

HIV in migrant populations in Australia: A Changing Epidemiology

Rebecca Guy (on behalf of Praveena Gunaratnam)

Authors: Praveena Gunaratnam*, Anita Elizabeth Heywood, Skye McGregor, Muhammad Shahid Jamil, Hamish McManus, Limin Mao, **Roanna Lobo**, **Graham Brown**, Margaret Hellard, Tafireyi Marukutira, Neil Arvin Bretaña, Carolyn Lang, Nicholas Medland, Benjamin Bavinton, Andrew Grulich, Rebecca Guy

SiREN Symposium
18th May 2018



Background

- National and state-level HIV strategies prioritise migrants from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- People born in Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia alone \approx 20% PLHIV in Australia
- More likely to be diagnosed late and may face barriers e.g. to treatment access

Aims

1. To describe recent HIV epidemiological trends in people born overseas; and
2. Inform the development and delivery of targeted and culturally appropriate HIV programs.

Methods – Data Sources

- All people diagnosed with HIV in Australia between 2006 to 2015 from the National HIV registry
- Variables:
 - Age and sex
 - Mode of exposure (male to male sex (MSM) or heterosexual sex)
 - Country of birth
- Countries of birth grouped into 10 regions based on ABS classification
- ABS population data

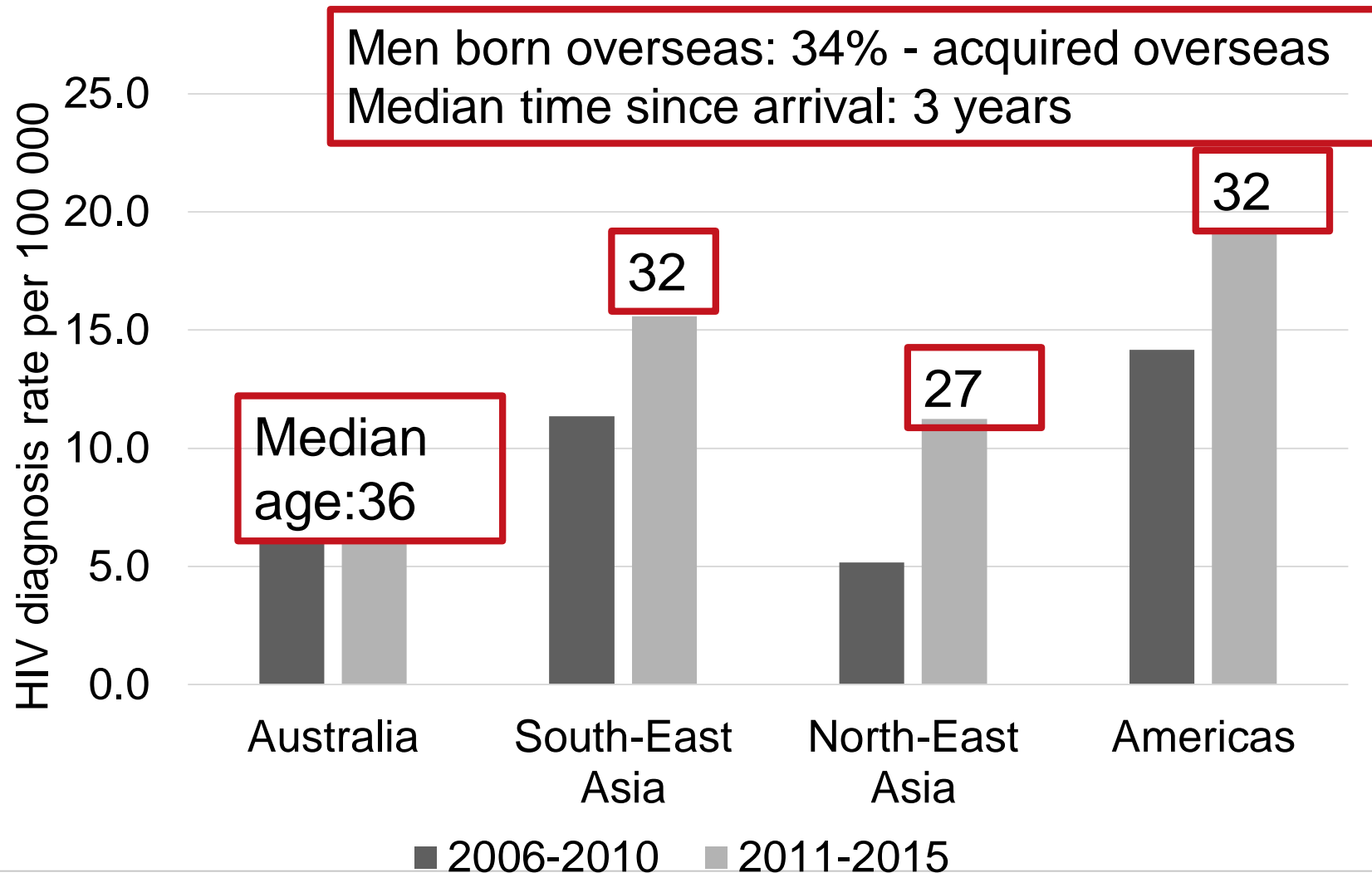
Methods – Analysis

- Calculation of:
 - Diagnosis rates per 100,000 population
 - incidence rate ratios (IRRs) and summary rate ratios (SRRs)
 - Compare regions of birth and time periods using poisson regression
- P value set at 0.05

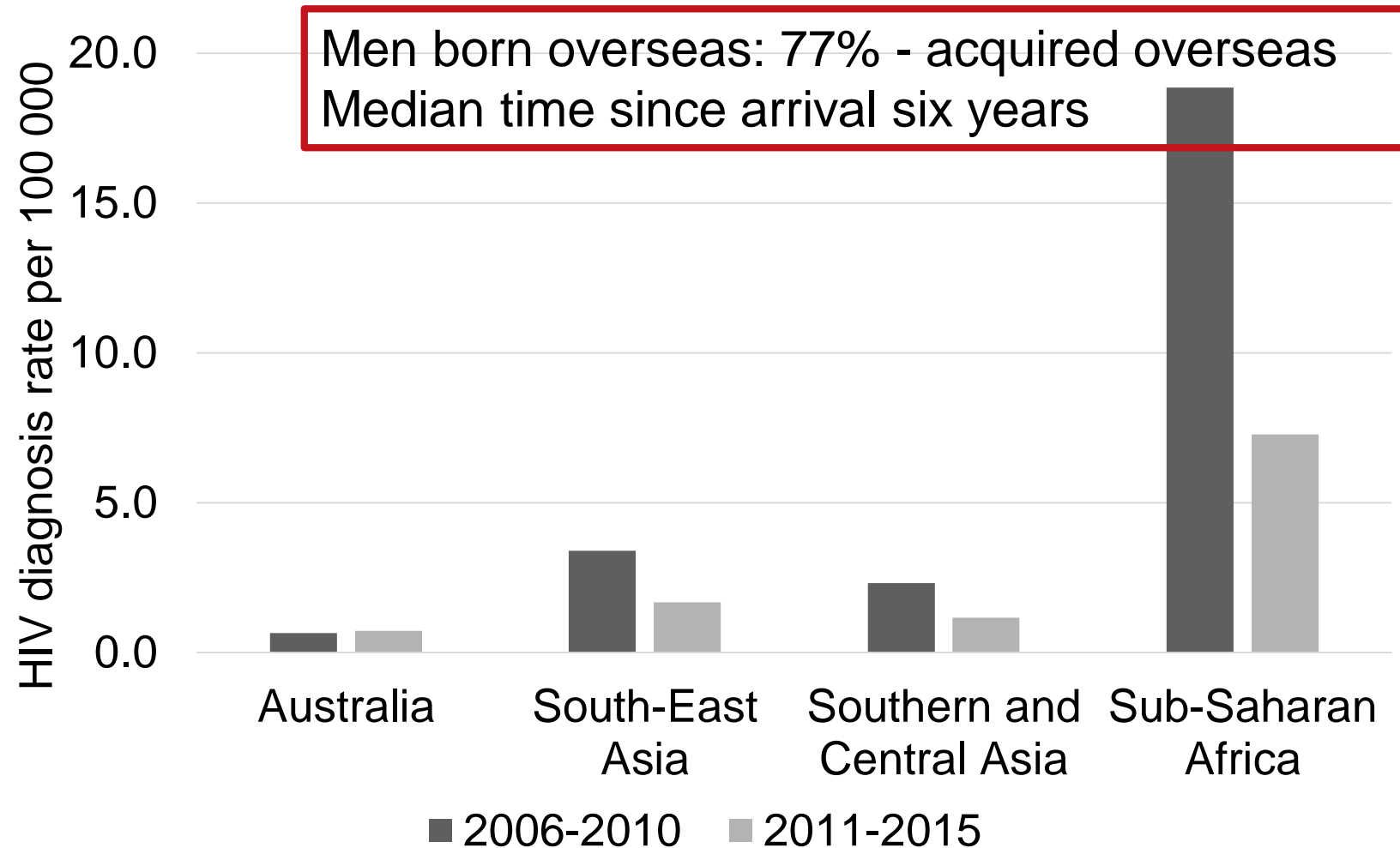
Findings

- Total of 8,834 new HIV diagnoses in Australia between 2006 and 2015.
- Between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 % of HIV diagnoses attributed to male-to-male sex:
 - ↓72.5% to 66.5% in Australian-born men
 - ↑9.7% to 15.8% in South-East, North-East or Southern and Central Asia

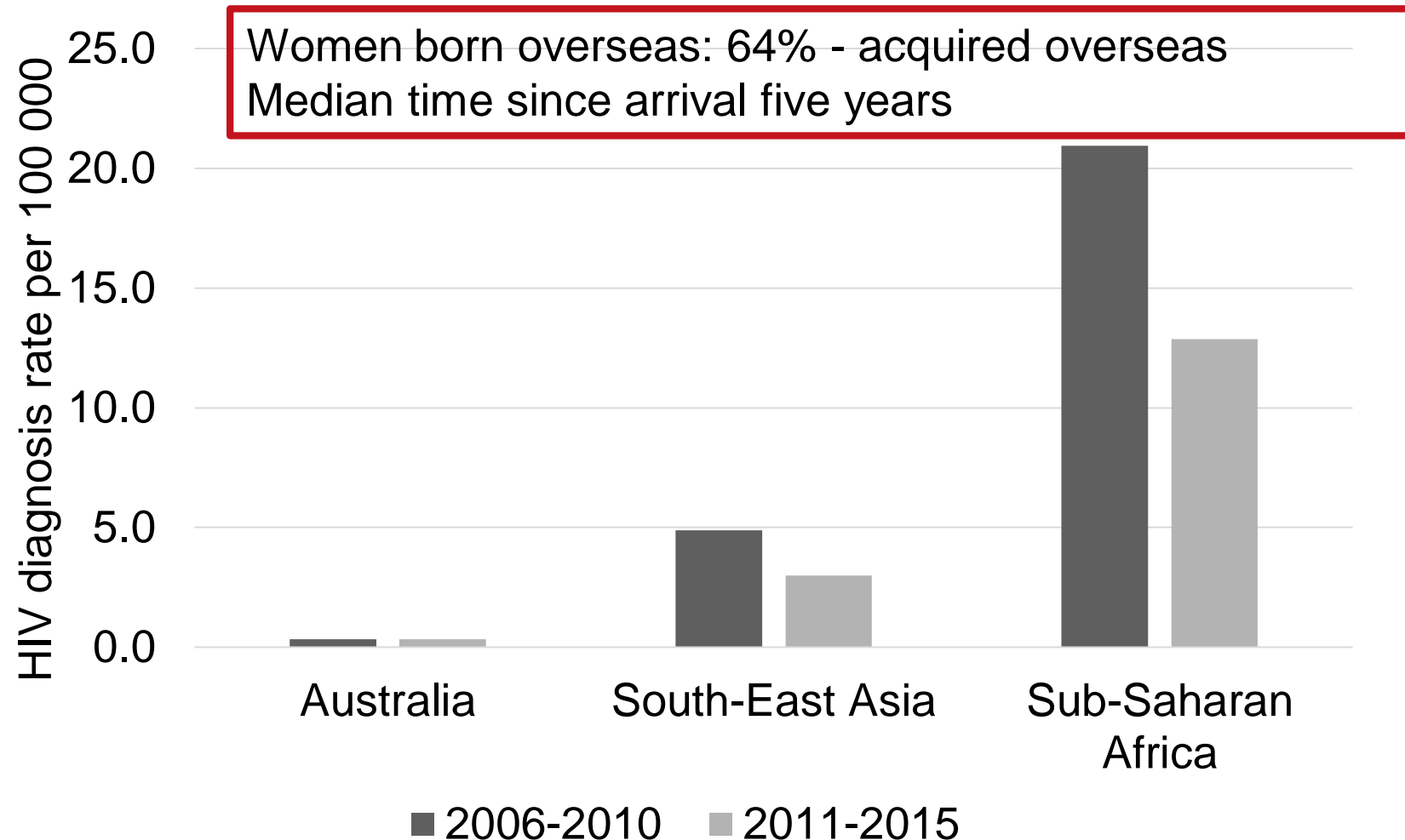
HIV diagnosis rate per 100,000, MSM select regions of birth, 2006-15



HIV diagnosis rate per 100,000, heterosexual males select regions of birth, 2006-15



HIV diagnosis rate per 100,000, heterosexual females select regions of birth, 2006-15



Conclusions

- Epidemiology of HIV among people born overseas is changing:
 - ↑ diagnosis rate in MSM from SE/NE Asia and the Americas
 - ↓ diagnosis rate due to heterosexual sex in South-East Asian and Sub-Saharan African born

Future directions

- Need for interviews with men Asian-born MSM, heterosexuals born overseas
 - Include people from different backgrounds
 - Social and sexual networks
 - Behavioural and cultural factors
 - Views on ways to improve access to prevention
- Implement culturally appropriate interventions

Acknowledgements

- Co-authors: P Gunaratnam, A Heywood, S McGregor, MS Jamil, H McManus, L Mao, R Lobo, G Brown, M Hellard, T Marukutira, NA Bretaña, C Lang, N Medland, B Bavinton, A Grulich
- State and territory health departments
- National Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Subcommittee of CDNA

Thank you
pgunaratnam@kirby.unsw.edu.au