



A One Year Review of Sexually Transmitted Infections in a HIV Clinic Population – An Observational Study



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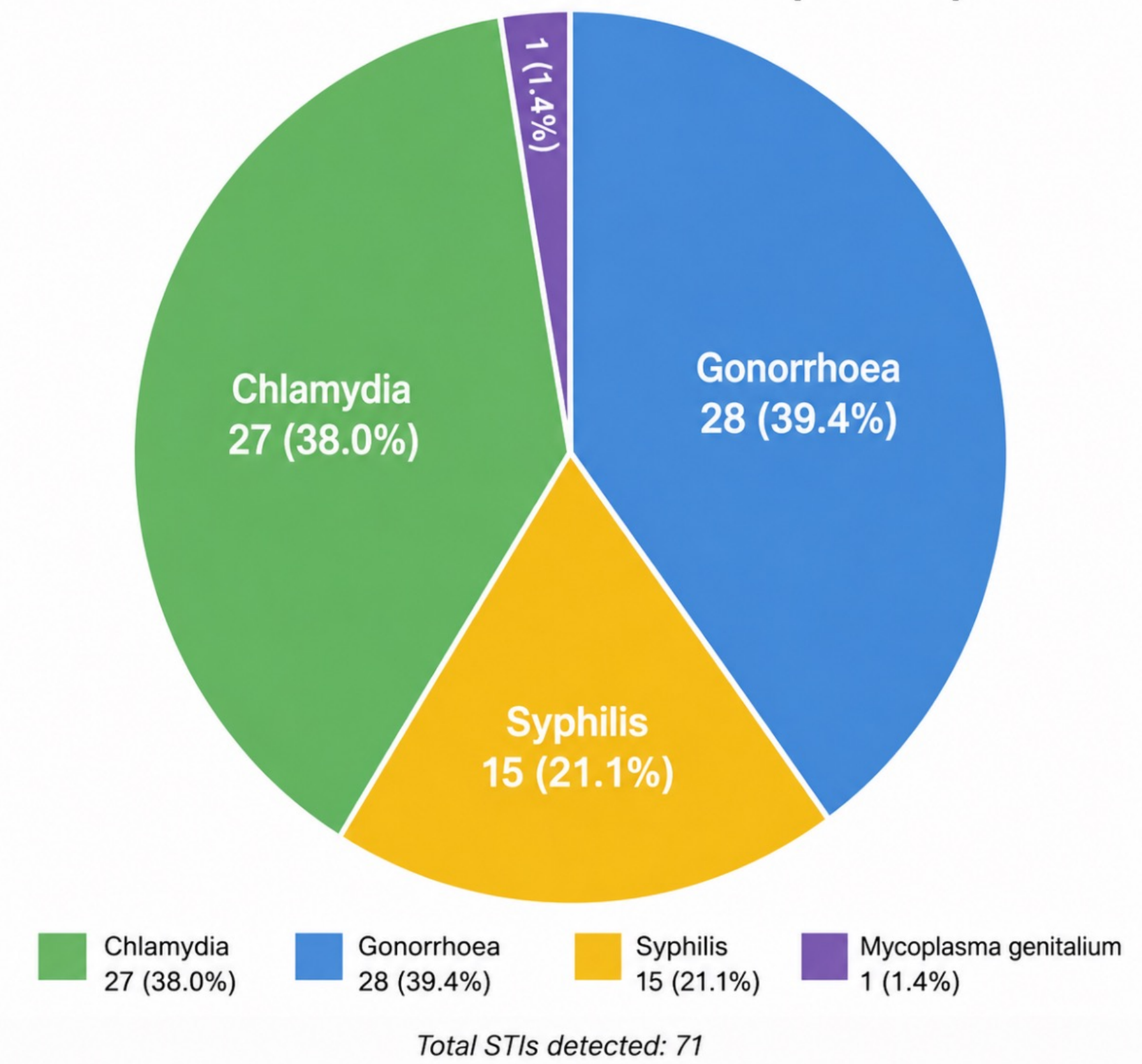
INTRODUCTION

- Sexually transmitted infection (STI) rates among people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) are significantly higher than in the general population, both in Ireland and across the world.^{1,2}
- Recent Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) data report that 12% of first-time HIV diagnoses were co-infected with at least one STI. These rates were higher among Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (gbMSM) at 23%.¹
- Over the past five years, STI diagnoses in Ireland have increased by over 30%, despite an 11% decrease in notifications in 2024.³
- Chlamydia remains the most commonly diagnosed STI, followed by gonorrhoea, with gbMSM accounting for 90% of gonorrhoea, 93% of early infectious syphilis, and 100% of lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) cases.²
- A significant number of STIs are detected with home testing. In 2024, home testing accounted for almost 50% of chlamydia and 29% of gonorrhoea.⁴

RESULTS

- During the study period, 820 patients attended the HIV clinic. Fifty-six patients tested positive for at least one STI (prevalence 6.8%), including 50 gbMSM and 6 women.
- There were a total of 71 positive STI tests over the 12 month time period.
- Ages ranged from 23 to 71 years old, with the most common age group being 30 – 39.
- Five patients tested positive on two occasions, and two patients on three occasions.
- The most common pathogen that patients tested positive for was *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (39.4%), followed by *Chlamydia trachomatis* (38%), *Treponema pallidum* (21%), and *Mycoplasma genitalium* (1.4%).
- Test-of-cure was performed in 68% of gonorrhoea cases. All of which were negative.
- 50% of gonorrhoea samples were sent for culture, with two positive results. There was no data on antimicrobial resistance profile published.

STIs Detected in 2025 (n = 71)



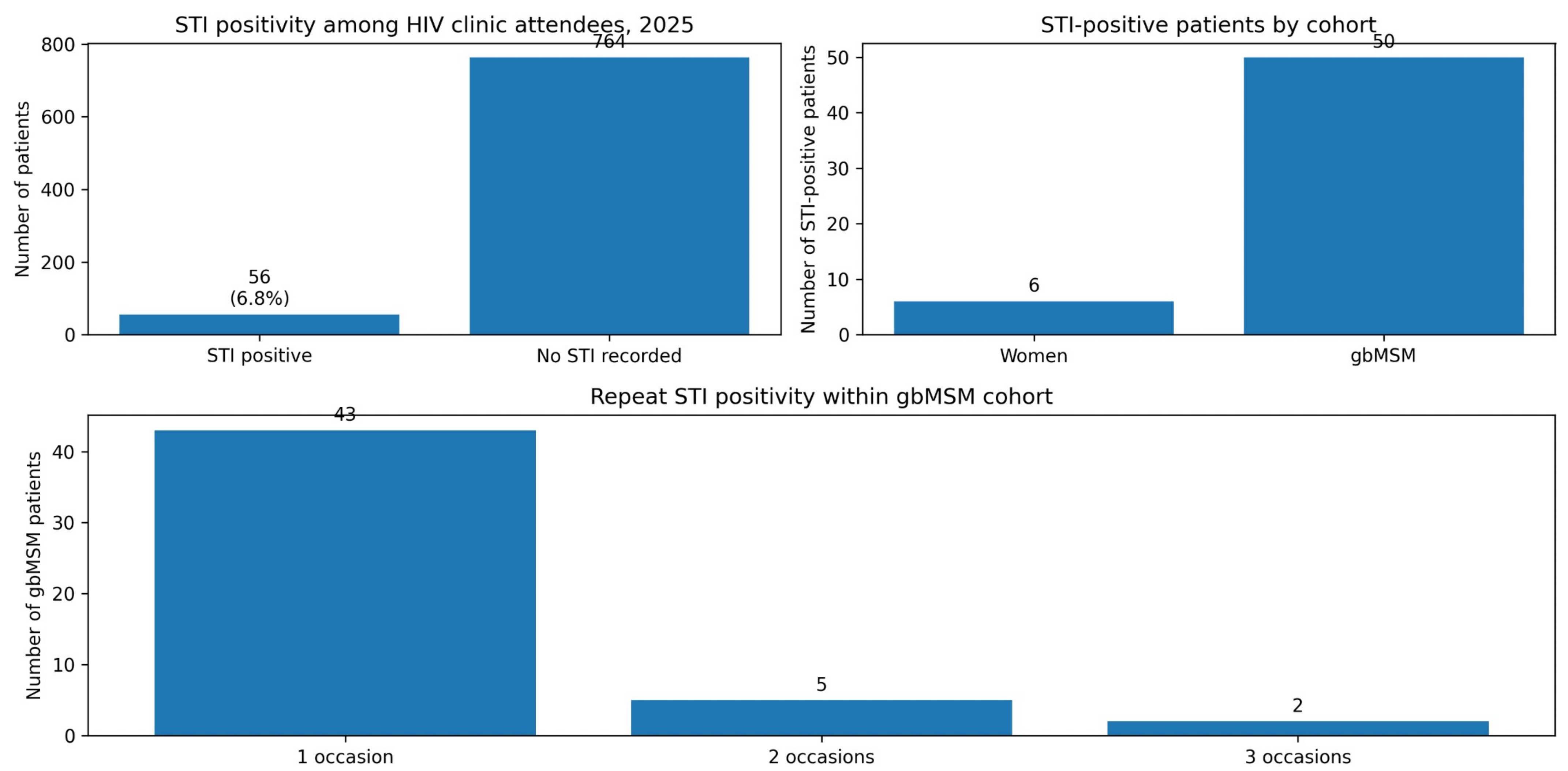
AIMS

- This study aimed to evaluate STI prevalence, characteristics, and screening practices in an HIV clinic population, and assess whether screening adhered to best practice guidelines.

METHODS

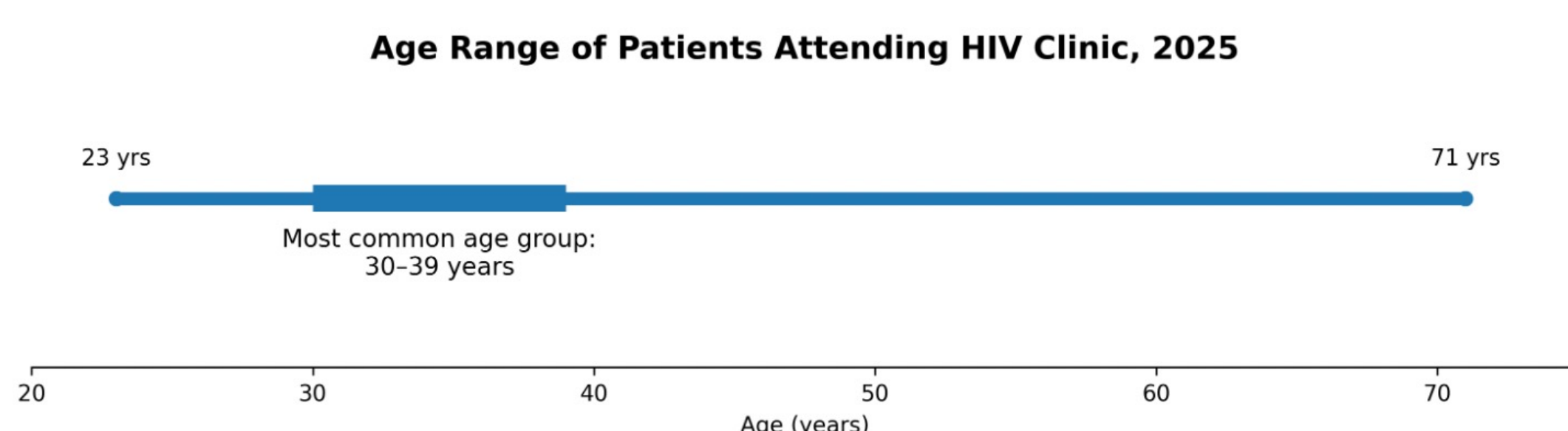
- Data were manually extracted from a database of patients testing positive for at least one STI while attending the HIV clinic from January to December 2025.
- Missing information was obtained via hospital laboratory interfaces.
- Parameters included patient age, sex, pathogen, number of positive tests, screening frequency, test-of-cure rates, and culture rates

HIV Clinic STI Summary, 2025



DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

- STI prevalence in this HIV clinic cohort was lower than national rates¹, though factors such as at-home testing and attendance at other clinics may contribute.
- The cohort testing positive was older than the national average.
- The majority of STIs were detected within gbMSM. Nevertheless, a considerable proportion of women living with HIV also tested positive, emphasising the need for ongoing and routine STI screening within this population.
- Despite lower overall prevalence, there is a risk for repeat STI infection in gbMSM cohort which emphasises the need for regular and opportunistic screening at clinic attendances.
- This study highlight the ongoing need for targeted awareness, education, and adherence to screening guidelines to prevent STI transmission in people living with HIV.



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