Author's response to reviews

Title: Good continuum of HIV care in Belgium despite weaknesses in retention and linkage to care among migrants

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear editor, dear reviewers,

Following the first comment from the reviewer Janne Estill, we had a further reflexion on the results presented in figure 3 illustrating the continuum of HIV care. We added one more correction to the continuum of HIV care regarding proportions of ART uptake and VL suppression. Given that the calculation of these proportions were performed on those in care in the ARCs, we applied the calculated proportions on the total population in care in 2011, which is the most similar total population, instead of on those retained in care in 2011 as previously done.

In consequence, figure 3 was updated and the following changes were done in the manuscript:

p. 2, line 61 (abstract): “Of all HIV diagnosed patients living in Belgium in 2011, an estimated 98.2% were linked to HIV care, 90.8% were retained in care, **83.3%** received antiretroviral therapy and **69.5%** had an undetectable viral load (<50 copies/ml).”

p.6, line 186: “The next stages of the continuum of HIV care were estimated by applying the proportions of patients on ART and with VL suppression to the **population in HIV care in 2011**.”

p. 9, line 260: “The estimated proportions of 84.6% of patients in care on ART of whom **83.4%** of patients with viral suppression were applied to the population in HIV care in 2011 (n=12449). We estimated **83.3% (n=10532)** of the diagnosed HIV population living in Belgium to be on ART and **69.5% (n=8784)** to have suppressed VL.”

p. 13, line 370: “When including this estimate in the continuum of care, the proportion of individuals with suppressed VL among all PLHIV residing in Belgium is estimated at **56%**.”

We apologize for this supplementary modification, but we are convinced that the results are now more accurate. We hope this modification can still be taken into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Dominique Van Beckhoven