

Testing Trends and Intersectional Analysis of HIV Testing Among Women Across Key Populations (2017-2023) in the COBATEST Network

M Gogishvili Asanishvili,^{1,2} J Aceiton Cardona,^{1,2} M Alarcon Gutierrez,^{1,2} J Casabona Barbara,^{1,2,3} L Fernández López,^{1,2,3} and the COBATEST Network Study Group

¹ Centre of Epidemiological Studies of HIV/AIDS and STI of Catalonia (CEEISCAT), Health Department, Generalitat de Catalunya, Badalona, Spain

² Germans Trias i Pujol Research Institute (IGTP), Campus Can Ruti, Badalona, Spain

³ CIBER Epidemiología y Salud Pública (CIBERESP), Madrid, Spain



PURPOSE

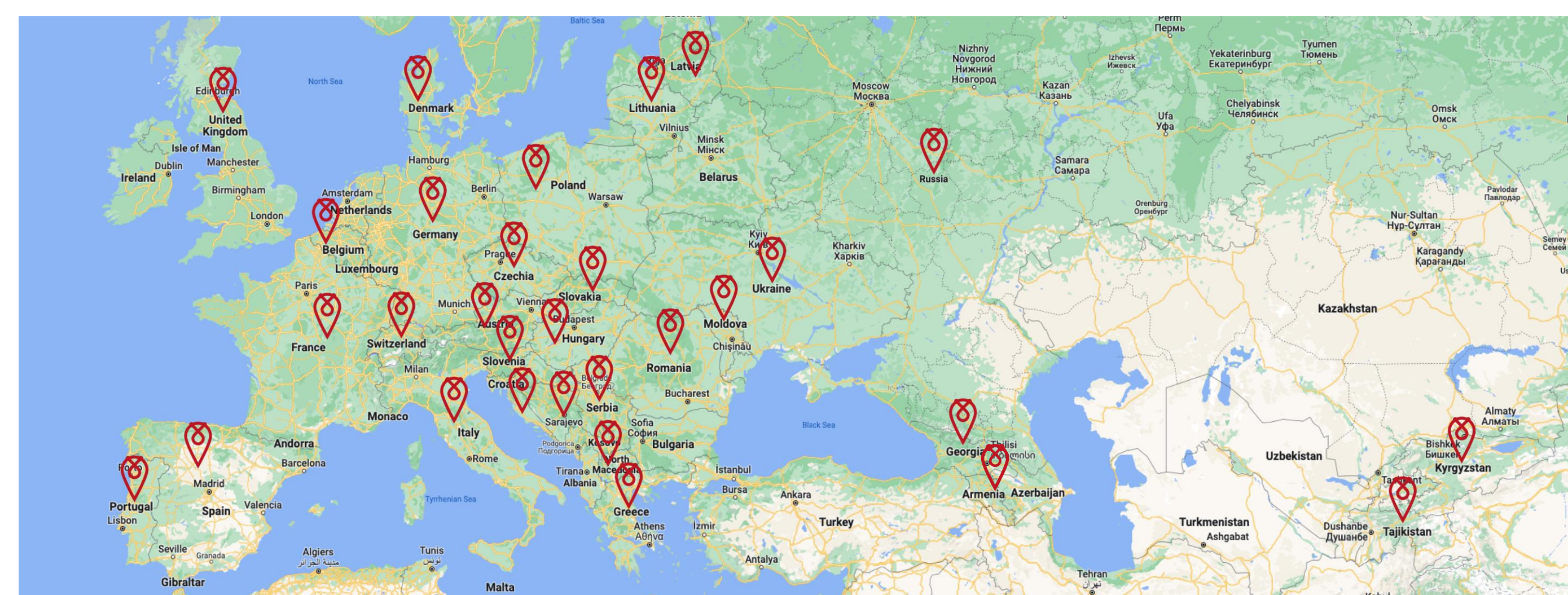
Inequalities hinder progress in ending HIV/AIDS. In 2018, women comprised one-third of the 141,000 new HIV diagnoses in Europe, with 54% identified late. These figures highlight the need for greater focus on women in prevention and testing. This study examines HIV testing and diagnosis patterns among female testers by age and key population, emphasizing intersectionalities to inform targeted interventions.

METHODS

Data from 90 COBATEST network members (2017-2023) were analyzed. Descriptive statistics assessed HIV testing prevalence by age group, key population, and HIV diagnoses, stratified by gender. Log-binomial multivariable regression models estimated prevalence ratios (PRs) of HIV diagnoses within age and key population groups among female testers. Venn diagrams illustrated overlaps among key populations in the female testing population.

COBATEST NETWORK

The COBATEST Network links organizations across Europe and Central Asia who offer community-based voluntary counselling and STI/HIV testing (CBVCT) services and promotes testing, early diagnosis and linkage to care in at-risk populations.



The network currently consists of 147 CBVCT centers in 29 European and 2 Central Asian countries.

CONCLUSIONS

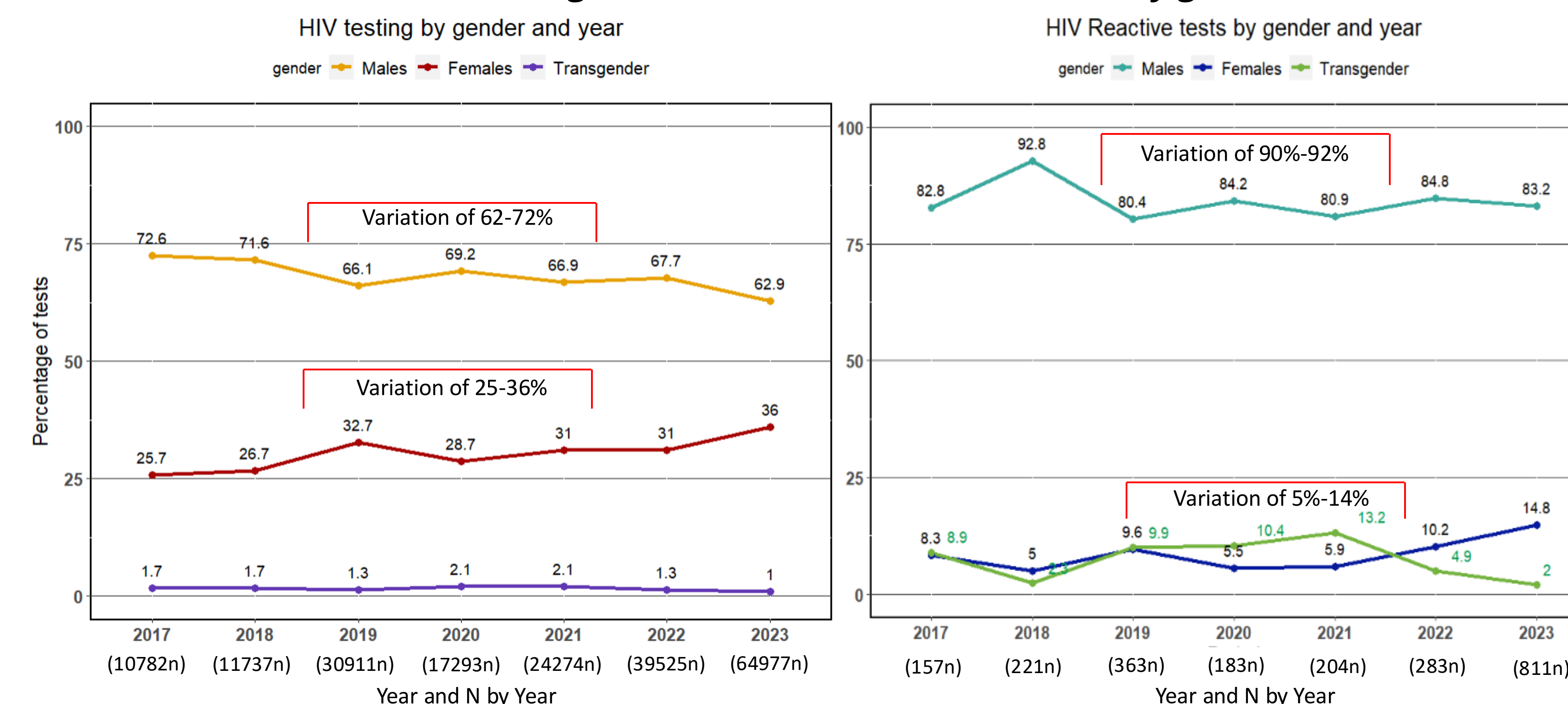
Targeted, intersectional strategies are crucial to improve HIV detection and prevention among women, particularly those in overlapping risk groups.

RESULTS

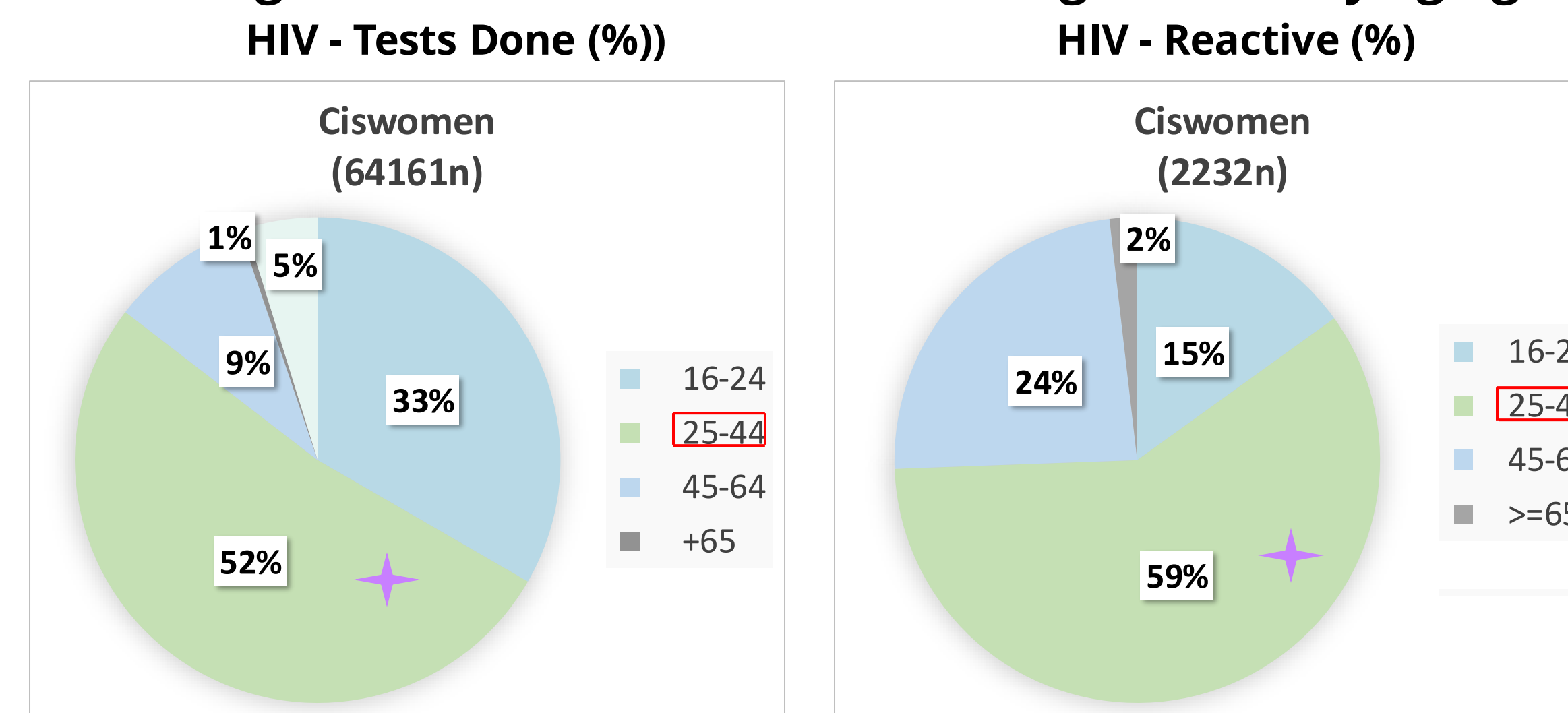
Of 199,499 individuals tested, 2,222 had reactive results. Women comprised 32.2%(n=64,161) of testers and 10.4%(n=230) of reactive results.

Female testing ranged from 25% to 36% across the period. Among female testers, 52% were aged 25-44, accounting for 59% of female reactive results. Of all female testers, 22.8%(n=14,262) were sex workers (SW), 22.6%(n=14,519) migrants, and 0.83%(n=530) people who inject drugs (PWID).

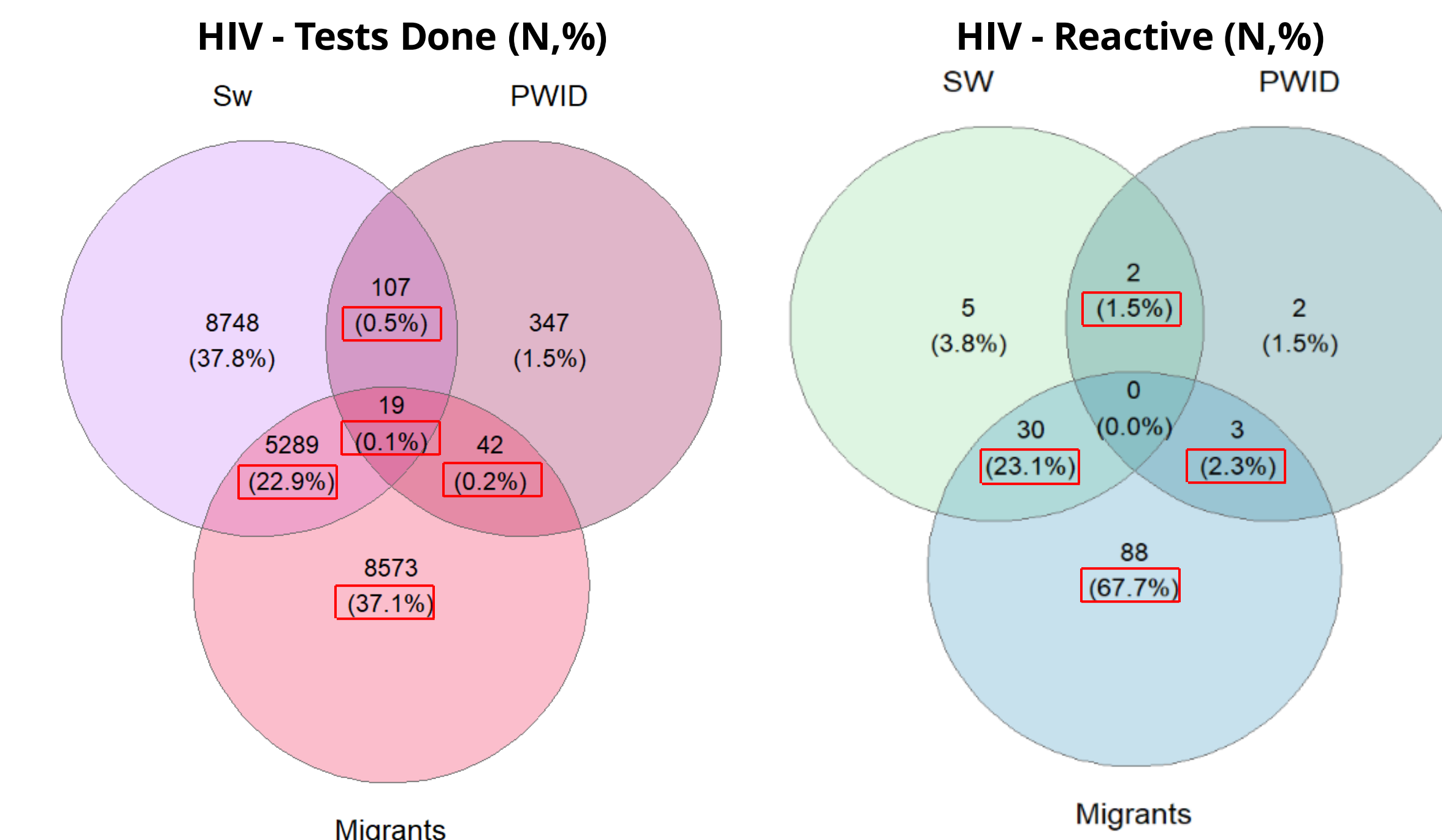
HIV testing (%) and reactive test results (%) by gender



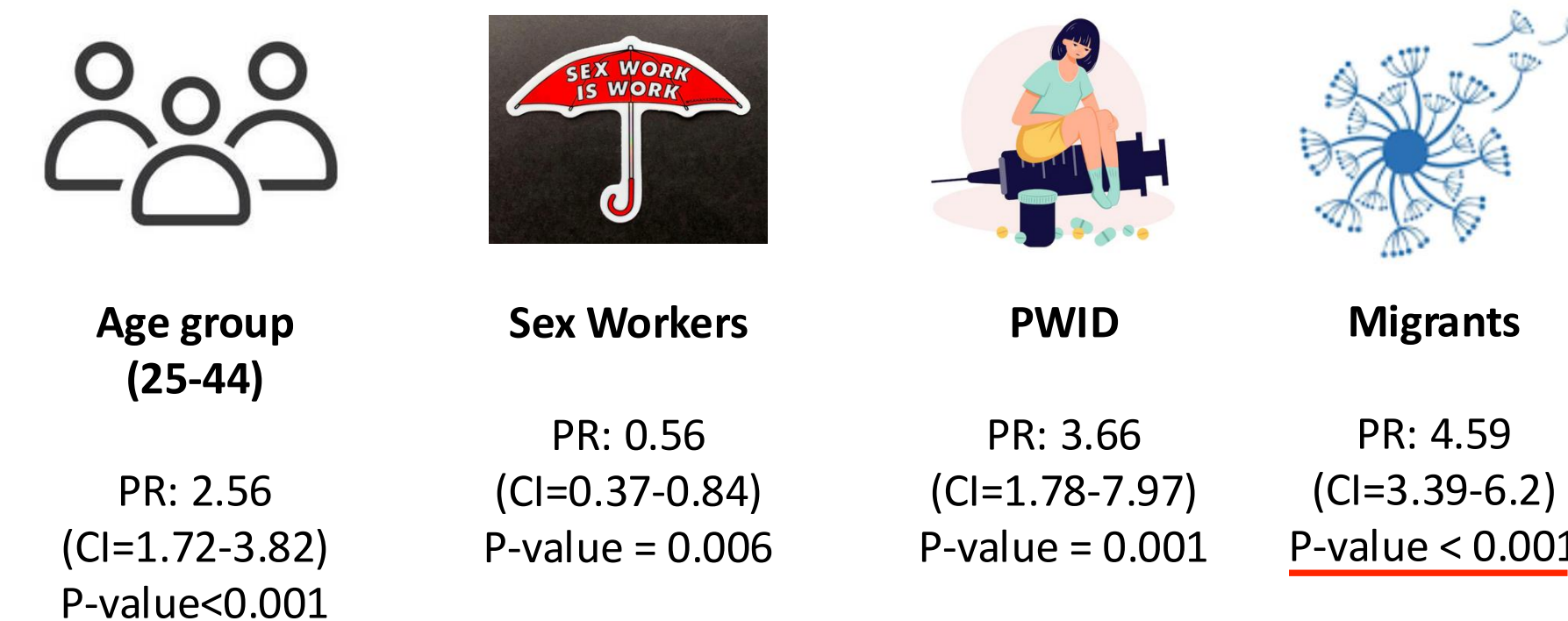
HIV testing and reactive test results among females by age-group



Intersectionalities: Females tested for HIV



Prevalence Ratio of HIV Reactive Test Results Among Females by age-group and key-population groups



Females aged 25-44 were 2.56 times more likely to have a reactive test than those aged 16-24. SWs were 44% less likely to test reactive compared to non-SWs. PWIDs were 3.66 times more likely, and migrant 4.59 times more likely (95% CI:3.39-6.20; p < 0.001), to test reactive than their non-PWID and non-migrant counterparts.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr.Megi Gogishvili Asanishvili
mgogishvili@igtp.cat