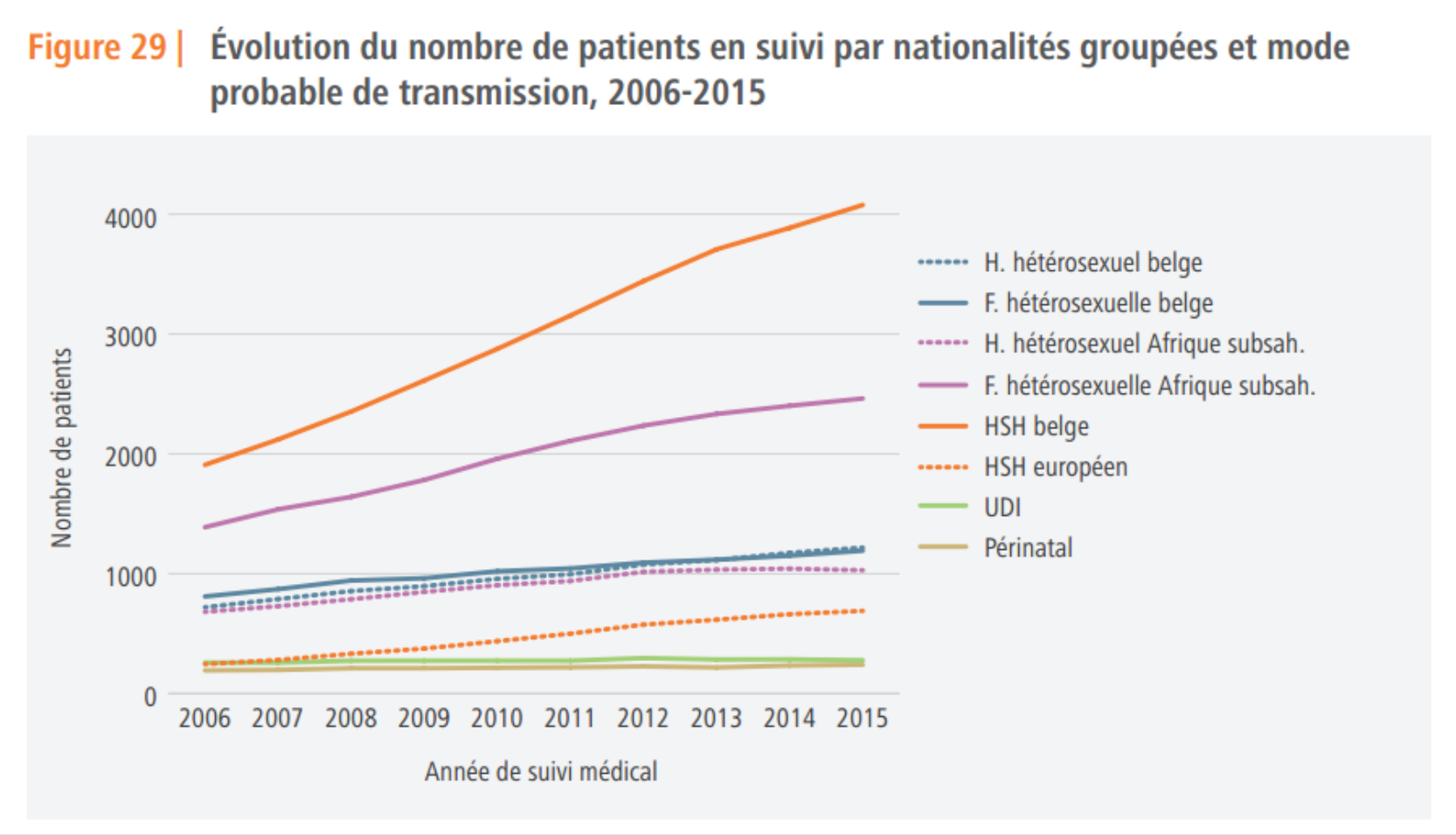


Epidemiology

The HIV epidemic in our country is essentially involving two groups: men who have sex with men (MSM), and people who have contracted the virus through heterosexual intercourse. The former are below 200 copies/ml. The proportion of diagnosed of mainly Belgian origin, the latter rather Sub-Saharan African. Only 0.5% of cases are related to intravenous drug use (fig29). Since the introduction of antiretroviral therapy (ART), HIV patients live longer resulting in a prevalence increase despite decreasing incidence rates.



Source : Sasse A, Deblonde J, Jamine D, Ost C, Van Beckhoven D. Epidémiologie du sida et de l'infection à VIH en Belgique (situation au 31 décembre 2016), rapport de l'Institut scientifique de Santé publique, www.wiv-sp.be. Available from : <https://epidemiologie.wiv-isp.be/ID/reports/%C3%89pid%C3%A9miologie%20du%20sida%20et%20de%20l'infection%20%C3%A0%20VIH%20en%20Belgique.%20Rapport%20annuel%202016.pdf>.

PREP IN BELGIUM (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

In order to end AIDS epidemic and achieve the goal of 90 90 90, many strategies have been implemented, like PEP, PrEP and outreach HIV and STI screening. Truvada as preexposure prophylaxis is reimbursed since June 2017 for high risk HIV exposure patients. On 28 February 2018, a total of 1352 requests for re-imbursement had been approved by the National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance

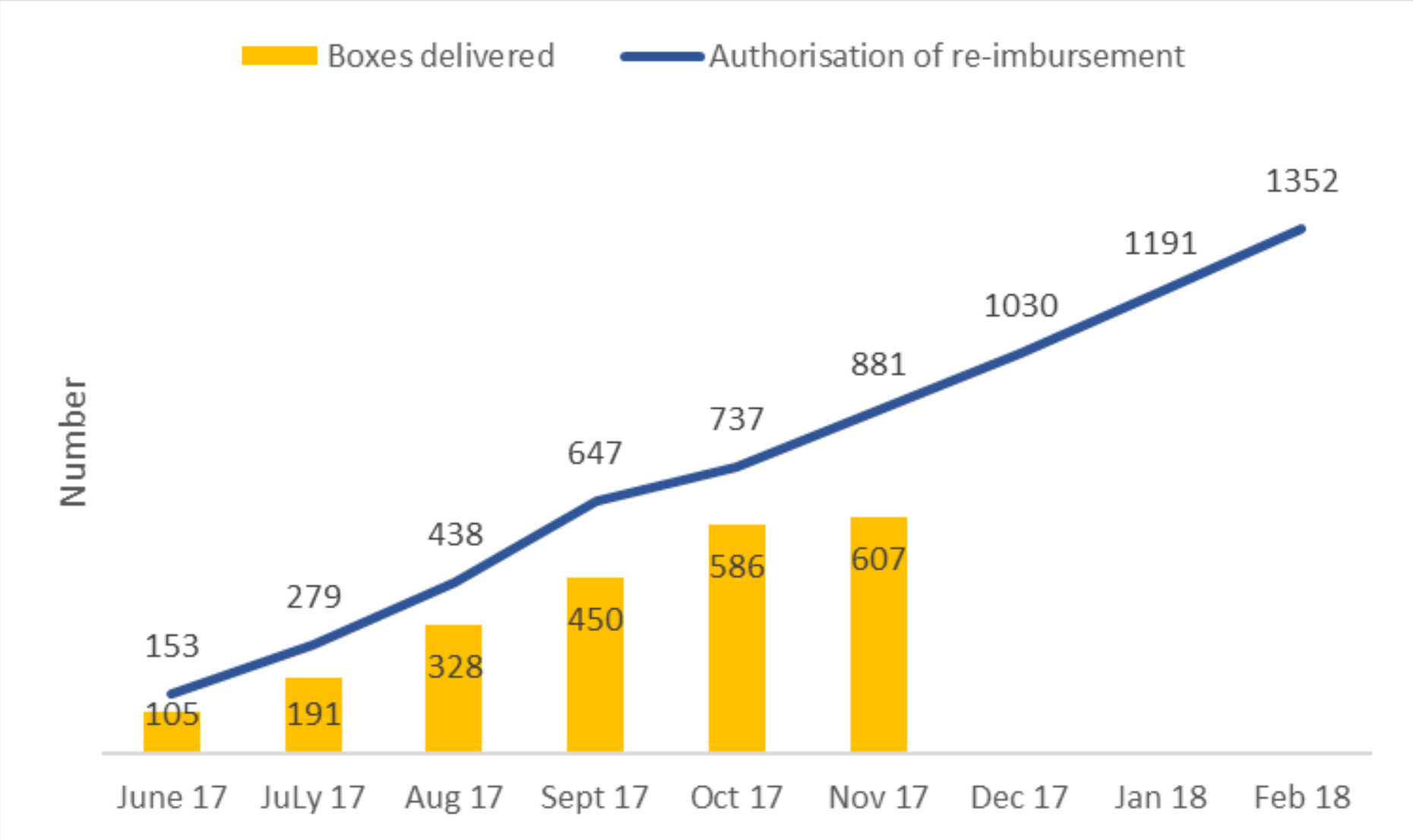


Table 1: Number and characteristics of PrEP users in seven ARCs in Belgium (until 28 February 2018)

LATE PRESENTERS (LP): DATA FROM 3 INDEPENDENT CENTRES

Late presenters and people not aware of their HIV-status, or those lost to follow-up, contribute to the transmission of the virus and are also victims of high morbidity and increased short term mortality.

Ghent: From 45 hospitalized HIV+ patients between January 2017 and June 2018, 18 were LP (14 new diagnosis, 4 were lost to follow-up) with AIDS related disease at time of diagnoses, frequently cerebral symptoms were present.

Similarly in **CHR** from 14 hospitalized patients, 8 were in AIDS stadium.

Fig: Exemples of AIDS related disease as presented in our respective clinics: Upper left: pneumocystis pneumonia, Upper right; Progressive Multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML), Lower left: cerebral toxoplasmosis, lower right: oral Kaposi

CHU: From 687 patients followed between January 2006 to July 2017, 44% of the patients were LP and 24% were late presenters with advanced disease (LP-AD) (presenting for care with CD4 T cells <200/mm3 or an AIDS defining event). A very high risk of being LP and LP-AD was associated with Sub-Saharan origin (OR 3.4 and 2.6 respectively).

