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Assessing the HIV care continuum among transgender women in the Netherlands

Does HIV care retention differ from men who have sex with men?

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Disclosures

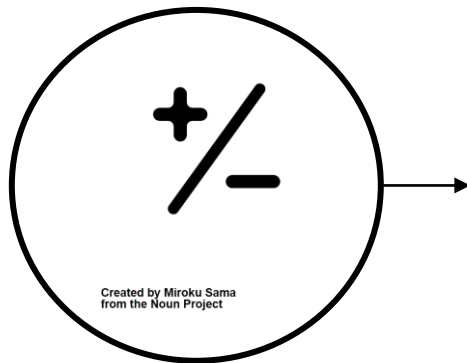
Nothing to disclose

Background

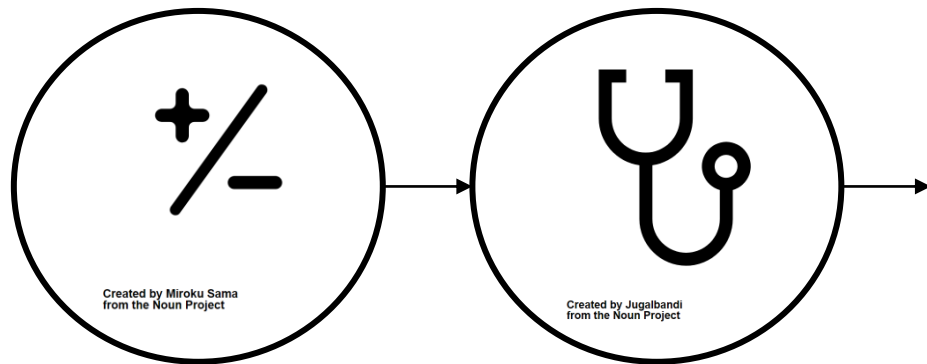
- Transgender women are at increased risk for HIV^{1,2}
- Retention in HIV care, uptake and adherence to ART and viral suppression are suboptimal among transgender women^{3,4}
- HIV care continuum is a pivotal instrument to monitor the HIV epidemic

1. Stutterheim et al. 2021 PLoS ONE
2. Baral et al. 2013 Lancet ID
3. Cloete et al. 2023 Lancet HIV
4. Baguso et al. JIAS

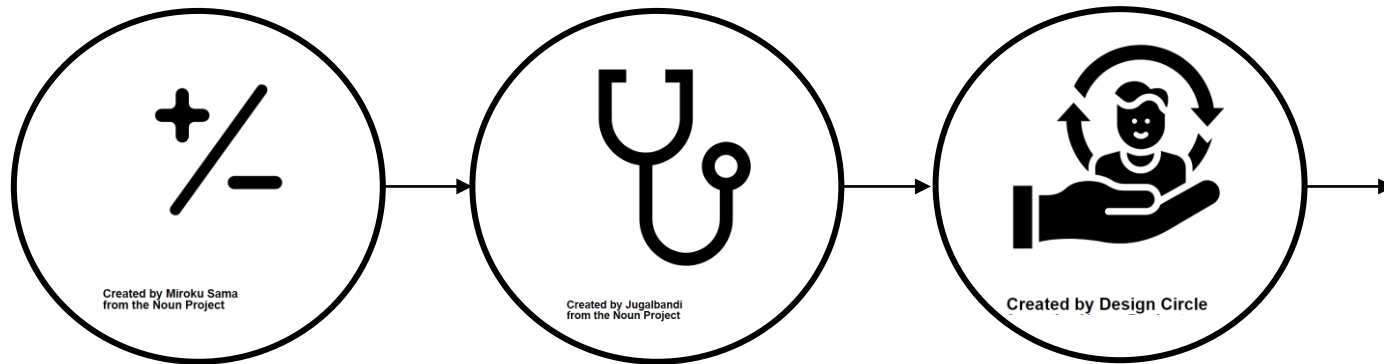
HIV care continuum



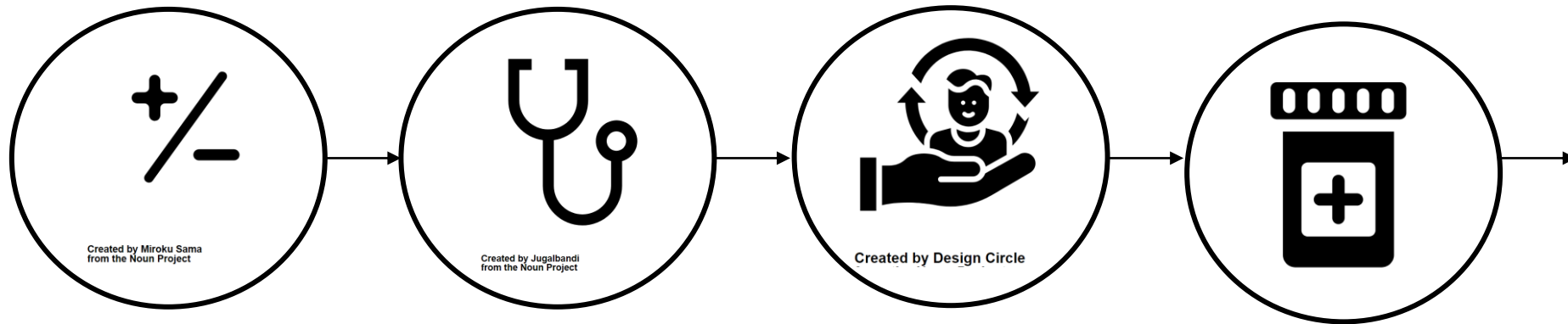
HIV care continuum



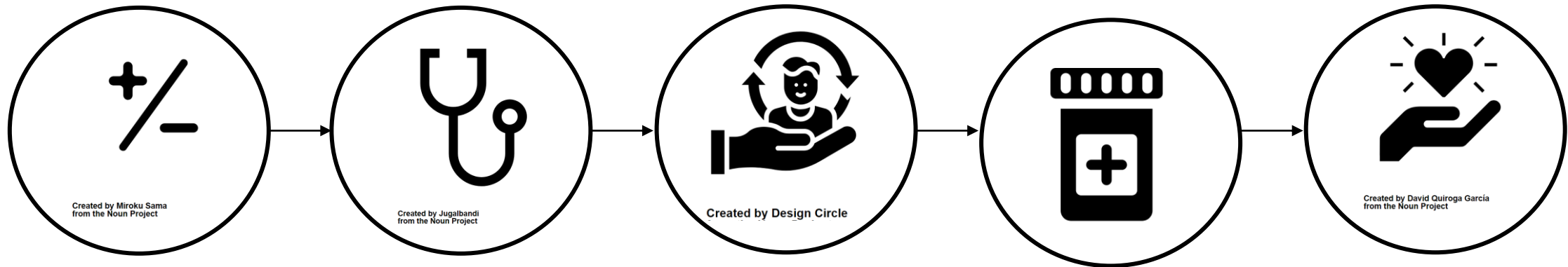
HIV care continuum



HIV care continuum



HIV care continuum



Background

HIV care continuum among transgender women in NL not previously assessed

1. Stutterheim et al. 2021 PLoS ONE
2. Baral et al. 2013 Lancet ID
3. Cloete et al. 2023 Lancet HIV
4. Baguso et al. JIAS

AIM

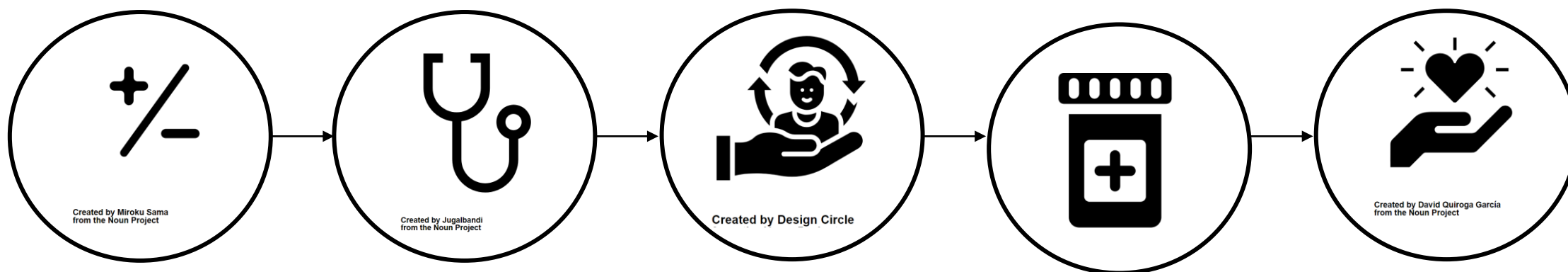
1. Compare the stages of the HIV care continuum between transgender women and men who have sex with men (MSM)
2. Assess proportion of new HIV diagnoses among all people in care
 1. Assess proportion of late diagnoses
3. Assess disengagement from care

Methods

- HIV care is provided by 24 HIV treatment centres
- The Dutch HIV Monitoring Foundation collects data of 98% of individuals in care (ATHENA cohort)
- Data from 2011 to 2021

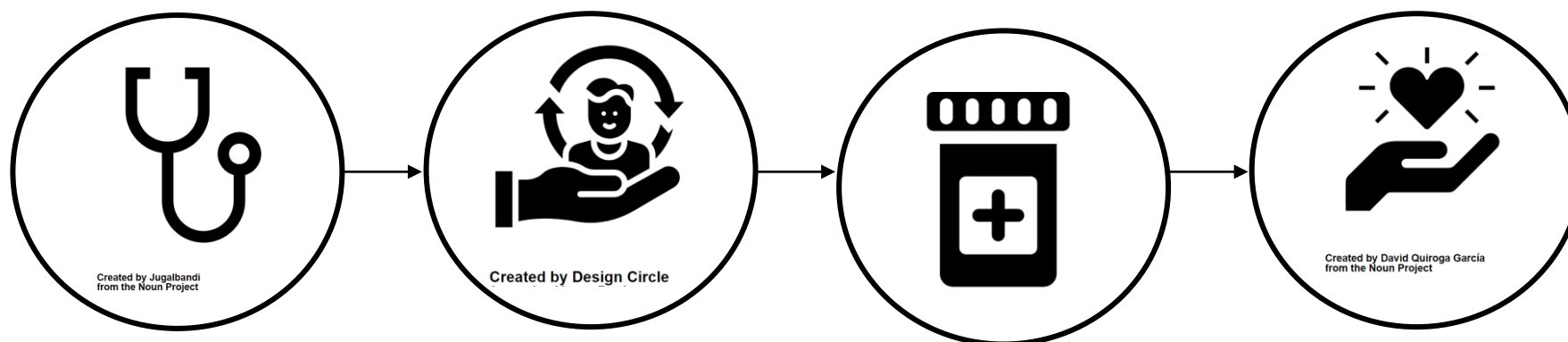
Methods

- HIV care continuum estimated for stage 2-5 of cascade



Methods

- HIV care continuum estimated for stage 2-5 of cascade



Methods



Created by Jugalbandi
from the Noun Project

All individuals with HIV alive and in care as of 2010



Created by Design Circle

Linked individuals who attended ≥ 1 clinical visit

Methods



Retained individuals who received ART for ≥ 6 months



Individuals on ART with an undetectable viral load (<200 copies/mL)

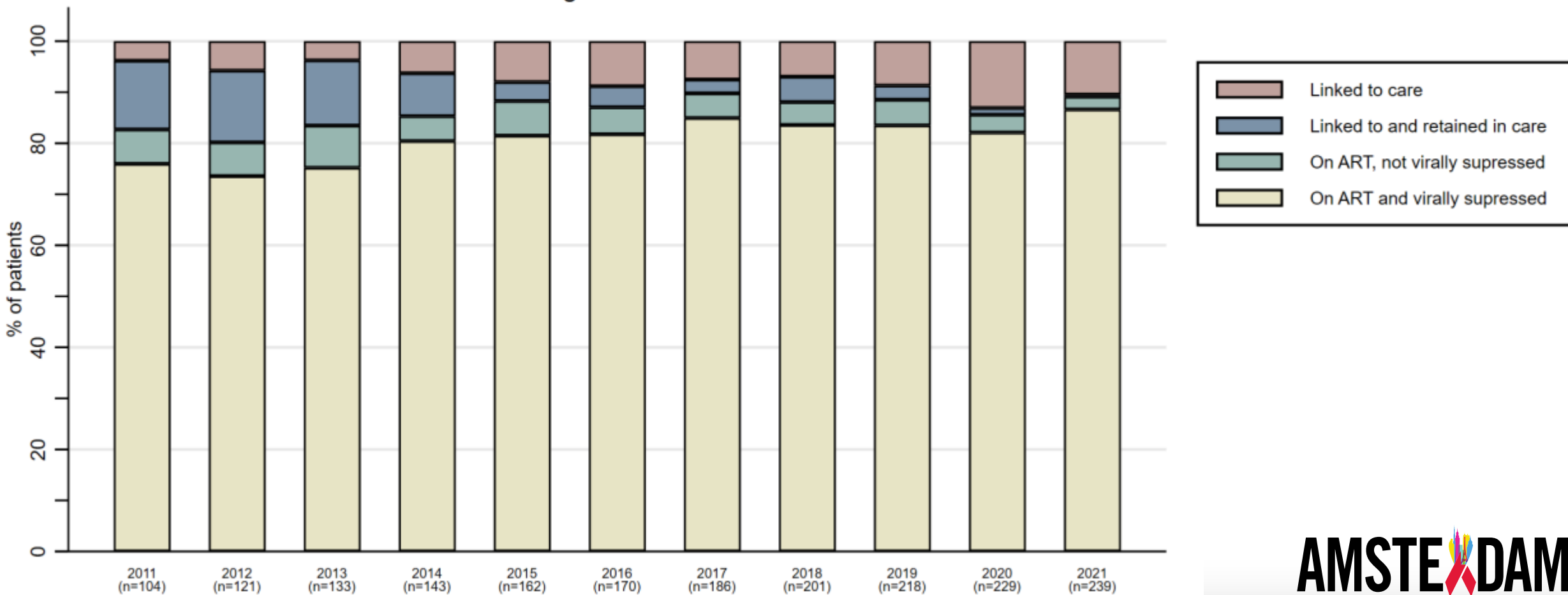
Created by David Quiroga Garcia
from the Noun Project

Results

- 15,819 individuals attended ≥ 1 clinical visit between 2011-2021
 - 260 transgender women
 - 15,559 MSM

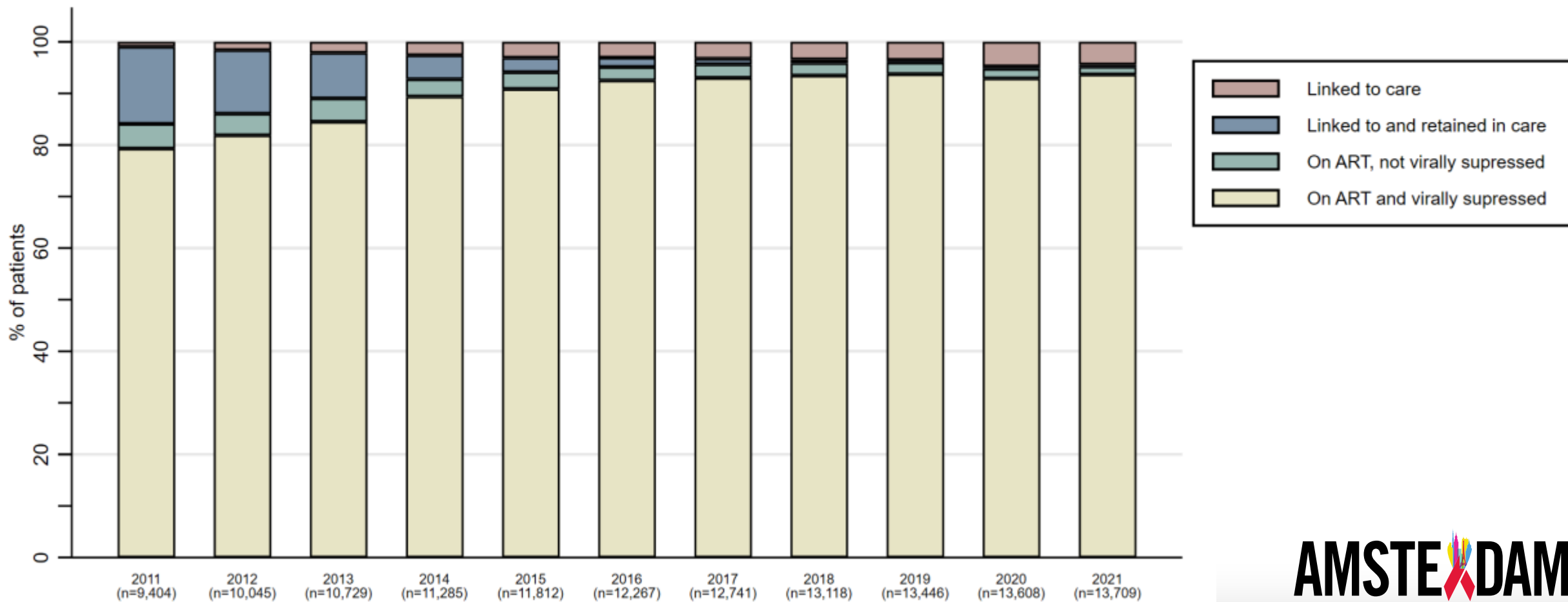
Results

Transgender women

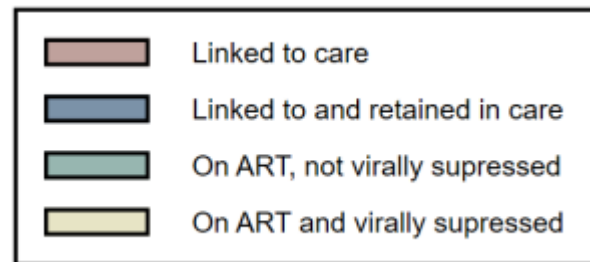
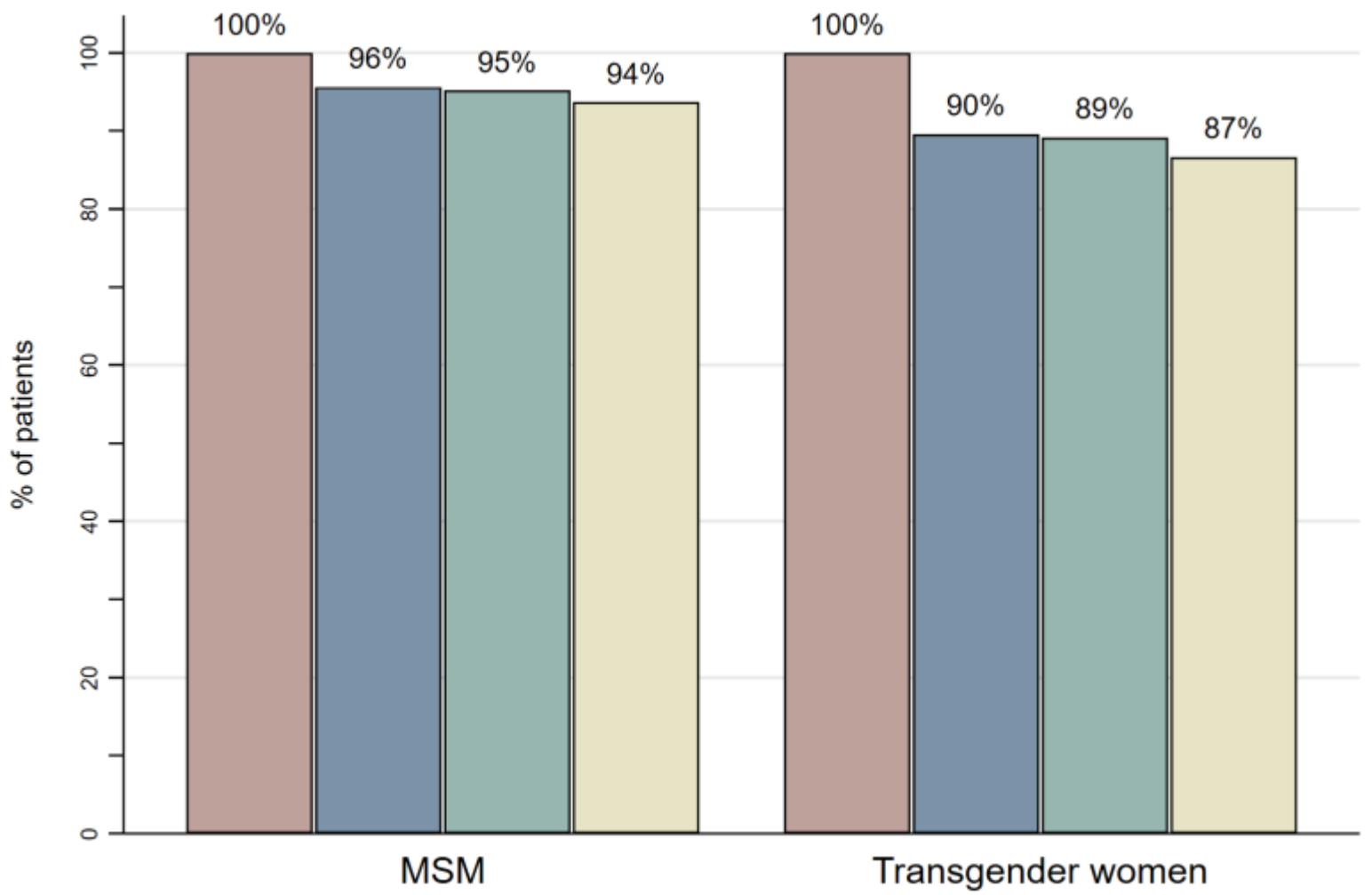


Results

Men who have sex with men



Results (2021)



Results

- New HIV diagnoses were stable between 2011 and 2021 for transgender women ($p_{\text{trend}} = 0.053$)
 - Decreased for MSM ($p_{\text{trend}} < 0.001$)

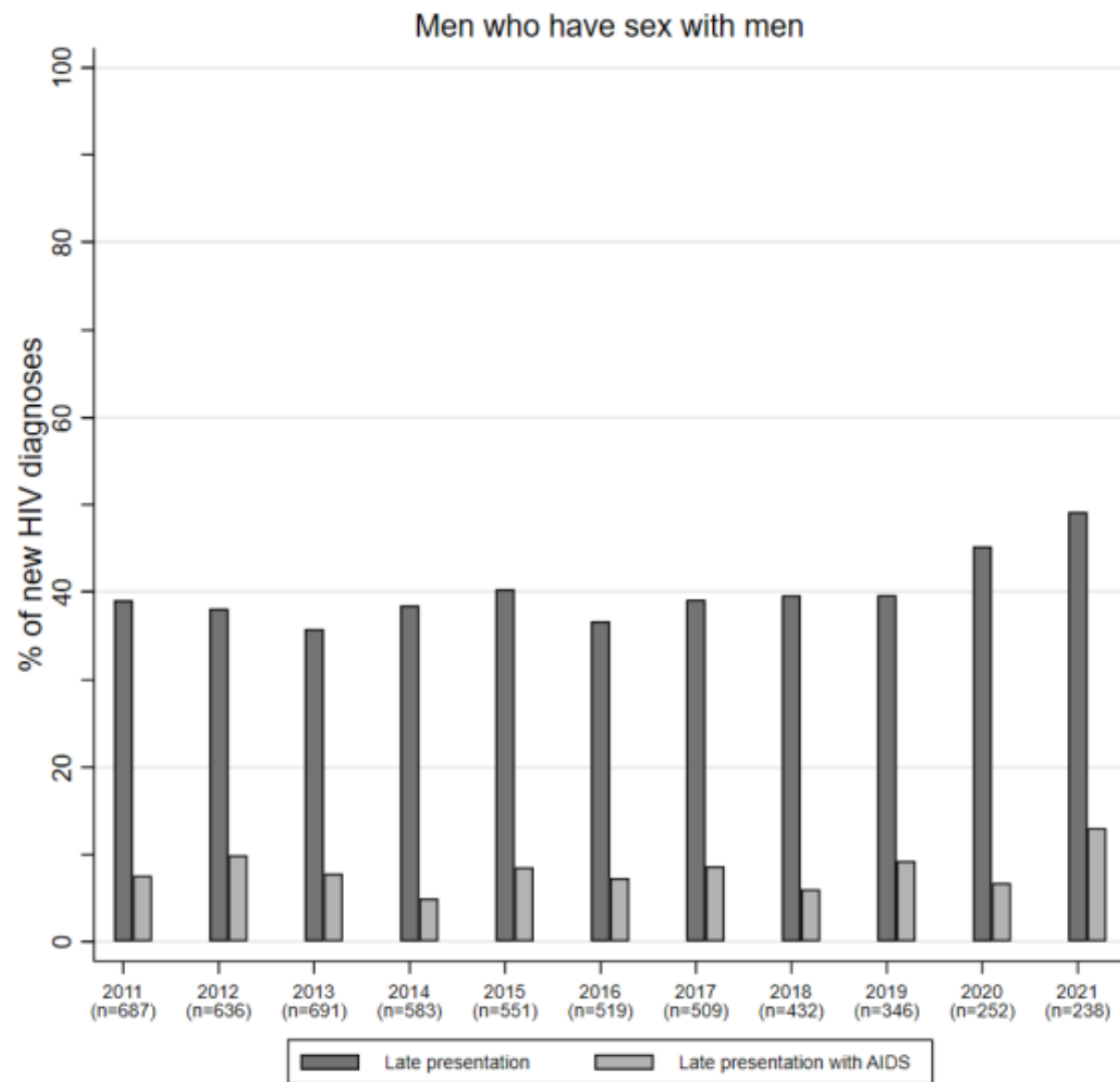
Results

- Late presentation fluctuated over time for transgender women



Results

- Late presentation increased for MSM ($p=0.005$)



Results

- 1,286/15,819 (8%) individuals were disengaged from care
- Incidence rate of disengagement was 1.91 (95%CI 1.33-2.75) times higher among transgender women than MSM
- Reason for disengagement: moving or unknown

Conclusions

- Over 11 years, majority of transgender women with HIV were virally suppressed
- **BUT HIV care continuum still less optimal across its stages for transgender women and less progress over time**
- **Late presentation is common**

Conclusion



- Identifying facilitators and barriers to HIV care is crucial
- **Design targeted intervention with the transgender community to improve HIV care retention and outcomes**

Acknowledgements



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