

HIV PREVALENCE IN PRISONS IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND AND EAST MIDLANDS – SNAPSHOT DATA BETWEEN 2023 AND 2024

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Background

- To support National Health Service England (NHSE) in their HCV Elimination Programme, a partnership between Gilead Sciences, Practice Plus Group (PPG) and the Hepatitis C Trust (HCT) was formed in 2019. PPG currently provides healthcare to 57 prisons in England.
- PPG appointed Regional Blood-Borne Virus (BBV) Leads to co-ordinate directly with prison healthcare teams. This involved organising and delivering BBV training, reviewing testing pathways, reviewing and validating prison BBV data and creating strategies to optimise BBV testing in each specific prison.

Objective

- To explore the impact of this project on the accuracy of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) reporting within prisons.
- To review HIV prevalence across different prison estates, including a mixture of male and female, sentenced and unsentenced and different security categories.

Methods

- Data were collected using SystmOne electronic records from 13 prisons where healthcare is provided by PPG across the East Midlands and East of England regions.
- Data collected included:
 - Uptake of HIV testing
 - HIV prevalence within the site population
 - Errors in HIV recording (e.g. incorrect read codes being added to records)
- These data were pulled by manual review of patient records by the Regional BBV lead and reported as two snapshots in January 2023 and January 2024.

Results

- Prevalence of HIV across all sites was 0.4% in 2023 and 2024, compared to 0.18% in the general population of England (estimated from 2022)^{1,2}, with higher prevalence seen in female and sex offender estates (see **Graph 1**)
- Prison reception HIV testing rates were generally high with an average uptake of 89% across all sites in 2024 (data not available for 2023)
- Electronic record reporting errors for HIV dropped significantly from 46.8% in 2023 to 20.3% in 2024, with the number of patients awaiting confirmatory bloods reducing from 8.5% in 2023 to 6.4% in 2024 (see **Fig 1**). This may be attributable to increased training and awareness around BBV testing and pathways and record keeping.

Results

Graph 1. HIV prevalence

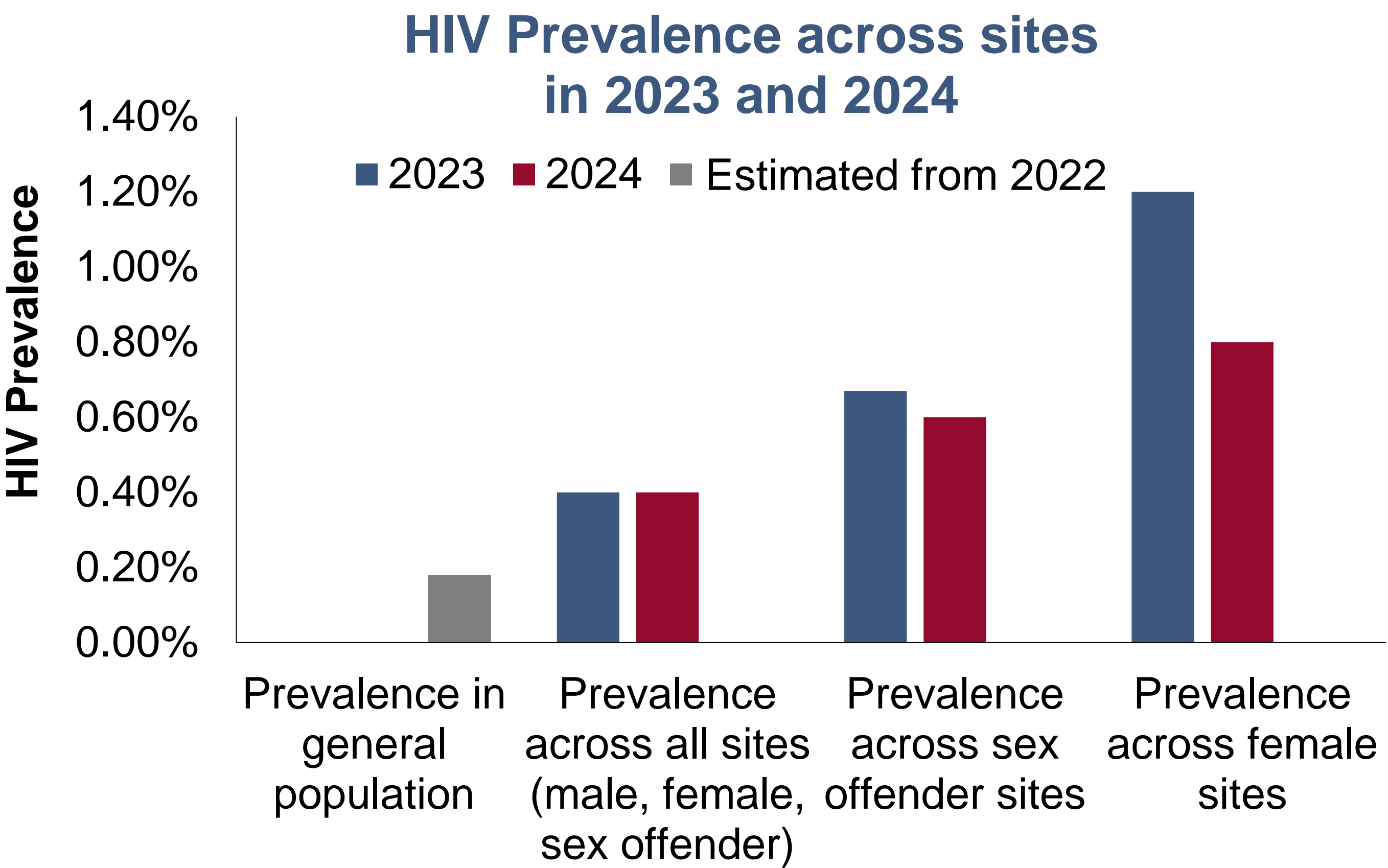
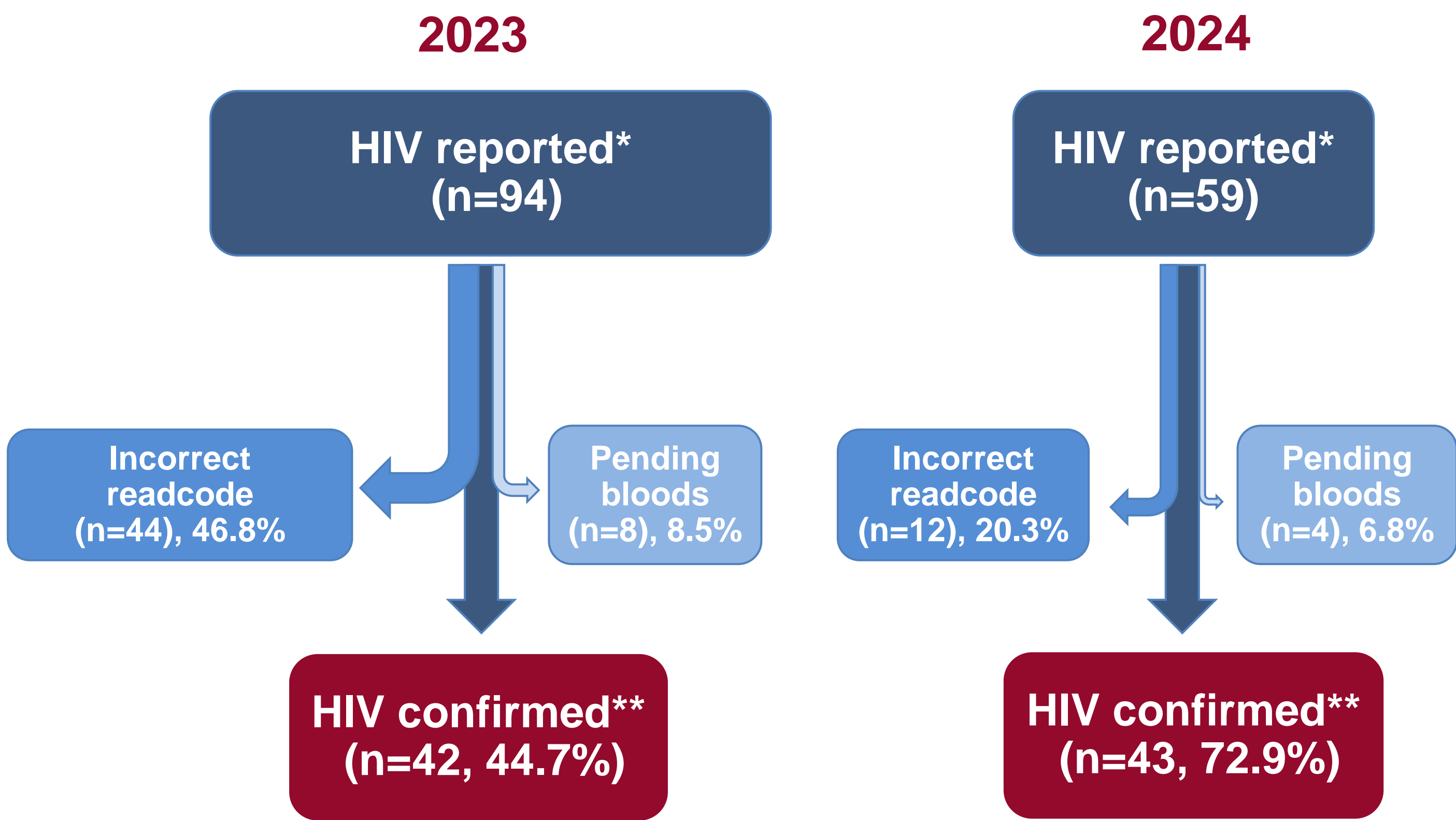


Figure 2. Knowledge Pre vs Post-Training (average)



*HIV positive' read code identified on SystmOne patient record
** Evidence of diagnosis/confirmatory bloods identified on SystmOne patient record

Conclusions

These data highlight the importance of HIV screening in prison populations, especially in female estates and sex offender prisons.

Further research is warranted nationally to ascertain prevalence.

Ongoing training is required to continue reducing data recording errors.

Disclosure of interest statement: Gilead Sciences Ltd has provided funding to Practice Plus Group for the PPG Regional BBV Lead Nurses and plays an active role in the design and execution of the activities that form the Prison HCV Elimination Program.

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References: 1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hiv-monitoring-and-evaluation-framework/hiv-action-plan-monitoring-and-evaluation-framework-2023-report#FullTheme2>; 2. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/latest#population-of-england-and-wales>