

# Monitoring anonymous HIV testing in Estonia in 2005–2015

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## Introduction

In Estonia, network of anonymous HIV testing sites has been operating since 1988. Services are provided by health care organizations and financed by the National Institute for Health Development (NIHD) from the state budget. Since 2009, testing for viral hepatitis markers (HCV-antibodies and HBsAg) is also available. In 2015 there were 11 testing sites in 10 cities.

## Objectives

The objective of this analysis is to assess anonymous HIV testing in Estonia in 2005–2015.

## Methods

We used data from NIHD annual activity and financial reports and National Health Board.

## Results

In Estonia, annually more than 200,000 HIV tests are performed, with approximately 5–6% of them in anonymous HIV testing sites. Figure 1 shows the number of people counselled and tested, and the percentage tested in 2005–2015. Figure 2 shows the number and percentage of new HIV cases, including injecting drug users among them, 2005–2015. Figure 3 shows the cost of detection of one new positive HIV case and positivity rate (proportion of new HIV cases among all people tested). Figure 4 shows the proportion of new HIV cases diagnosed in anonymous testing sites compared to all new HIV cases in Estonia. Figure 5 shows the number of people tested for viral hepatitis markers and the percentage of positive test results.

## Conclusions

A considerable proportion of all new HIV cases in Estonia have been diagnosed in anonymous HIV testing sites. Since 2005, the number of new positive cases and the positivity rate among all tested has decreased. Simultaneously the cost of detection of one new HIV case has increased. This may in part be related to testing campaigns targeting more of the general population with lower HIV risk. **In the future, more attention should be paid to people with higher HIV risk and increasing access to testing in community based organizations.**

Figure 1. Number of people counselled and tested, and the percentage tested with rapid tests, 2005–2015

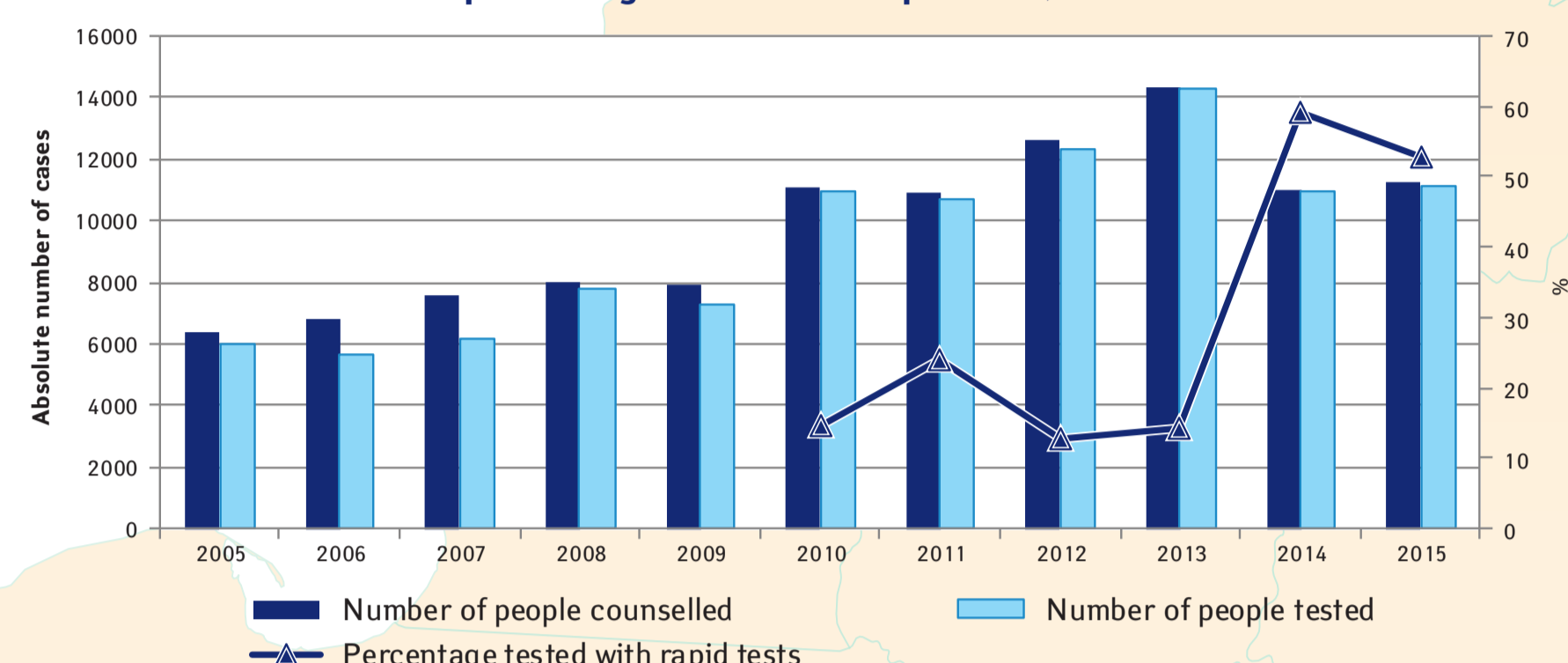


Figure 2. Number and percentage of new HIV cases, including injecting drug users among them, 2005–2015

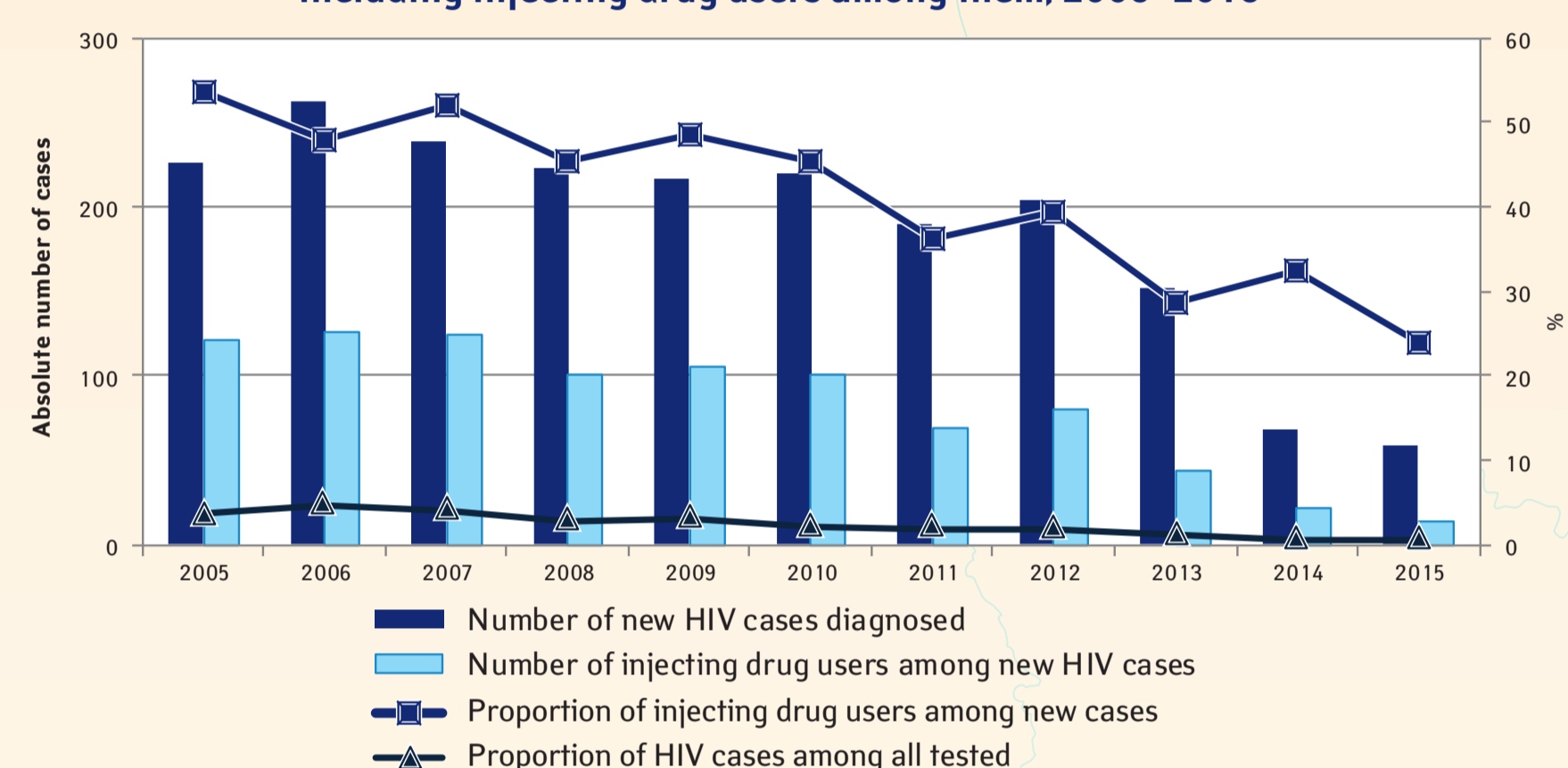


Figure 3. Cost of detection of one new HIV case, 2005–2015

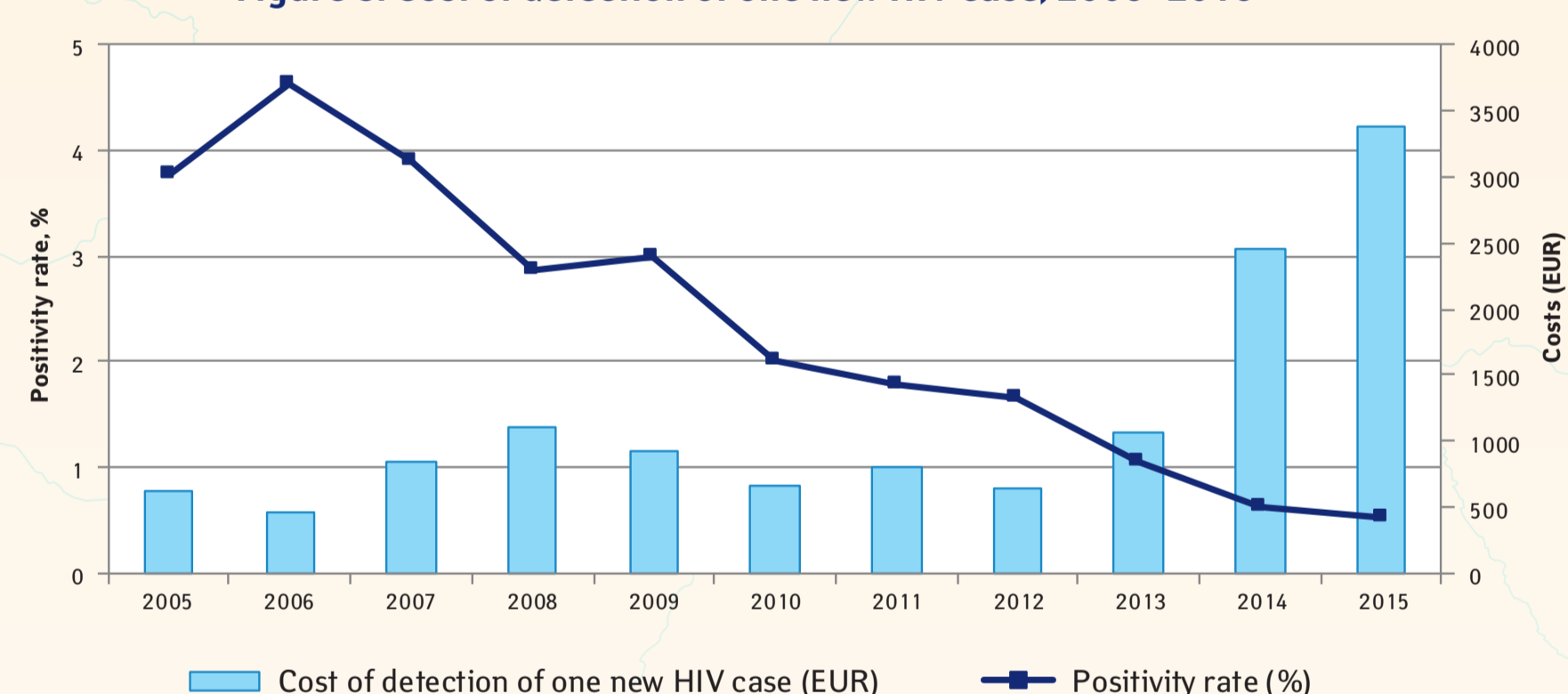


Figure 4. Number of new HIV cases diagnosed in Estonia, including the proportion diagnosed in anonymous testing sites, 2005–2015

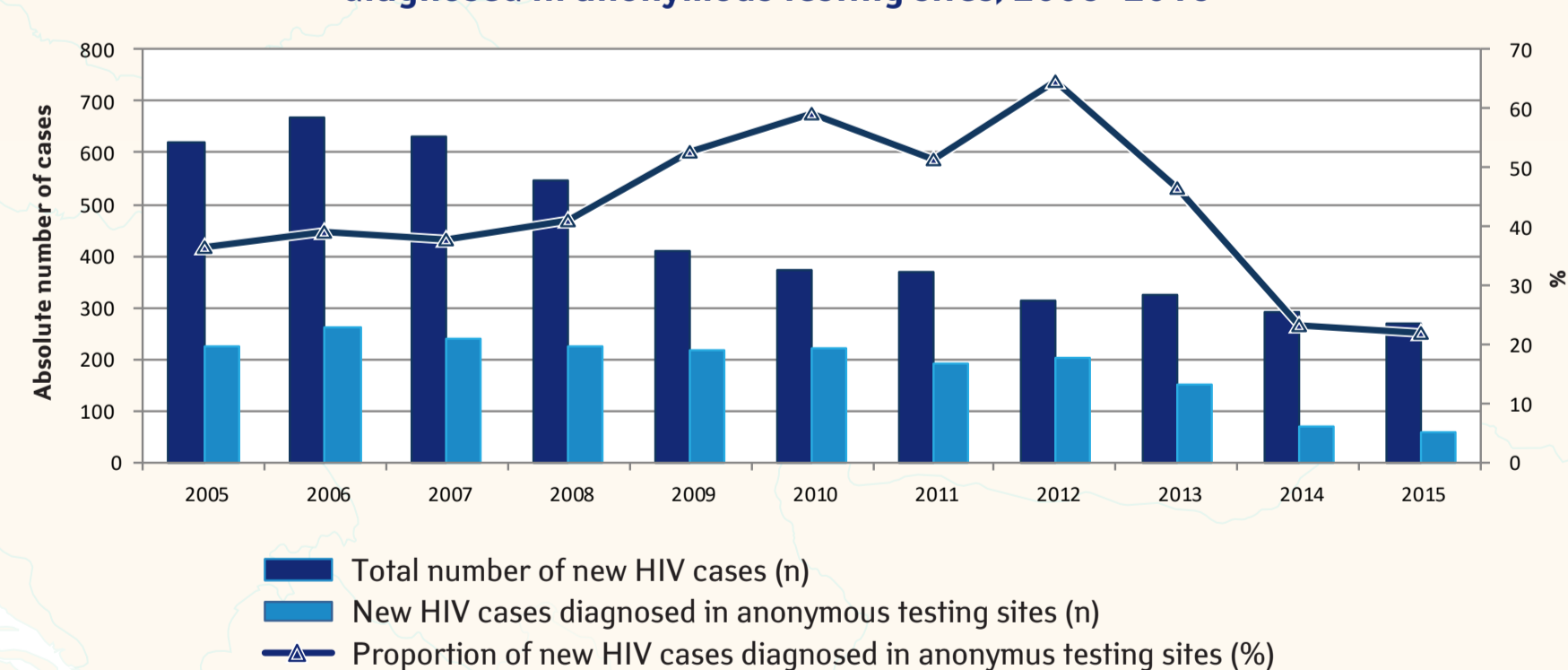


Figure 5. Number of people tested for viral hepatitis and positivity rate, 2009–2015

