Generalitat de Catalunya
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CEEIS Cat Centre d'Estudis Epidemiològics sobre les Infeccions de Transmissió Sexual i Sida de Catalunya

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Reconstruction of the HIV epidemic in Catalonia and projection for the years 2012-2017

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Introduction

CEEISCAT is responsible for HIV surveillance in Catalonia and first published in estimates of the HIV population in 1994 but up until now, has not produced predictive estimates of the local HIV epidemic. The existence of a long series of robust and comprehensive integrated surveillance data means we are now well-placed for this modelling exercise.

Objective

To reconstruct the HIV epidemic in Catalonia and project the incidence and prevalence to five years using demographic, programmatic and surveillance data in order to provide policy makers with better data for decision-making.

Methods

The Spectrum Projection Package 2011[1] has been developed by UNAIDS\WHO to estimate the incidence and prevalence of HIV and key population indicators derived and is reviewed every two years by The UNAIDS Reference Group on Estimates, Models and Projections. Data form the integrated surveillance system (SIVES) in Catalonia as well and clinical parameters form the PISCIS Cohort and programmatic data from CatSalut were used. Demographic data including migration were derived from national and regional government statistical sources (INE, IDESCAT).

Results

- By 2012, up to 33,000 people were living with HIV in Catalonia, a prevalence of 0.45% (figure 1)
- About 50 % of the total were aged between 35 and 50 and most (79%) were male (figure 2)
- HIV incidence rate was 0.2/1,000 person-years , equating to 700 new cases per year
- The single largest risk group is MSM, a major change since the start of the epidemic (figure 3*)
- By the end of 2017 there will about 24,000 PLWH who meet current criteria for cART, at an annual cost of approximately €210 million (160m - 235m) (figure 4)

*FSW: Female sex workers, MSM: Men who have sex with men, PWID: People who inject drugs

**Figure 1: Total population (1000's) of PLWH in Catalonia 1980-2017**
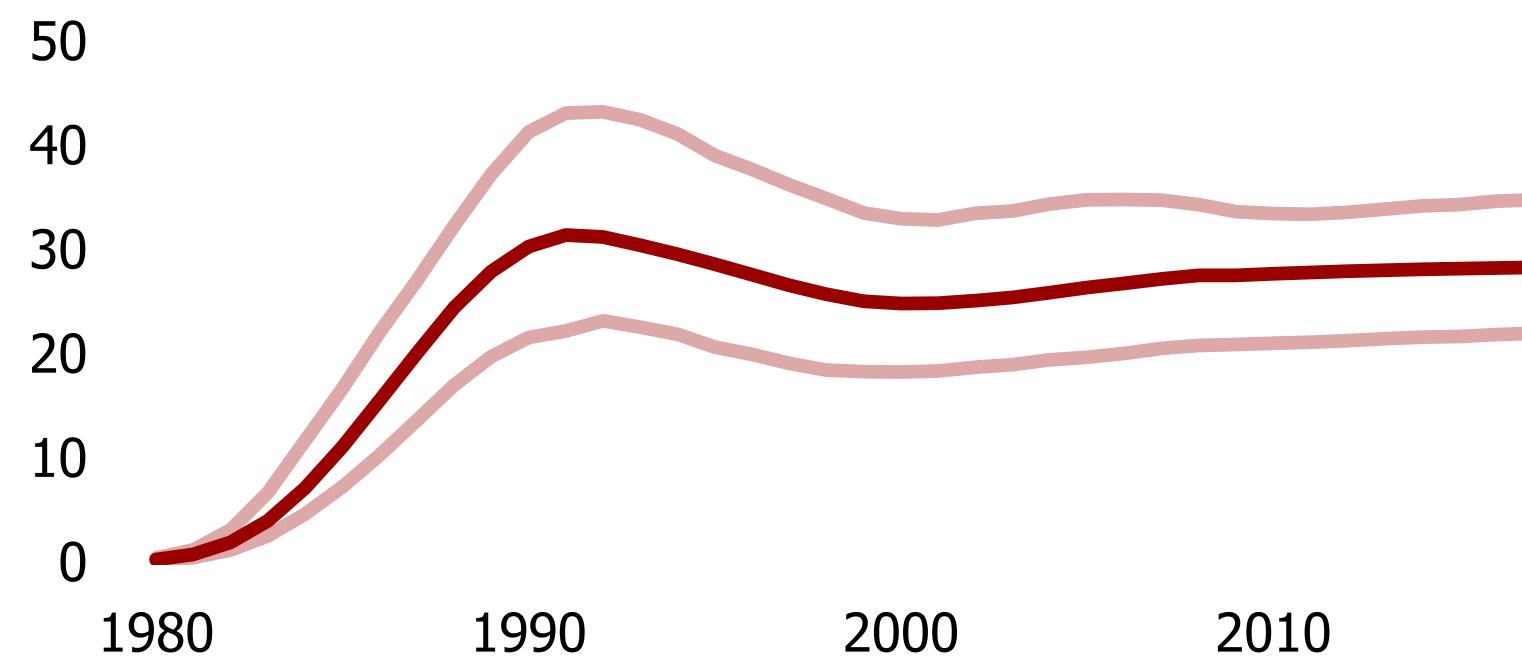
**Figure 3: Distribution by risk group of people newly infected with HIV in Catalonia in 2012**
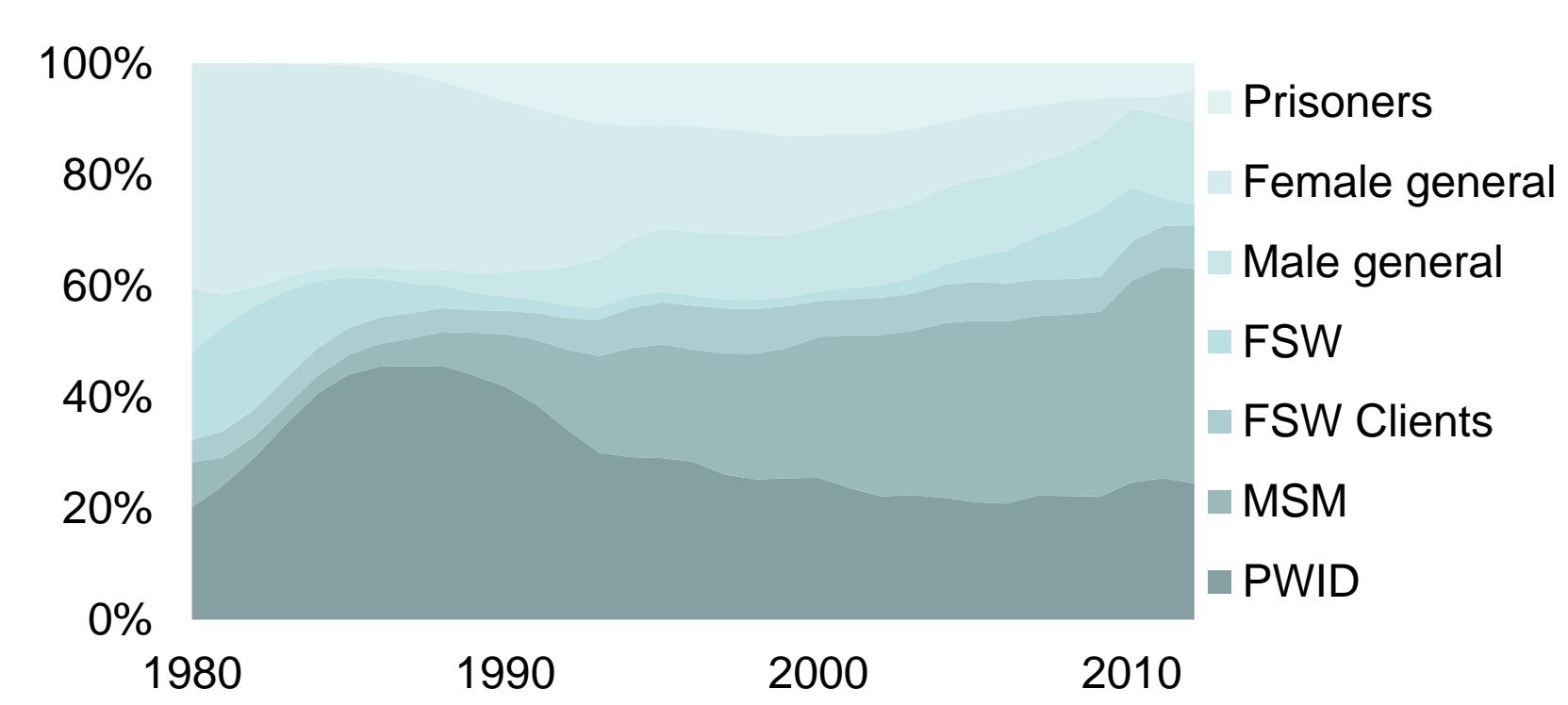
Figure 2: Age distribution of PLWH in Catalonia in 2012
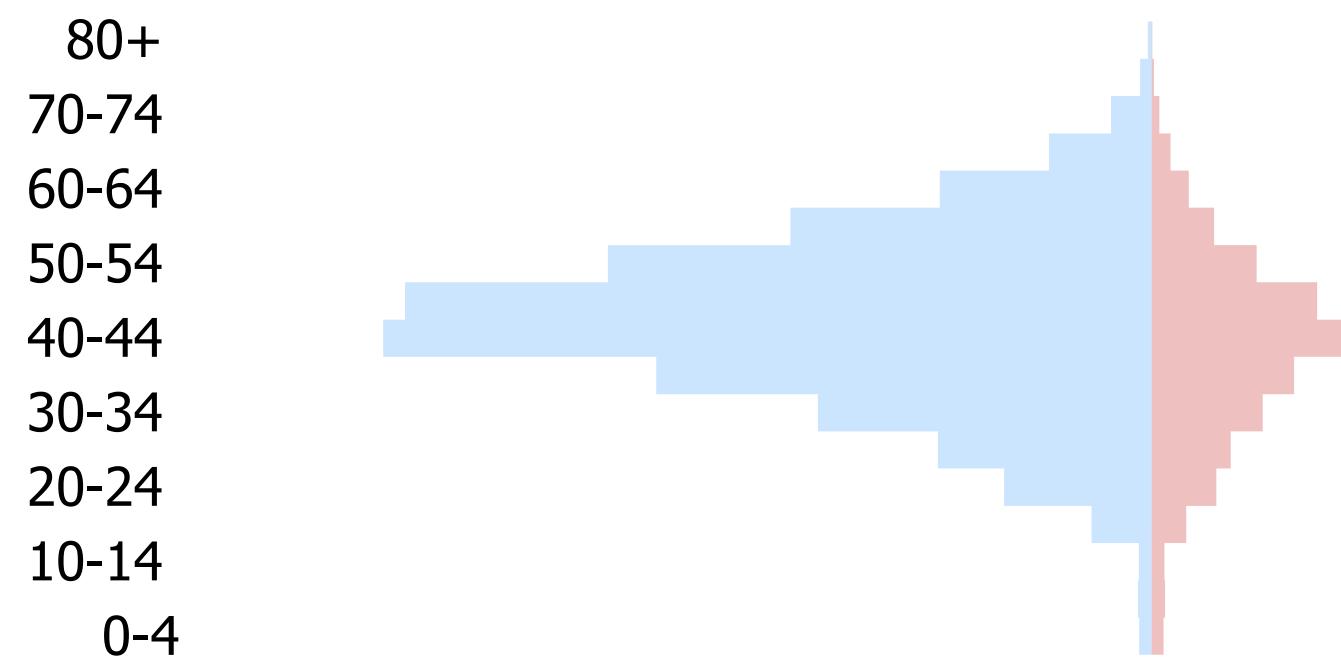
Figure 4: Total number of PLWHA (1000's) in need of treatment in Catalonia 1980-2017
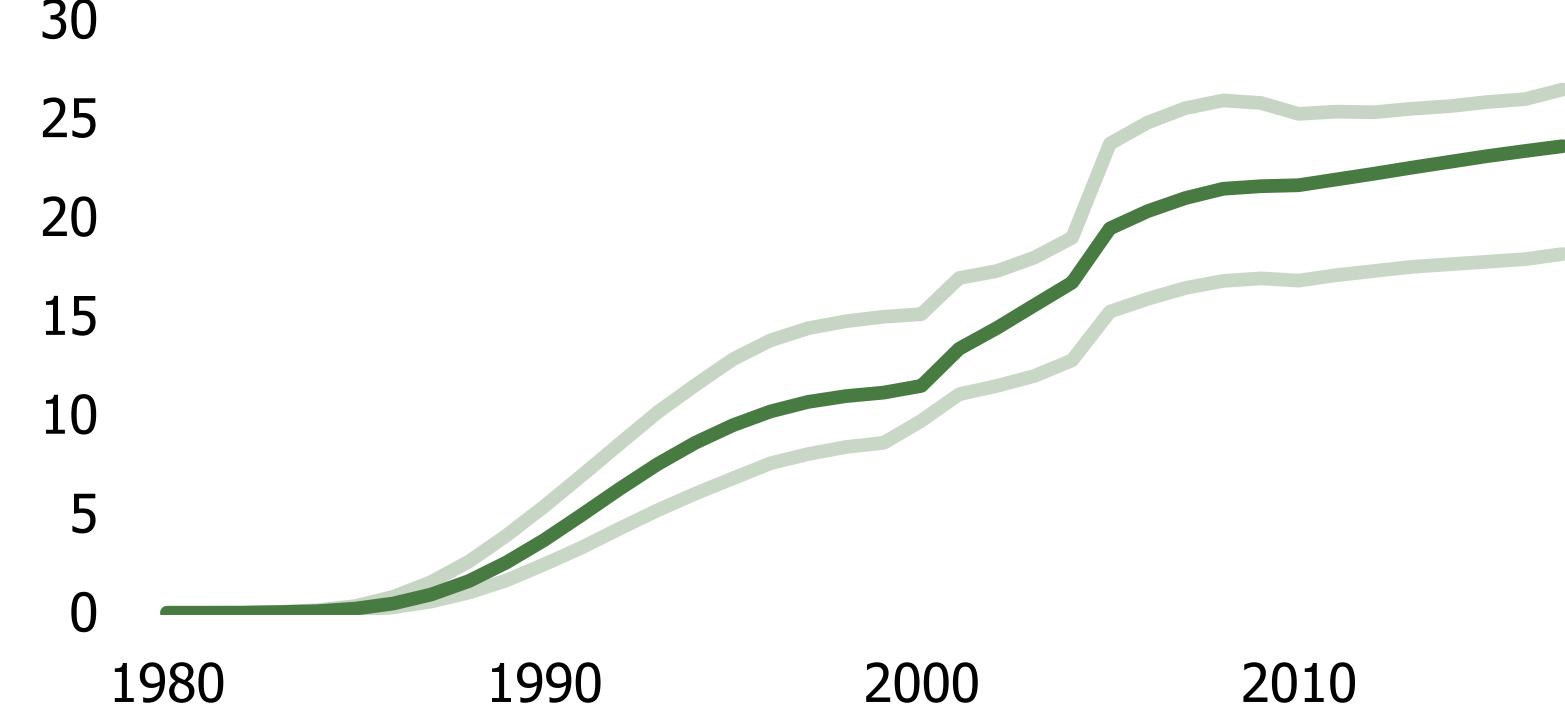
Conclusions

- Overall incidence is likely to remain stable, but MSM are increasingly important among incident and prevalent cases
- The Spectrum model has allowed the estimation of the total HIV infected population in Catalonia and short-term predictions to be made
- However, the availability and validity of these estimates depends on the maintenance and institutional strength of the surveillance system used

References

1. Stover J, Johnson P, Hallett T, Marston M, Becquet R, Timaeus IM. The Spectrum projection package: improvements in estimating incidence by age and sex, mother-to-child transmission, HIV progression in children and double orphans. Sexually Transmitted Infections. 2010 Nov;86(Suppl 2):ii16–ii21.

2. Jaén, Angeles, Jordi Casabona, Anna Esteve, Jose M Miró, Cristina Tural, Elena Ferrer, Melchor Riera, et al. 2005. "[Clinical-epidemiological Characteristics and Antiretroviral Treatment Trends in a Cohort of HIV Infected Patients. The PISCIS Project]." *Medicina Clínica* 124 (14) (April 16): 525–531.