



ROBERT KOCH INSTITUT



BORDER|NET *work*

WP 5: Bridging research on HIV/STIs prevalence and risks to evidence-based effective practice

Implementation of an evidence based HIV/STIs sentinel surveillance system

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BORDERNETwork Kick-off meeting
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Overview

- Background and targets
- Methods of the sentinel-surveillance within BORDERNETwork
- Results from Romania and Bulgaria:
 - Number of (positive) tests
 - Characteristics of patients with STIs
 - Sexual behaviour
 - Source of infection
 - Number of partners
 - Condom usage
- What´s next?





Background

- Problems along old EU-borders:
 - Economic differences
 - Different health-care systems
 - Quality
 - Legal regulations
 - Increase of HIV-infections
 - Prostitution (partly involuntarily)
 - Big fluctuations → Migration
 - (Suspected) high number of STIs
- 2005: Introduction of a Sentinel-Surveillance within the Bordernet-project

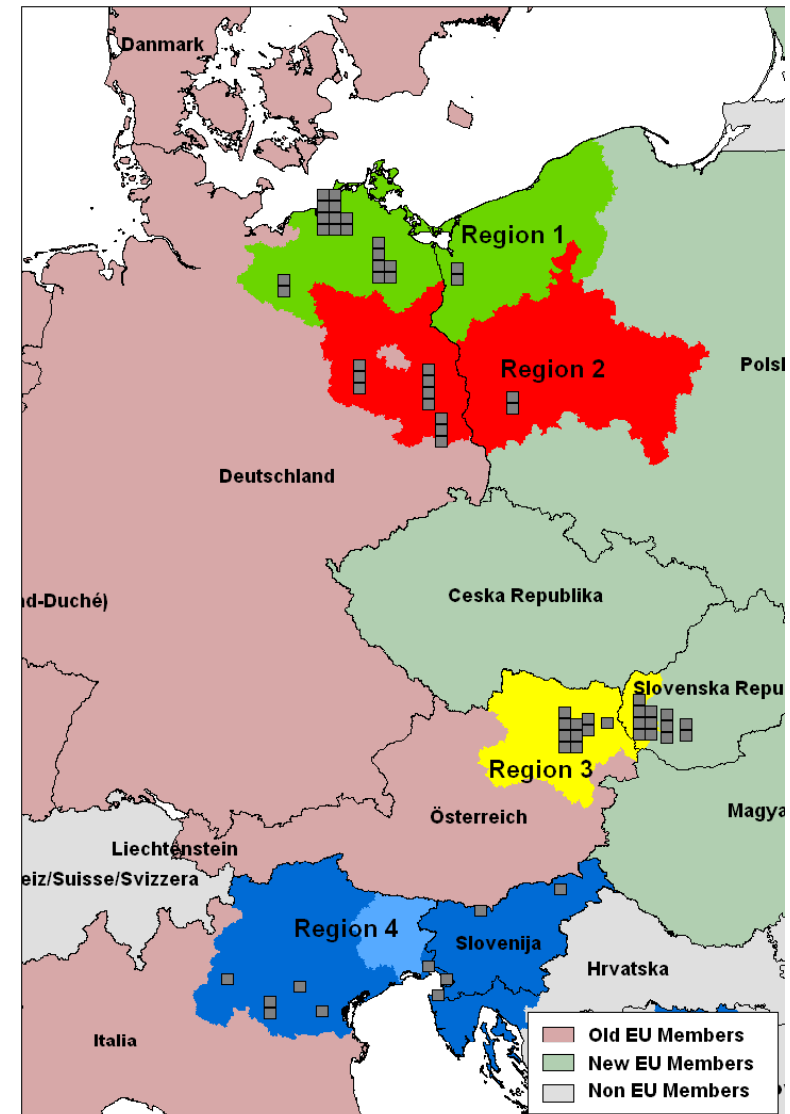




Bordernet 2005-2007

Bordernet 1.1.2005-31.12.2007

- 60 Sentinel-sites
- Between 2 and 15 in each region
- Number and composition of sites depending on the health-care system of the country
- Participating countries:
 - Germany
 - Poland (EU-Enlargement 2004)
 - Austria
 - Slovak Republic (EU-Enlargement 2004)
 - Italy
 - Slovenia (EU-Enlargement 2004)
- EU-funded

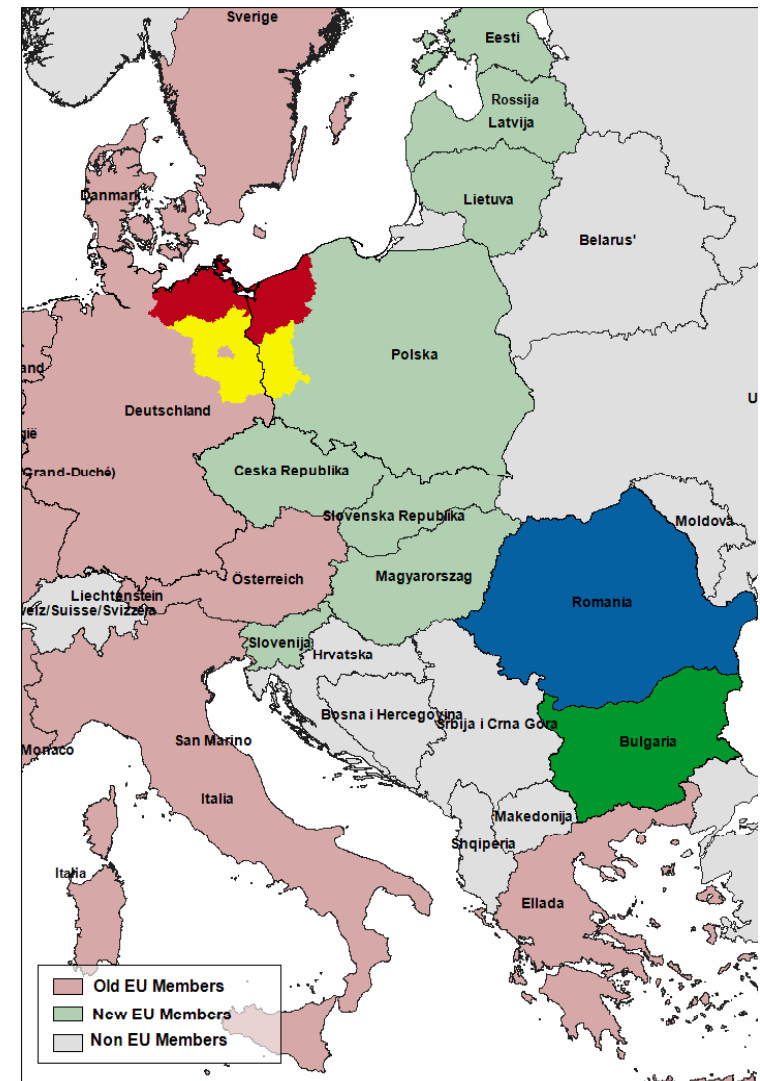


BORDERNETwork 2008-2009



BORDERNETwork 1.1.2008-31.12.2009

- 33 Sentinel-sites
- Between 2 and 11 in each region
- Number and composition of sites depending on the health-care system of the country
- Participating countries:
 - Germany
 - Poland
 - Romania (EU-Enlargement 2007)
 - Bulgaria (EU-Enlargement 2007)
- Funded by German MOH

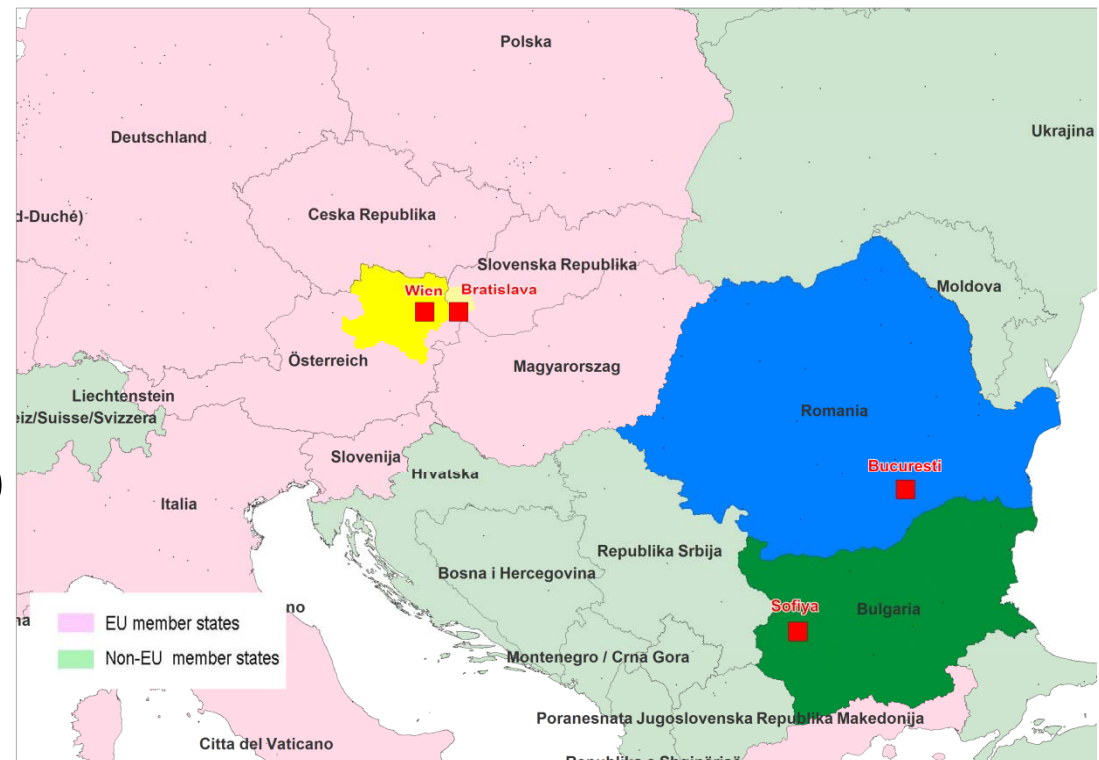


BORDERNETwork 2010-2012



BORDERNETwork 1.1.2010-31.12.2012

- Currently 34 sentinel-sites
- Currently participating sites:
 - Austria (n=16)
 - Slovak Republic (n=7)
 - Romania (n=6)
 - Bulgaria (n=5)
- EU-funded



Targets of sentinel-surveillance

- Sentinel
 - Recording of examined and diagnosed STIs in clinical practices
 - Acquisition of demographic data of patients
 - Acquisition of behavioural data of patients
- Assessment of geographic distribution / migration
- Detection of epidemiologic trends and outbreaks
- Identification of high-risk groups and risk-factors for specific STIs
- Generation of hypotheses
- Recognition of necessity for targeted interventions
- Documentation of outcome of interventions

Targets of BORDERNETwork



- General
 - Improvement of regional, cross border planning of tasks of prevention and treatment of STIs
- Prevention
 - Set-up cross border networks for HIV/STI-prevention
 - Adjustment and improvement of regional prevention offers (KABP-surveys)
 - Supporting regional prevention campaigns
 - Training of multipliers
 - Improvement and standardising of counselling

Targets of BORDERNETwork



- Diagnostics
 - Improvement and standardising of diagnostic procedures used for HIV/STIs

- Epidemiology
 - Building up a regional, cross border Sentinel-Surveillance for HIV and other STIs
 - Conducting of surveys in special target groups



Methods

- Sentinel-Surveillance-System
- Participants
 - All patients \pm HIV/STD attending a participating sentinel site in the study period
- Indicators
 - **Newly** diagnosed infections (asymptomatic too) with
 - *Chlamydia trachomatis*
 - *HIV*
 - *Neisseria gonorrhoea*
 - *Treponema pallidum*



Acquisition of data – once only



- **Basic questionnaire –**
Characterisation of the sentinel-site
 - Urban - rural
 - STI / HIV-clinic
 - Size
 - Staff
 - Diagnostic
 - Anonymous / free of charge
 - Demography of patients
 - Risk-groups



Basic questionnaire for BORDERNETwork-Sentinels

Please send back to:

Stamp or Address of Institution:

Filled in by Mrs. /Mr. _____
(Please circle the correct title)

Date: _____

Thank you very much for your cooperation in the context of the BORDERNETwork - Sentinel-Surveillance.

For later analysis and interpretation of the data concerning STIs we need some basic information about your institution. Therefore we kindly ask you to fill in this questionnaire and to send it back to the address above. All information will be treated confidential and will not be given to any other person.

1. How would you describe the service area of your institution? (multiple answers possible)

- Rural area
- Provincial area
- Metropolitan area

2. Is there a special STI- and/or HIV-consultation available at your institution?

STI	HIV
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No

3. If yes, how often does the STI/HIV-consultation take place?

STI	HIV
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily
<input type="checkbox"/> At least 1 time per week	<input type="checkbox"/> At least 1 time per week
<input type="checkbox"/> At least 1 time per month	<input type="checkbox"/> At least 1 time per month





Acquisition of data - continuously

■ Monthly questionnaire

- # Patients
- # tests per STI
- # positive tests

■ Diagnosis questionnaire (1 per lab-confirmed positive case)

- Demography (Age, Gender, Background)
- History (Re-Infection, presumed way of transmission)
- Diagnosis (Co-Infection?)

■ Patient questionnaire (voluntary, different languages)

- Source of infection, behaviour
- Social background
- Sexual history

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Reference Number: - -

country Nr. Institution Patient-Number

Dear patient, please fill in this questionnaire. Your answers will be treated anonymously and used only for scientific purpose. If something is not clear to you, do not hesitate to contact your doctor. Owing to your participation you will help us significantly to gain insight into sexually transmitted diseases!

Reason for examination and infection

Why did you come for an examination?
(You may mark with a cross a few readings of your answer)

I intended to make a health check

I had some health problems

My partner suffers from a sexually transmitted disease (venereal disease)

I was afraid to be infected

Other reason

Which reason? _____

From whom did you get most probably infected?

From my permanent partner

From an occasional partner / one night stand

From a sex worker

From a suitor

Another source of infection

Which source? _____

no not know

Person from whom you most probably got the infection

A man

A woman

I don't know

Do you have _____

Yes, for how long? years months

Did you have sexual contact to men or women during the last 6 months?

With men

With women

With both men and women

With whom did you have sexual contacts during the last 6 months? (You may mark with a cross a few readings of your answer)

With my permanent partner

With occasional partners / one night stands

With sex workers

With suitors

With others

If with others, with whom? _____

I don't know / no answer

Where did you most probably get the infection?

Bulgaria Other

If other country, which? _____

I don't know

Did you work abroad within the last 3 years?

yes no

If yes, in which country: _____

Were you affected by alcohol or drugs at the presumed time you got infected?
(You may mark with a cross a few readings of your answer)

Alcohol

Cannabis (hashish, marijuana), Stimulant drugs (amphetamines, LSD, ecstasy), Poppers

Cocaine, Heroin

Other drugs

Which other drugs? _____

I did not use neither drugs nor alcohol

Did you have sexual contacts during the last 6 month for which you received cash, drugs or accommodation?

Yes

No

I don't know/ no answer

How often did you use condoms in sexual contacts during the last 6 month?
(please fill out every column)

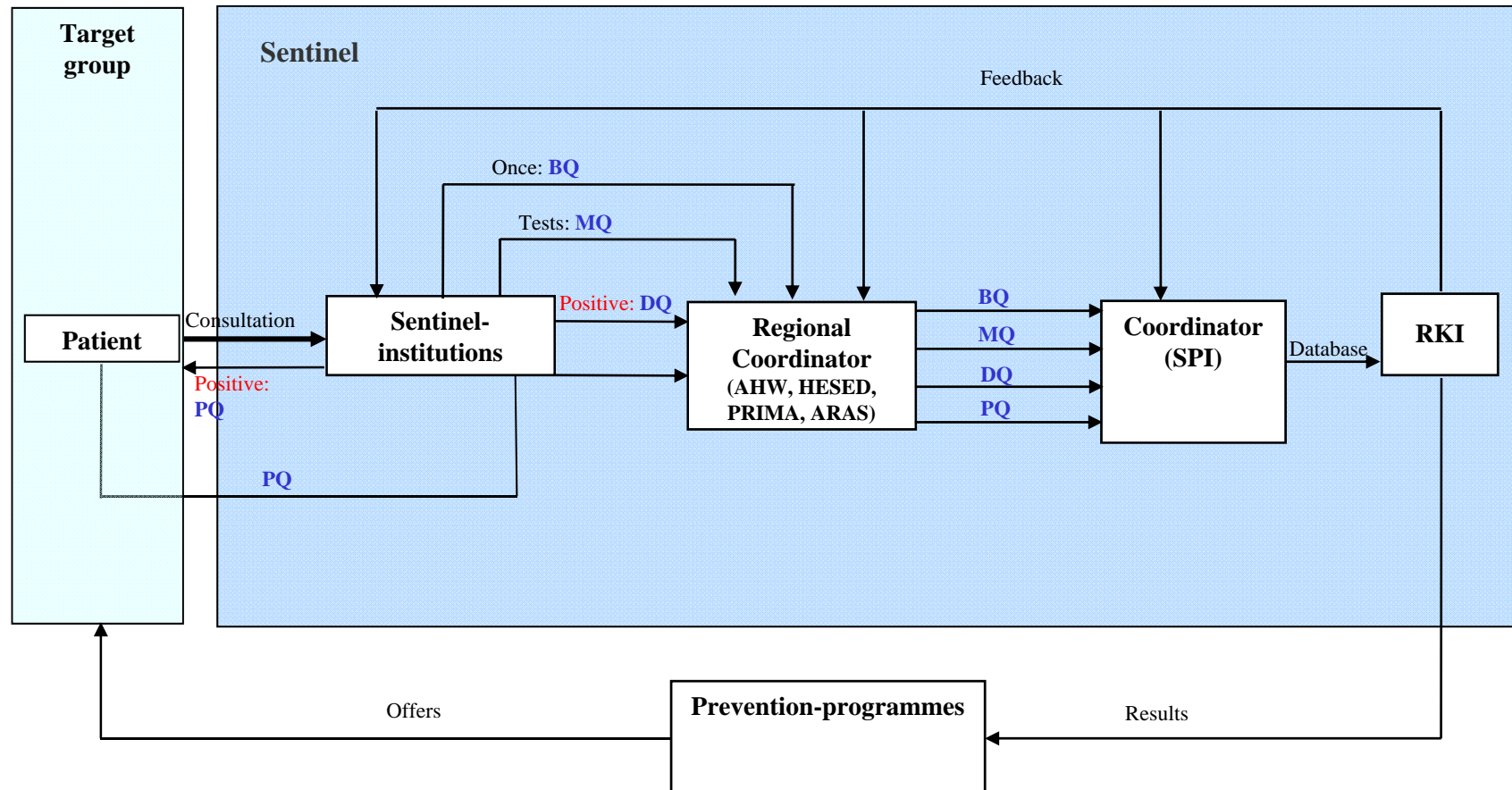
	Sex with permanent partner	Sex with occasional/ one night stand	Sex with sex workers /suitors
Always	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In half to nearly all of the cases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In few to half of the cases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Never/ very rare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Don't know	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I didn't have sex with such a partner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Merged at SPI / RKI





Data flow within BORDERNETwork



BQ: Basic questionnaire
MQ: Monthly questionnaire

DQ: Diagnosis questionnaire
PQ: Patient questionnaire





Results from Bulgaria and Romania





Results

Bulgaria

Aug 2008 – Jan 2010

69 Monthly questionnaires

36068 Patients

60571 tests

1337 positive cases

700 Diagnosis questionnaires

82 %

577 Patient questionnaires

Romania

Oct 2008 – Dec 2009

50 Monthly questionnaires

4419 Patients

5221 tests

529 positive cases

287 Diagnosis questionnaires

57 %

165 Patient questionnaires

Performed (positive) tests Bulgaria



	Tests	Positive	%
Chlamydia	2841	285	10.0
Gonorrhoea	6063	133	2.2
HIV	7896	43	0.5
Syphilis	42346	815	1.9
Total	59146	1276	2.2

69 monthly questionnaires, data August 2008 to January 2010

Performed (positive) tests Romania



	Tests	Positive	%
Chlamydia	323	56	17.3
Gonorrhoea	544	45	8.3
HIV	1445	31	2.1
Syphilis	2909	529	18.2
Total	5221	661	12.7

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50 monthly questionnaires, data October 2008 to December 2009



Characteristics of patients with STIs in Bulgaria and Romania

Data from diagnosis and patient questionnaires
(Dataset: 1.4.2010)



Characteristics of patients: Bulgaria



	Men n= 205	Women n= 77
Median age (years)	29	27
MSM	29.8 %	0
Sex-worker	1.5 %	5.2 %
i.v.- drug use	6.3 %	1.3 %
History of STI	35.1 %	16.9 %

data from diagnosis and patients questionnaires (n=282)

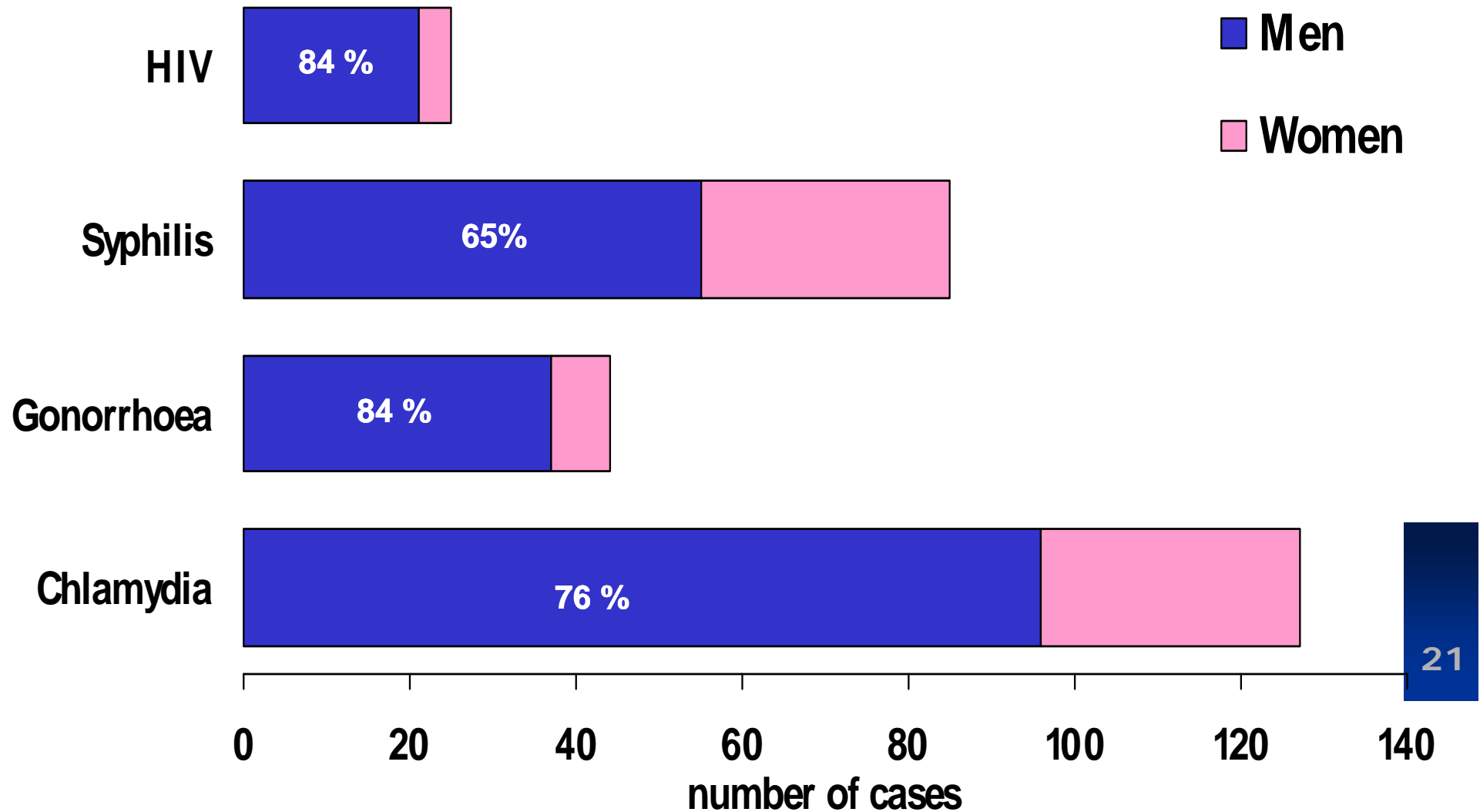
Characteristics of patients: Romania



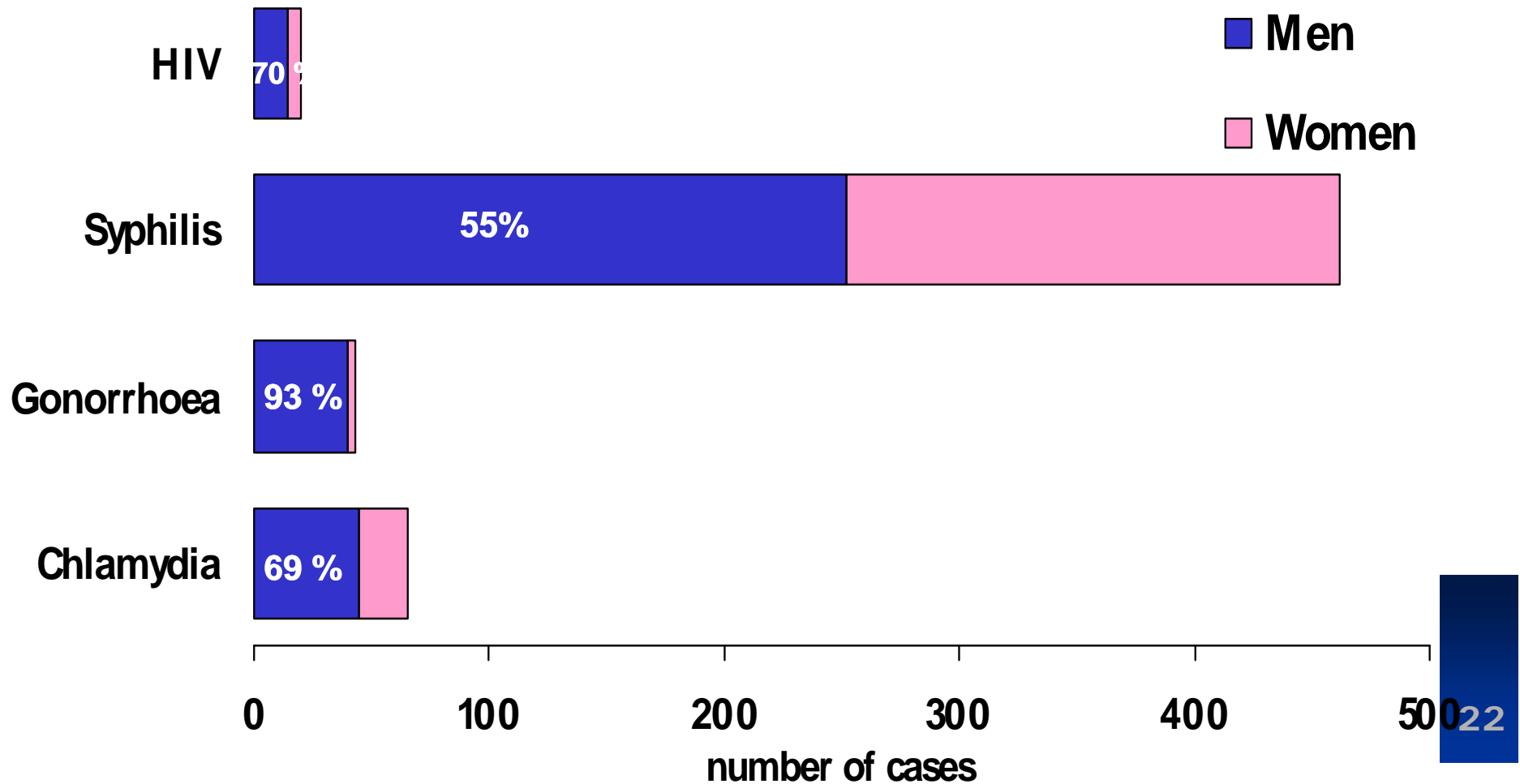
	Men n= 429	Women n= 271
Median age (years)	30	29
MSM	7.7 %	0
Sex-worker	4.9 %	6.6 %
i.v.-drug abuse	0	0
History of STI	23.1 %	30.3 %

data from diagnosis and patients questionnaire (n=700)

Sex-distribution of STI: Bulgaria



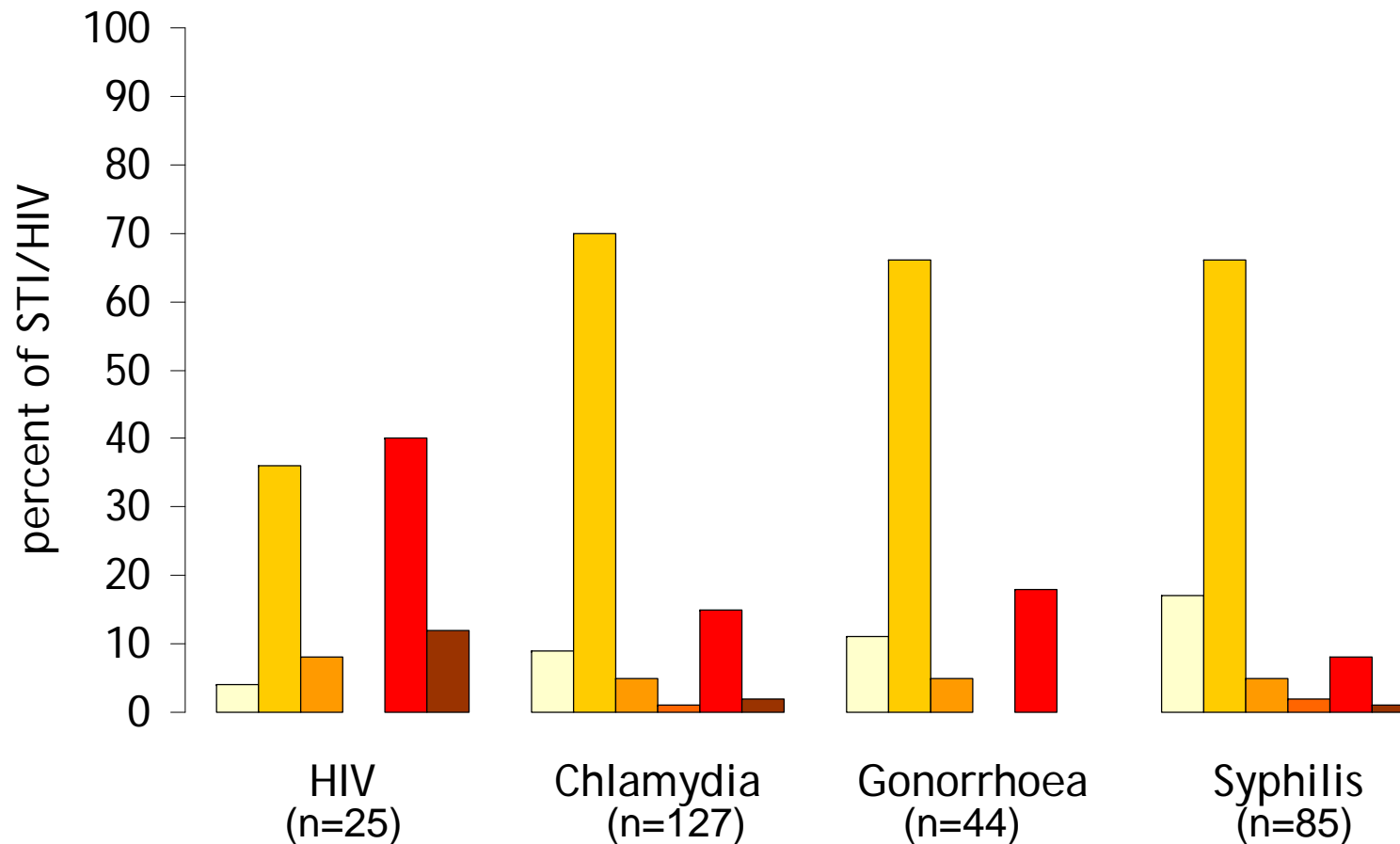
Sex-distribution of STI: Romania





STI/HIV by presumed mode of transmission: Bulgaria

■ MSM
 ■ hetero
 ■ contact to CSW
 ■ CSW
 ■ other/unknown
 ■ missing



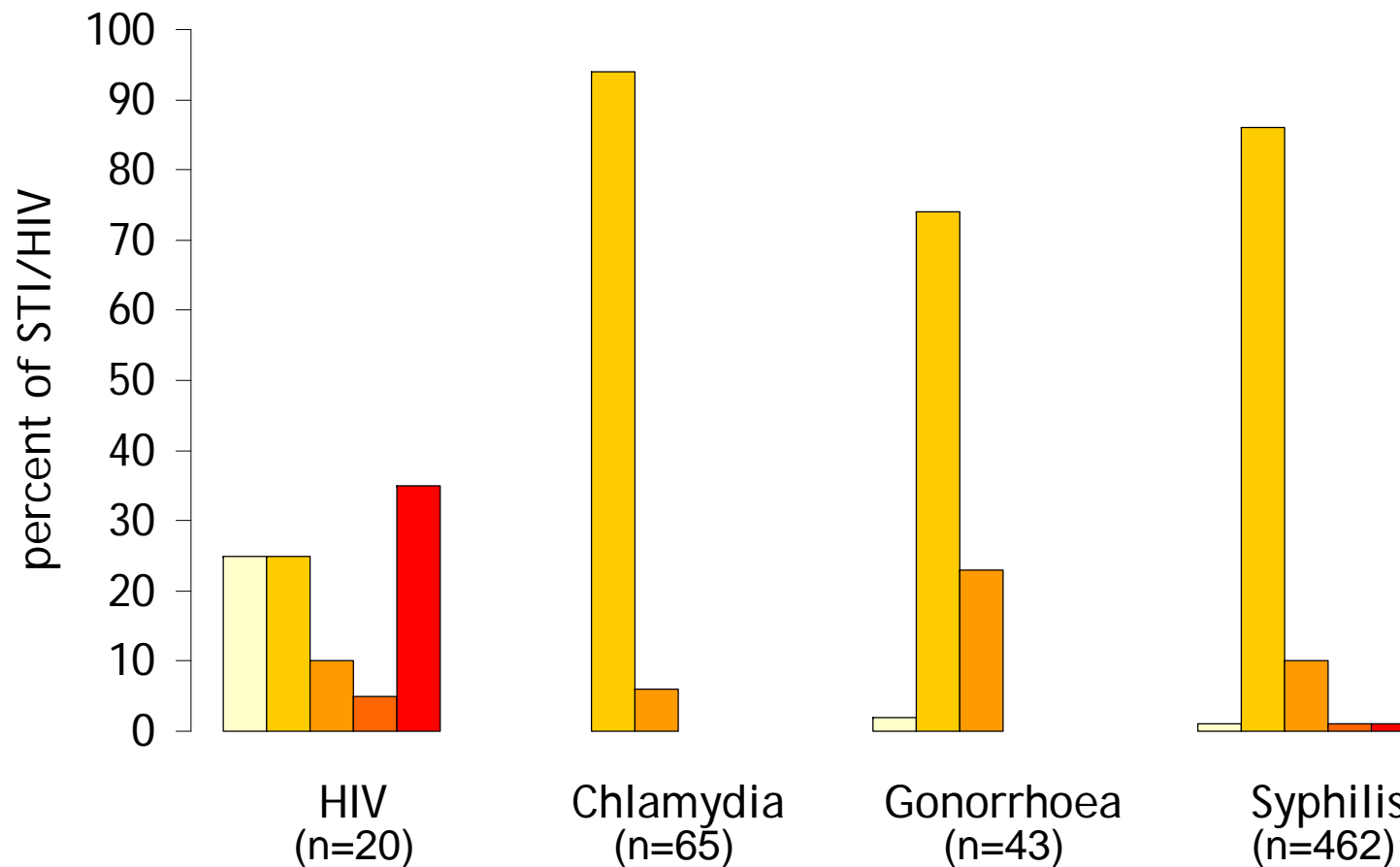
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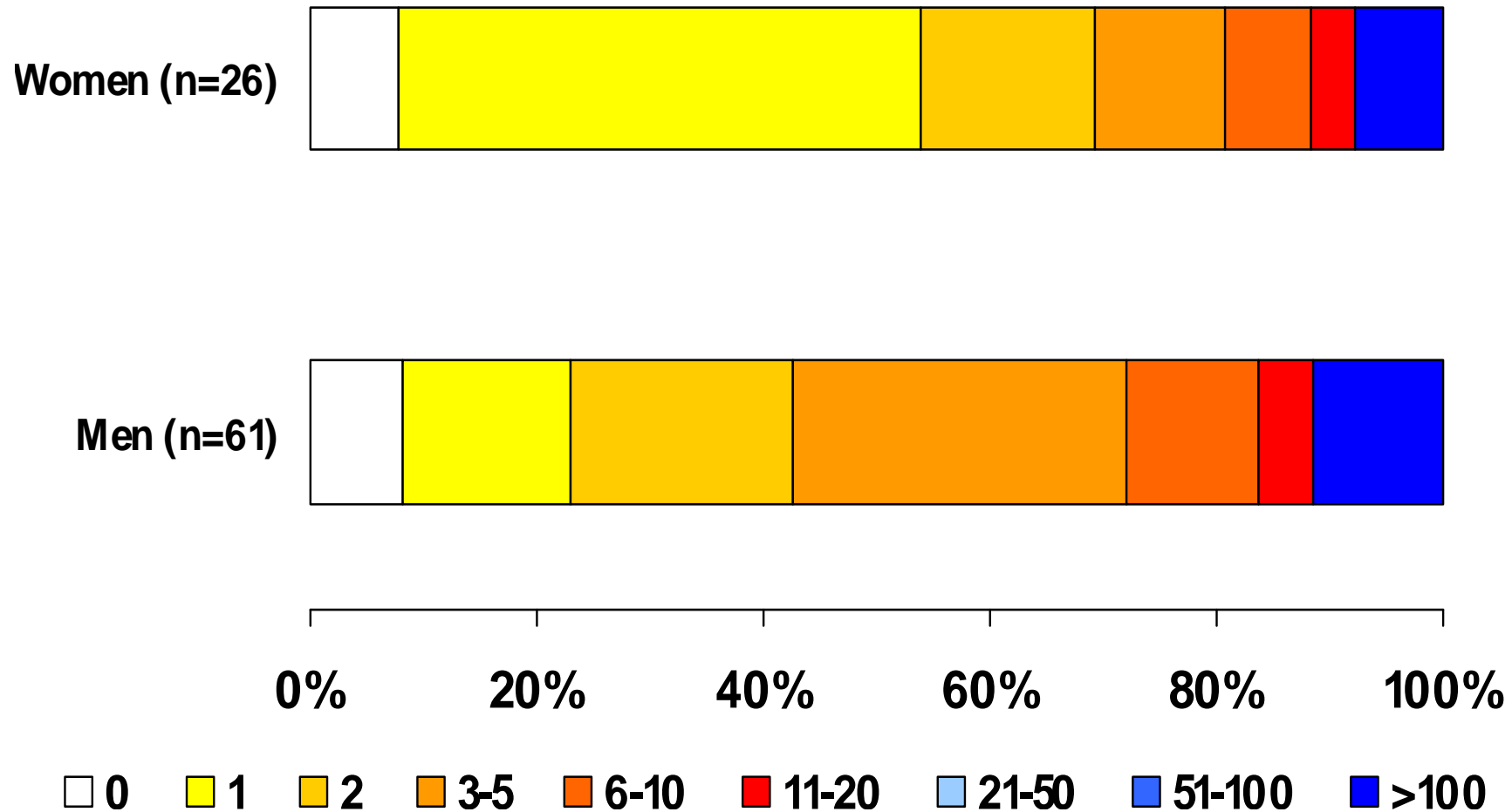
STI/HIV by presumed mode of transmission: Romania

MSM
 hetero
 contact to CSW
 CSW
 other/unknown
 missing



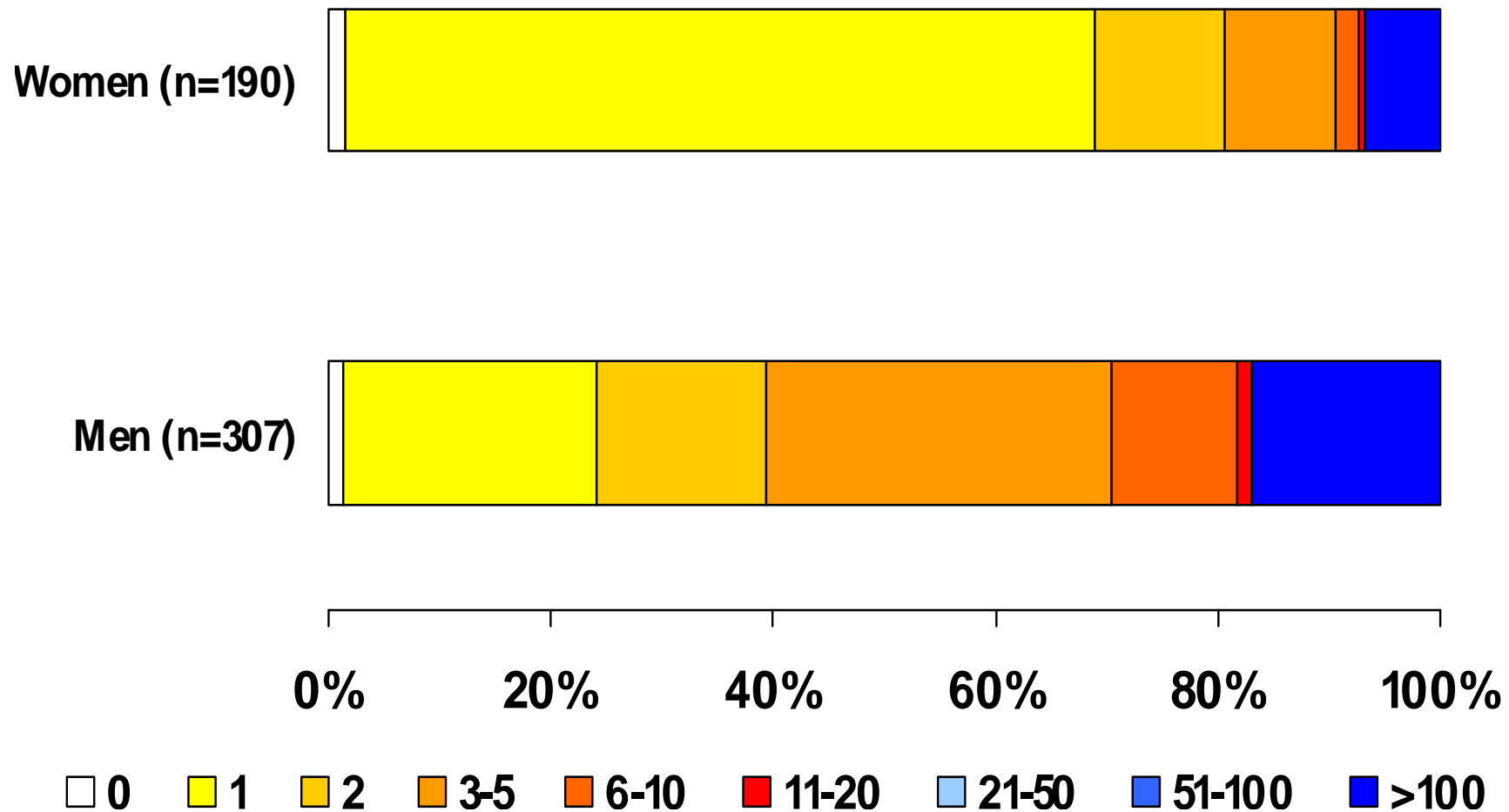


Number of sex-partners in the last 6 months by gender: Bulgaria



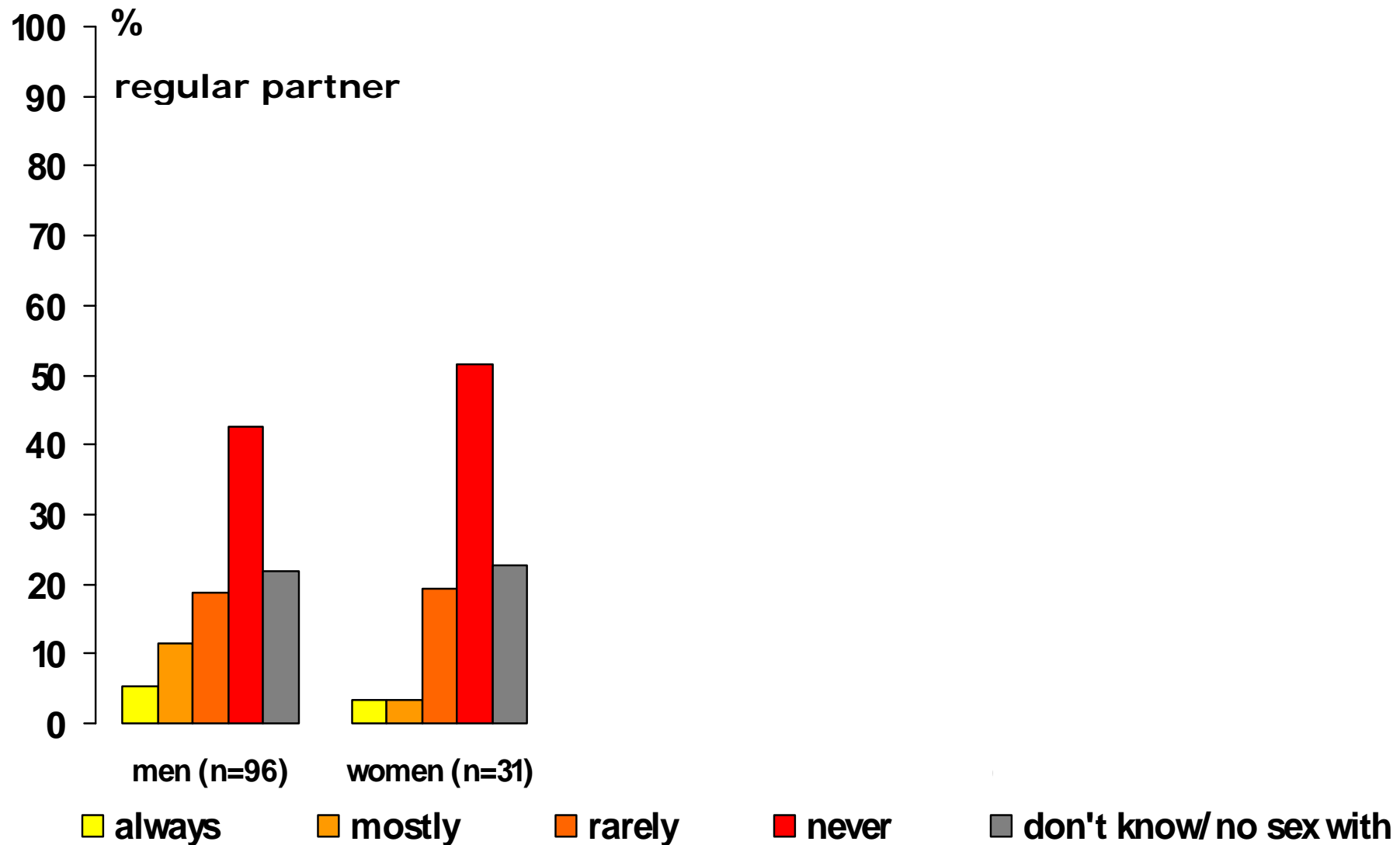


Number of sex-partners in the last 6 months by gender: Romania



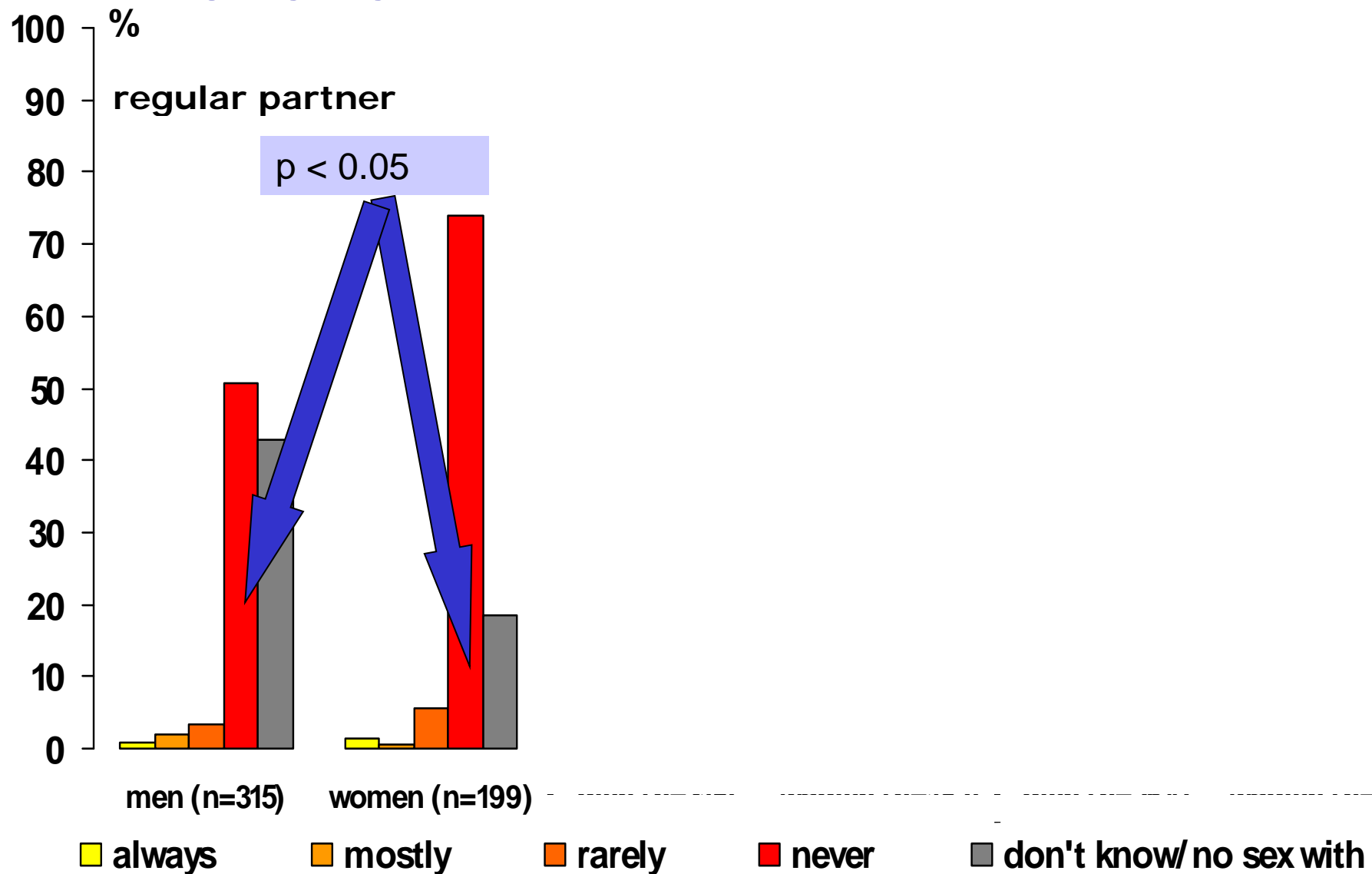


Condom usage by partner and gender: Bulgaria





Condom usage by partner and gender: Romania





Discussion





What's next...?

- Start data collection as soon as possible
- Ethics committee approval
 - Preliminary study protocol from RKI
 - Contact person/organisation in each country → jurisdiction
- Recruitment of sentinel sites
 - Inclusion criteria: standard laboratory procedures
 - If possible focus on vulnerable groups
- Initial site assessment
 - Basic questionnaire
- Distribution of questionnaires
 - Different languages
 - new promotion statement
- Data collection
 - Questionnaires: please translate text into English

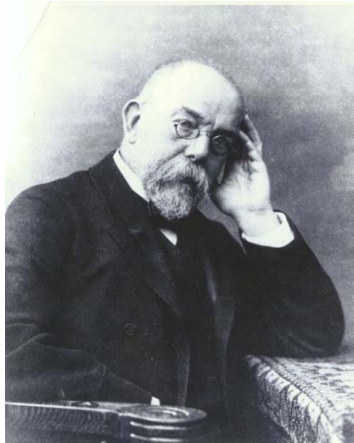




What´s next...?

- Information of MOH about project
- Planning of country visits
 - Presentation of first results
 - Threshold of sites
 - Country-specific problems
 - Diagnostic differences
 - Potential meeting with MOH, National coordinators
 - Discussion about additional topics
- Information on national STI surveillance systems (notifiable diseases)
- Certificate of participation for sites?
- „Sentinel-Heuriger“: 22nd July 2010; 6.30 p.m.





Thank you!

SPI

AHW

ARAS

HESED

PRIMA

Viviane Bremer, Klaus Jansen,
Osamah Hamouda, Andrea Sailer

All participating institutions

All patients



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