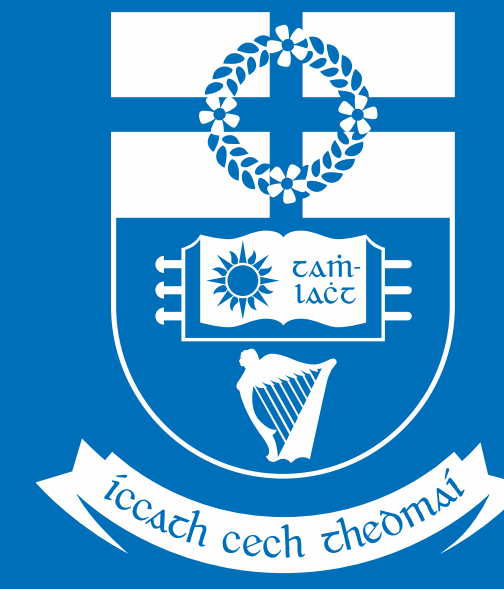


Screening for Blood Borne Viruses in a Pilot Migrant Health Clinic

G Farmer¹, M Cash¹, J Cosgrave¹, J Lalor O'Neill¹, U Manning², A DelmonteSen¹

1. Tallaght University Hospital Inclusion Health
2. HSE Community Response for Vulnerable People



Tallaght
University
Hospital

Ospidéal
Ollscoile
Thamhlachta

An Academic Partner of Trinity College Dublin

Background

Screening for Blood borne viruses (BBV), including HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, is recommended for migrants arriving in Ireland from countries with high BBV prevalence (1, 2). Communicable diseases disproportionately affect marginalised patient groups, including migrants seeking protection which leads to poor health outcomes and public health risk. A newly established Migrant Health Clinic (collaboration and integration of inclusion health service at Tallaght University Hospital with the HSE Community Response for Vulnerable People team) aims to address difficulties accessing healthcare which are experienced by migrants seeking protection. We aimed to assess compliance with national recommendations for BBV screening for migrants seeking protection and assess the prevalence of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C infection.

Methods

We carried out a retrospective review of patient data from clinic attendances between 2nd of April and 10th December 2025. We assessed if BBV screening had been completed prior to clinic review and assessed the rates of BBV in this population. All data was anonymised prior to analysis.

Results

59 patients attended the clinic from 19 different countries between April and December 2025 (Figure 1). 81% (48) of patients attending the clinic were under the age of 65 (Figure 2). 19% (11 patients) had BBV testing completed prior to attending the clinic. BBV screening results were available for 42 patients. 25% (15) of patients in the clinic had a positive result. 3 patients had active Hepatitis C infection, 1 patient had a diagnosis of HIV (which was previous known) and 13 patients had Hepatitis B core antibody positive, indicating resolved Hepatitis B infection.

Conclusion

Migrants seeking protection in Ireland face difficulties accessing healthcare and this pilot clinic review demonstrates this population in Ireland have low levels of BBV screening completed despite national targets and higher levels of BBV (3).

National and international guidelines aim to eliminate hepatitis and HIV as public health threats by 2030 (4, 5). This data highlights the need for increased focus on BBV screening and access to appropriate treatment for migrants seeking protection in Ireland.

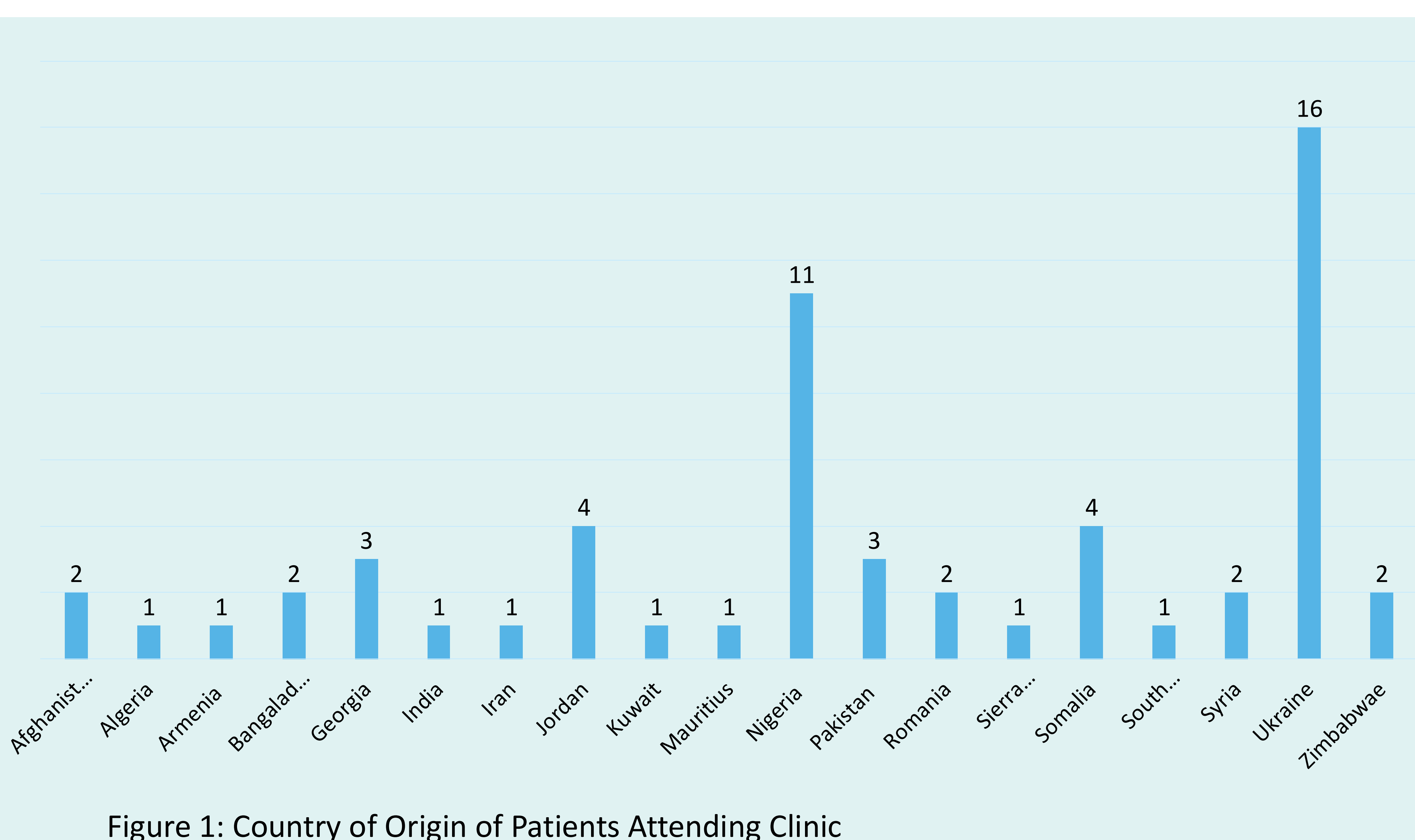


Figure 1: Country of Origin of Patients Attending Clinic

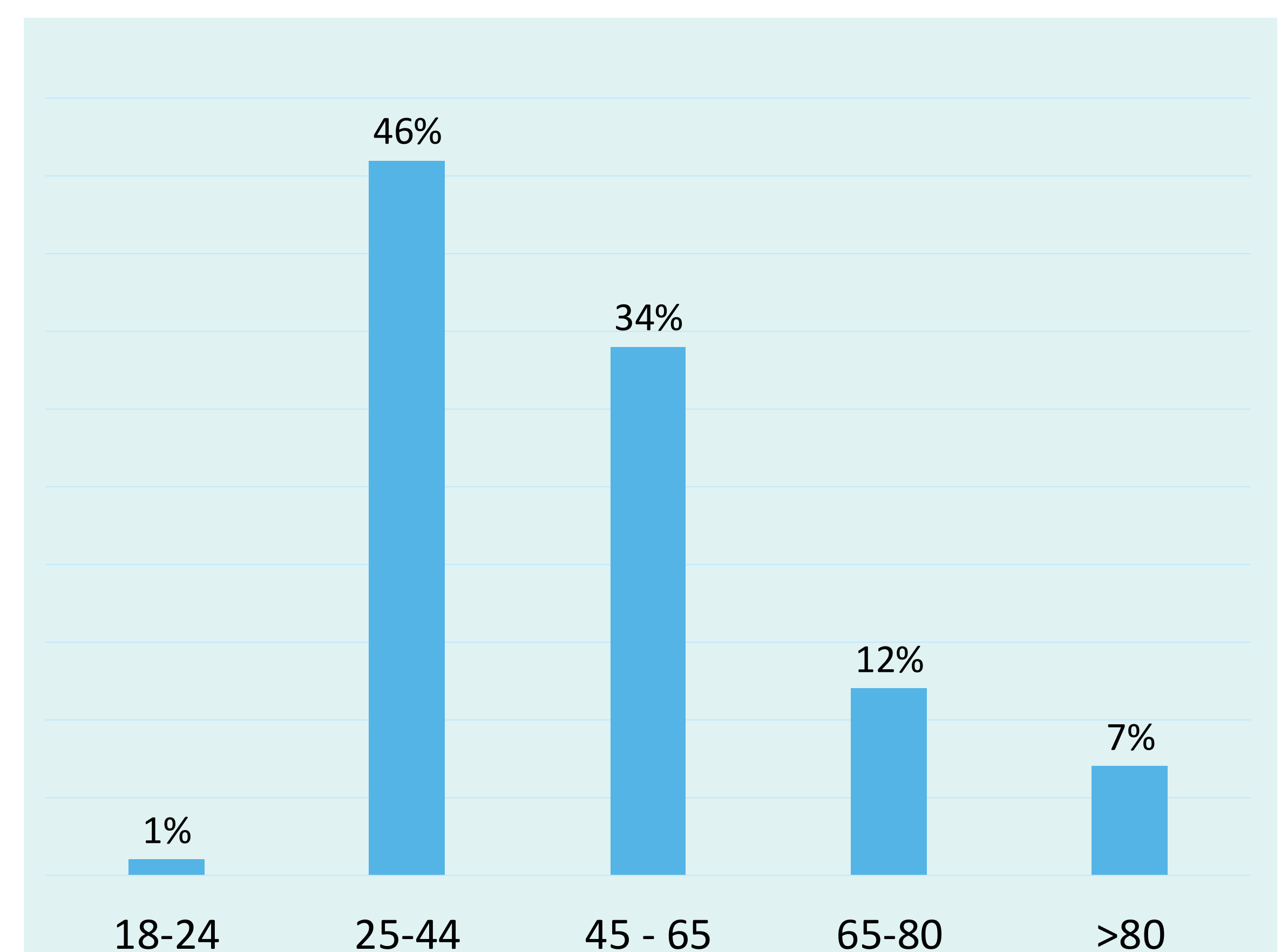


Figure 2: Age of Patients Attending Clinic

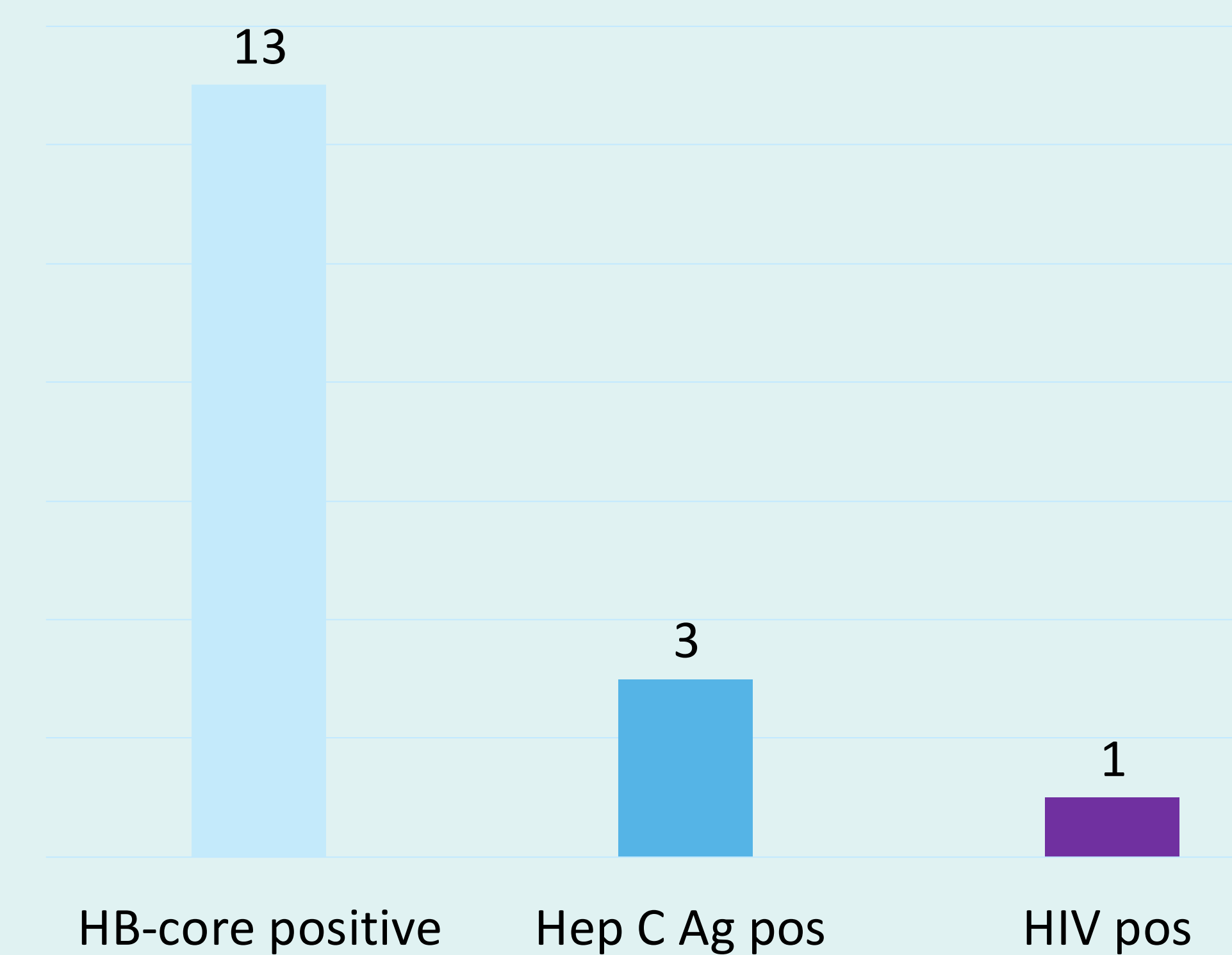


Figure 3: BBV Screening Results

References

1. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Public health guidance on screening and vaccination for infectious diseases in newly arrived migrants within the EU/EEA.
2. Health Service Executive 2023. HSE Health Response for Refugees & Applicants Seeking Protection. Service Delivery Model.
3. Teymur Noori et al. Strengthening screening for infectious diseases and vaccination among migrants in Europe: What is needed to close the implementation gaps? Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease, Volume 39, 2021.
4. World Health Organization Global Hepatitis Report 2017. Geneva: 2017.
5. Recommended 2030 targets for HIV. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Geneva, 2025.