

# Socio-demographic inequalities in HIV testing patterns among MSM in Spain

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# Introduction

- **Regular HIV testing** enables early identification and treatment of HIV among at-risk men who have sex with men (MSM).
- Characterizing **HIV testing needs** for MSM informs development of more effective testing interventions.
- **Objectives:** To describe HIV testing patterns among MSM in Spain and the sociodemographic profile of men who did not know where to get an HIV test.

## Methods

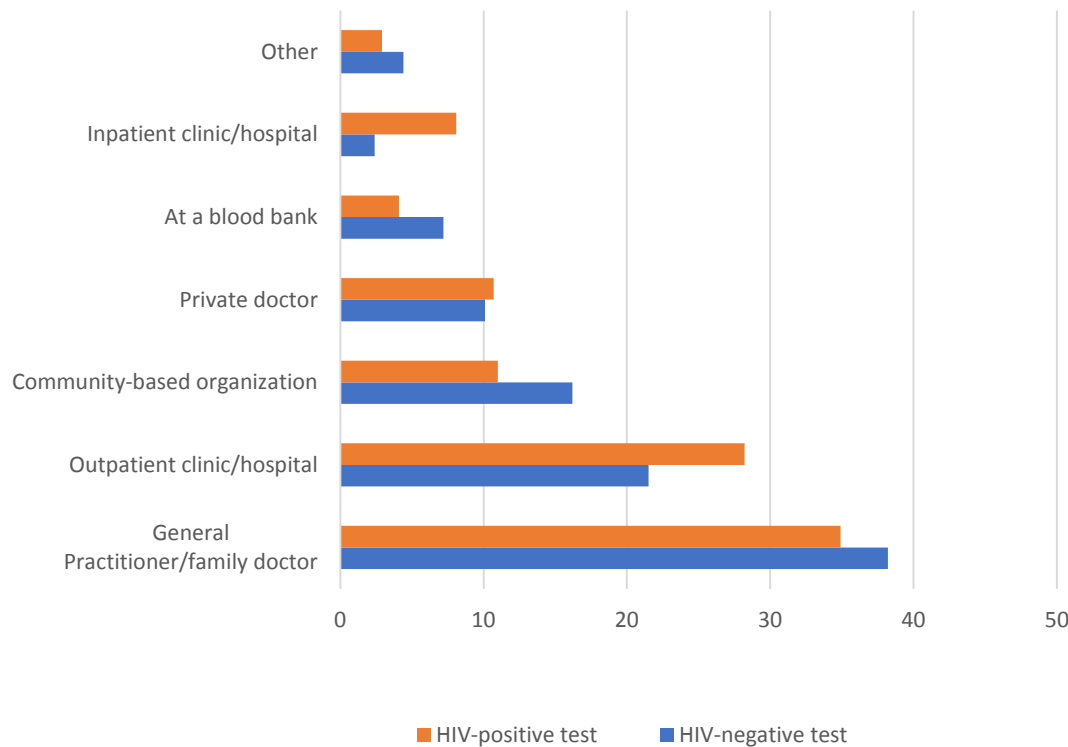
- The **European MSM Internet Survey** (EMIS-2017)\* was implemented in 50 countries and in 33 different languages, with the objective of collecting information on sexual behavior, drug consumption, psychosocial health, HIV and STI testing and infections, amongst others.
- For the purpose of this analysis, participants in EMIS **living in Spain** were selected (**n= 10.634**).

\*EMIS-2017 was designed by Sigma Research (LSHTM) and financed by the EU Health Programme

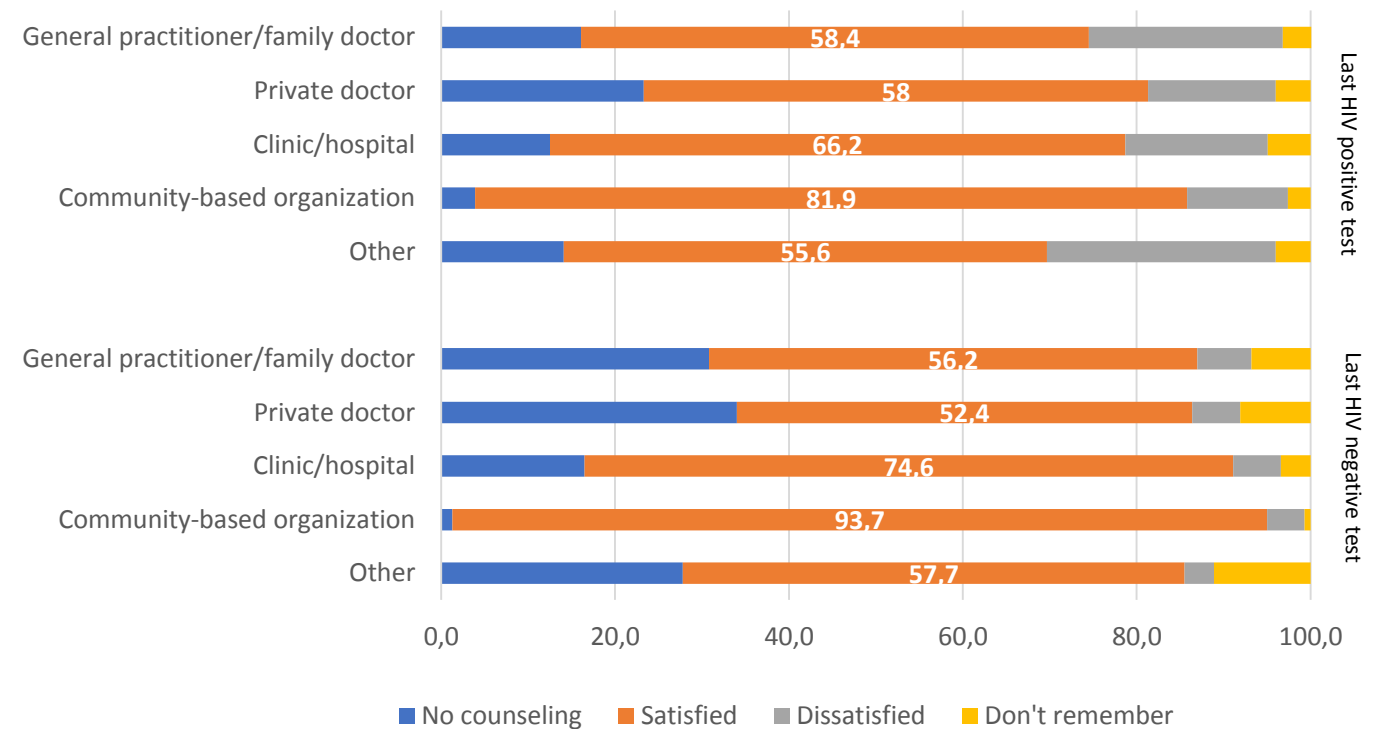
# Results

- In Spain, **80.6%** of the EMIS participants had **ever been tested** for HIV and among those ever tested, **16.5%** were **diagnosed with HIV**.

Place of the last HIV test

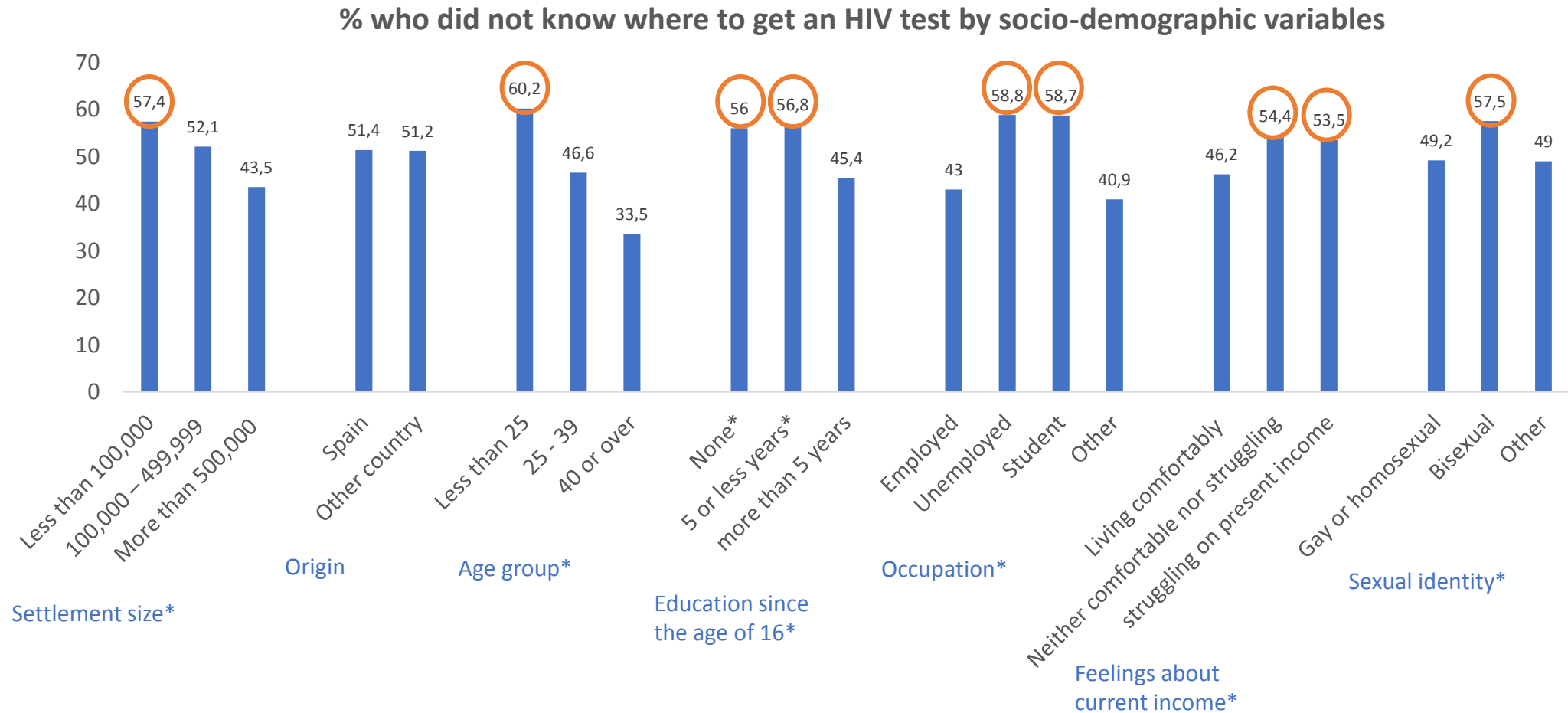


Satisfaction with HIV testing and counselling



# Results

- More than a quarter (28.3%) of men not tested **did not know** where to get an HIV test and another 23% were **unsure**.



\*p<0.05

# Conclusions

- In Spain, 19.4% of MSM have never been tested for HIV.
- The need to know where to test for HIV was unmet for 51.3% of men who had never tested, being higher among the youngest.
- HIV tests had been provided in a range of service settings, although clinical settings dominate HIV-testing in Spain.
- Satisfaction with HIV testing is highest among those tested at a community-based organization.
- New strategies and testing technologies to increase testing coverage are necessary, in particular targeting those living in rural areas, young and bisexual MSM.

## Acknowledgement

All of the men who took part in EMIS-2017; EMIS coordinators: Axel J. Schmidt, Ford Hickson, David Reid, and Peter Weatherburn (Sigma Research (LSHTM)); and all our partners for being part of something huge. In Europe: PlanetRomeo, EATG, ECOM, ECDC, EMCDDA, DG SANTE. In Spain:

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BakaLa.org

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FELGTB

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Otros colaboradores: panteres grogues, MATINEE