



The HIV epidemic in Denmark

Line Dahlerup Rasmussen, MD, PhD, DMSci

Department of Infectious Diseases, Odense University Hospital, J. B. Winsløwvej 4, 5000 Odense C, Denmark

Setting:

The Danish population: 5.7 million

The estimated adult HIV prevalence: 0.1%

HIV testing: - is offered to people under an opt-in policy.

The Danish health care: - tax-supported. All Danish residents have free and direct access to primary and secondary health care

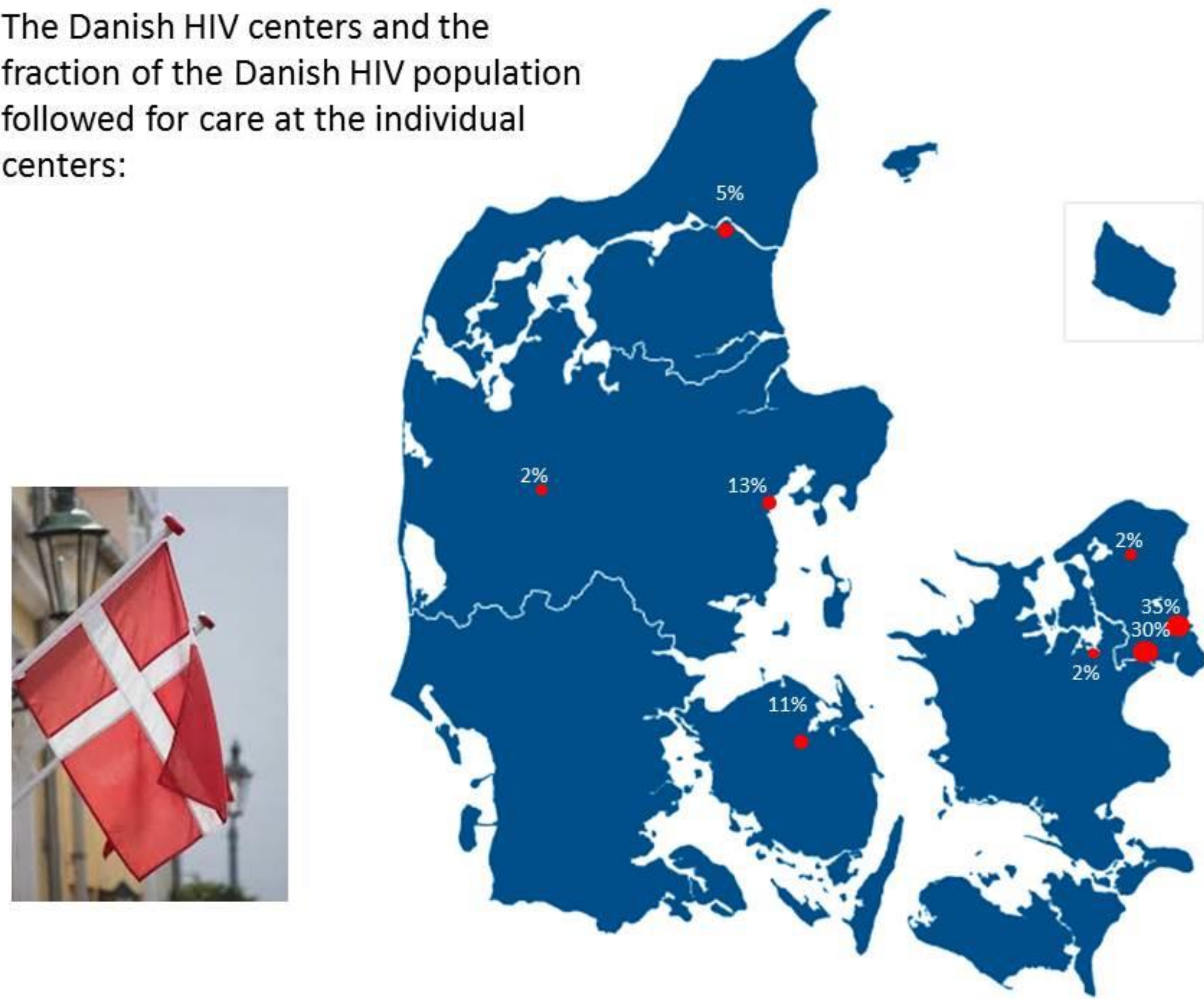
HIV treatment: - is restricted to eight specialized centers (Figure 1).

Patients are seen on an outpatient basis at intended intervals of 12-24 weeks. cART and PEP, but not PREP, is provided free-of-charge at one of the 8 centers. It is prescribed according to national guidelines and the Medicine Council (i.e. $\geq 60\%$ of treatment naïve HIV-infected individuals should be treated with lamivudin, tenofovir disoproxil and efavirenz)

HIV care: - is well organized with a high coverage rate and a low rate of loss to follow. Viral suppression rate is high and the rate of resistance low.

Figure 1:

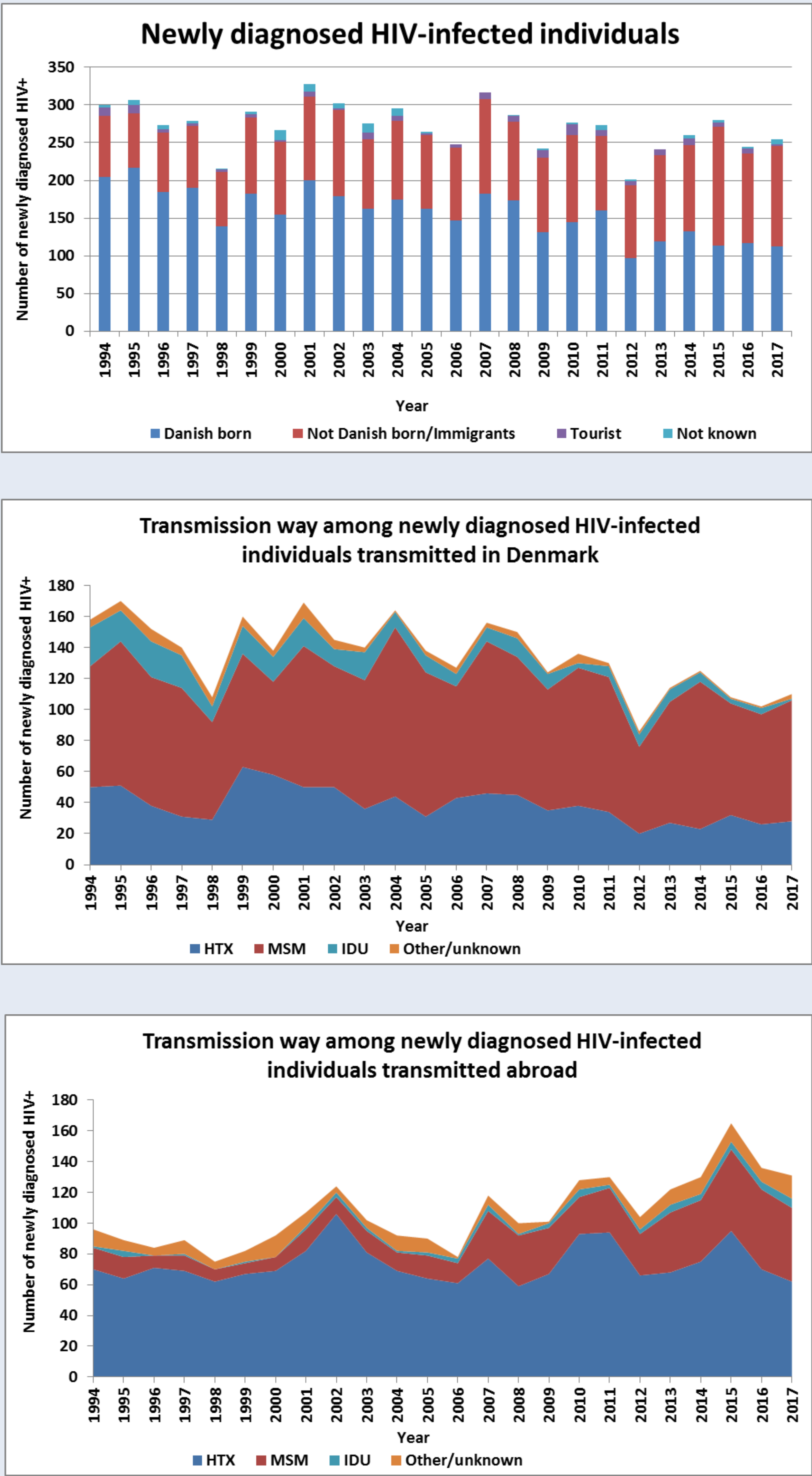
The Danish HIV centers and the fraction of the Danish HIV population followed for care at the individual centers:



People living with HIV (PLWH) in Denmark:

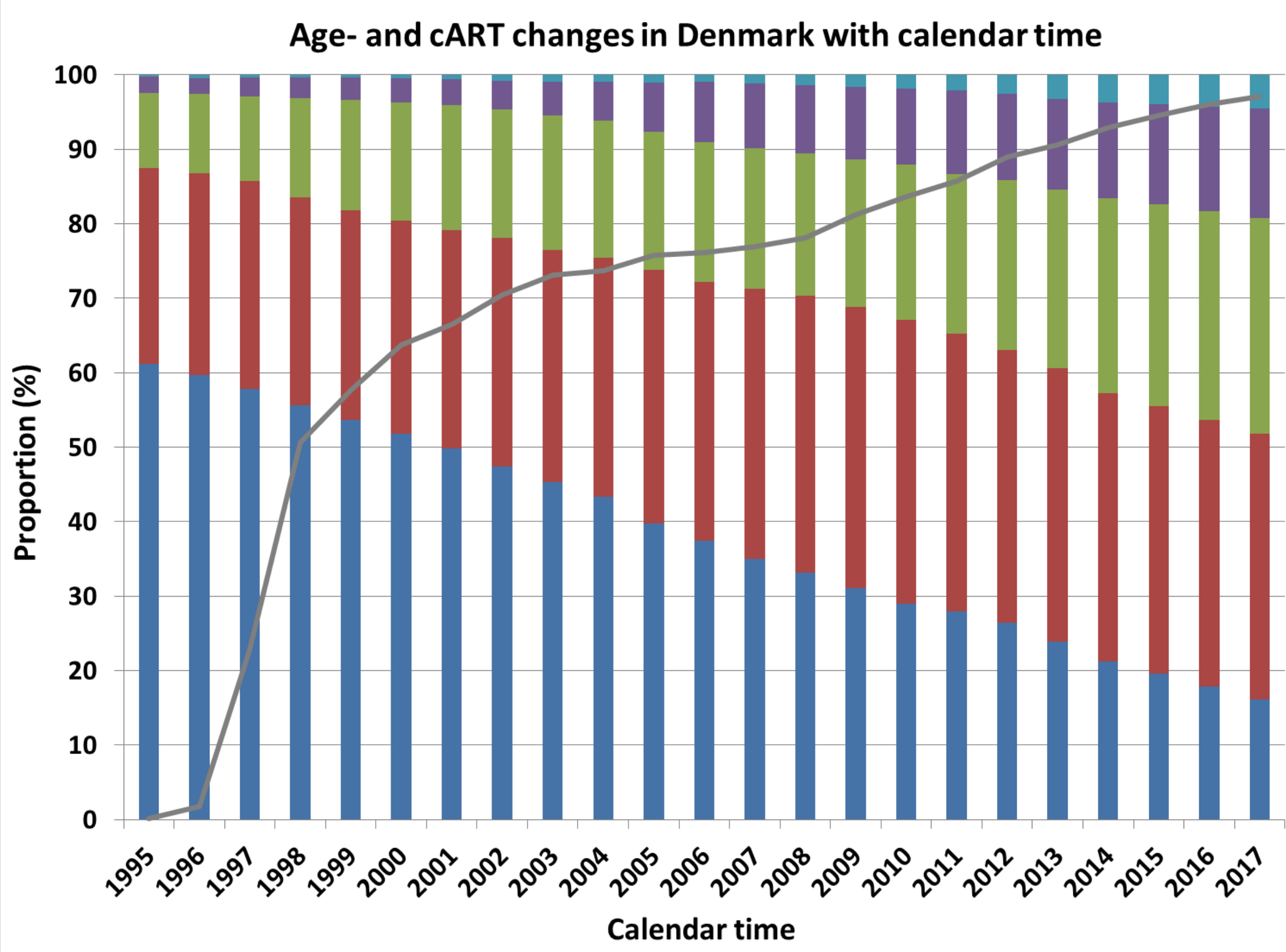
End of 2017: 4,938 PLWH > 16years were actively followed in Denmark. Approximately 70% were Danish born, 80% were males, and the majority were MSM (~ 45%). Only about 10% were transmitted by IDU. Among newly infected individuals, transmission due to IDU accounts for less than 5% (figure 2).

Figure 2:

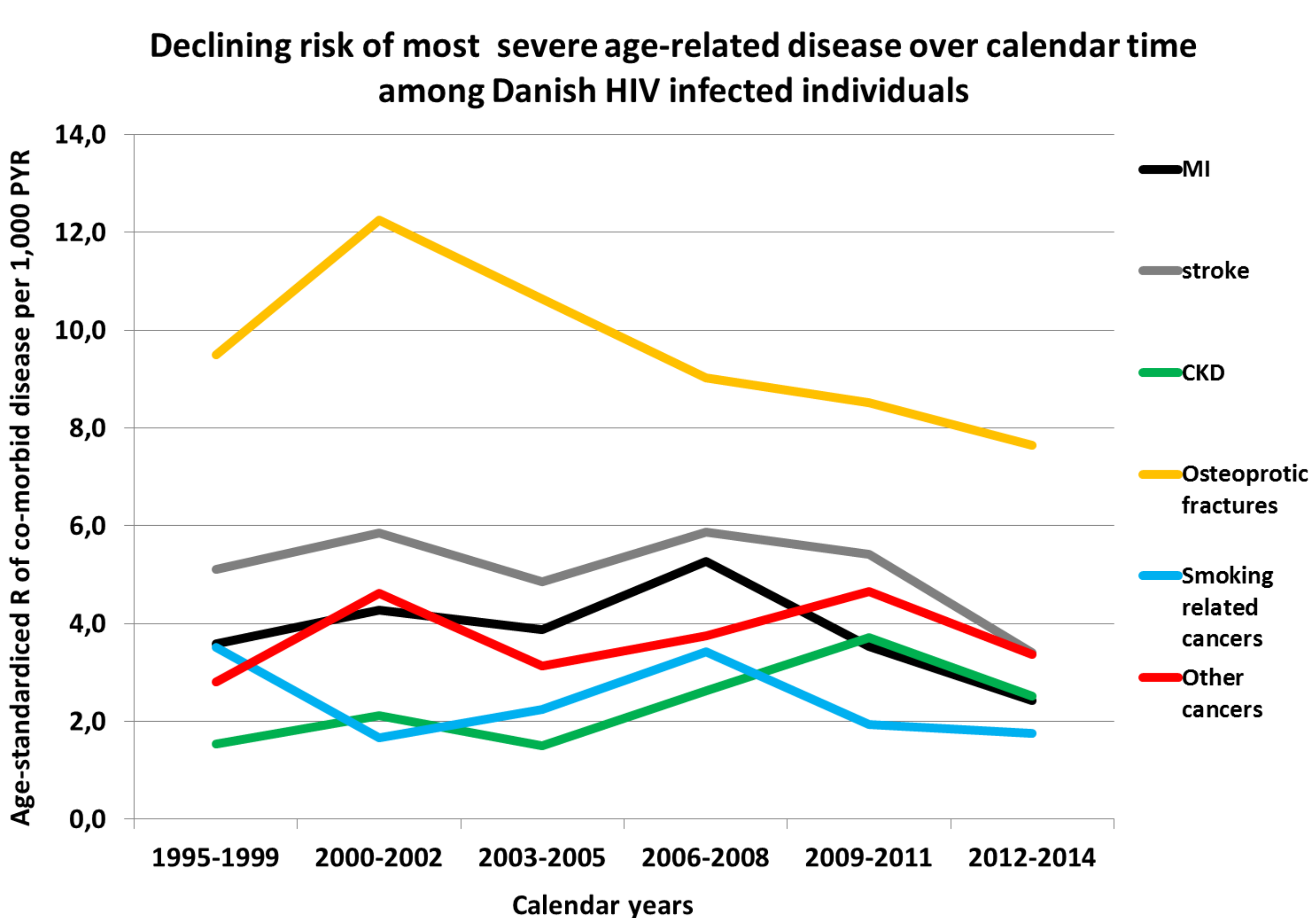


Surveillance data from "Statens Serum Institut".

Figure 3:



Data from the Danish HIV Cohort Study (DHCS) – data for year 2015-2017 are approximated.



Danish registries

As all individuals in Denmark are assigned a unique 10-digit personal identification number at birth or upon immigration => invaluable importance for epidemiological research as it enables a high degree of individual-level tracking in national healthcare registries and during follow-up.

In Denmark it is mandatory to register all newly diagnosed HIV+ individuals at "statens Serum Institut (SSI)". Furthermore, *The Danish HIV Cohort Study (DHCS)*, a nationwide, prospective, population-based study has registered all Danish HIV+ followed at the HIV centers since 1995.