

# Impact of Implementation of Nurse-Led Services on EACS Compliance for the Management of People Living With HIV in an Irish Tertiary Care Hospital

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### INTRODUCTION

- Preventative healthcare and disease screening programmes are crucial for the care of people living with HIV (PLWH), as this patient population is at significantly higher risk of both infectious and non-communicable diseases.
- An audit was conducted in St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) in 2019 with the goal of investigating clinical compliance with European AIDS Clinical Society (EACS) guidelines for the management of PLWH.
- The audit results indicated the need for improvements in the provision of vaccinations and cervical smears to patients attending the service. This lead to the creation of dedicated nursing staff positions to conduct these procedures.

## **METHODS**

- A re-audit of the outpatient PLWH service was conducted in 2023. Chart review of 250 patients was carried out over 3 months reviewing 55 data points. Data was collected following EACS guidelines v11.1.
- Collected data included demographic information (age, gender, sexual orientation), comprehensive health metrics (medical history, medications, blood pressure, BMI, cholesterol, haematology and biochemistry), and HIV-specific metrics (CD4+ count, viral load). Notable amongst this data was a review of patient immunisation status against preventable diseases listed by EACS as high priority for PLWH, and a record of cervical smear status.
- Vaccination status was recorded for pneumococcus (Prevnar and pneumovax), human papilloma virus (HPV), influenza, hepatitis viruses (HAV and HBV), measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). Immune status was recorded as equivalent to vaccination for MMR, HAV, and HBV, if recorded and positive.
- Cervical smear status was recorded as conducted, not conducted, or not applicable.
   Patients included were female and over 21 years old.
- Descriptive statistics were used to collate and compare the datasets from 2019 and 2023.

# CONCLUSION

This data reveals a substantial improvement in vaccine and cervical smear uptake since the introduction of dedicated nursing staff providing these services. It shows the efficacy of nurse-led services in providing high-volume procedural care that may be unfeasible for other healthcare practitioners. We hope this data may lead to the future development of additional nurse-led care services.

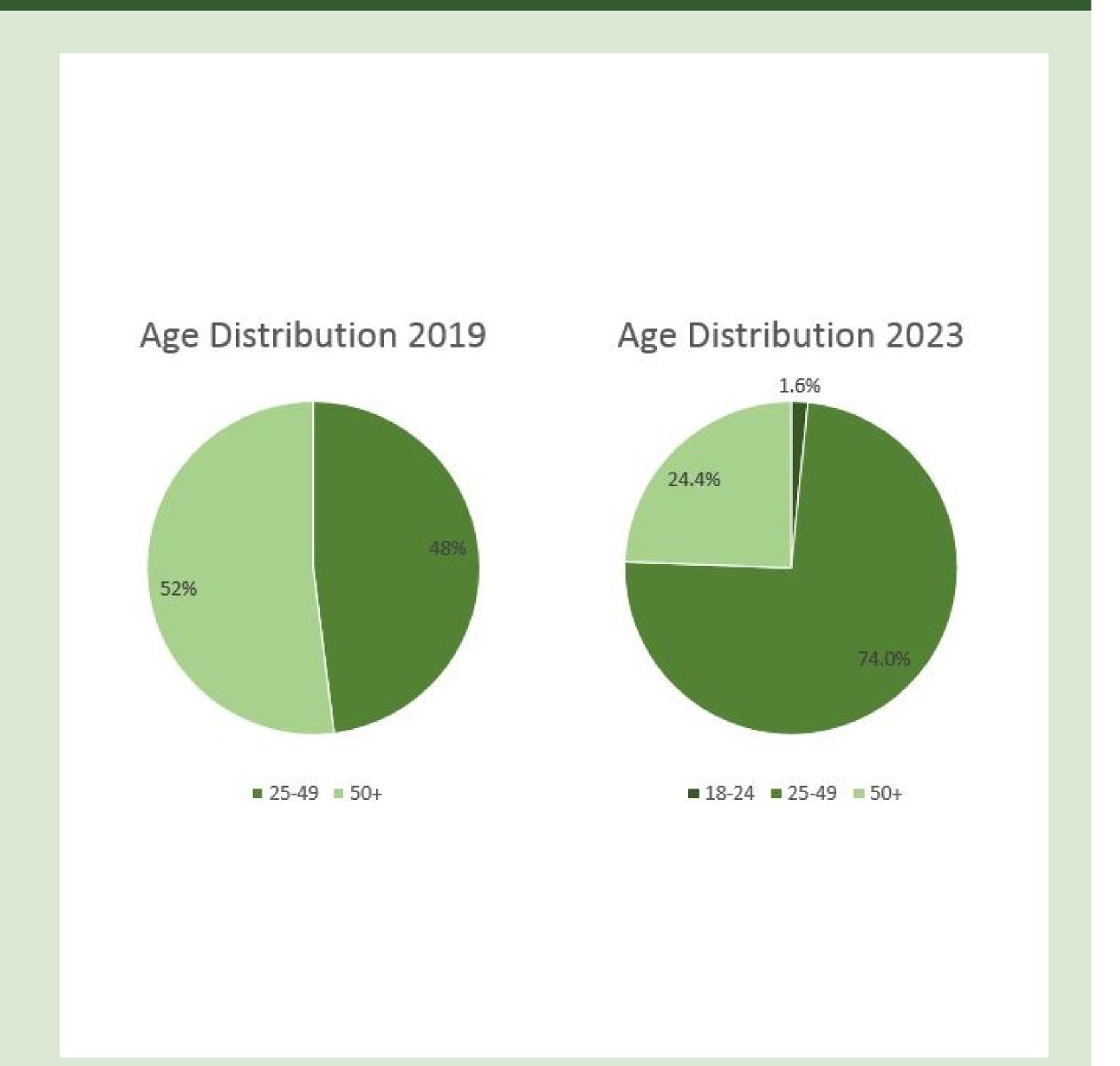
# **RESULTS**

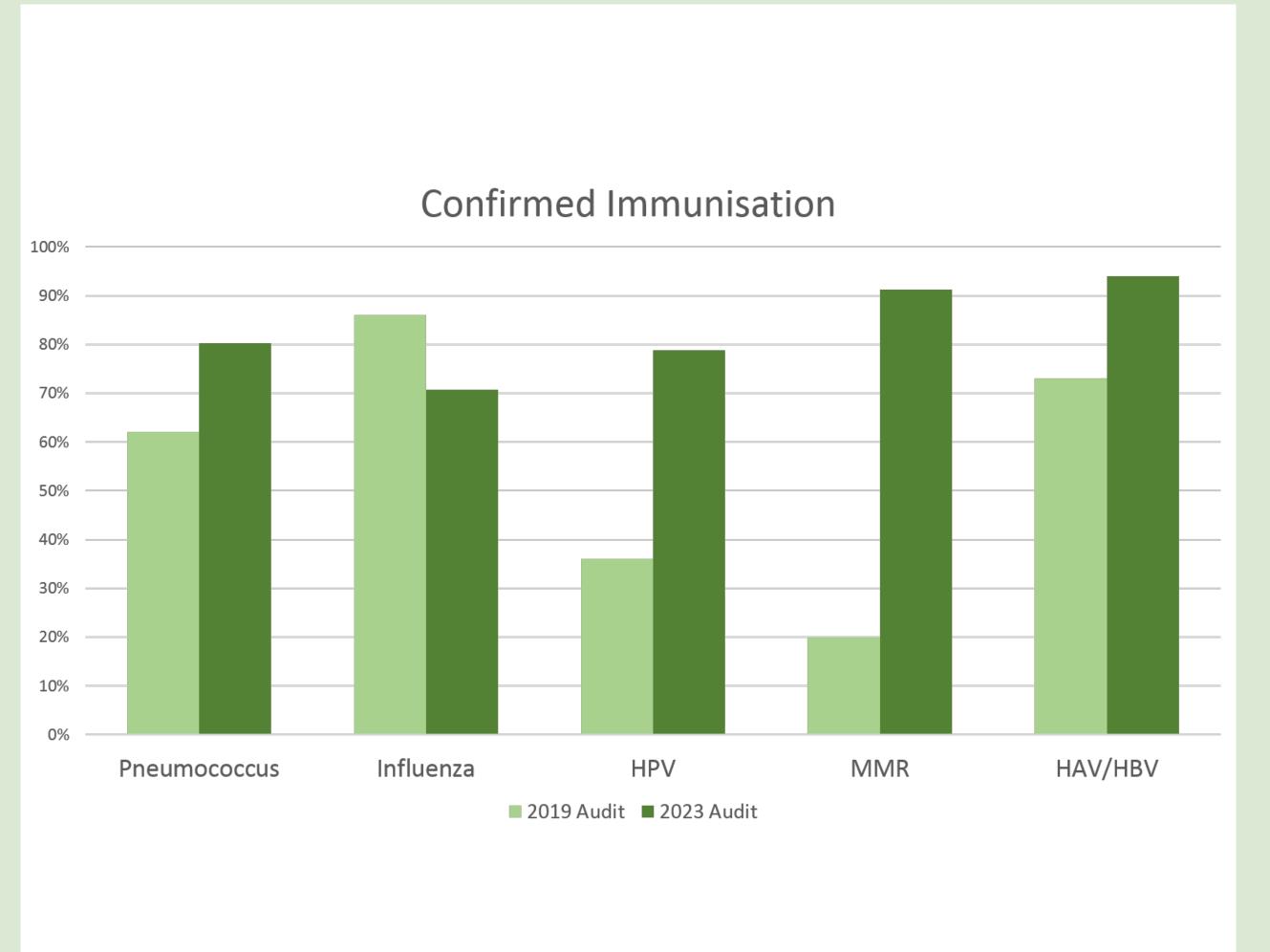
2019: 50 outpatients audited

- Age range 25-86
- 52% of patients >50 years old
- Majority male population (70% male, 30% female)

2023: 250 outpatients audited

- Age range 18-90
- 24.4% of patients >50 years old
- Majority male population (69.6% male, 30.4% female)





#### Change in Vaccine Uptake:

- Pneumococcus: +18.2%
- Influenza: -15.2%
- HPV: +42.8%
- MMR: +71.2%
- HAV/HBV: +21.0%

The reduction of influenza vaccine uptake was attributed to unrecorded community administration (GP, pharmacy, etc.) and patient refusal in clinic

#### Cervical Smears 2019:

 All 15 female patients were included for cervical smears (30% of overall patient population)

#### Cervical Smears 2023

 All 76 female patients were included for cervical smears (30.4% of overall patient population)

Cervical smear records were included from both the national cervical screening programme and following procedures conducted by hospital staff

