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The Sexual Health of GBMSM and BAME Populations in England

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Key Populations: Understanding HIV and STI trends to guide future prevention strategies
BMA House
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Outline

- I. STI trends in GBMSM

- II. STI trends in BAME populations



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I. STI trends in GBMSM

Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men

Syphilis

303%



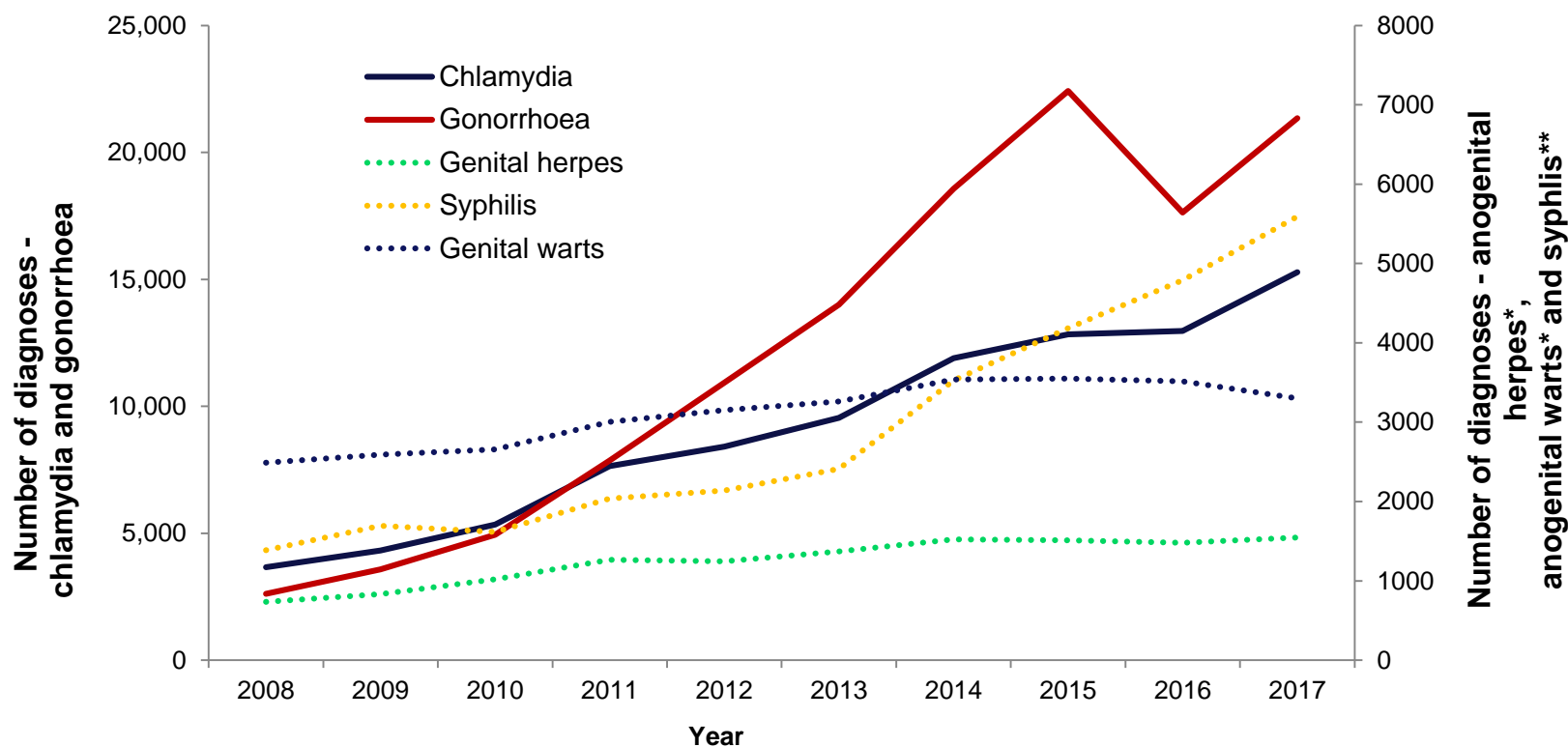
Gonorrhoea

716%



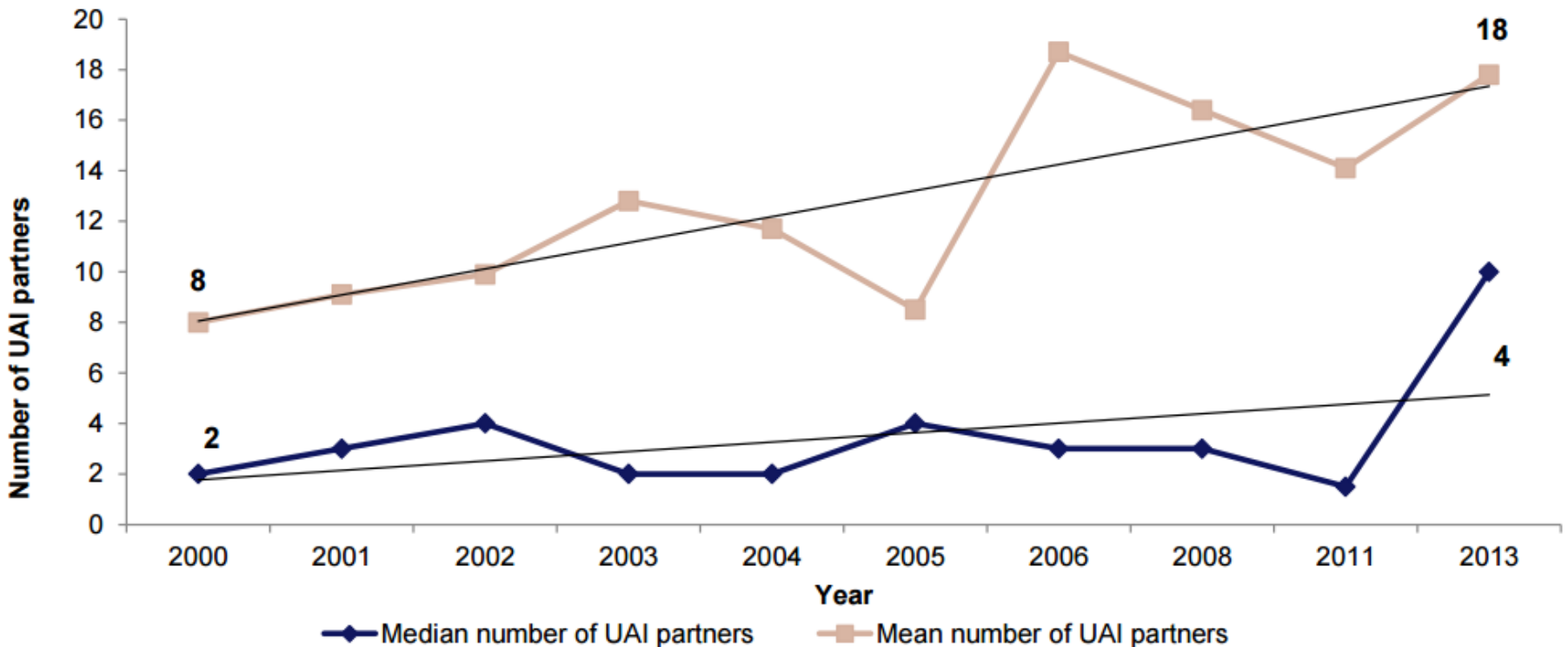
From 2008 to 2017

Number of STI diagnoses among MSM: England, 2008-2017

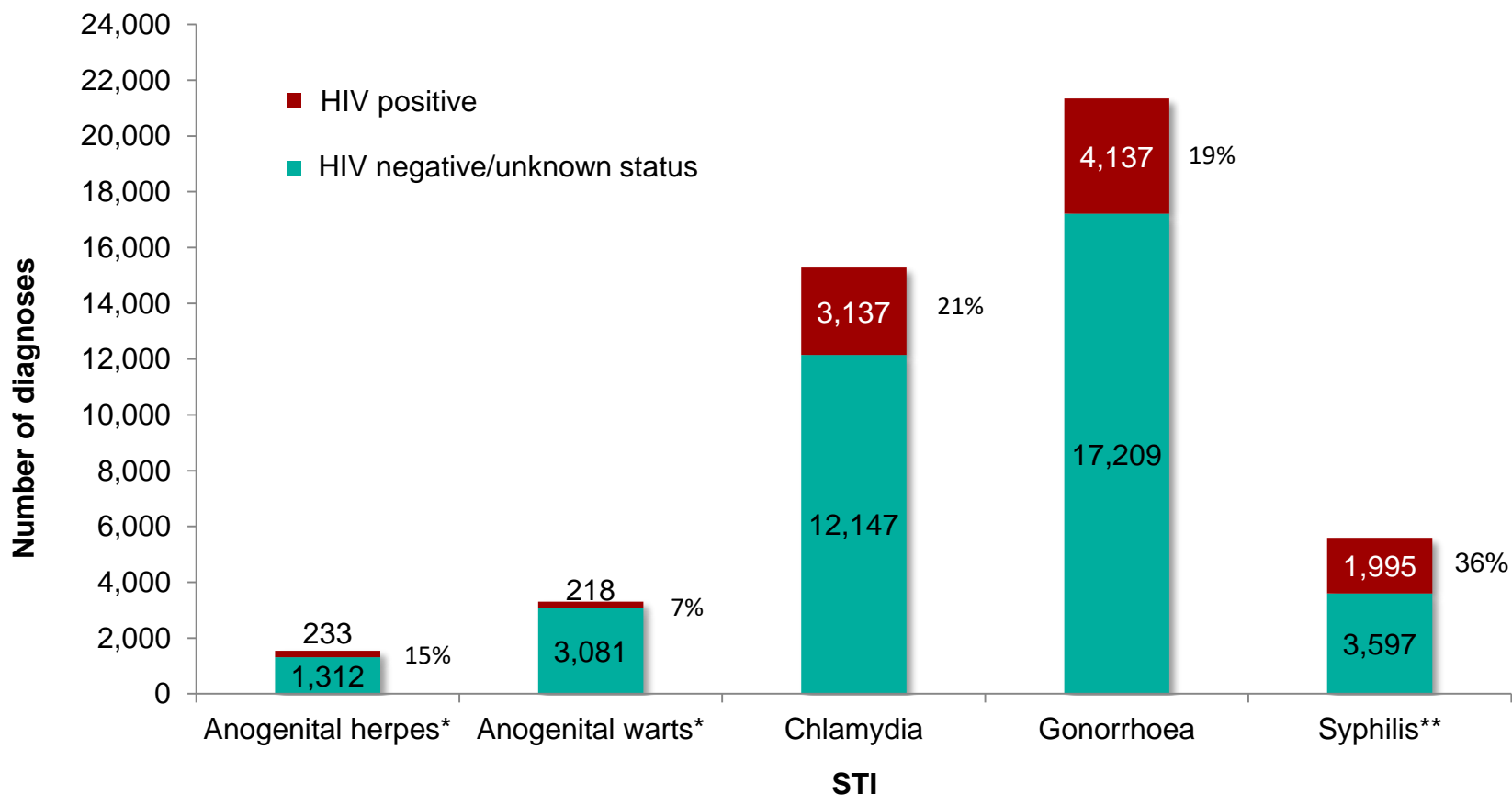


- Data from specialist and non-specialist SHS (GUMCAD returns)
- * First episode; **Includes diagnoses of primary, secondary and early latent syphilis
- Chlamydia data from 2012 onwards are not comparable to data from previous years (please see 'Notes' slide for more details)
- Data type: service data

Trends in UAI partner numbers in the last year of potential 'transmitters'

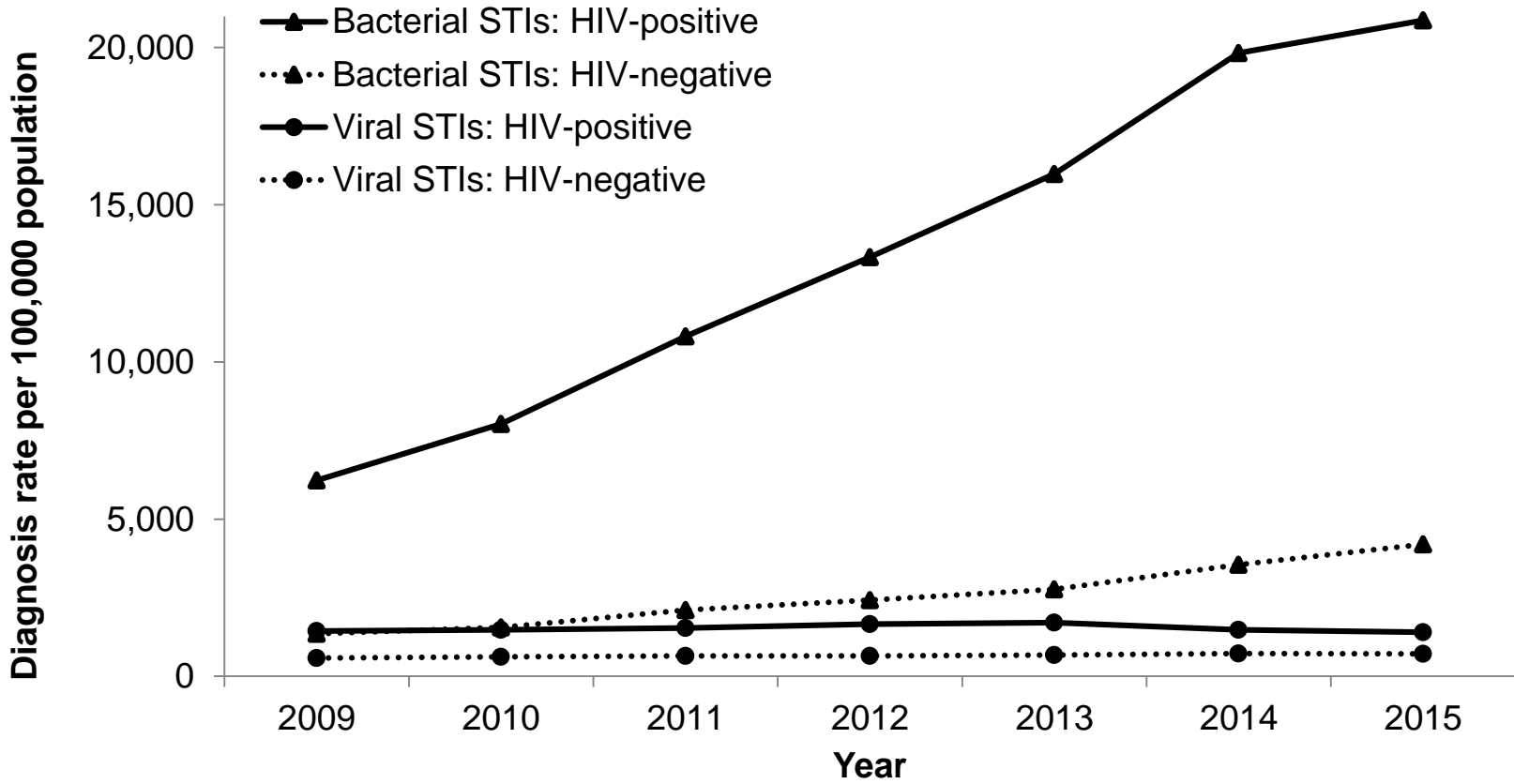


Number of STI diagnoses among MSM by HIV status: England, 2017



- Data from specialist and non-specialist SHS (GUMCAD returns)
- Percentages represent the proportion of STI diagnoses that were made in MSM known to be HIV positive
- * First episode; ** Includes diagnoses of primary, secondary & early latent syphilis
- Data type: service data

Rates of acute bacterial and viral STIs in MSM by HIV status, England, 2009-15





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II. Sexual health of BAME populations



Inequalities in poor sexual health

- Recognised since the 1950s^{1,2,3}
- Disparity was highlighted in work from Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham (LSL) in the 1990s
 - BME people were 11x as likely as white people to be diagnosed with gonorrhoea⁴
- Further research identified differences in STI rates amongst BME groups
 - Higher STI rates in black Caribbean and black ‘other’ ethnic groups⁵



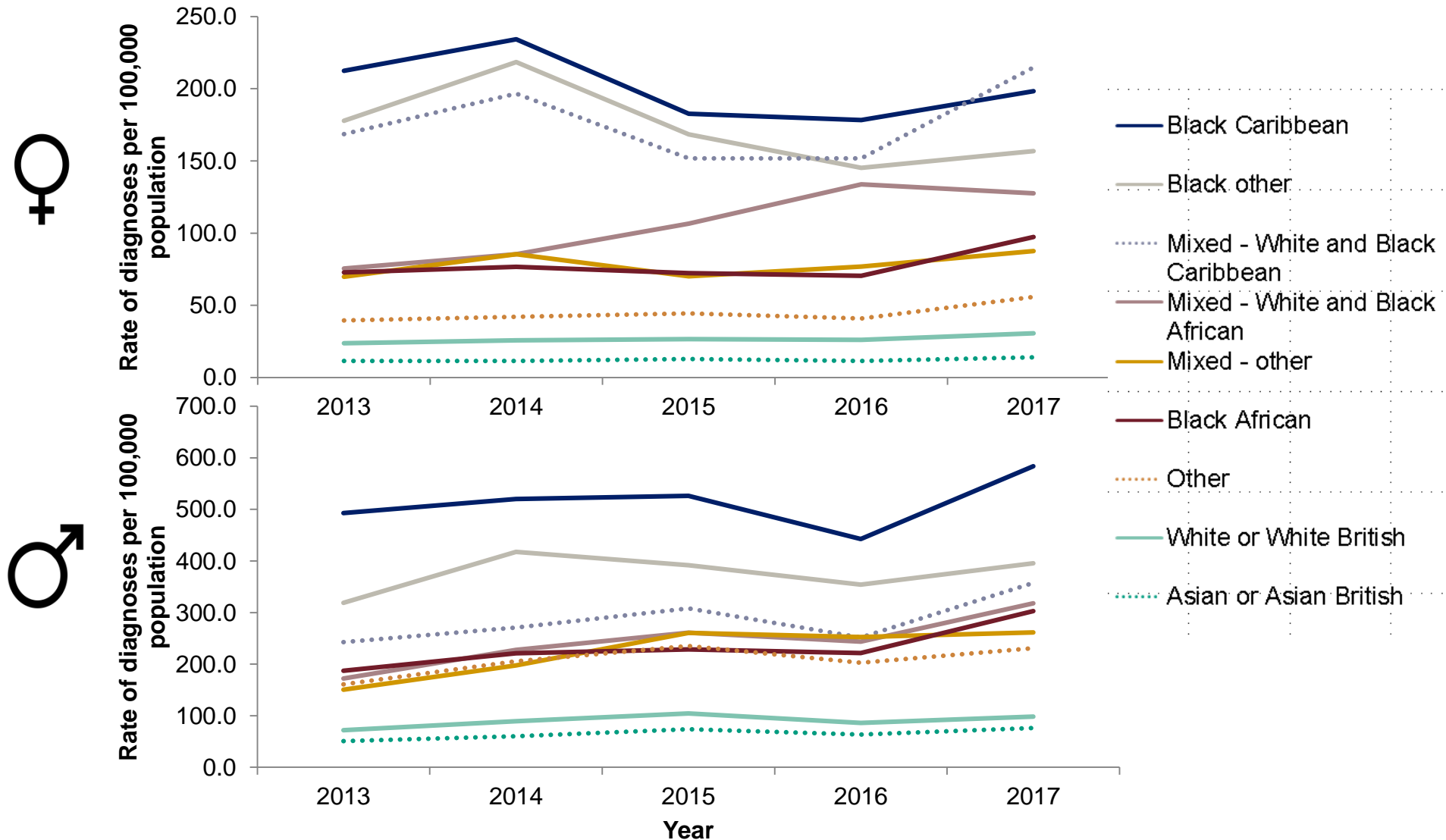
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i. Rates of STIs by ethnicity



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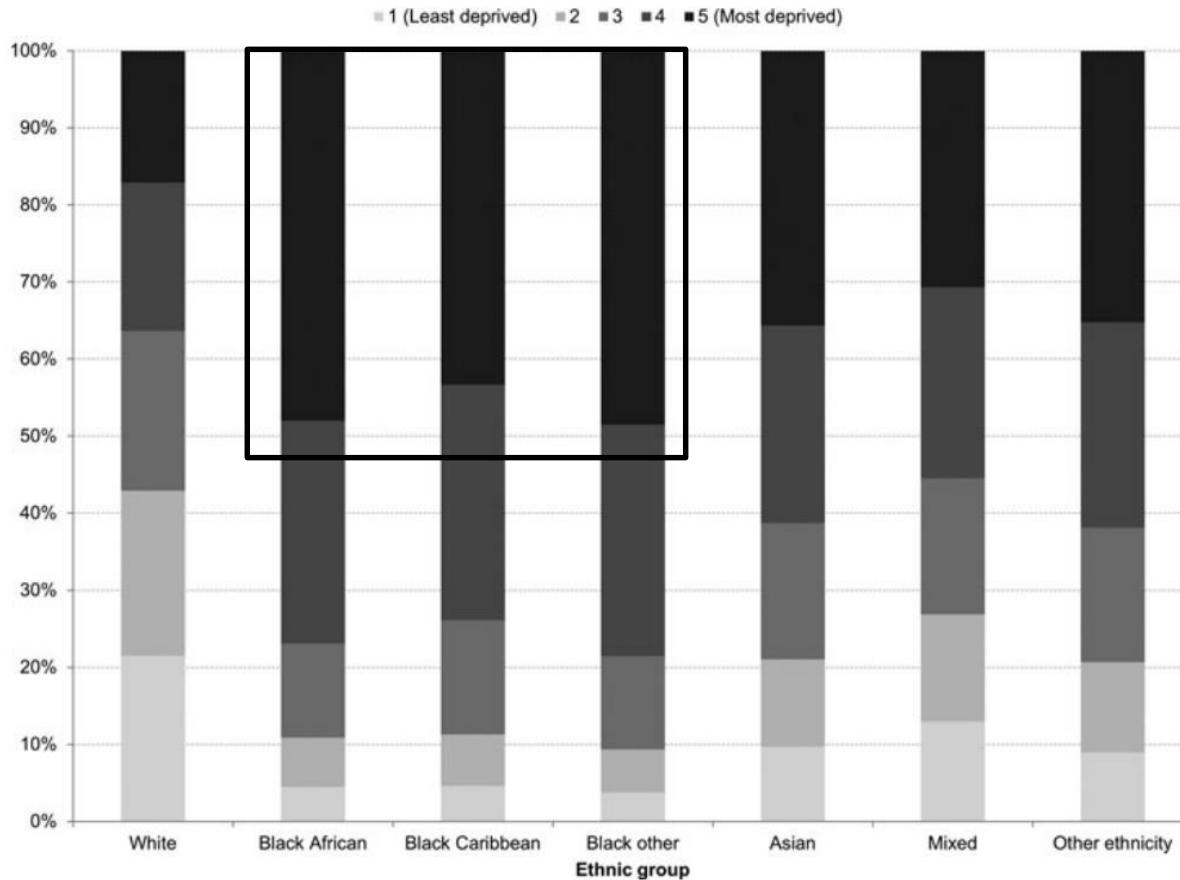
Gonorrhoea diagnosis rates, by ethnic group and gender, England, 2013-2017



Data source: specialist sexual health services' returns to GUMCAD (April 2018). Note: different scales used on y-axes



What role does socioeconomic deprivation play?



SED explains some, but not all, of the ethnic disparity in STI rates

Fig. 1. Ethnic variations in the distribution of the index of multiple deprivation in England, 2011.

Source: [Furegato et al 2016](#)



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Ethnic variations in sexual behaviour, UK, 2010-2012

THE LANCET
Public Health

ARTICLES | [VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10, PE458-E472, OCTOBER 01, 2017](#)

Ethnic variations in sexual behaviours and sexual health markers: findings from the third British National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal-3)

[Dr Sonali Wayal, PhD](#)   • [Gwenda Hughes, PhD](#) • [Pam Sonnenberg, PhD](#) • [Hamish Mohammed, PhD](#) •

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Open Access • DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(17\)30159-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(17)30159-7) •



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Ethnic variations in sexual behaviour, UK, 2010-2012

| | Men | Women |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Lowest median age at sexual debut | BC | WB, BC and M |
| Least likely to be sexually competent at sexual debut | BC, BA and M | BA and M |
| Greatest median lifetime no. of sex partners | BC | M |
| Most likely to report concurrent partners | BA | M |
| Most likely to have had condomless sex with 1+ partner in past yr | BC | M |

Key: BA – black African, BC – black Caribbean, M – mixed, WB – white British

Source: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667\(17\)30159-7/abstract](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(17)30159-7/abstract)

Understanding the burden of bacterial sexually transmitted infections and *Trichomonas vaginalis* among black Caribbeans in the United Kingdom: Findings from a systematic review


Sonali Woyal , Catherine R. H. Aicken, Catherine Griffiths, Paula B. Blomquist, Gwenda Hughes, Catherine H. Mercer

Published: December 7, 2018 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0208315>

Systematic literature review

- Association between bacterial STIs and TV with ethnicity
- Differences between BC and WB people in the prevalence of STI risk behaviours
- Sexual healthcare seeking behaviours
 - N=15 studies

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Published: December 7, 2018 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0208315>

Findings

- Greater STI risk due to variations in socio-demographic factors, sexual behaviours and recreational drug use
- Prevalence of early sexual debut, concurrency and multiple partners more common in BC men (vs. white/WB men)
- People of BC ethnicity more likely to access SHS (vs. those of white/WB ethnicity)

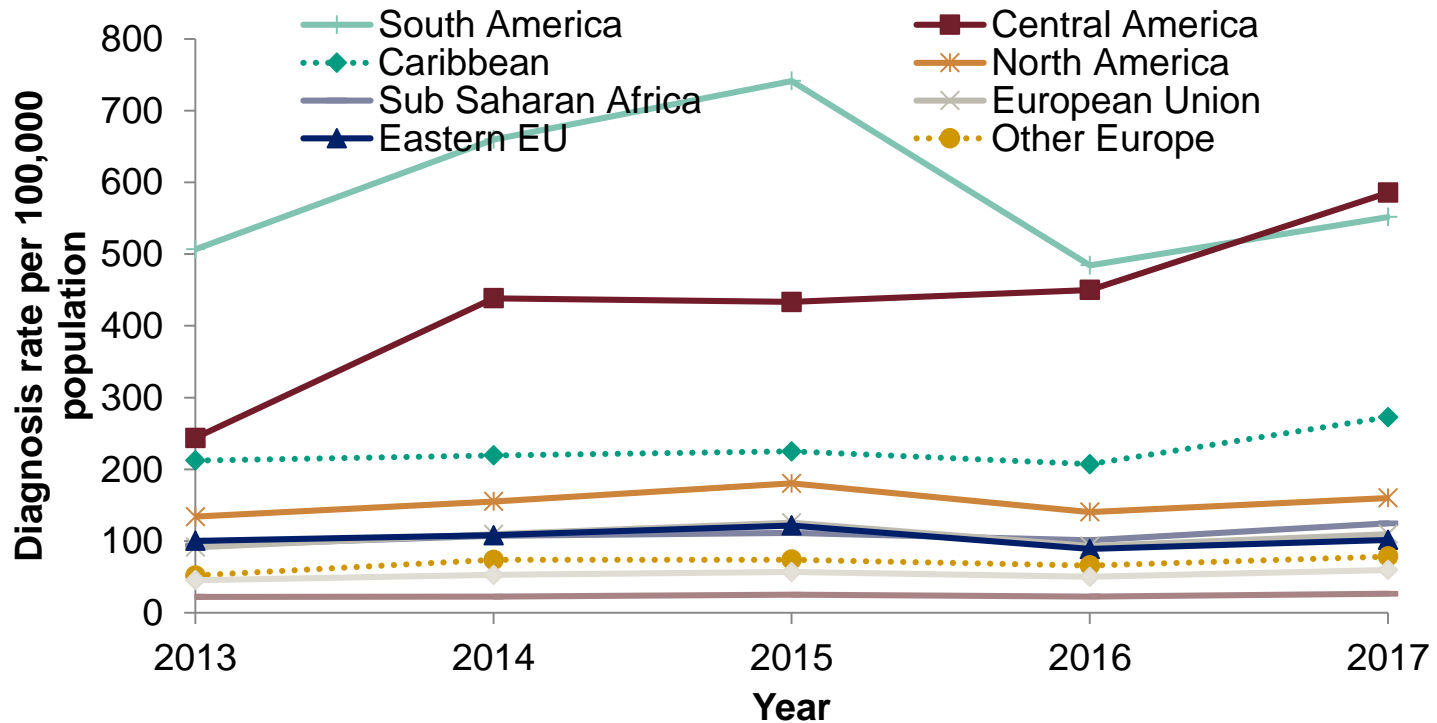


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ii. STI rates by region of birth



Gonorrhoea diagnosis rates, by region of birth, England, 2013-2017



- Diagnosis rates of gonorrhoea, chlamydia and syphilis are highest in people born in Latin America and the Caribbean

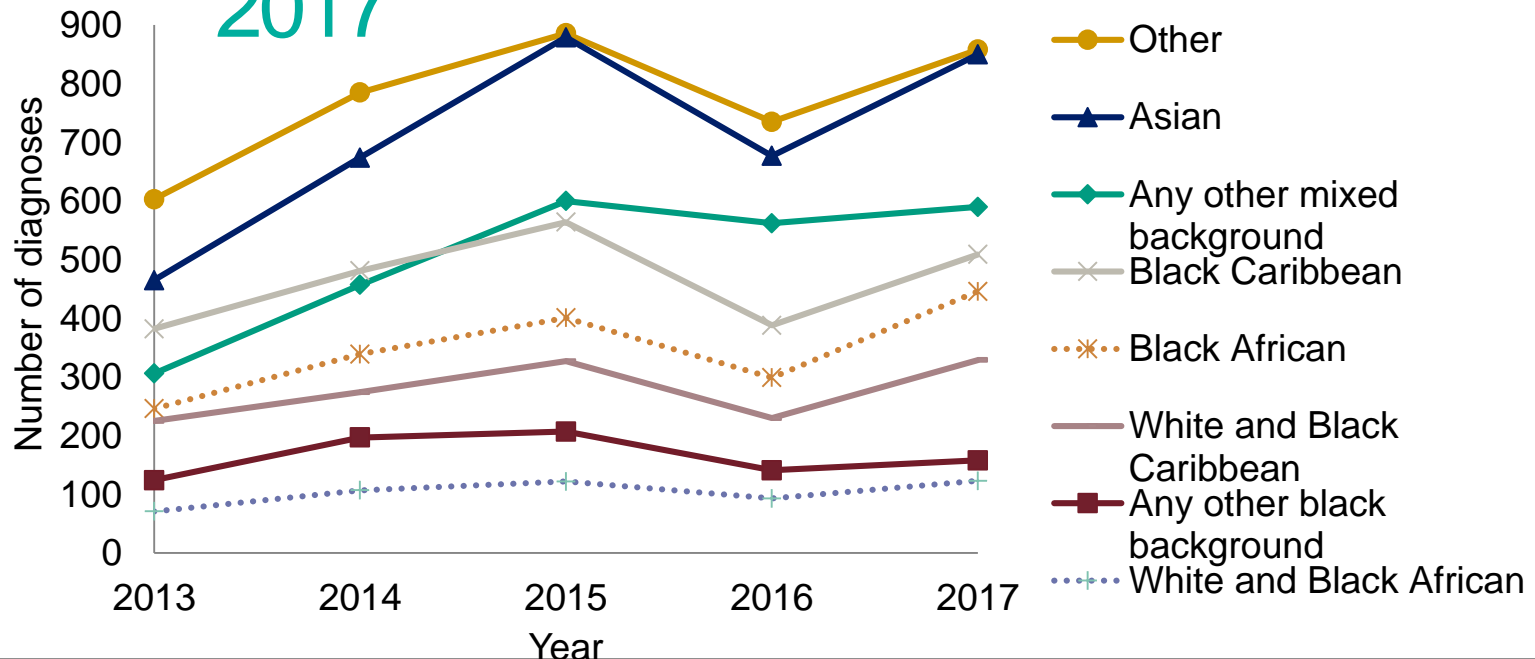


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iii. STIs trends in non-white GBMSM



Gonorrhoea diagnoses in non-white GBMSM, by ethnic group, England, 2013-2017



- GC diagnoses in mixed 'other', Asian and black African GBMSM nearly doubled in the last 5 years
- Amongst non-white GBMSM, STI diagnoses most common in men of Asian and 'other' (25% Chinese ethnicity) groups

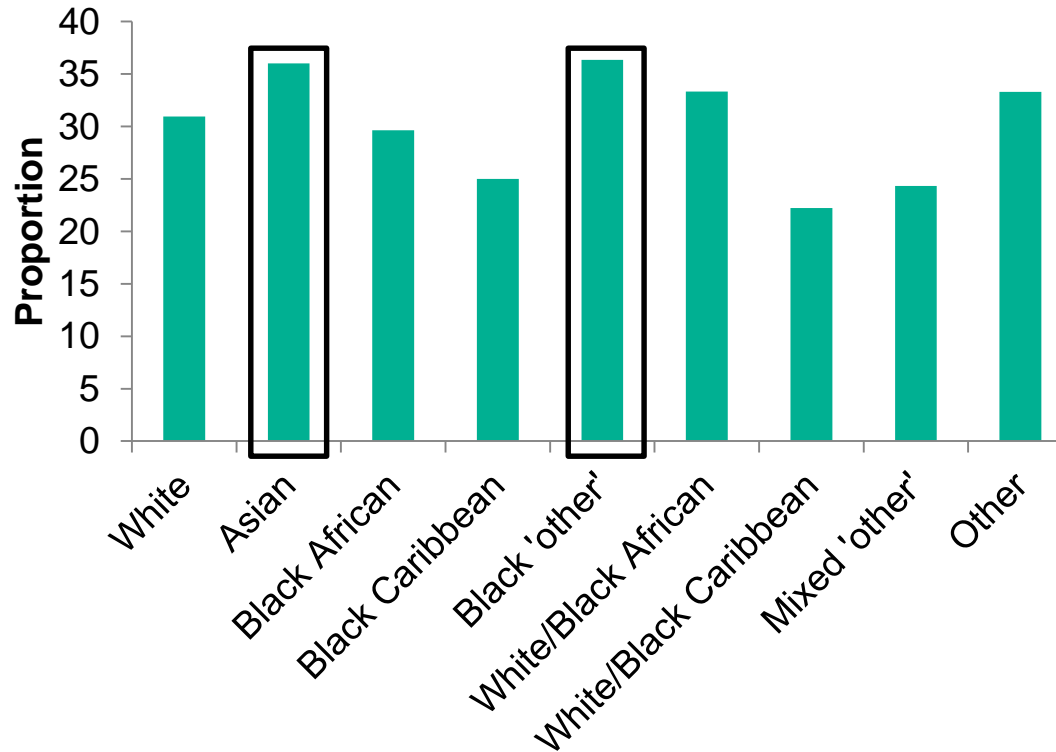


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iv. The HIV/STI syndemic in non-white GBMSM



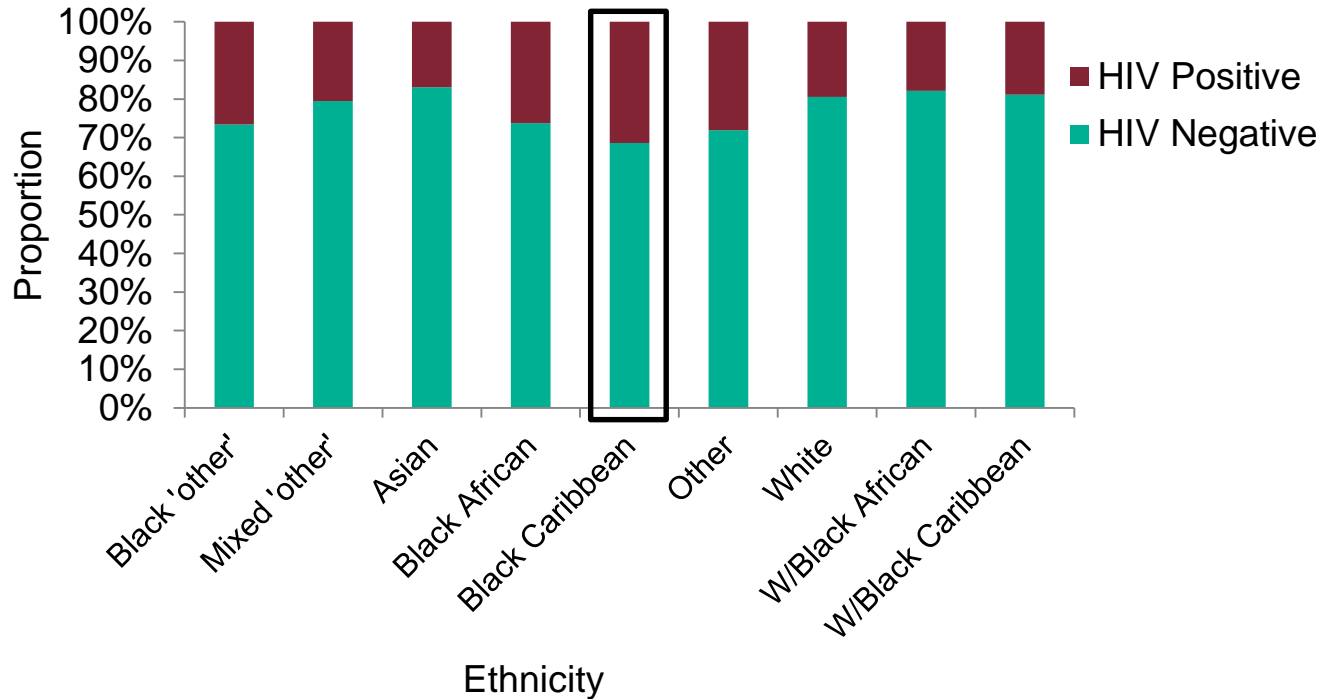
Proportion of HIV patients diagnosed late*, by ethnic group, GBMSM, England, 2017



- Black 'other' and Asian GBMSM most likely to be diagnosed late (36%)



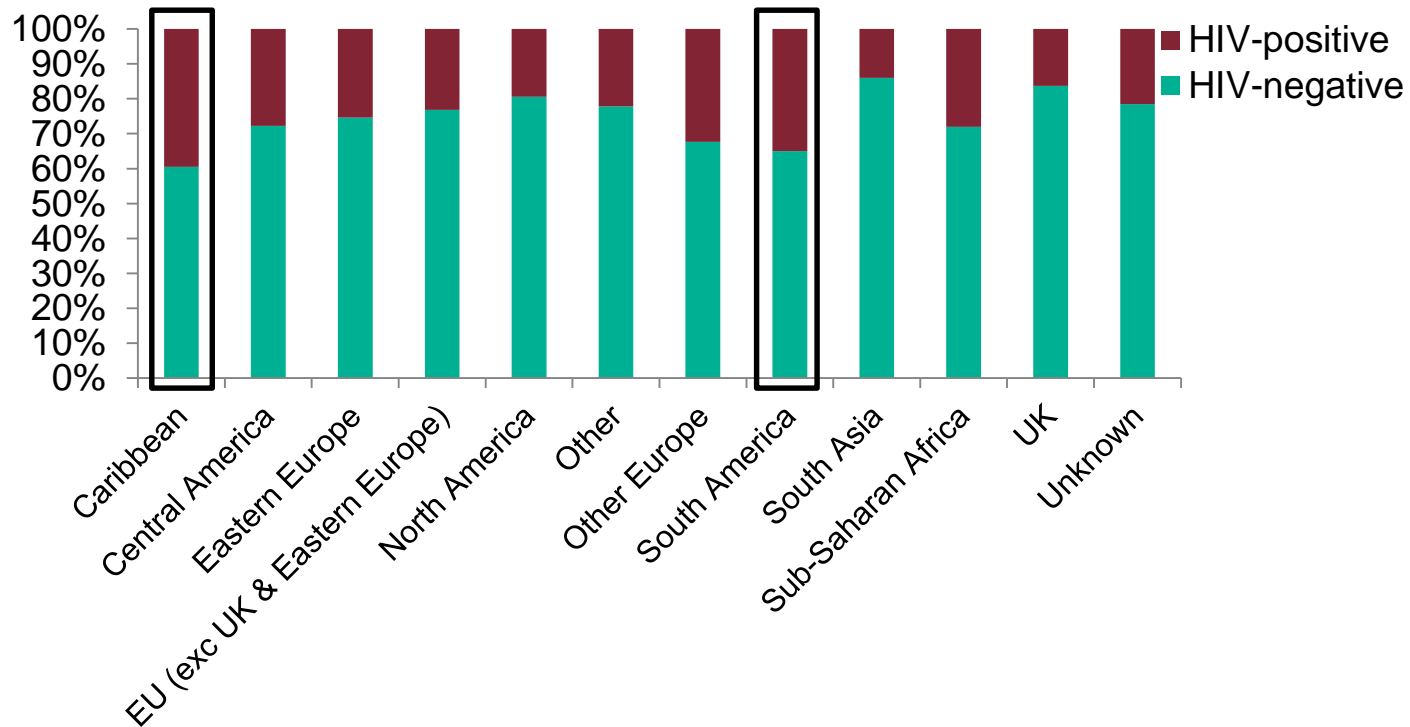
Gonorrhoea diagnoses in GBMSM, by ethnicity and HIV status, England, 2017



- GC and HIV co-infection most common in black Caribbean GBMSM (31%)



Gonorrhoea diagnoses in GBMSM, by region of birth and HIV status, England, 2017



- GC and HIV co-infection most common in GBMSM born in the Caribbean (39%) or South America (35%)
- GBMSM from Latin America & the Caribbean most likely to be co-infected with the main 5 STIs and HIV



BAME sexual health

- Bacterial STI rates are consistently higher in people:
 - Of black Caribbean or black 'other' ethnic groups
 - Born in Latin American and the Caribbean
- People of black Caribbean, black African, and mixed ethnicities are most likely to report concurrent or multiple partners
- STI and HIV co-infection is more common in non-white GBMSM or those born in Latin America and the Caribbean



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