



Folkhälsomyndigheten
PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF SWEDEN

COVID-19 impacts of HIV, TB and STI:s in Sweden

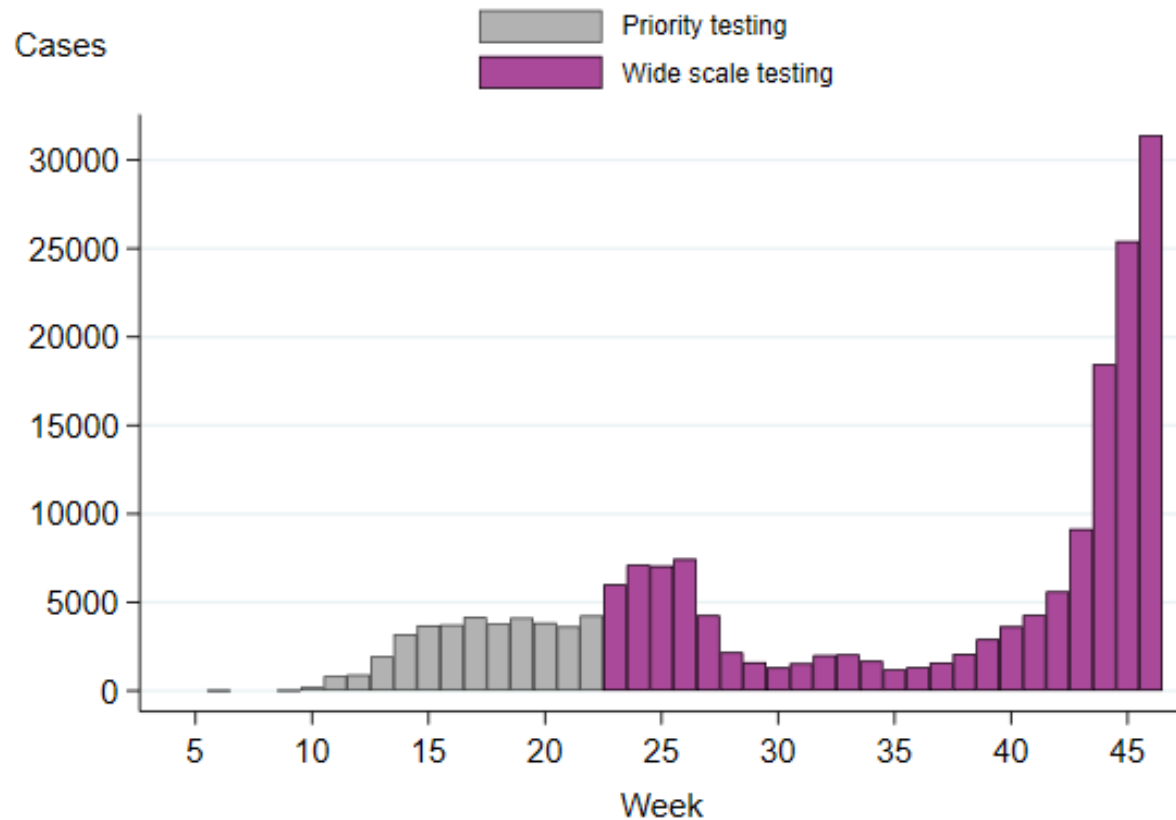
*National data from Public Health Agency &
Experiences and data from Venhälsan,
a lowthreshold clinic for Men who have sex with men (MSM)*

Dr. Maria Axelsson, Unit Head

Dr. Torsten Berglund, Senior Epidemiologist

Public Health Agency of Sweden

Confirmed Covid-19 cases and testing per week in Sweden 2020, January-November



- Incidens 357 cases/100 000 (first week December)
- 250 000-260 000 tests/week
- Massive introduction during winter holidays 24 Feb-15 March.
- Initially limited testing capacity.



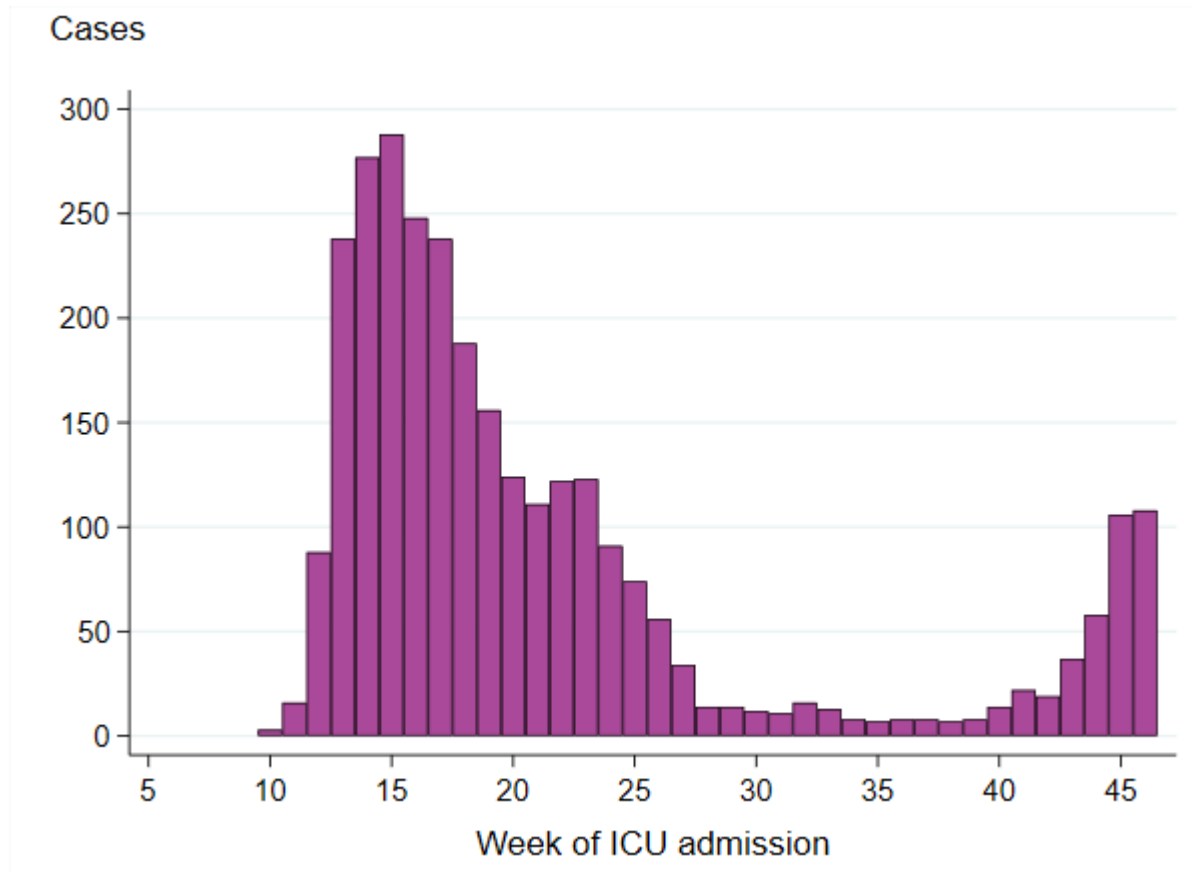
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THE GLOBAL GOALS

The Public Health Agency of Sweden supports the Sustainable Development Goals.

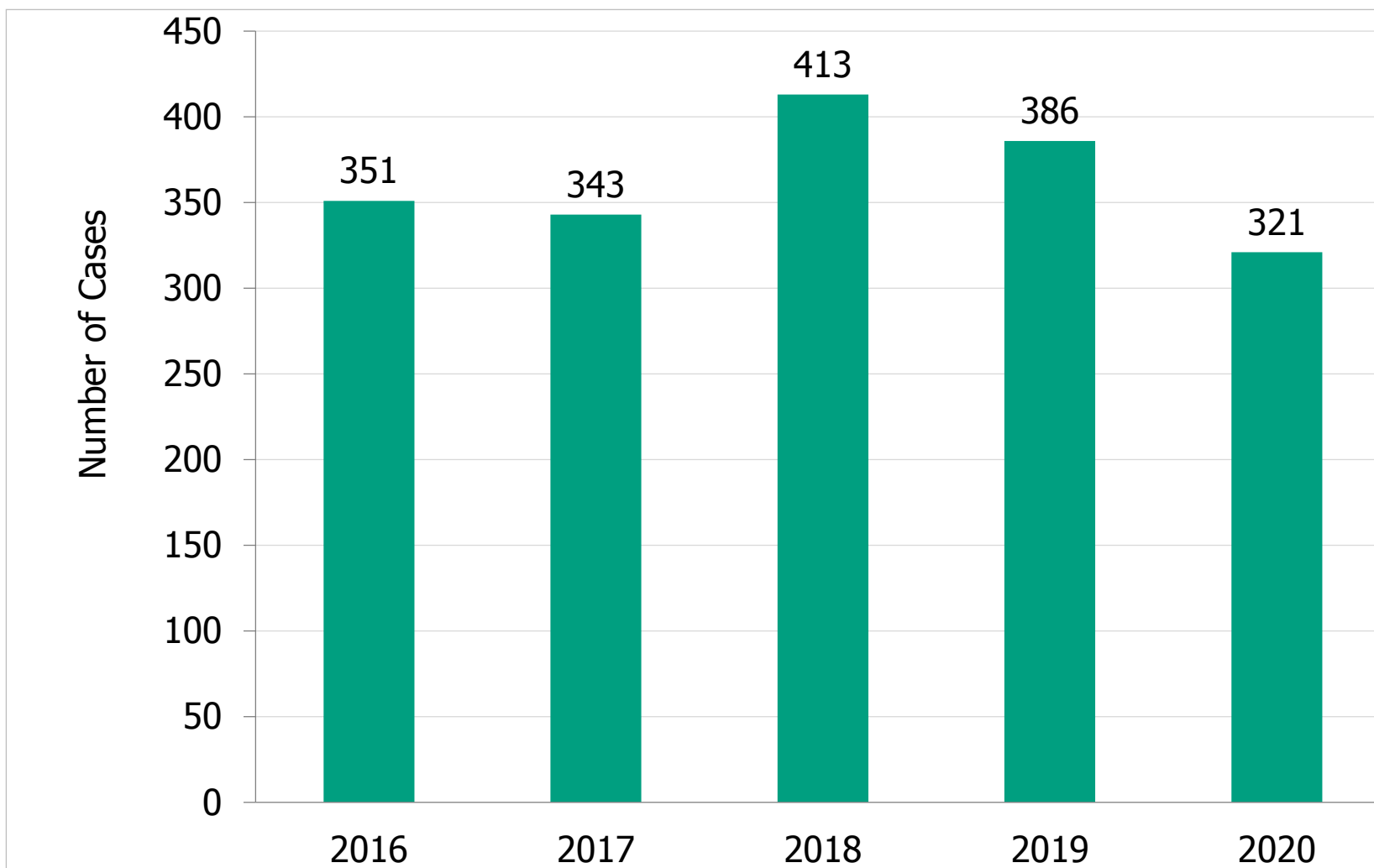
ICU Covid-19 cases in Sweden per week - show an earlier peak than case count



- Peak in end of March/beginning of April.
- ICU capacity scaled up rapidly, allocating staff and resources from other health care.

- 7800 deaths
- 3600 in ICU
- 350 000 cases

HIV in Sweden, number of reported cases per year 2016-2020, January-November



- 17% decrease (vs.2019)
- ca 75-80% migrants, the majority infected before immigration
- Larger decrease in ppl born in Sweden vs. immigrants



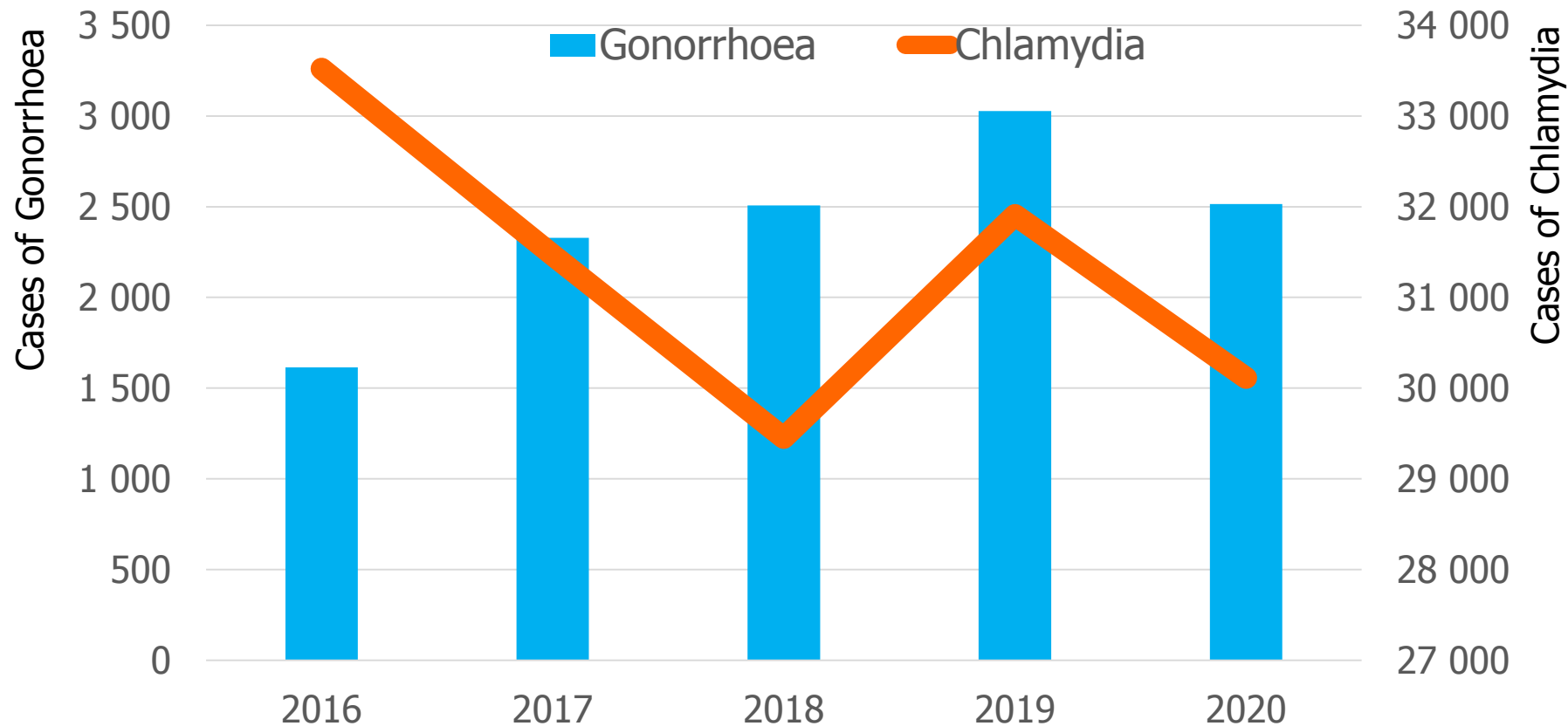
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Gonorrhoea and Chlamydia in Sweden, number of reported cases per year 2016-2020, January-November



- 17% decrease in Gonorrhoea cases (vs.2019)
- 6% decrease in Chlamydia cases (vs. 2019)
- Majority of the cases infected in Sweden (ca 88% of Chlamydia; ca 75% of Gonorrhoea)
- Decreased number of cases infected abroad 2020 vs 2019



Tuberculosis (TB) in Sweden, number of reported cases per year 2016-2020, Jan-Nov



- 34% decrease vs. 2019
- >85% among immigrants



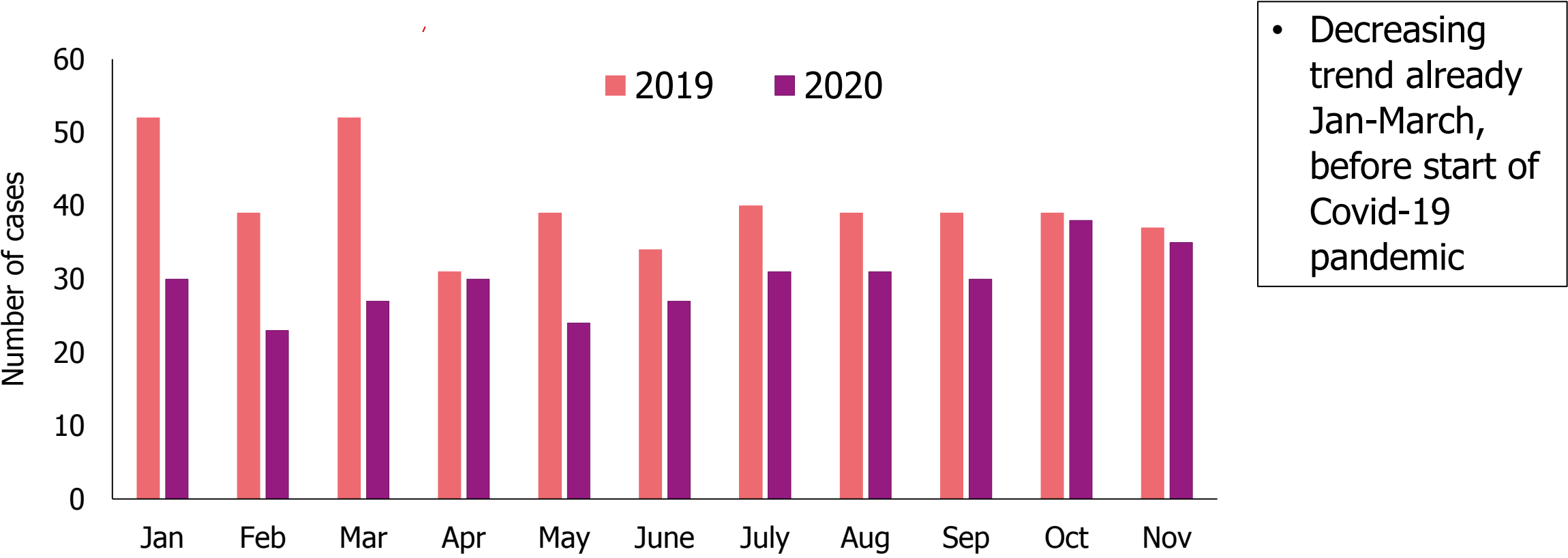
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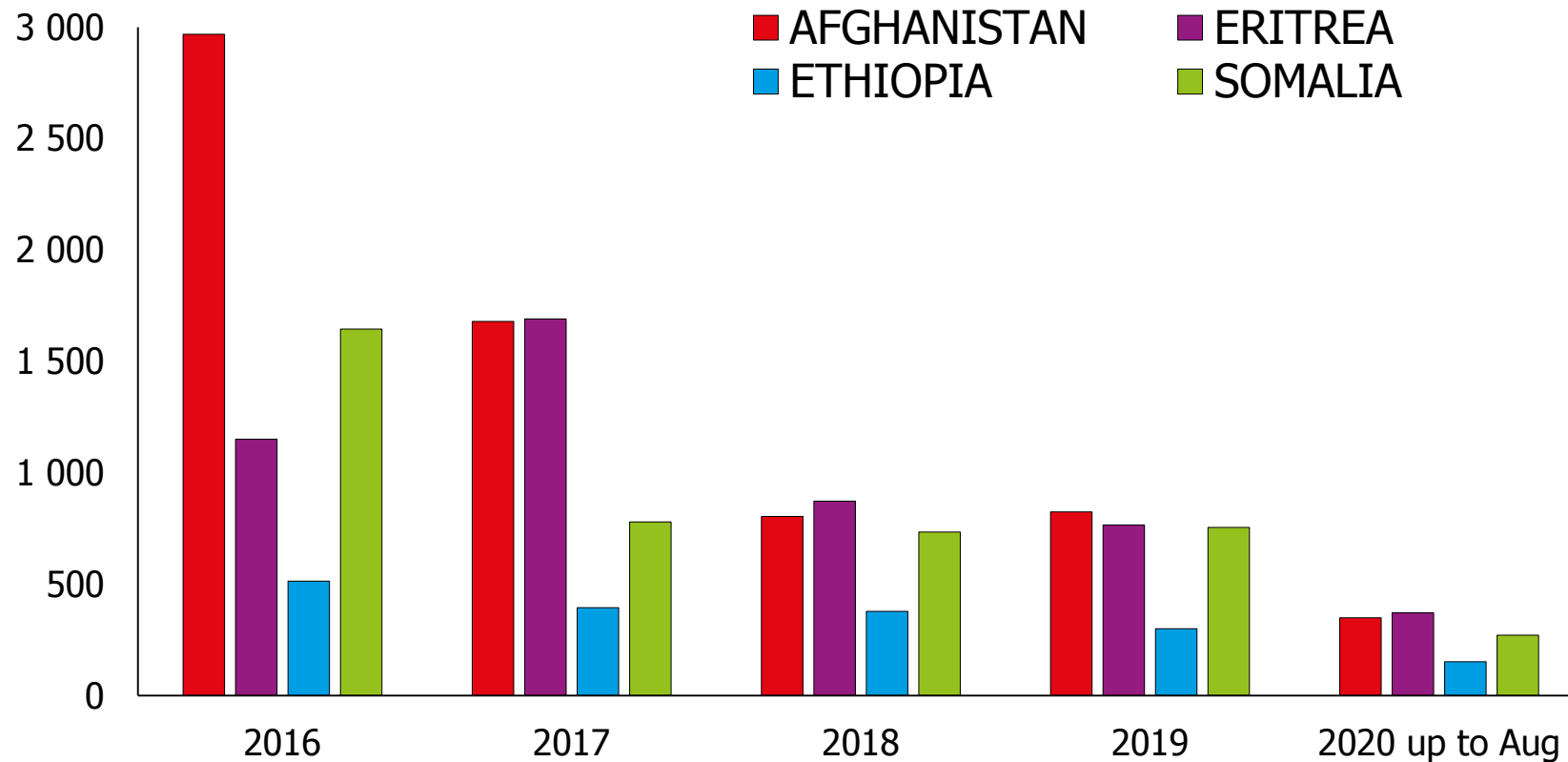
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Number of reported TB-cases in Sweden, per month 2019 and 2020, Jan-Nov



Number of asylum-seekers in Sweden per year 2016-2020, from a few high TB-incidence countries



- Decreasing trend of immigrants from countries with high TB-incidence
- 68% less TB-diagnosis in newly arrived immigrants (<1 year in Sweden) 2020 vs. 2019
- 40% decreased number of asylum-seekers vs. 2019 Jan-Nov

Summary

- Decreased number of HIV cases (-17%) and TB cases (-34%) reported in 2020 vs. 2019
- Decrease also in Chlamydia cases (-6%) and Gonorrhoea (-17%), breaking a more than 10-year long trend of increasing Gonorrhoea
- Reduced number of granted immigrant permits (-25% 2020 vs. 2019) and asylum-seekers (-40% 2020 vs 2019).
- Decreasing national rates in HIV and TB mainly due to reduced immigration, but reduced screening capacity in health care can also partly have had an impact.
- Decrease in STI diagnosis probably due to less travelling and less sexual contacts because of "social distancing", but could also be due to less routine test seeking (no testing denominator data available).



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HIV and Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI) among Men who have sex with men (MSM) in Stockholm

Experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic from Venhälsan - The Gay men's health clinic in South General Hospital, Stockholm

Special thanks to Dr Göran Bratt, Dr Finn Filén & Research Nurse Bernt Hildingsson-Lundh, Venhälsan



*Södersjukhuset
- South General
Hospital,
Stockholm*

Venhälsan today:

Organized under the Department of Infectious Diseases, South General Hospital in Stockholm

Three outpatient clinics:

- STI screening clinic for MSM (opened in 1982)
- HIV care and treatment clinic (opened in 1985)
- PrEP clinic for HIV-negative MSM (opened in 2018)

HIV treatment clinic

- 1 577 HIV positive patients
- 80% of patients are MSM
- 98% of patients are on ART
 - Of those on ART 98% have HIV-RNA <20 cop/mL
 - 98% have CD4 >200 x 10⁶/L
- 1-2 routine controls per year for well treated patients on effective ART
- No specific pandemic impact on the HIV treatment clinic

Pre Exposure Prophylax (PrEP) clinic

- Truvada as PrEP is included in the Public Pharmaceutical Benefits Insurance and subsidized by the Government
- Recommended for persons at "high risk" for HIV
- PrEP clinic started in October 2018
- 780 MSM now on PrEP
- After PrEP start routine controls including STI and HIV screening every 3rd month
- Waiting list with approximately 700 MSM

Pre Exposure Prophylax (PrEP) clinic

- High risk group of MSM
 - 80% has been diagnosed with STIs *before* PrEP start:
60% Gonorrhoea or Chlamydia; 25% Syphilis
- About one third diagnosed with at least one STI *after* starting PrEP
 - Chlamydia: 38/100 PrEP year
 - Gonorrhoea: 38/100 PrEP year
 - Syphilis: 6/100 PrEP year
- None HIV diagnosis
- 7% have stopped PrEP for various reasons

Pandemic impact on the PreP clinic:

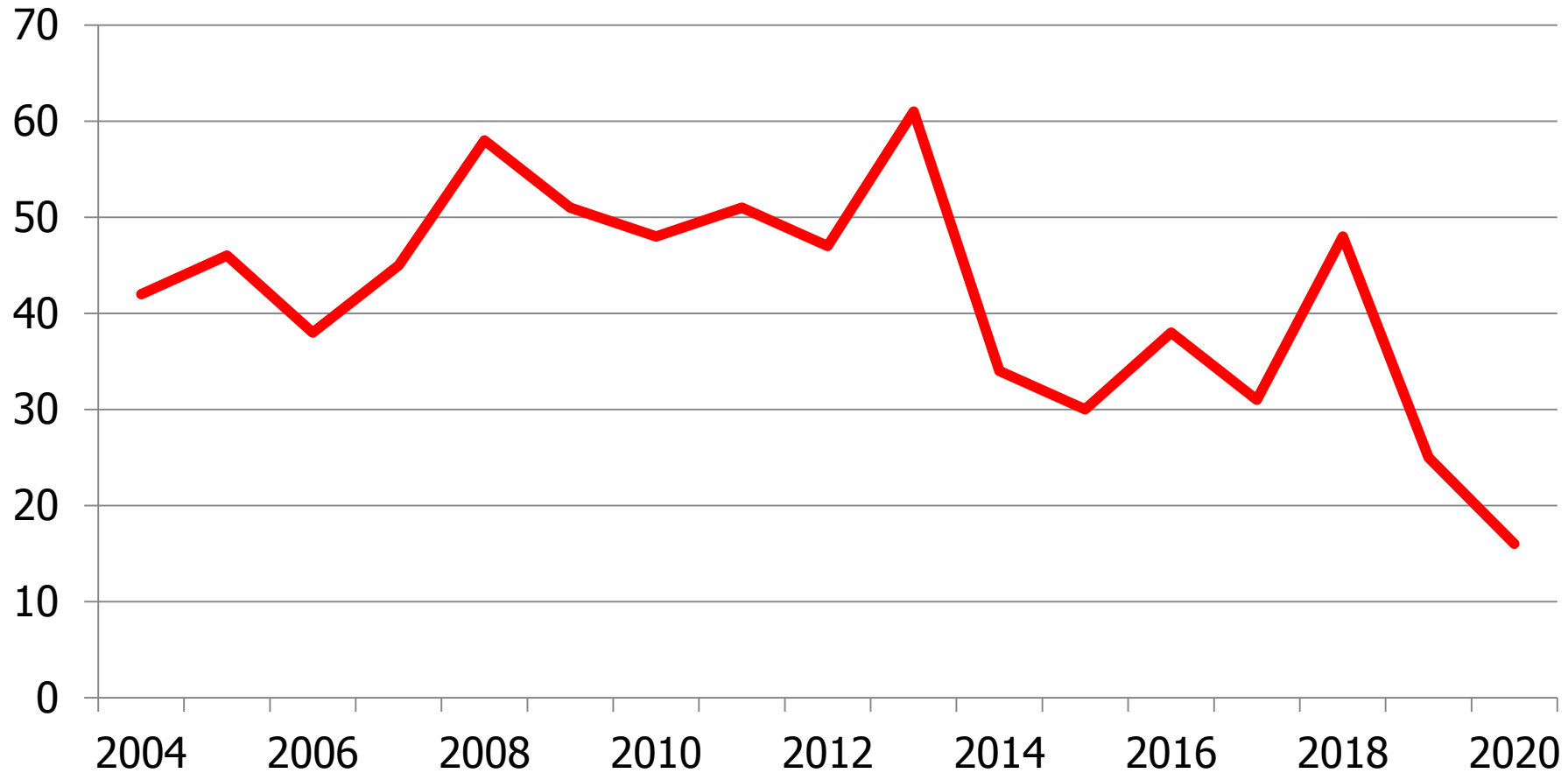
- PrEP inclusion stopped due to Covid-19 March to Sep
- PrEP inclusion again paused from Nov →
- But STI patients assessed as "very high risk for HIV" have started PrEP (in spite of pandemic situation)
- Reduced capacity for routine controls. Patients on PrEP categorised as:
 - "High STI risk" (≥ 1 STI/previous year) = routine controls every 3 months
 - "Low STI risk" (None STI/previous year) = routine controls every 6 months
- Nurse assessments – not only doctor assessments – for PrEP since September 2020 (MSM <40 years, no other medications or risk factors for kidney problems)
 - Information and baseline tests (blood, urine, STI swabs by nurse)
 - Prescription of Truvada sent by doctor 2-3 days later when test results have arrived

STI and HIV screening clinic for MSM

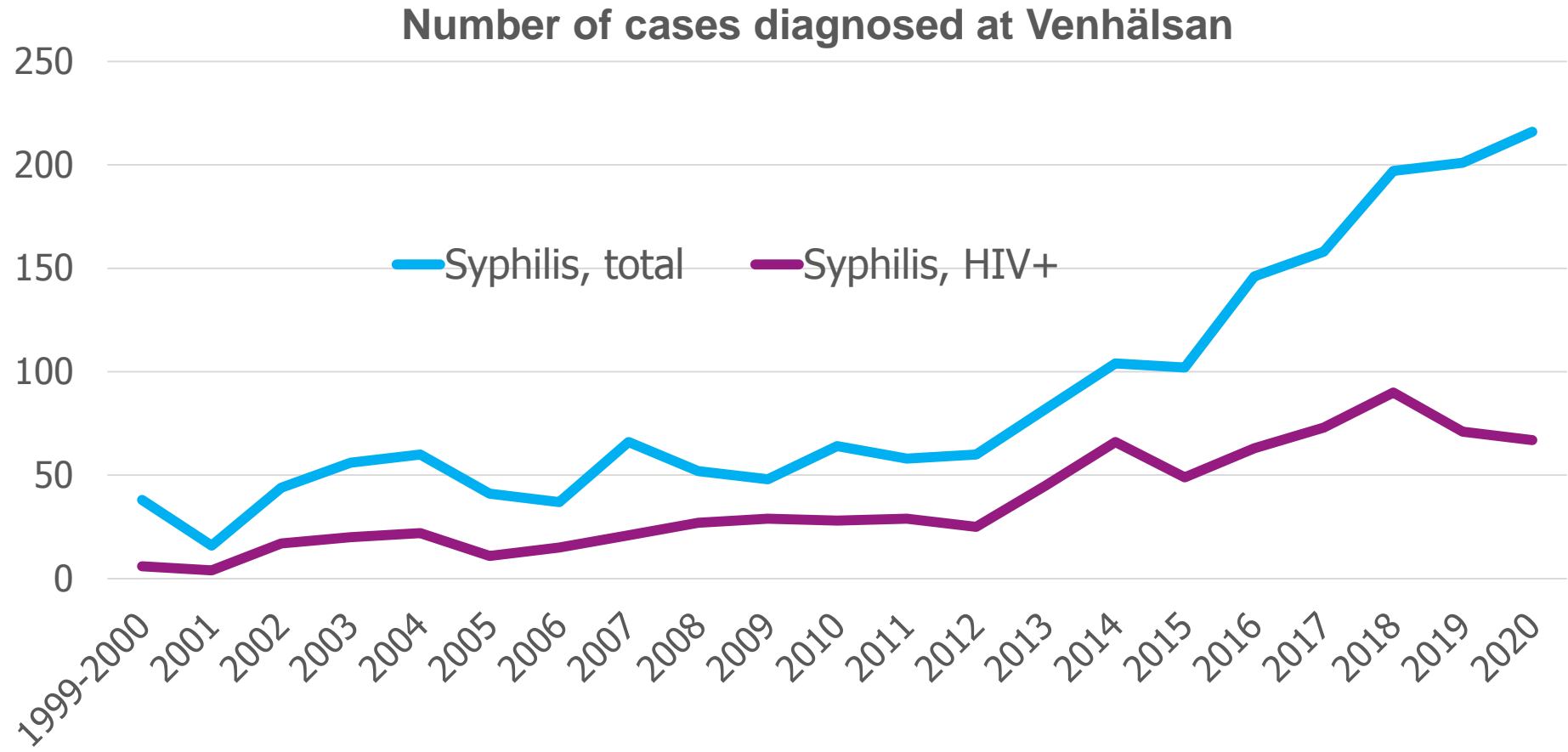
Diagnosed cases at Venhälsan up to mid Dec. 2020:

- 16 cases of HIV
 - 578 cases of Gonorrhoea
 - 567 cases of Chlamydia
 - 216 cases of Syphilis (early infection =< 1 year)
-
- 32% of Gonorrhoea, Chlamydia and Syphilis cases diagnosed in MSM on PrEP

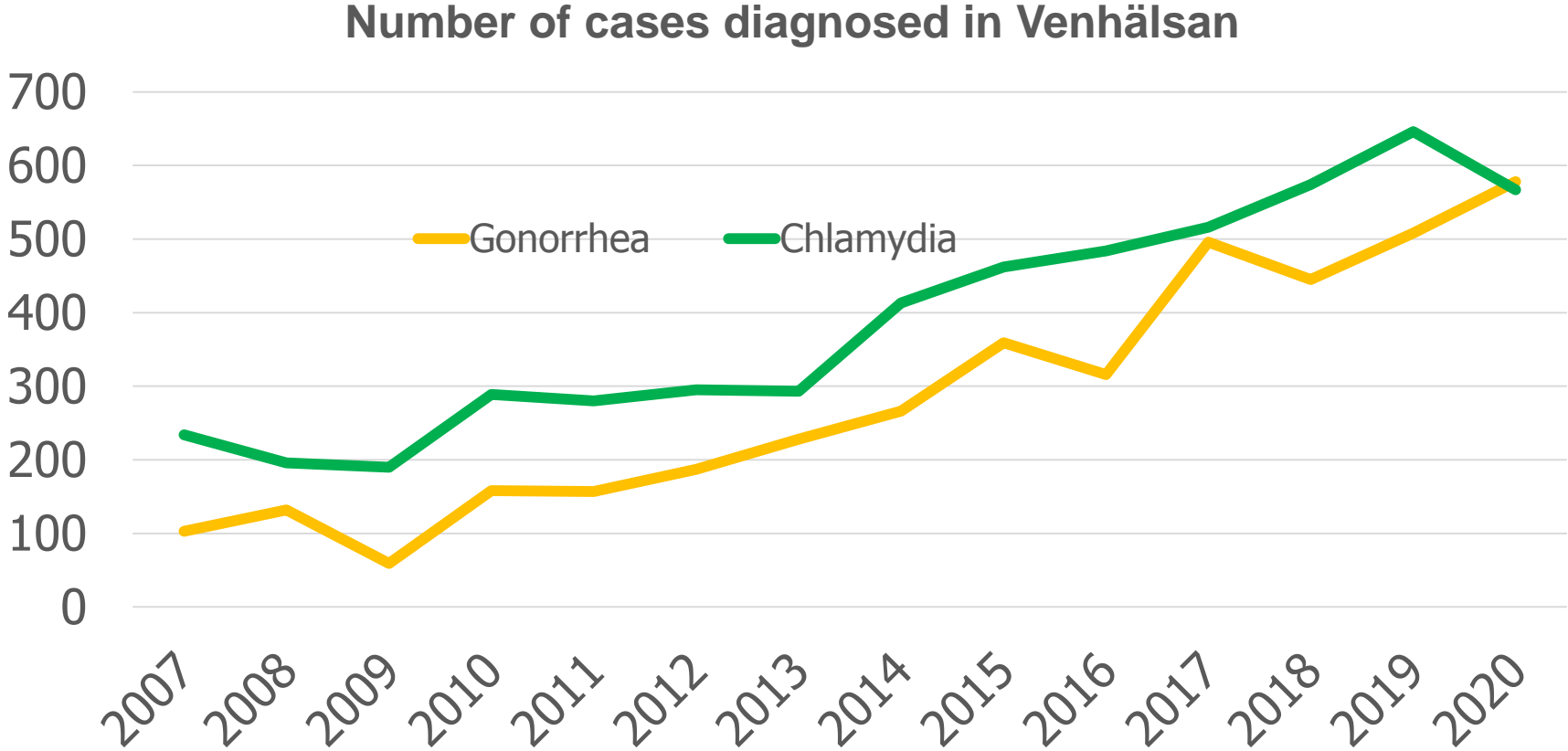
HIV infections in MSM per year, diagnosed in Venhälsan 2004-2020



Syphilis in MSM, total and in HIV+ MSM per year, 2000-Mid Dec 2020



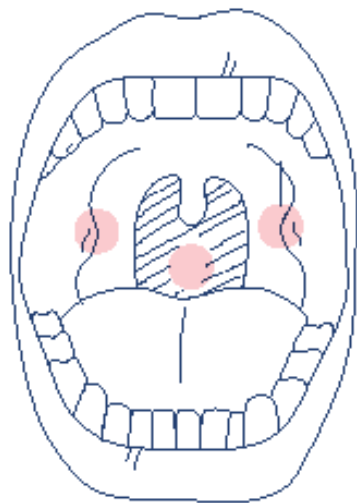
Gonorrhoea and Chlamydia in MSM per year, 2007- Mid Dec 2020



Pandemic impact on the STI screening clinic:

- Routine STI & HIV-testing stopped in asymptomatic MSM from March → except:
 - MSM who are contact traced for STI or HIV
 - HIV-positive patients (offered STI screening annually)
 - PrEP patients (every 3rd or 6th month)
- Introduction of self sampling with swab for pharyngeal and rectal sampling of Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea in asymptomatic patients. (Self sampling was evaluated with good results in a pilot study in the clinic already in 2019)
- No control test after antibiotic treatment in uncomplicated gonorrhoea cases

Self sampling instructions (in Swedish)



Prov Från Svalget

1. Tvätta händerna och ta fram röret märkt med ditt personnummer samt SVALG. Skruva av locket till provröret samt öppna en förpackning med topsar och ta fram den rosa topsen. Undvik att lägga ner den så att den inte blir smutsig.

Du kan slänga den vita topsen.

2. Gnugga toppen av den rosa topsen på slemhinnan i svalget på dessa tre ställen.

3. Stoppa ner den rosa topsen i röret och bryt försiktigt av pinnen.

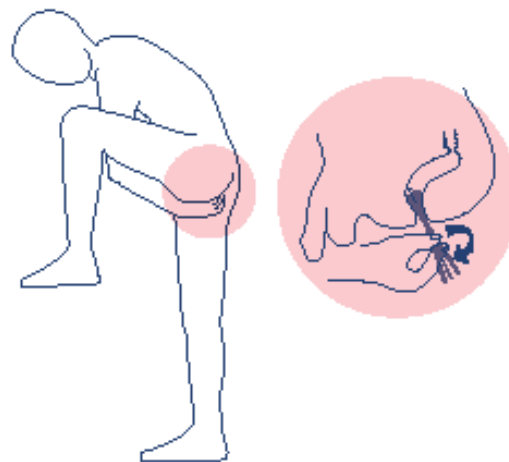
Skruva fast korken.

Prov Från Ändtarmen

1. Ta fram röret märkt med ditt personnummer och REKTUM. Skruva av locket till provröret samt öppna en förpackning med topsar och ta fram den rosa topsen. Undvik att lägga ner den så att den inte blir smutsig.

Du kan slänga den vita topsen.

2. Hitta en bra position och för in pinnen 2–3 cm in i ändtarmen. Undvik att böja pinnen så att den inte går av.



3. Roterar pinnan 5-10 gånger i en cirkelrörelse mot slemhinnan

4. Roterar pinnen försiktigt medan du tar ut den.

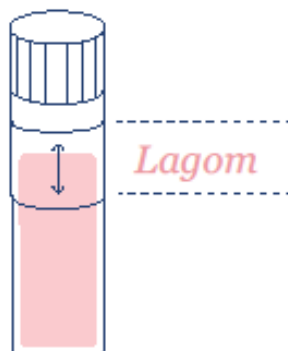
5. Stoppa ner den rosa pinnen i röret och bryt försiktigt av pinnen. Skruva fast korken.

Urinprov

1. Ta fram röret märkt med ditt personnummer och URIN.

2. Kissa det första du kissar i en plastmugg.

3. För sedan över urin i provröret upp till mellan pilarna med hjälp av pipetten. Skruva fast korken.



SOS

BÖDERGJUKHuset

Summary

- Decreased number of new HIV cases in MSM
 - Possibly mainly due to PrEP
 - Less immigration of MSM during 2020?
- Increased number of Gonorrhoea and Syphilis, despite less routine testing of asymptomatic MSM
- Reduced number of STI and HIV routine tests (ca 30% less tests?)
- MSM with high risk (contact traced, symptoms, HIV+, high risk PrEP persons) have been tested despite the pandemic
- About 1/3 of men with STI diagnosis are on PrEP
- Inclusion stop for PrEP March-August, Nov →

- Possible positive effect of the Covid-19 pandemic:
 - Self sampling for Gonorrhoea and Chlamydia has been accepted by patients and staff