

HIV, HBV AND HCV INFECTION AND LINKAGE TO CARE IN MIGRANTS: THE IMMIGRANT TAKE CARE ADVOCACY (I.Ta.C.A.) EXPERIENCE IN PALERMO

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team Palermo.

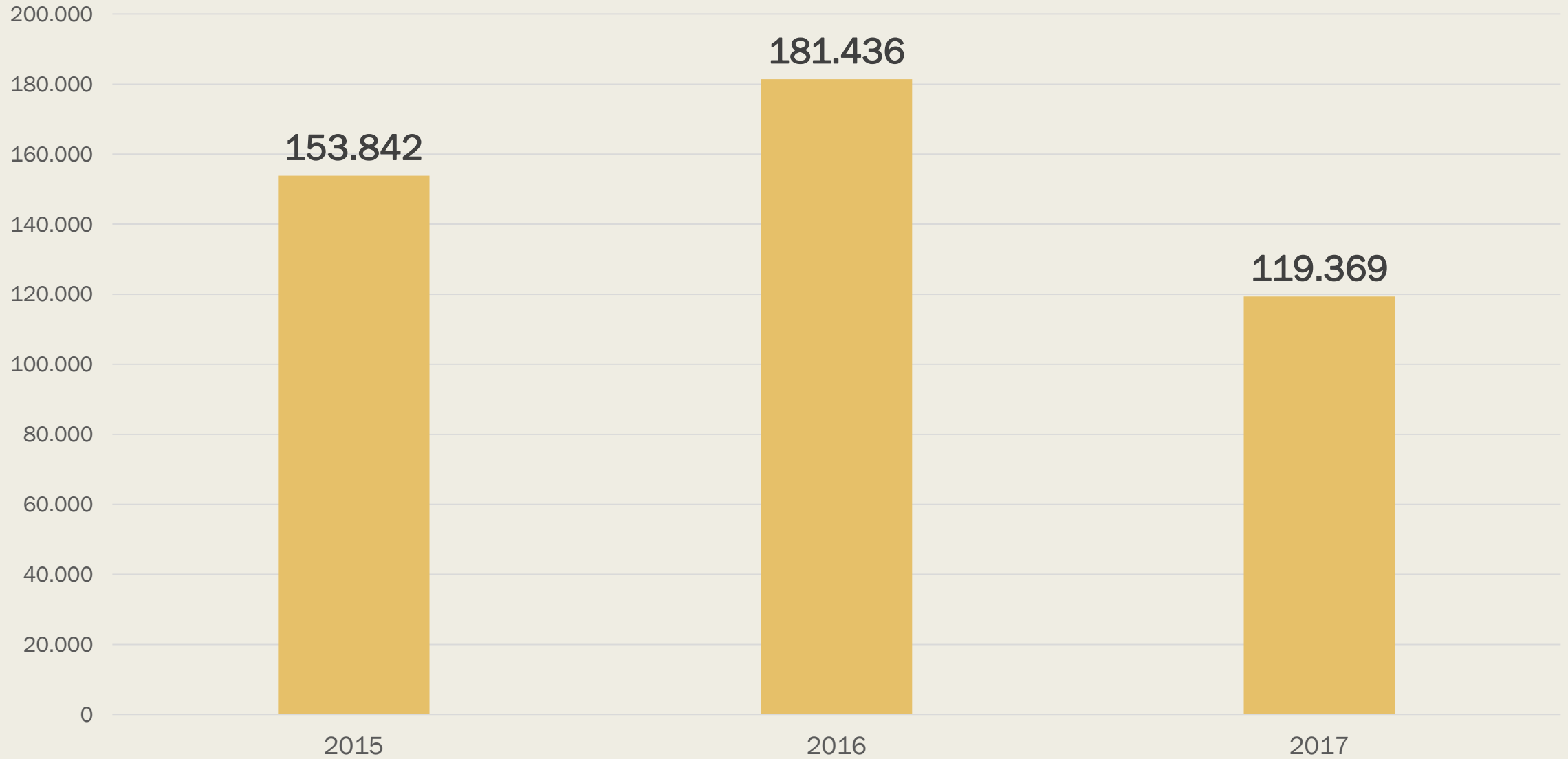
DISCLOSURES

- Nothing to disclose

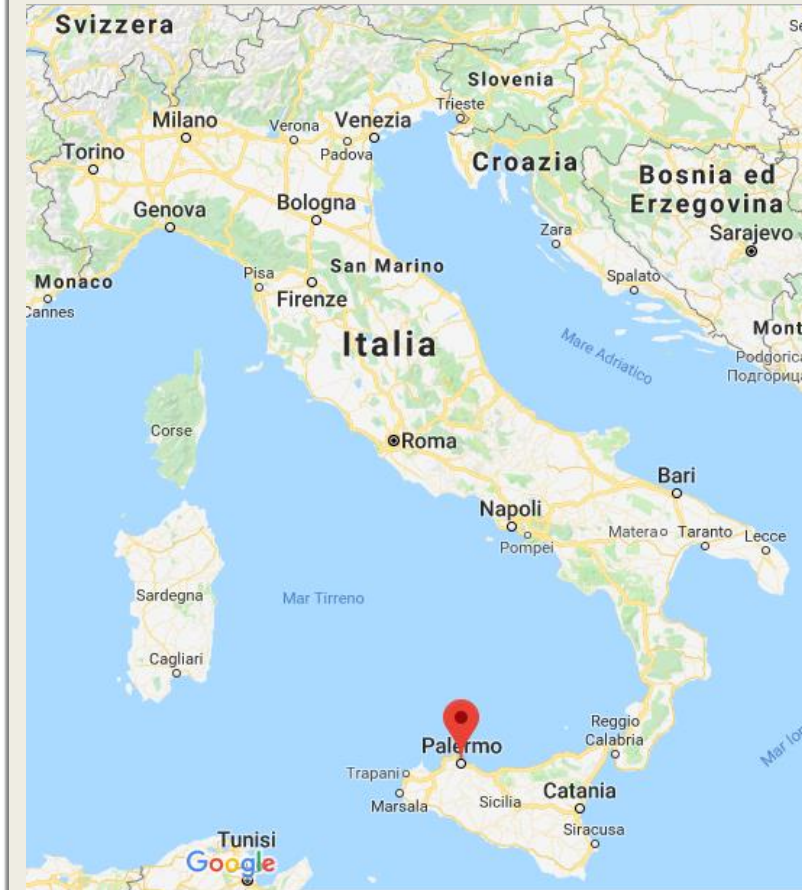
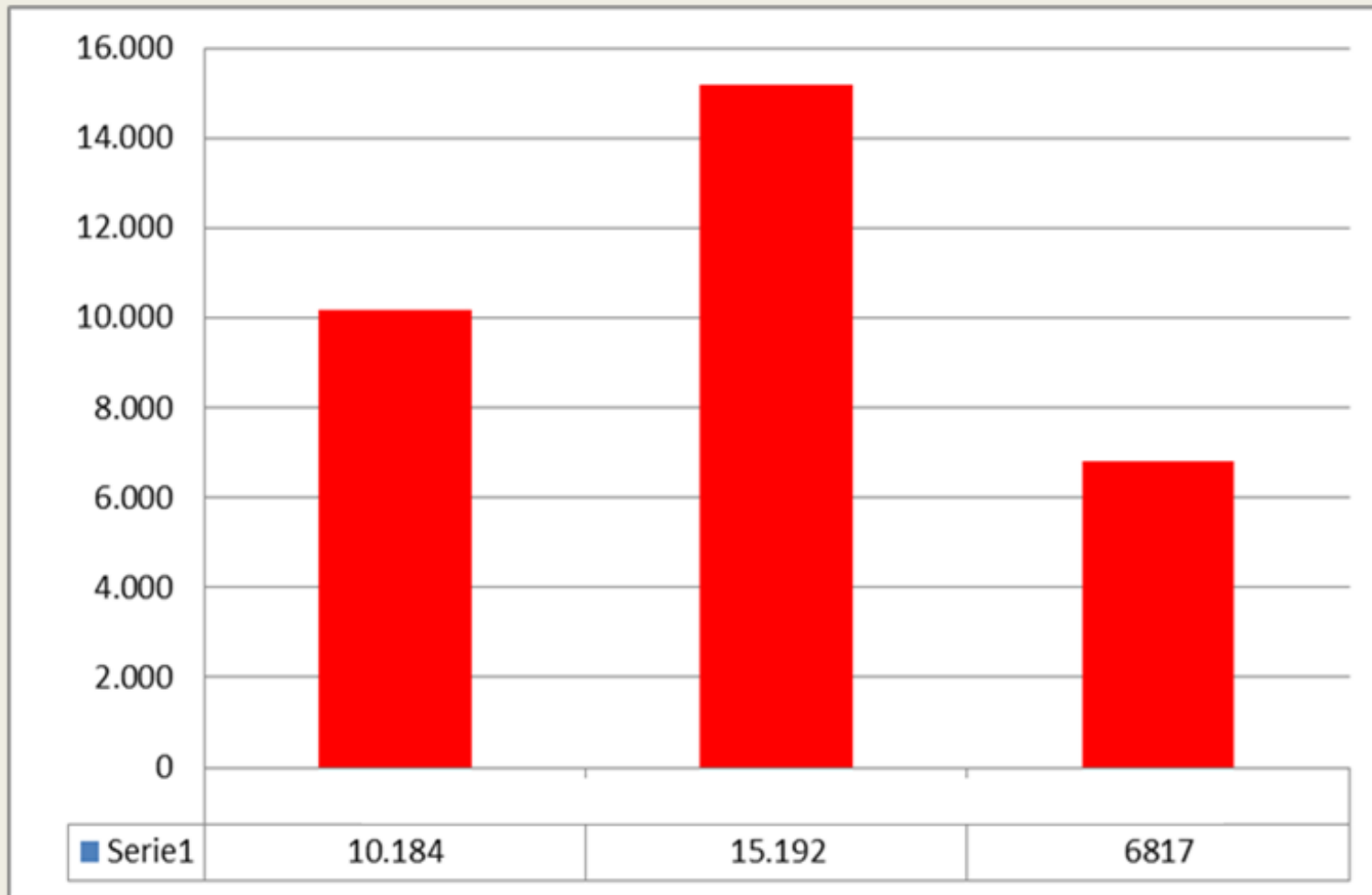
BACKGROUND

The massive and persistent boost of migration from the Mediterranean coasts highlighted critical issues in the health care management chronic infectious diseases related to HIV, HBV and HCV infection in migrant population.

Immigrants arrived in Italy during the triennium 2015-2017

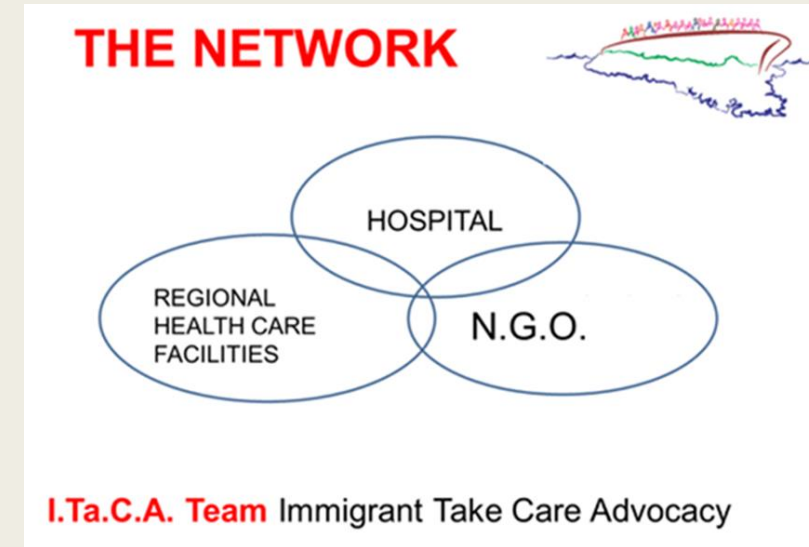


MIGRANTS ARRIVED IN PALERMO DURING THE TRIENNIUM 2015-2017



METHODS

- Upon arrival in western Sicily, migrants have been included in a not formal network (I. Ta C. A Team), that connects the local healthcare institutions, the reception centres on the territory, and Civico Benfratelli Hospital, Infectious Diseases Unit & Centre for Migration and Health in Palermo,
- Migrants were screened for HIV, HBV and HCV 4 to 6 weeks after arrival. For those subjects with one or more diagnosis of infectious diseases, after a proper transcultural counselling intervention, a program of diagnosis and cure was offered, according to the national guidelines



Courtesy of Dr. Tullio Prestileo



41 Centres

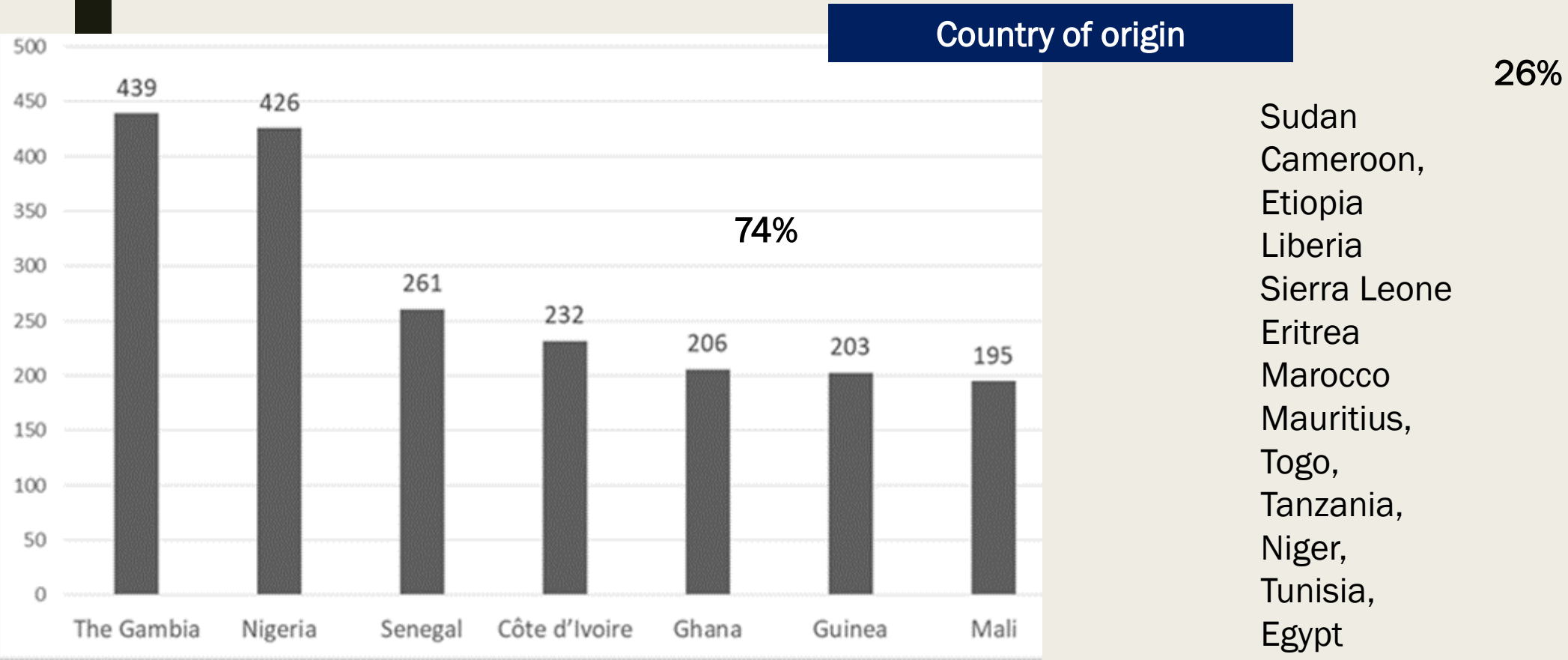
Palermo: 28

Trapani: 6

Agrigento 7

STUDY POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

- 2.639 migrants were observed during the triennium 2015-2017
- 28% women and 72% men
- Medium age of 24 years.

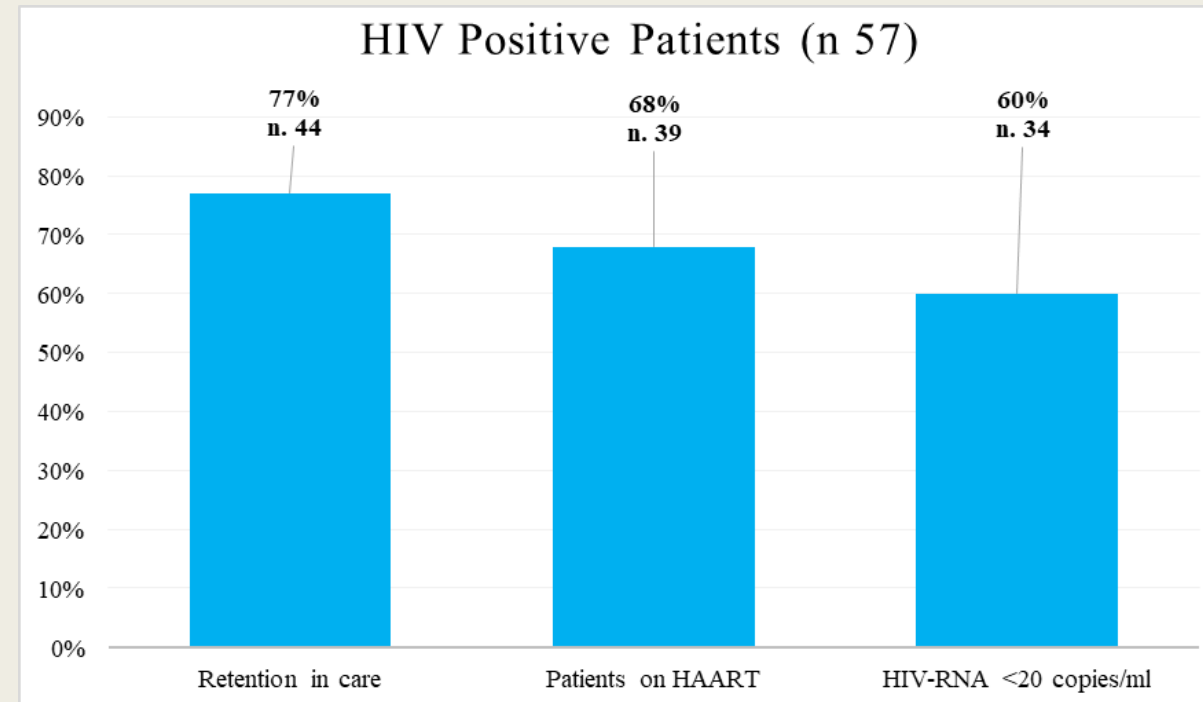


HIV INFECTION

- HIV infection was diagnosed in 57 cases.
- All the patients followed the diagnostic procedures according to the national guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of HIV.
- 52 patients were asymptomatic (CDC stage A) with a median CD4 count of 384 cells/ μ L (215-951 cells/ μ L).
- 5 had a severe immunological impairment (mean CD4 count: 69 cells/ μ L (16-119 cells/ μ L), no opportunistic infections were observed, one patient had a disseminated tuberculosis.

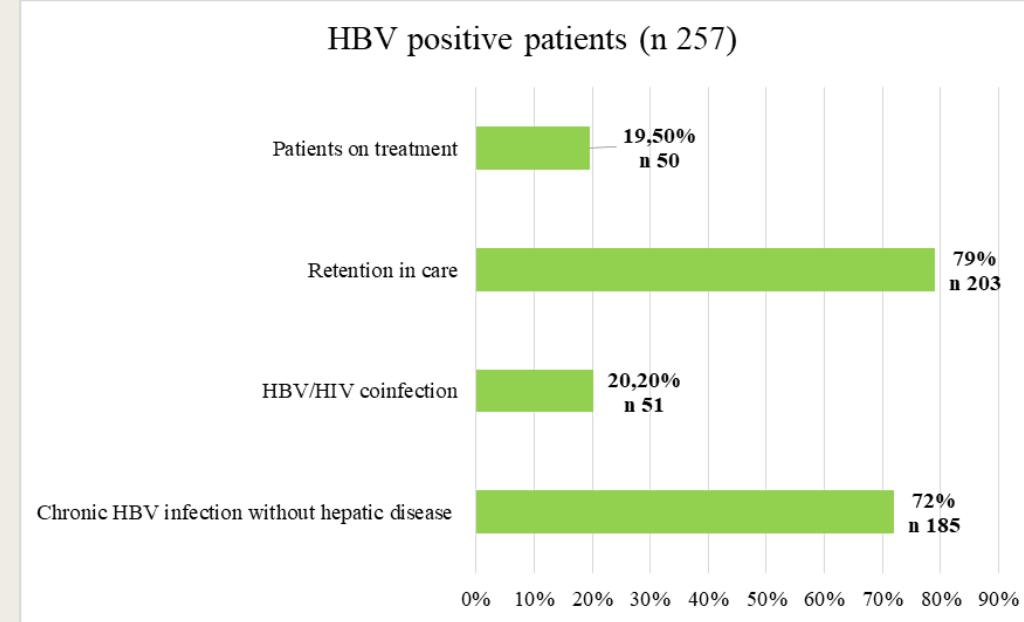
HIV INFECTION

- 77% (n 44) of patients retained in care
- Patients on HAART: 68% (n 39)
- HIV-RNA < 20 UI/ml: 60% (n 34)



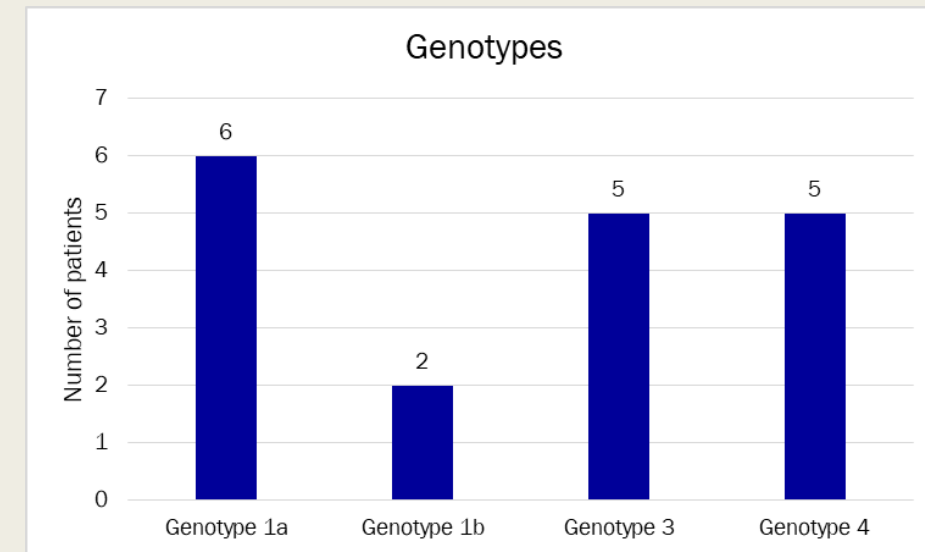
HBV INFECTION

- HBV infection was diagnosed in 257 cases (HBsAg +) .
- Therapy was offered according to EASL guidelines, after proper transcultural counselling interventions.
- HBV infection without hepatic disease was observed in 185 patients.
- Coinfection HBV/HIV was found in 51 patients, no HDV coinfection was found
- 79 % (n 203) of HBV infected patients were retained in care
- 50 patients started the treatment
- 47 had HBV-DNA < 20 UI/ml.

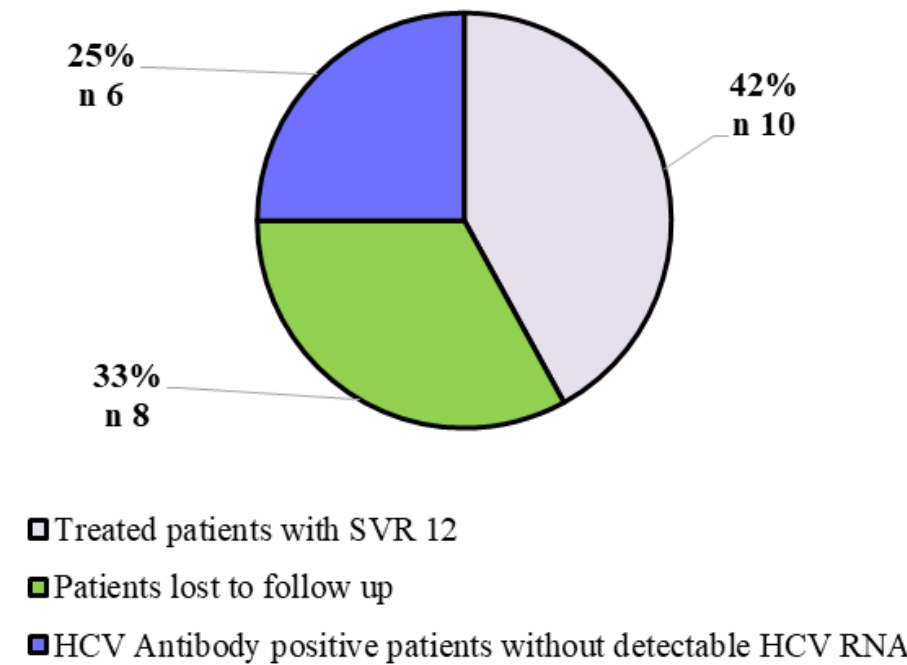


HCV INFECTION

- Positivity for HCV antibodies was found in 24 subjects.
- 6 anti-HCV antibody positive subjects did not present any viral replication (HCV-RNA undetectable)
- HIV coinfection was found in only 1 patient.
- 10 were treated in our hospital (Civico Hospital of Palermo) according to the national guidelines
- 100% of treated patients completed the therapy and had a sustained virological response at the 12 weeks follow-up visit.
- 8 patients were lost to follow up, after the diagnosis.



HCV Antibodies positive patients (n 24)



CONCLUSIONS

- In the last three years, the migration phenomenon took on our territory a not negligible number of people.
- Patients with chronic viral infections in the majority of the cases needed a pharmacological treatment.
- Considering this data, we consider essential the elaboration of working schemes that can make easier the use of the healthcare system for this population, with the objective to guarantee the right to health to every single migrant and to hold the spread of HBV, HCV and HIV in the society.

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