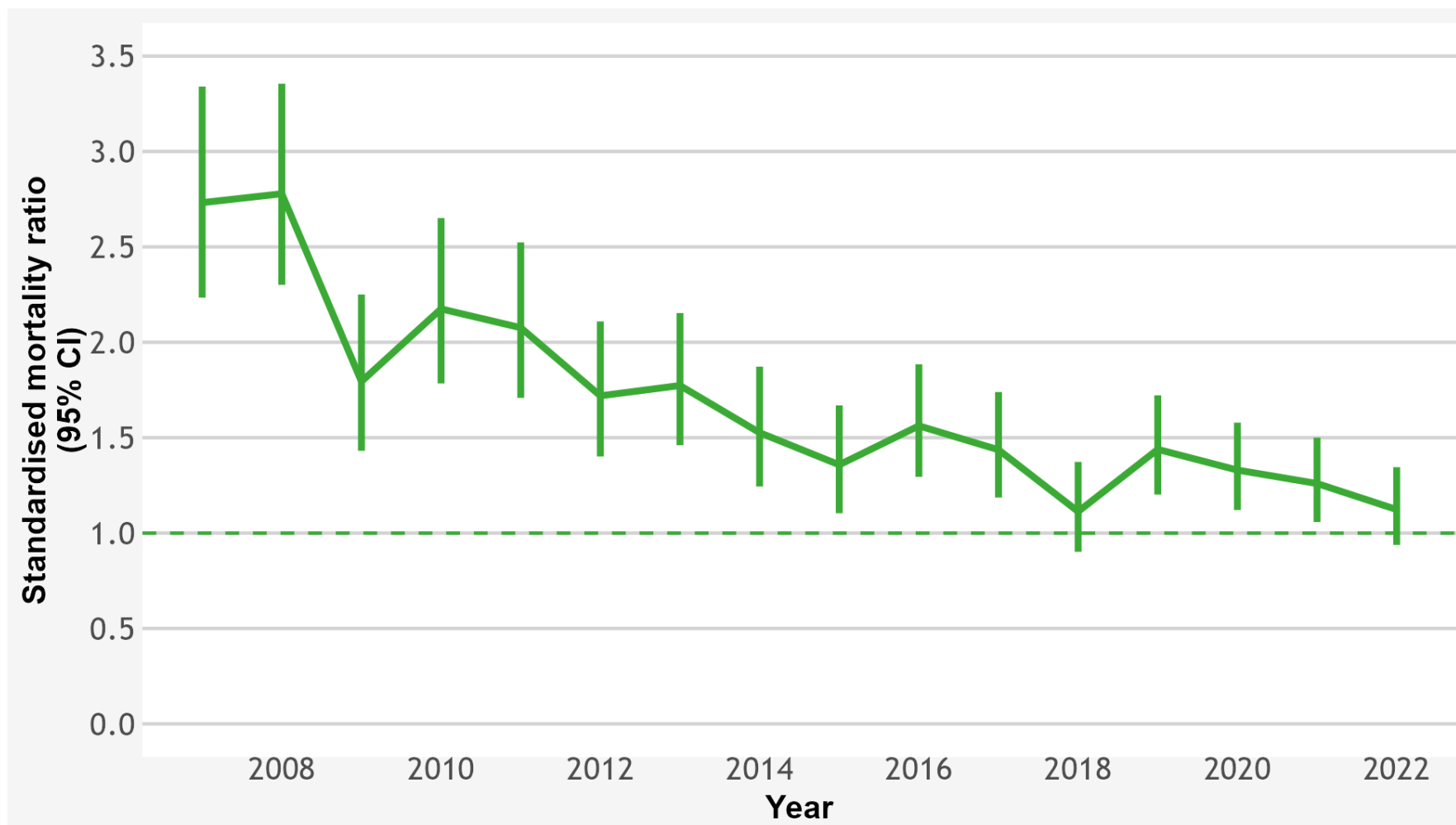
PLHIV in medical follow-up by age group



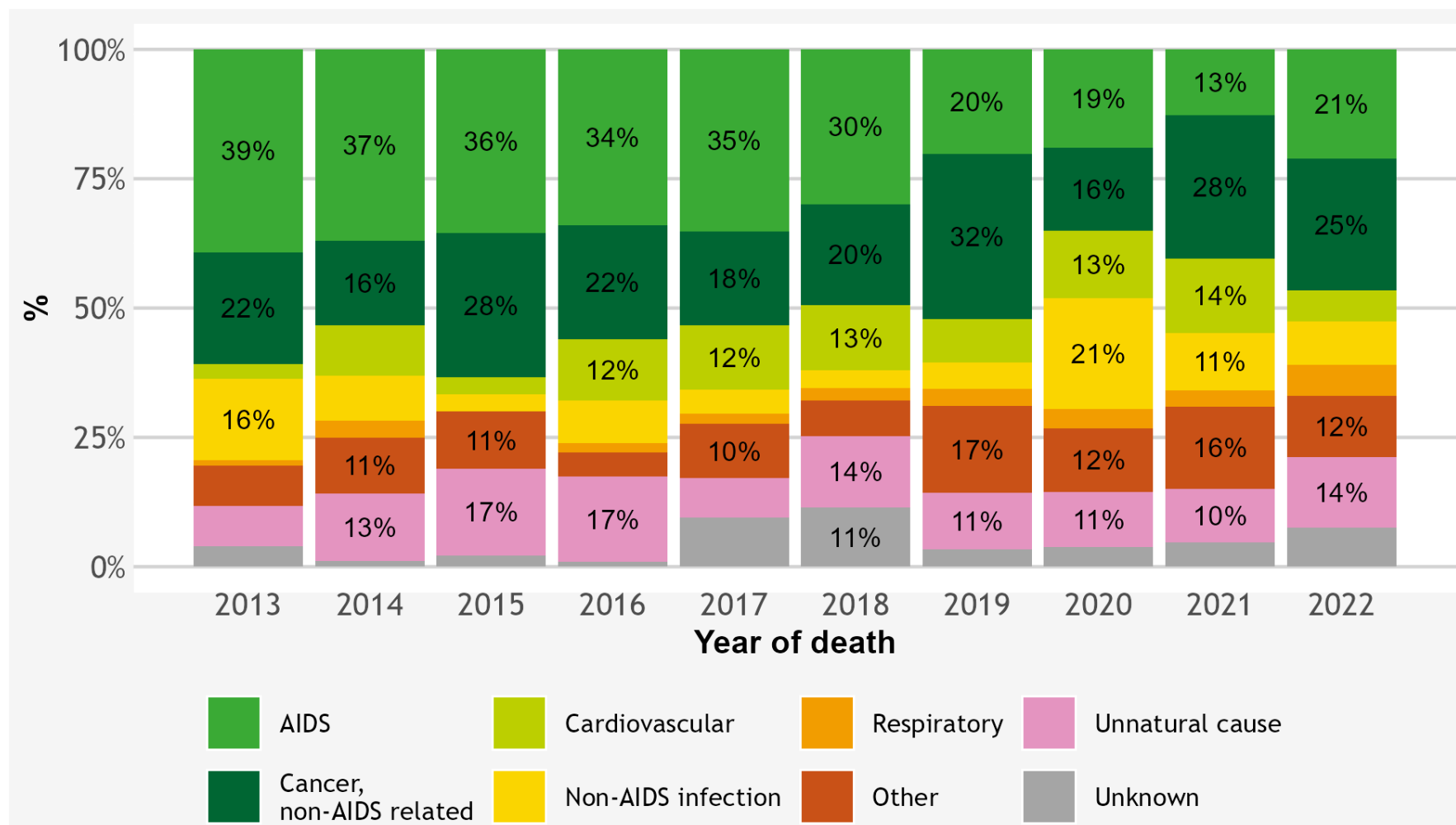
% ART coverage (in care in HRC), 2015-2024



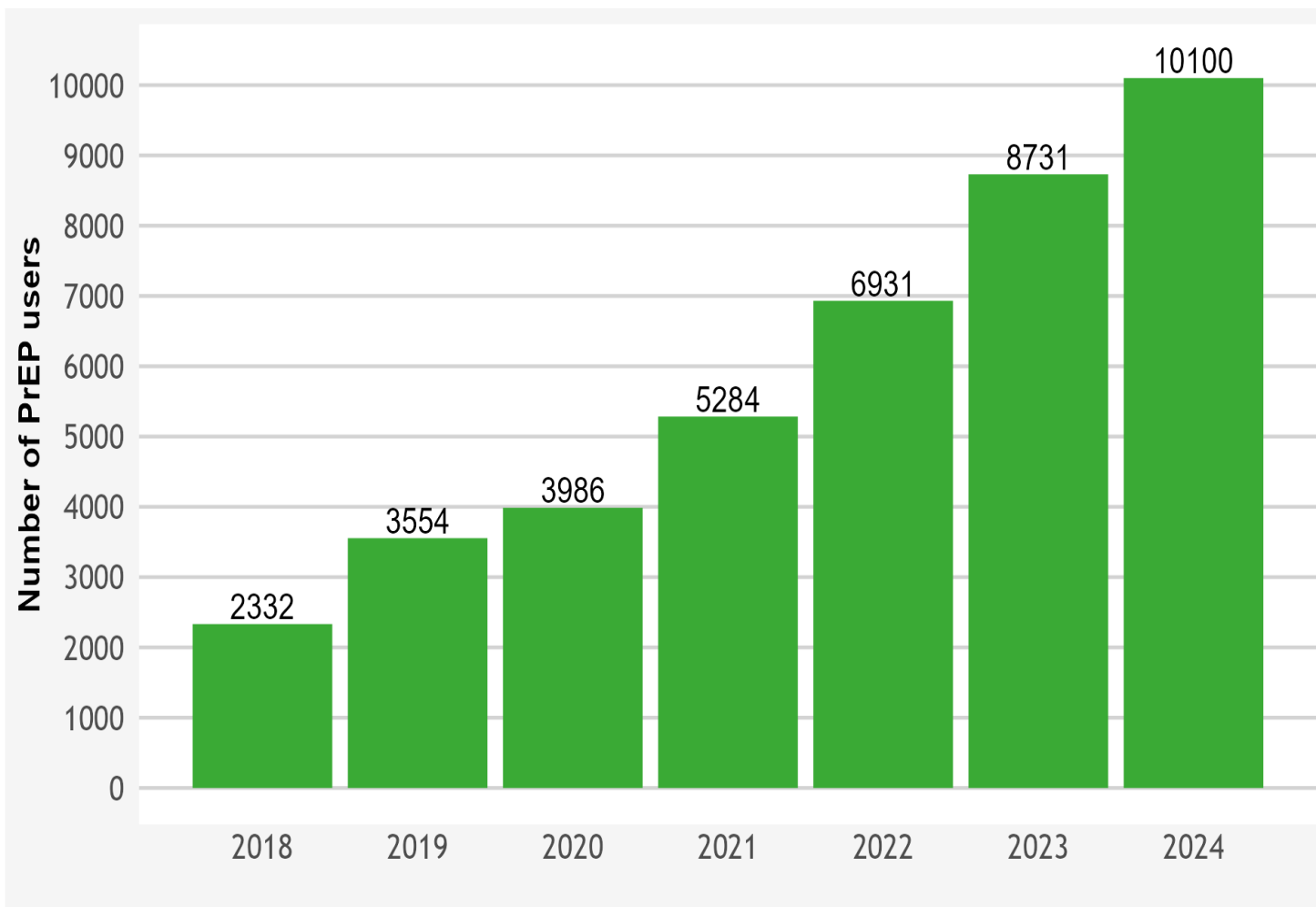
Annual standardized mortality ratio, 2007-2022



Causes of death among PWHIV, 2013-2022



Number of PrEP users, 2018-2024



PrEP starters – 2024
N= 2642

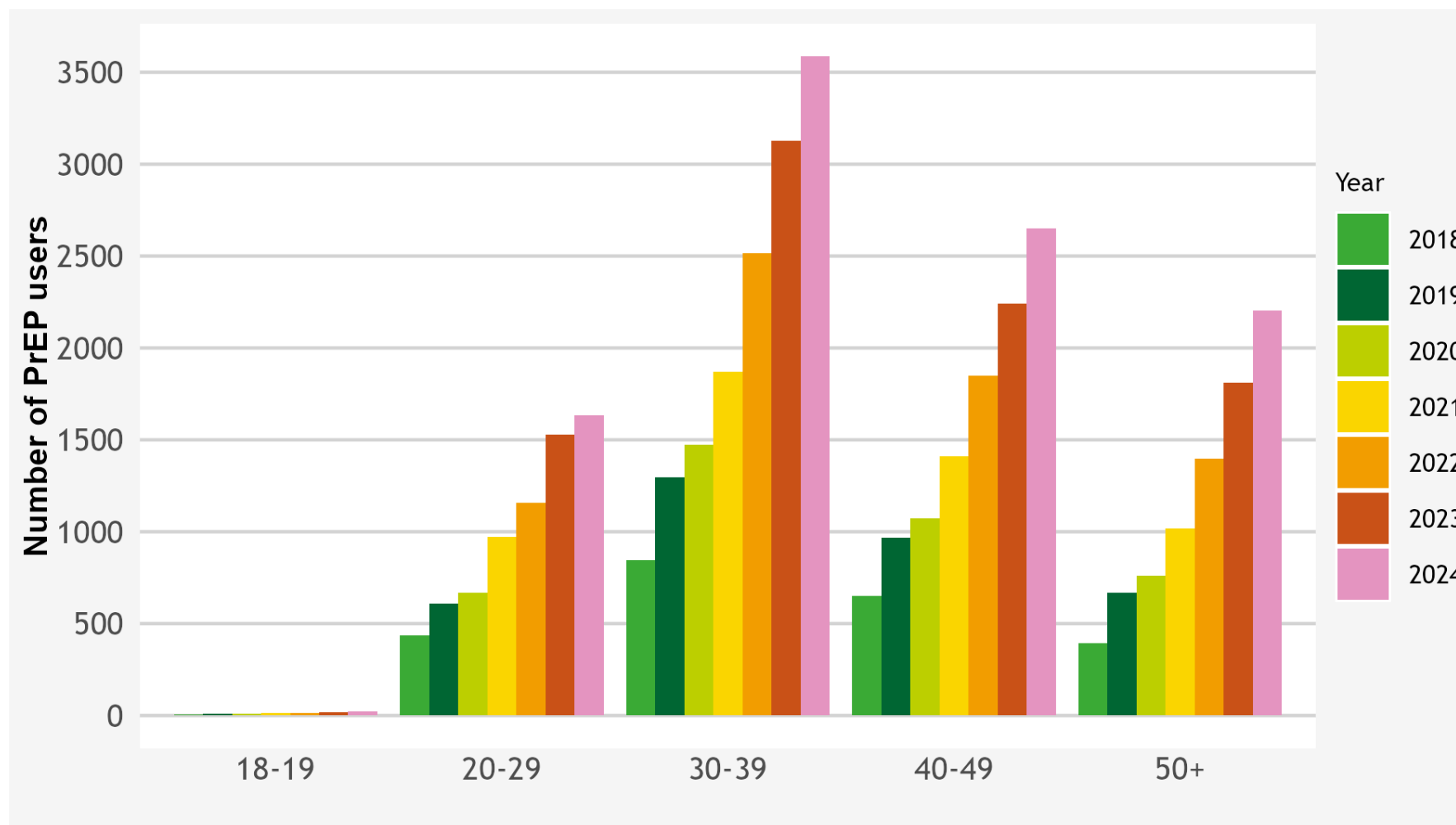
- 95% MSM
- 70% Belgians
- 1.5% SSA
- 28% other nationalities

In PrEP care – 2024
N= 10 233

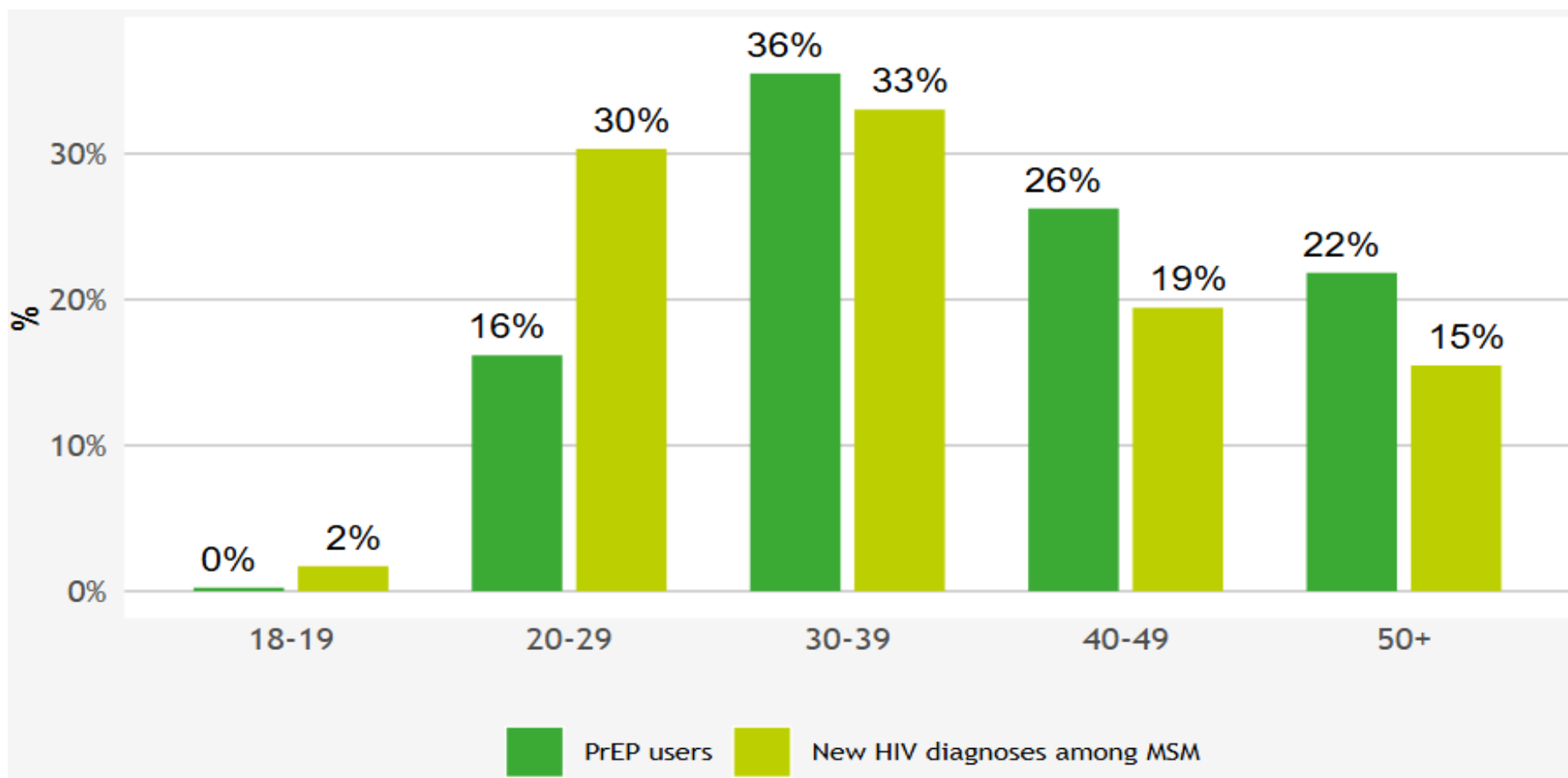
- 18% at least 1 STI
- 14 HIV seroconversions
- Reported chemsex: 14%

Source: HRC

Number of PrEP users by age group, 2018-2024



Age distribution PrEP users & new HIV diagnoses among MSM, 2024



Key-points

1. Similar number of new diagnoses compared to 2023; no decline over the past 4 years.
2. Increase in diagnoses among Belgian men, both MSM and heterosexuals; nearly one-sixth detected in the acute phase, indicating ongoing viral transmission.
3. No increase in diagnoses in 2024 among Sub-Saharan African heterosexuals, but they remain a key population within the HIV epidemic in Belgium.
4. The number of PWHIV in care and the proportion of older patients have steadily increased. In 2022, the standardized mortality ratio for PWHIV was not statistically different to that of the general population.
5. Effective use of prevention and early diagnosis are key to curbing the HIV epidemic.

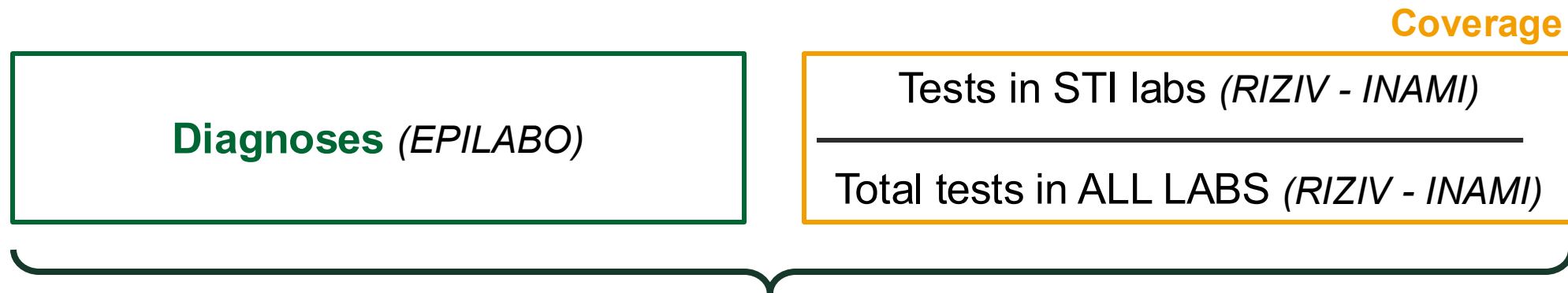
STI surveillance in Belgium

Epidemiological data 2016-2024

Amaryl Lecompte

STI

- STI surveillance = **not** exhaustive (\Leftrightarrow HIV)

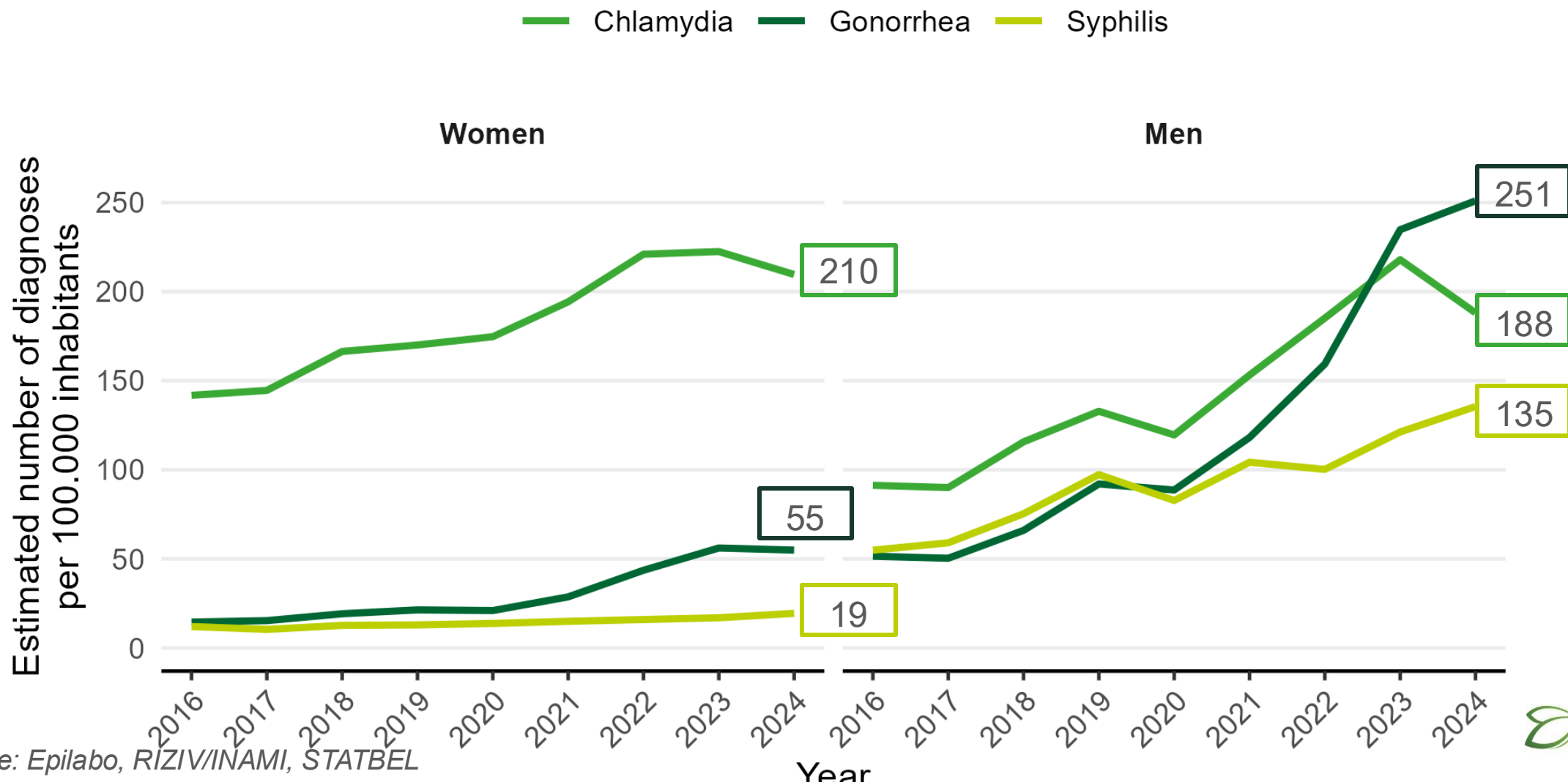


$$\frac{\text{Diagnoses}}{\text{Population (STATBEL)}} \times \text{Coverage}$$

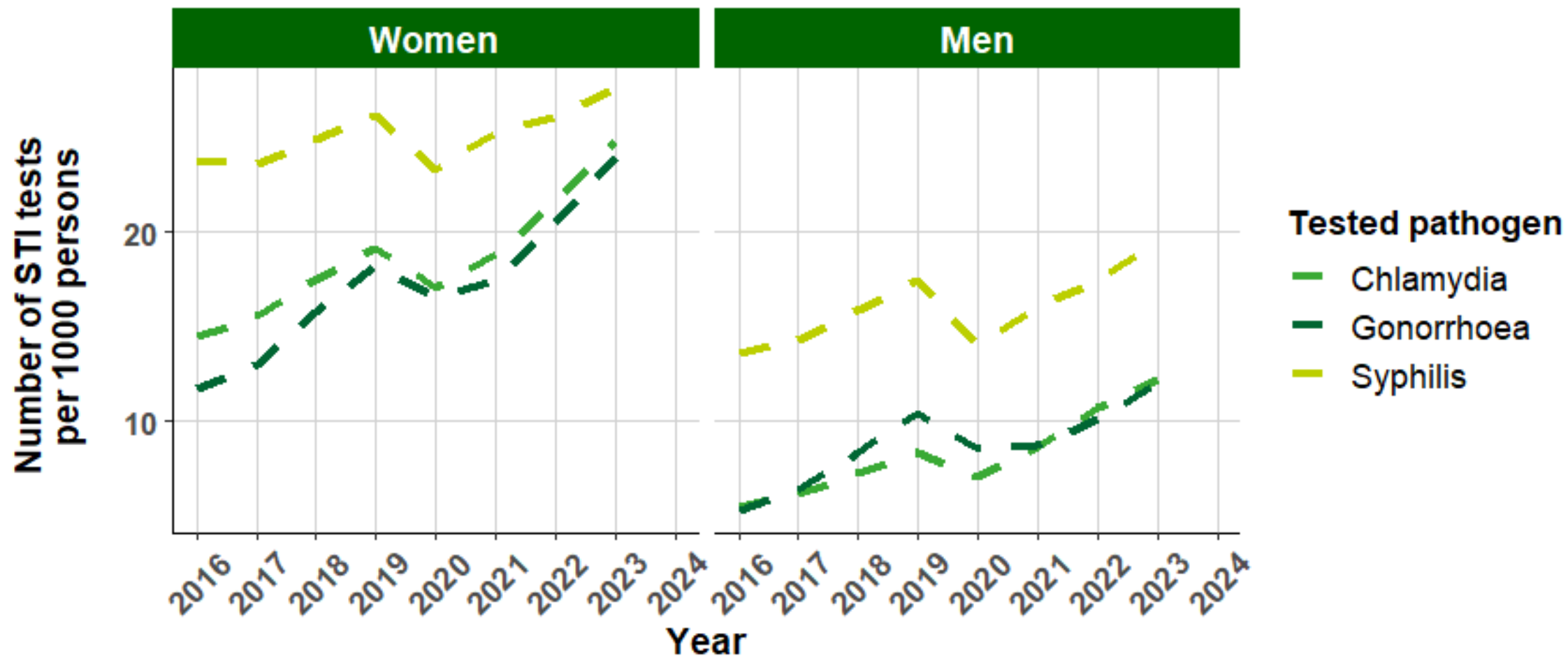


Estimated diagnoses per 100 000 inhabitants over time

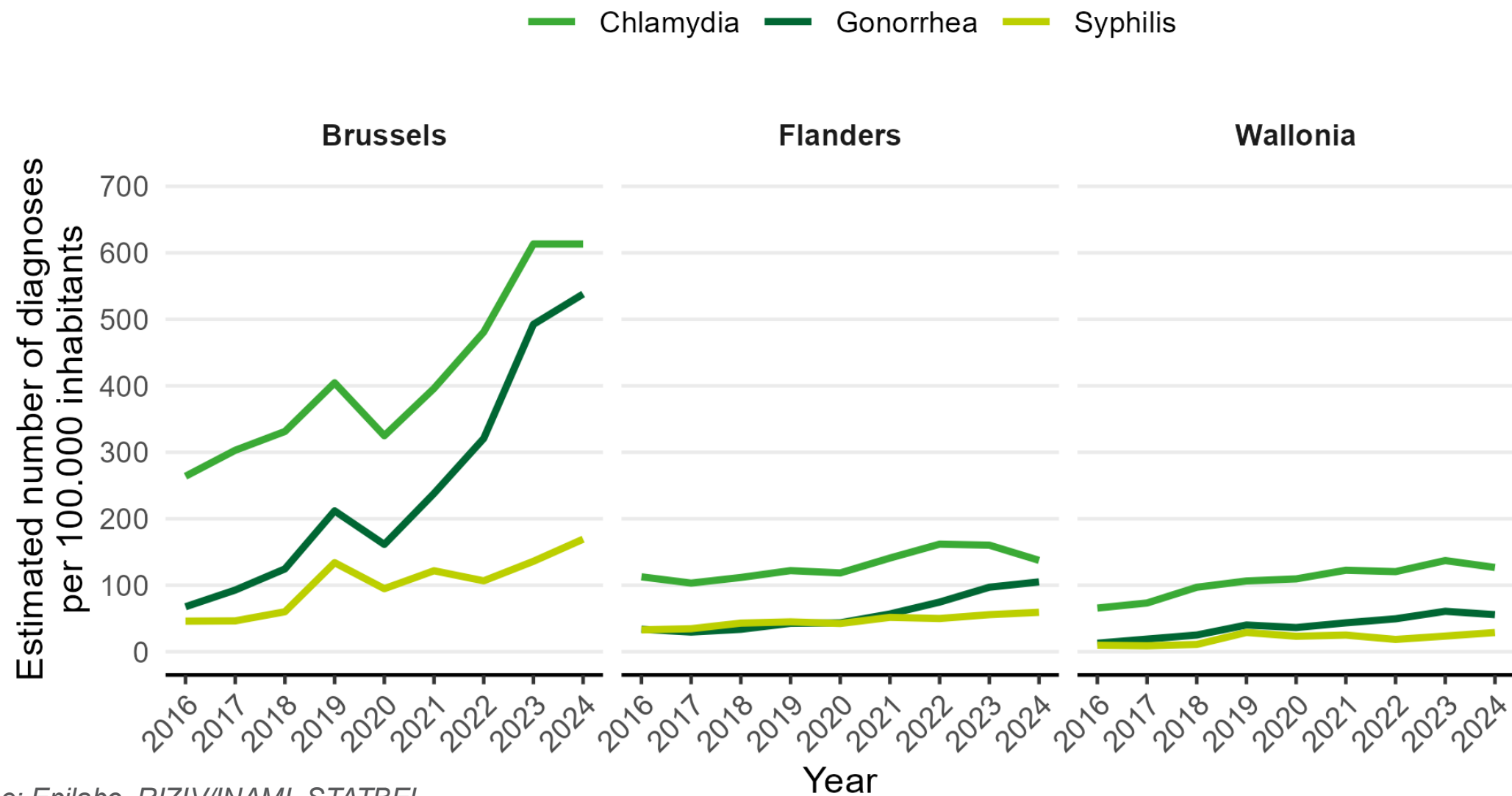
STI diagnoses per sex



Reimbursed STI tests per sex



STI diagnoses trends per Region



Key points

1. Continuous increase in gonorrhoea and syphilis in men in 2024
2. Remarkable divergent trend in men
chlamydia ↘ , gonorrhoea ↗
 - Gonorrhea more often symptomatic than chlamydia
 - BUT** { EPILABO ≠ network of STI clinics exclusively
 - No data on symptoms or PrEP use
 - Varying chlamydia/gonorrhoea trends in other EU countries (≠ testing strategies)
3. Brussels remains the most affected Region

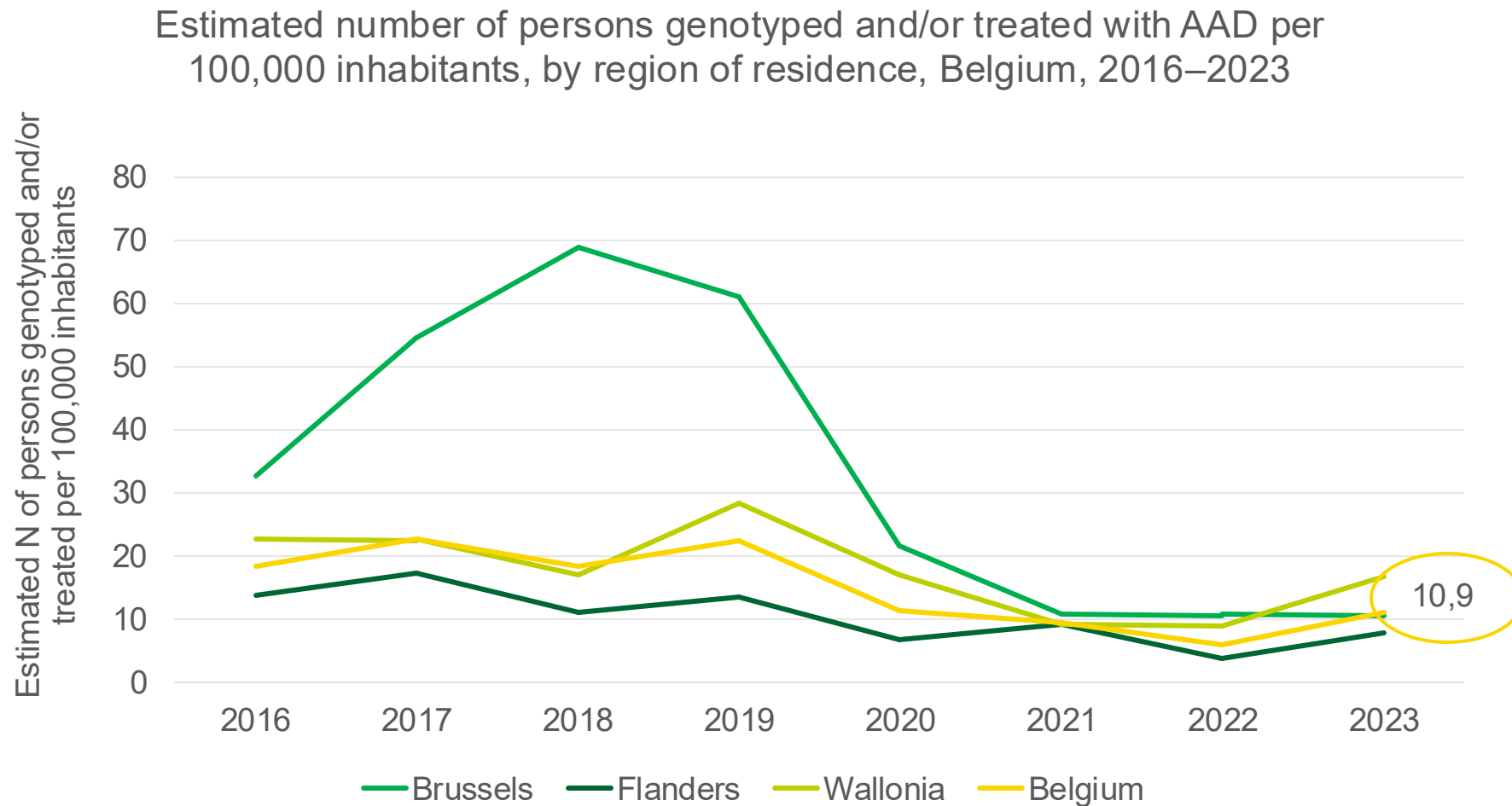


Hepatitis B & C surveillance in Belgium

Epidemiological data 2016-2023

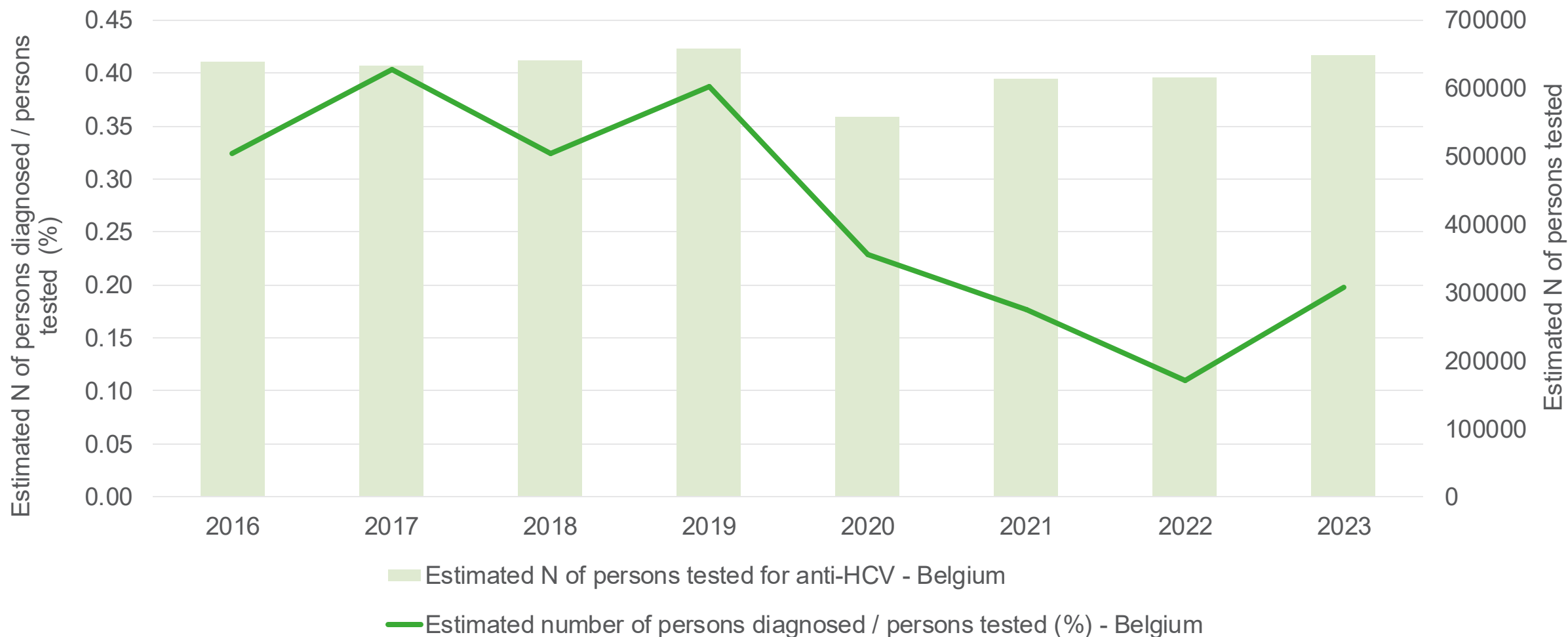
Laure Mortgat & Dominique Van Beckhoven

Incidence of estimated hepatitis C diagnoses, per region, Belgium 2016-2023: IMA reimbursement data



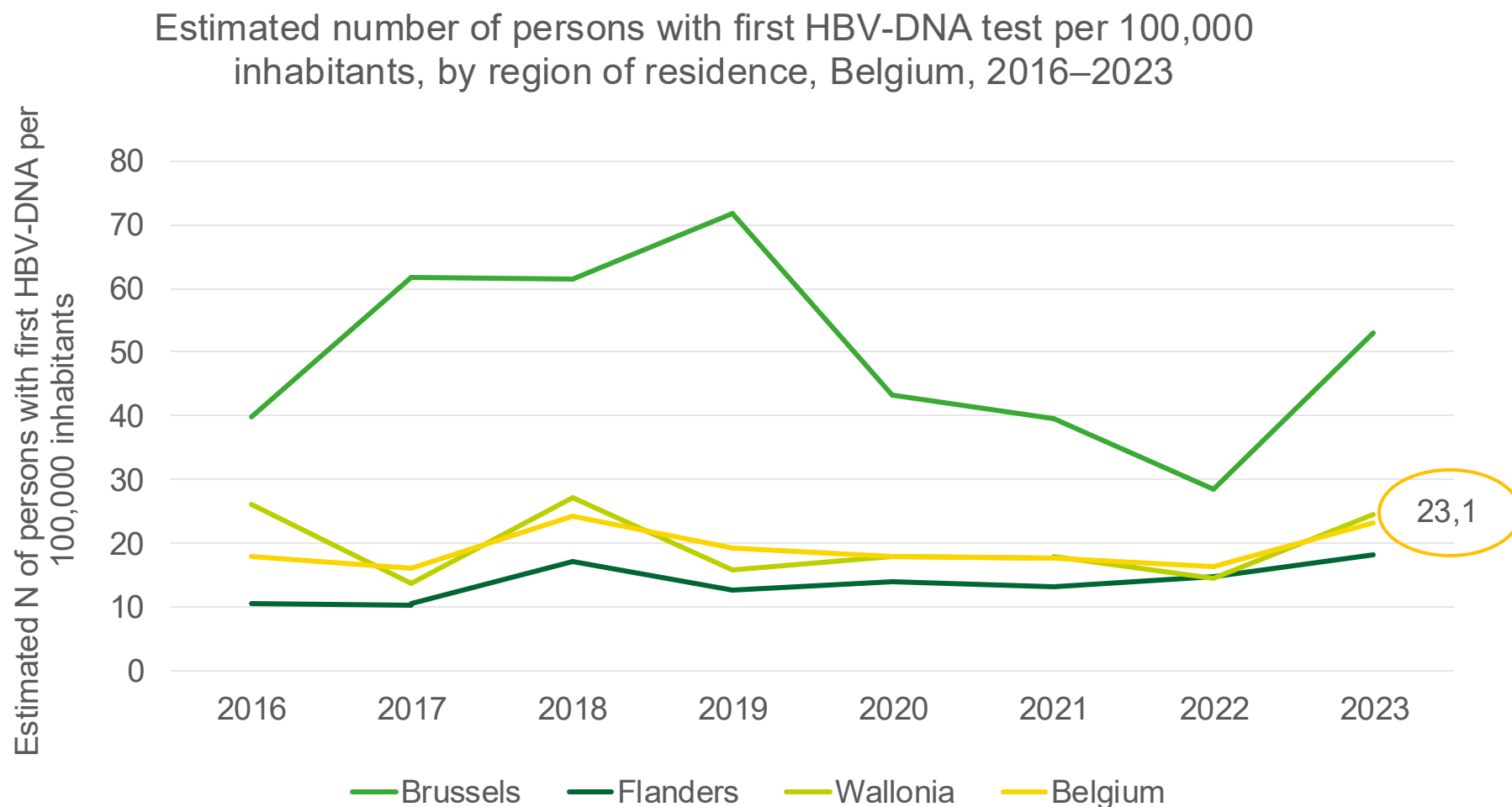
Source: IMA

Number of hepatitis C diagnoses per persons tested, Belgium, 2016–2023: IMA data



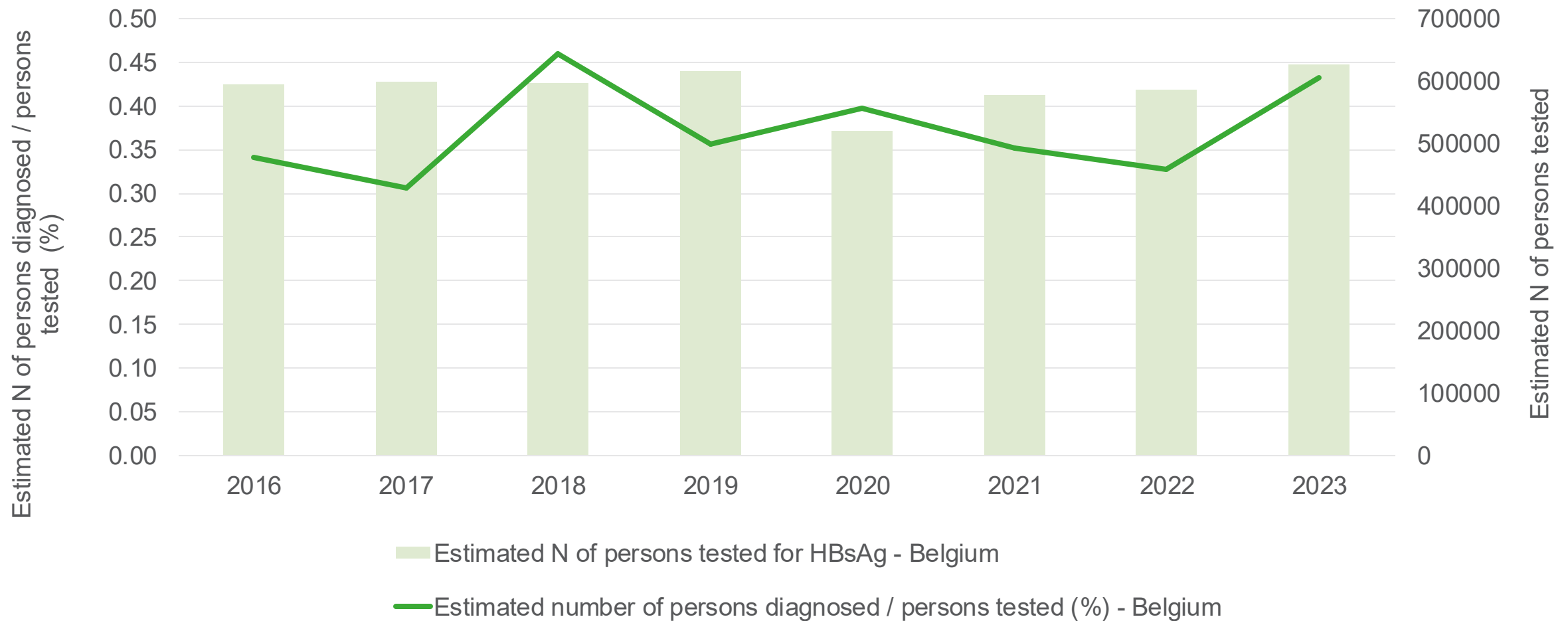
Source: IMA

Incidence of estimated hepatitis B diagnoses, per region, Belgium 2016-2023: IMA reimbursement data



Source: IMA

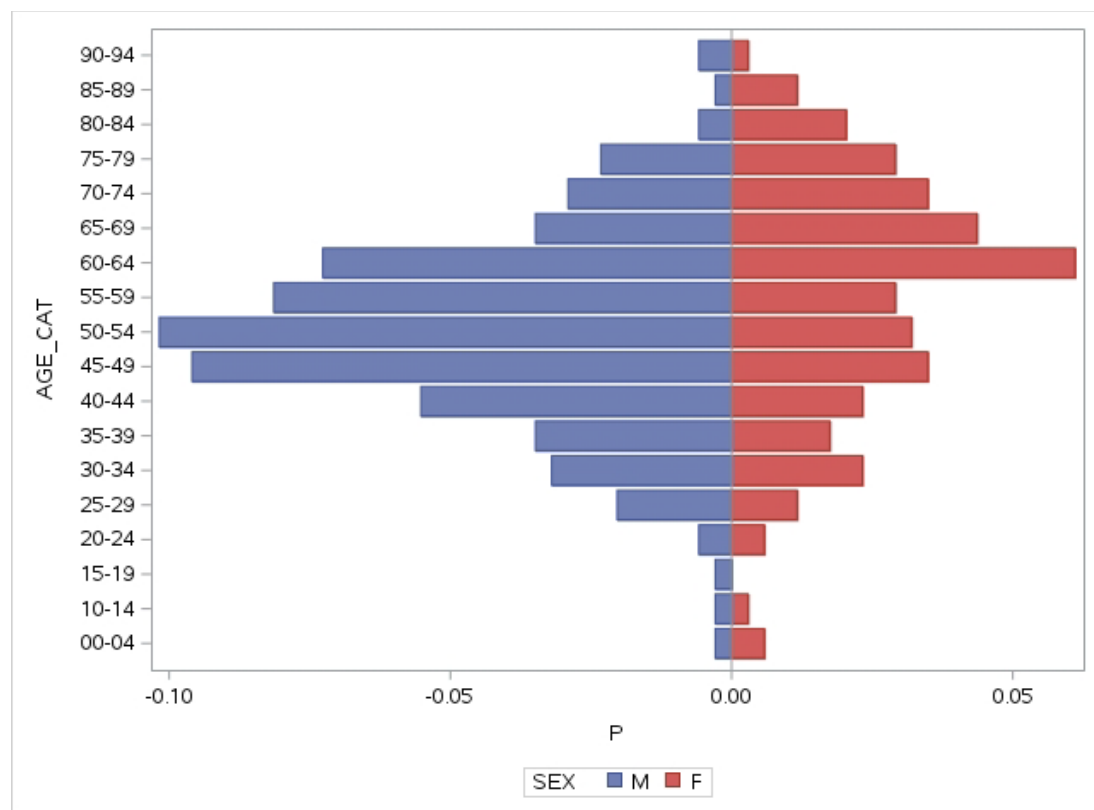
Number of HBV diagnoses per person tested, Belgium, 2016–2023: IMA data



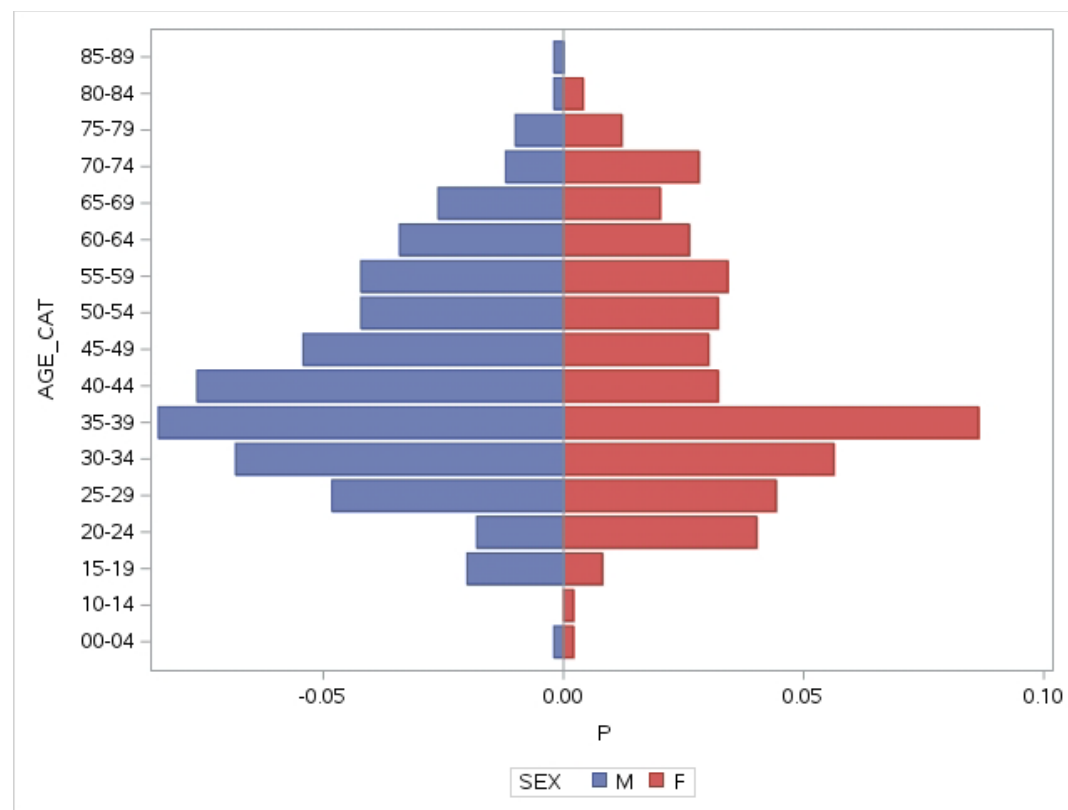
Source: IMA

Characteristics of new hepatitis diagnoses: distribution by age and gender, Belgium, 2015–2023

- Hepatitis C

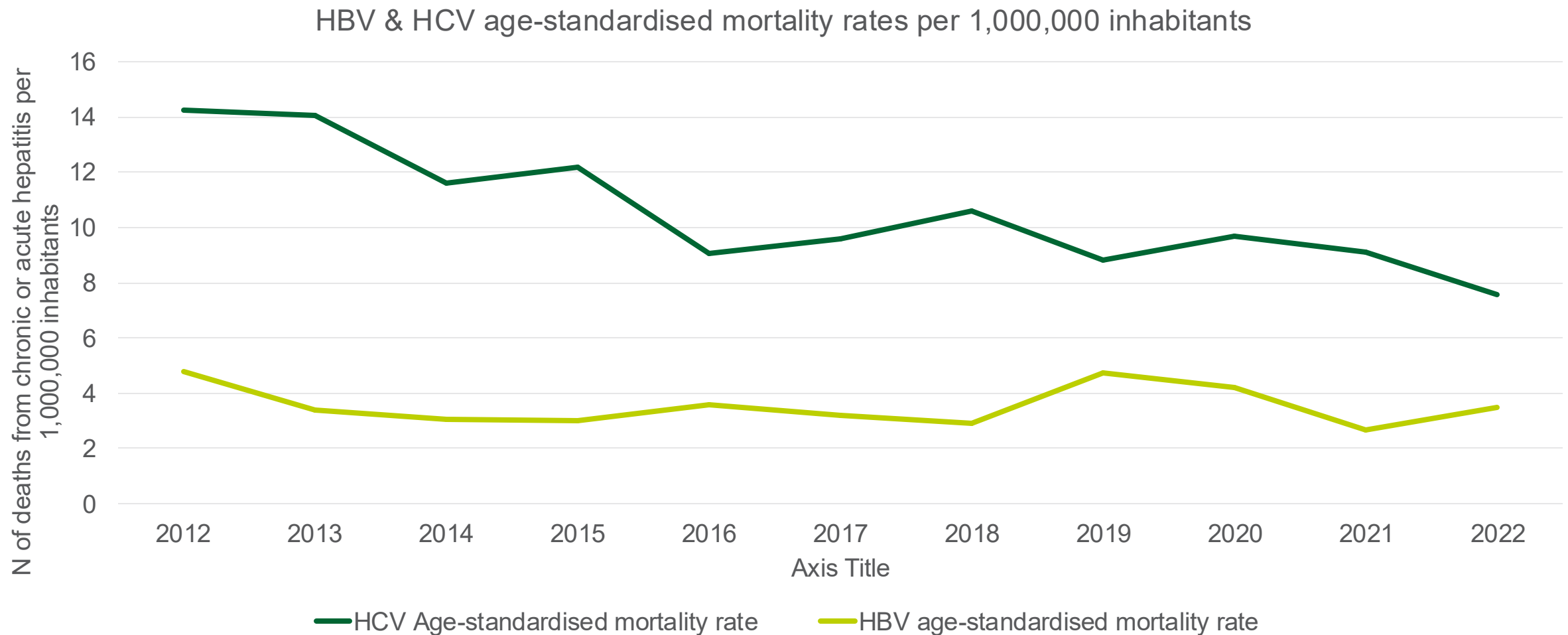


- Hepatitis B



Source: IMA

HBV and HCV related mortality



Source: Mortality register

Key-points

1. Estimated HCV incidence decreased between 2019 and 2022, since DAA reimbursement became accessible to all
 - In 2023: 10.9/100,000, more than in 2022 but below WHO 2025 targets (13/100,000)
2. Estimated HBV incidence fluctuates
 - In 2023: 23.1/100,000, still above WHO 2025 targets (11/100,000)
3. Hepatitis related mortality seems low, and below WHO 2030 targets
4. Brussels is the most affected region

Key measures:

- Targeted screening in key populations
- HBV vaccination in key populations
- Effective use of condom and harm reduction measures for drug use
- Early and accessible HCV treatment