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Background

- The HIV-epidemic in Mexico is concentrated in men who have sex with (MSM).
- Increasing syphilis rates among MSM have been documented worldwide, but little is known about its frequency in Mexico.
- **We estimated syphilis prevalence in MSM with and without HIV-infection receiving voluntary counselling and testing services in a non-government organization (NGO) clinic in Guadalajara City during 2016-2018.**
- The Humanitarian Committee of Joint Efforts Against AIDS (CHECCOS in Spanish) is an NGO that operates a community-based clinic.
- We provide free-of-charge testing and counselling services for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and individual and group peer-support activities in Guadalajara and Mexico cities.
- Testing is provided for free and people with HIV reactive tests are invited to the peer-support program during the process of linkage to care with HIV clinics and people testing reactive to syphilis are provided treatment and medical care.

Methods

- Anonymized HIV and syphilis test results of MSM tested in CHECCOS during 2016-2018.
- Excluded people with previous reactive tests.
- HIV 4rd Gen EIA rapid test platform and ONESTEP Syphilis anti-TP tests.
- Prevalence estimation using simple proportions.
- Comparison of prevalence of syphilis between HIV-negative and -positive MSM using odds ratios, through a univariate logistic model

Results

- CHECCOS Community Center offered 1,398 tests to MSM. We included results of 1,338 MSM
- **Prevalence of Syphilis: 14.4%** (n=198)
- **Prevalence of HIV: 17%** (n=225)

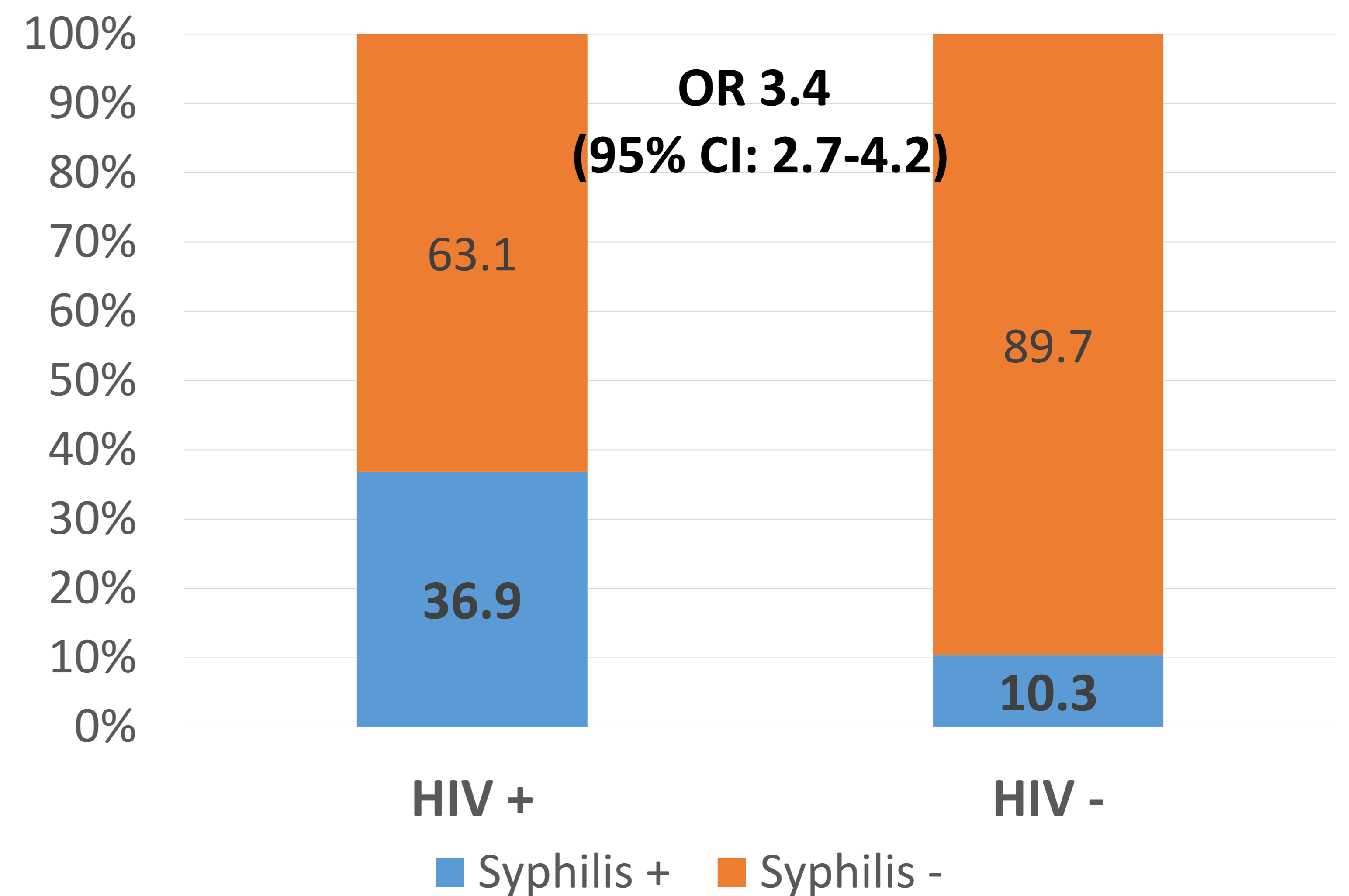


Figure 1. Percentage of syphilis in HIV-negative and HIV-positive

- Prevalence of syphilis was lower among HIV-negative MSM (n=1113, 10.3%) than in HIV-positive (n=225, 36.9%).
- Mean age of Syphilis-positive MSM was 31.2 years in both groups.

Conclusions

- We observed a very high prevalence of syphilis among MSM in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico during 2016-2018, particularly among those HIV-positive.
- Our results show that CHECCOS Community Center in Guadalajara targets populations at very high-risk of HIV and other STIs and in need of treatment.
- This information provides important and unprecedented information that contributes to a deeper understanding of the HIV epidemic among MSM in Mexico
- Our results supports the need to expand community-based services.