

HIV Epidemiology in Malta

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Brief history

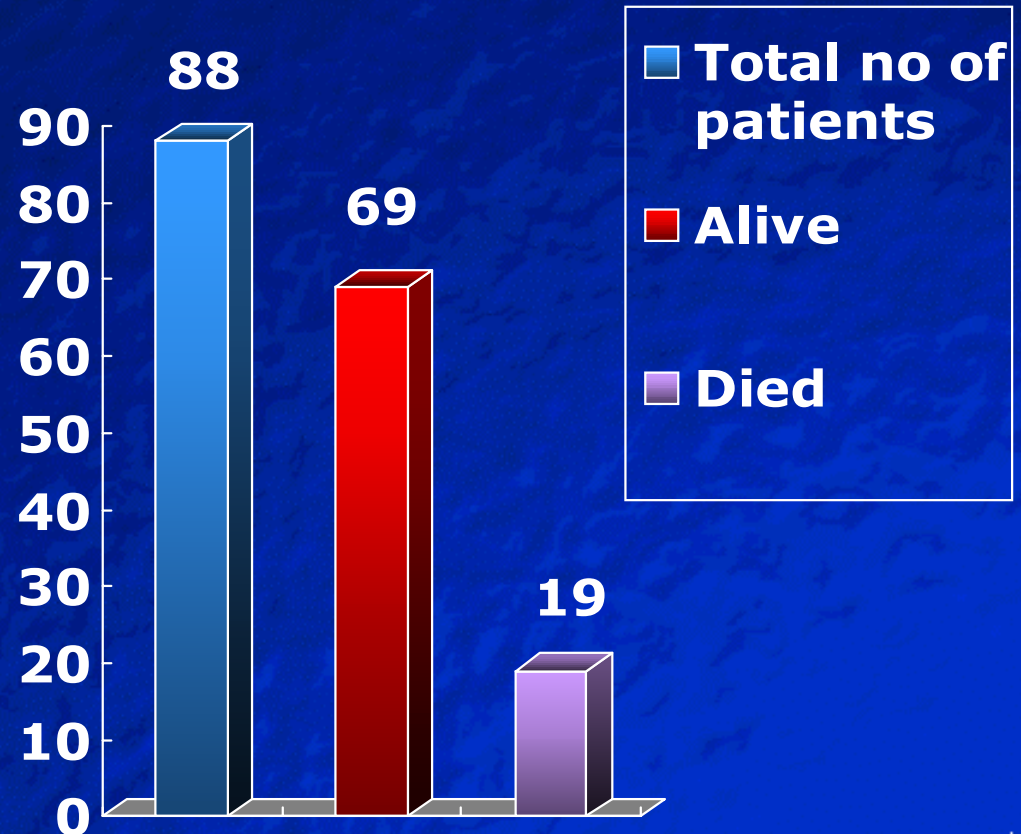
- 1981: onset of AIDS epidemic
- 1983: virus identified as cause
- First case diagnosed 1985
- HIV infection (HTLV3) caught us by surprise
- Difficulty in medical services
 - Who should look after patients
 - No established Infectious Disease service
 - Fear permeated into profession
 - Little can be done
 - Dismal prognosis

Brief history

- 1992: first cases treated with AZT
- 1994: start of Infectious Diseases Service
- 1996: studies showing that dual therapy better (AZT/DDI)
- 1997:
 - formal establishment of ID service
 - HAART established as the standard of care
- 1998: HAART given free to all patients with HIV
- 2000: Opening of Infectious Disease Unit (Sir Temi Zammit Unit)

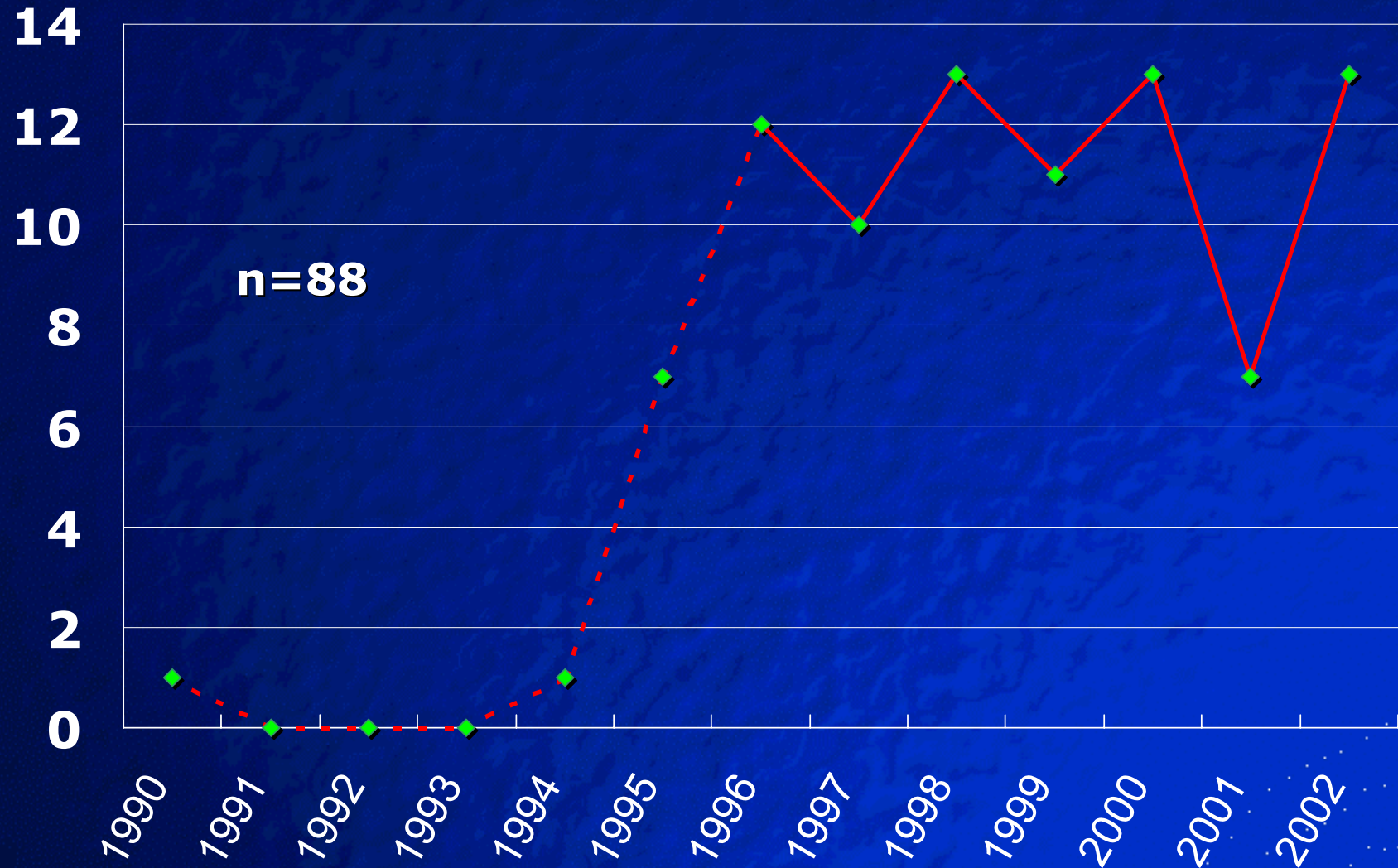
Maltese HIV cohort

- Diagnosed by or referred to ID
- Regular f/u
- Monitoring of CD4 and HIV viral load
- Walk in clinic basis

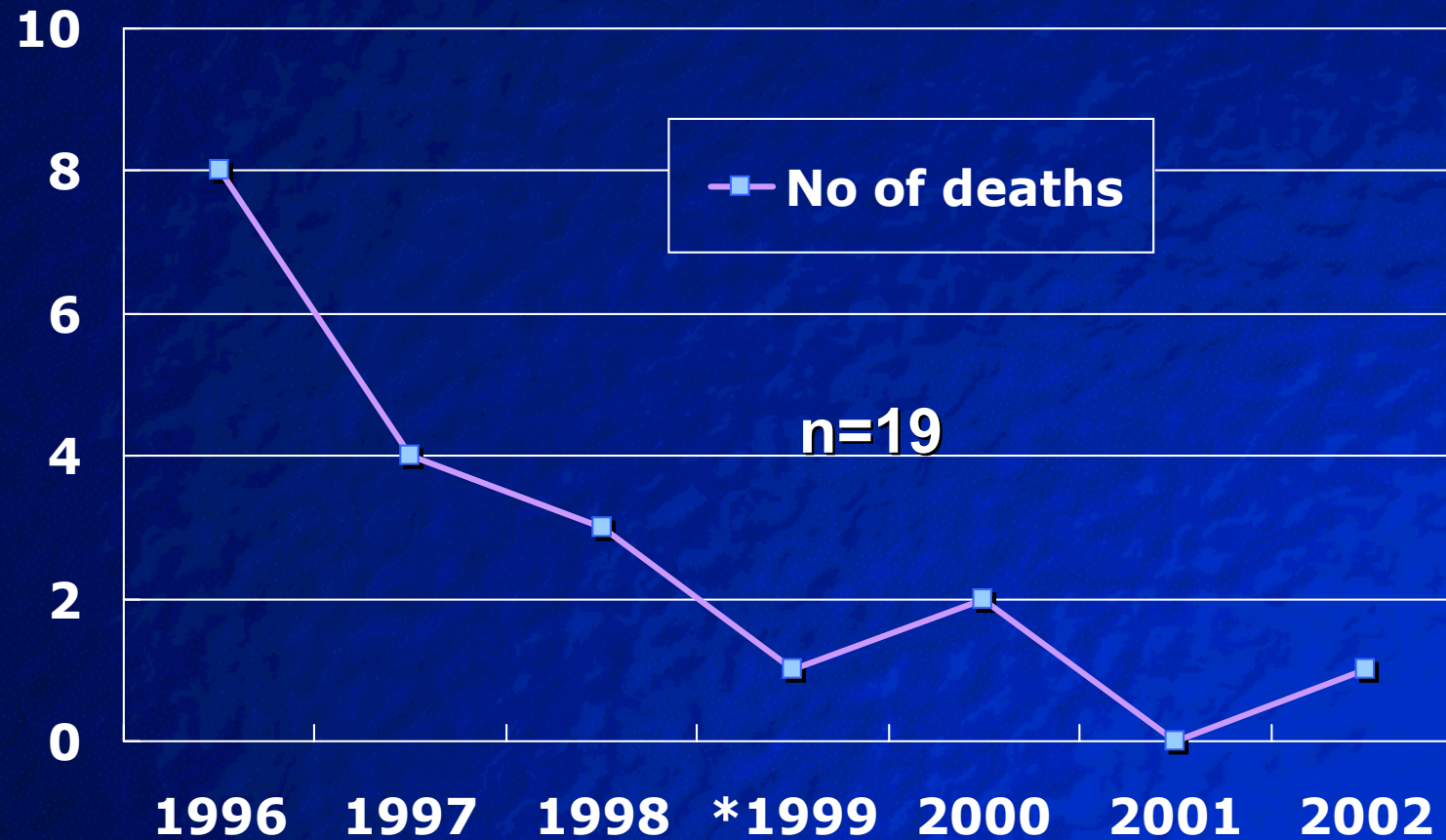


Data from confidential database started **January 1996**

New cases

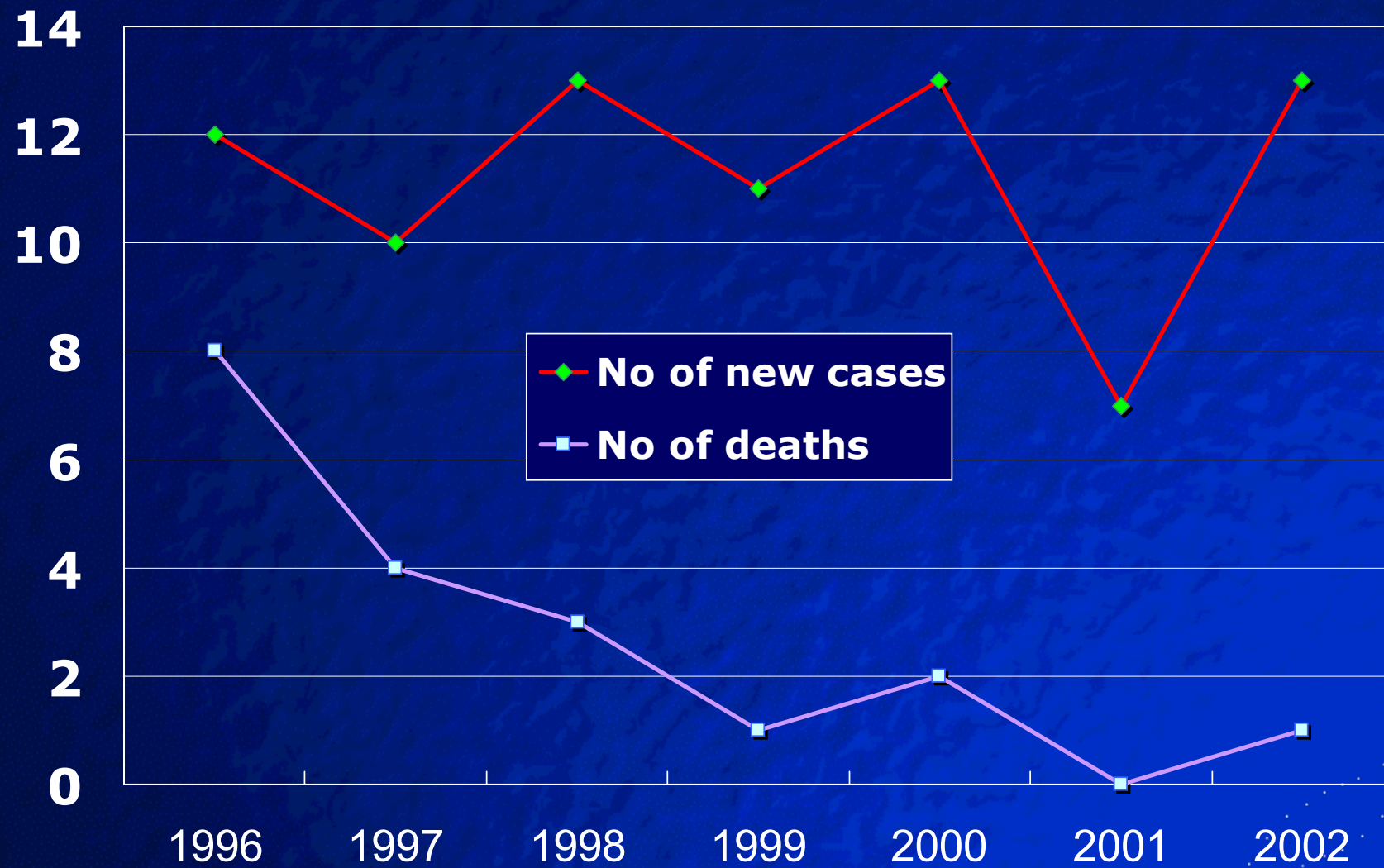


Case mortality



*death in 1999 was non-AIDS death

New cases and mortality

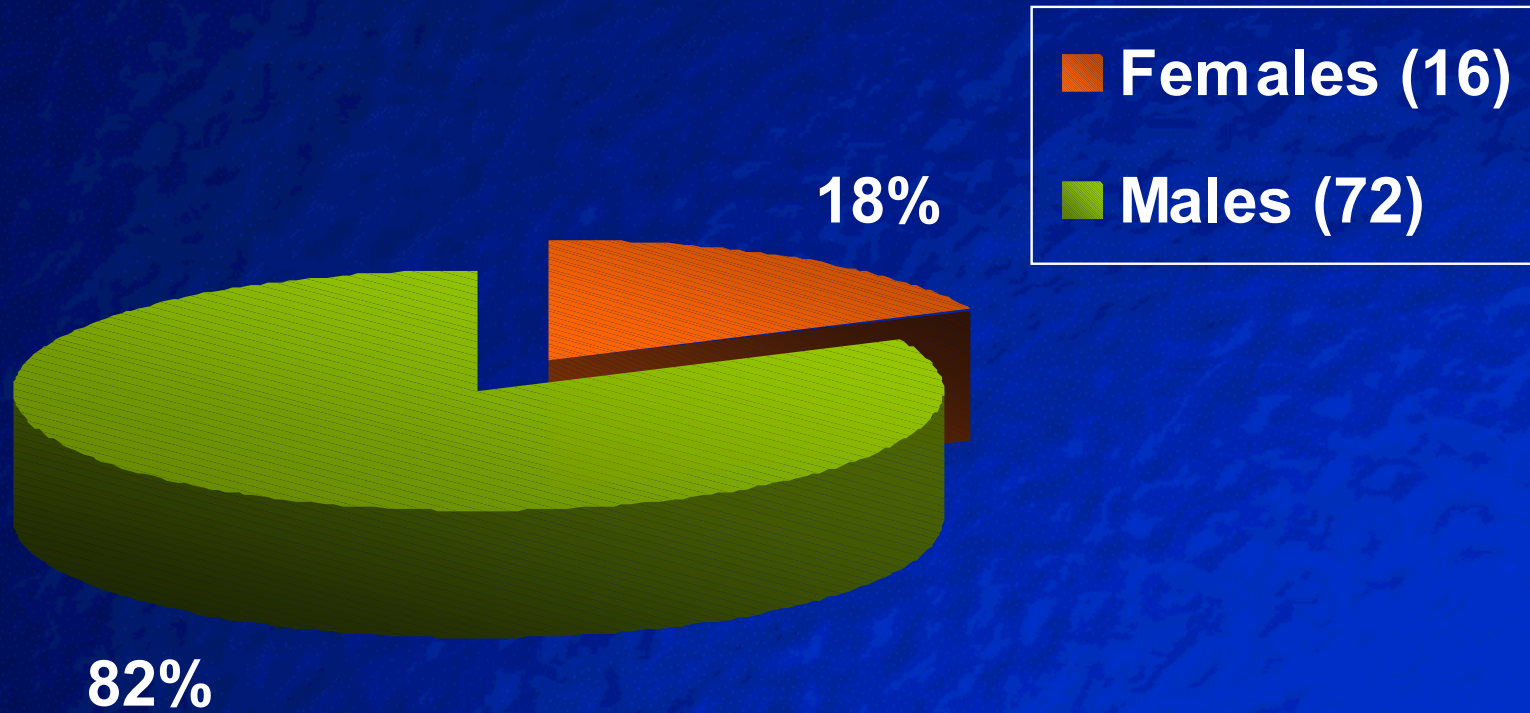


AIDS notifications

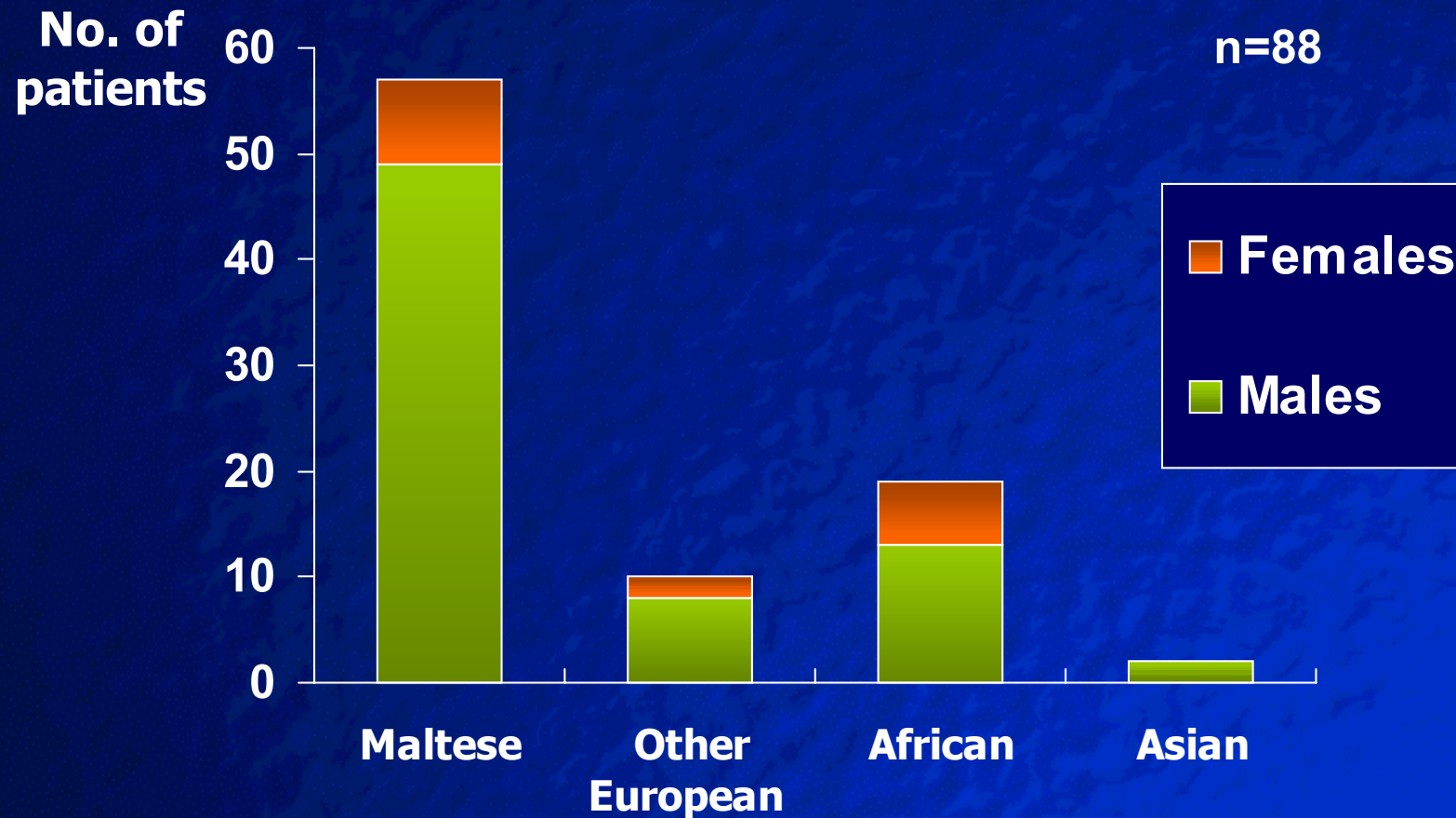


Source data Communicable Disease Surveillance Branch, Dept of Public Health

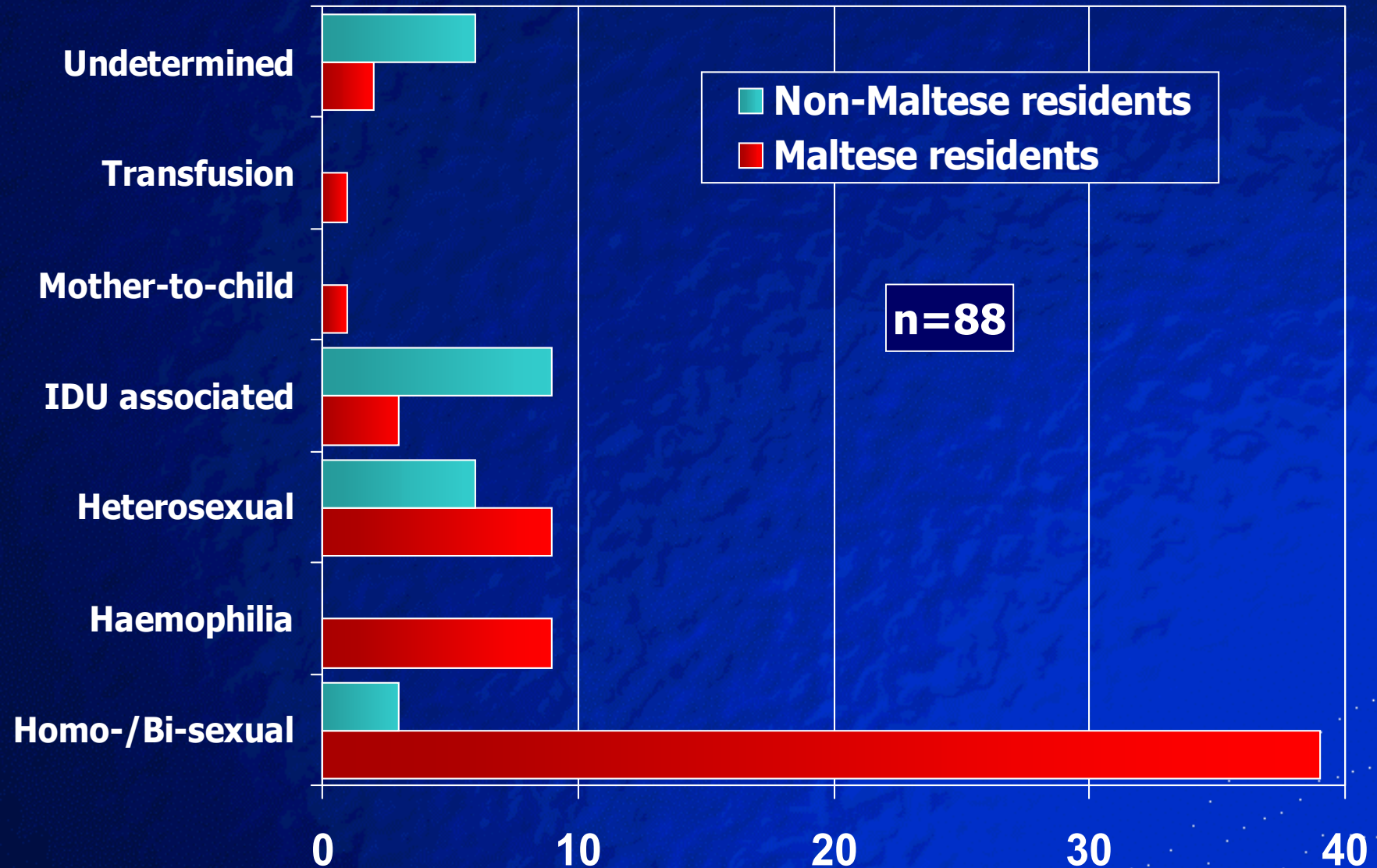
Gender Distribution



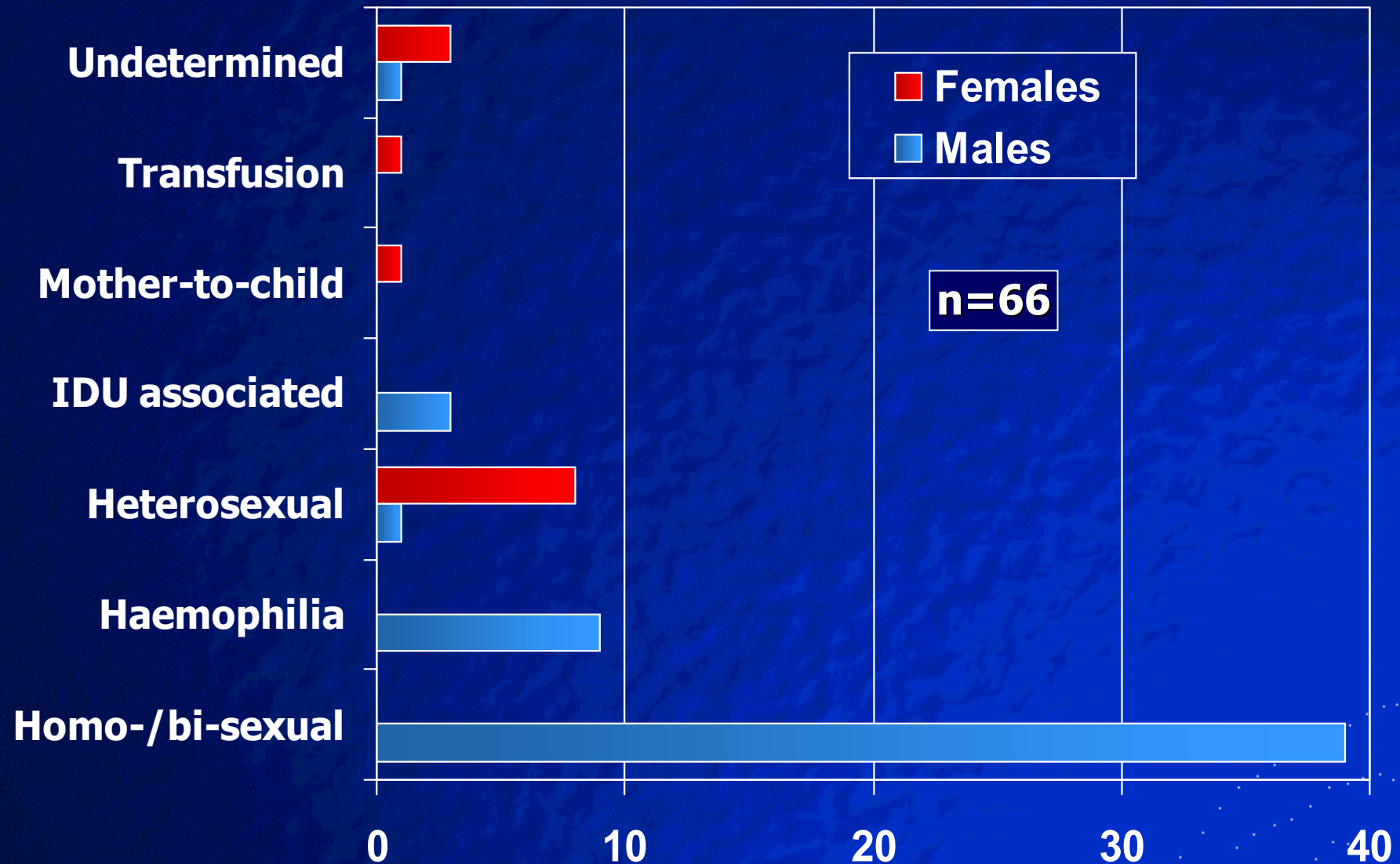
HIV positive patients by nationality



Mode of transmission



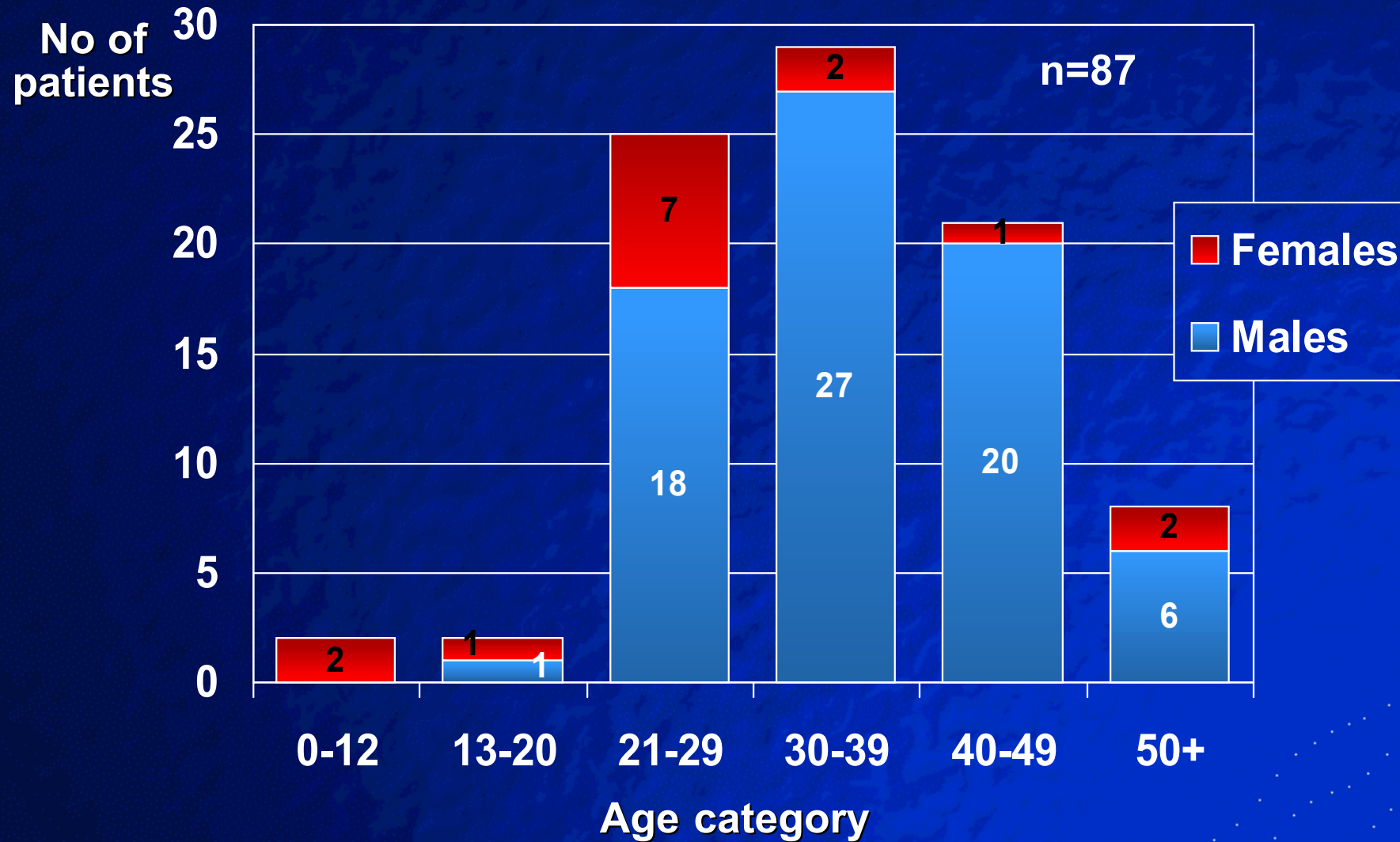
Mode of transmission (Maltese residents)



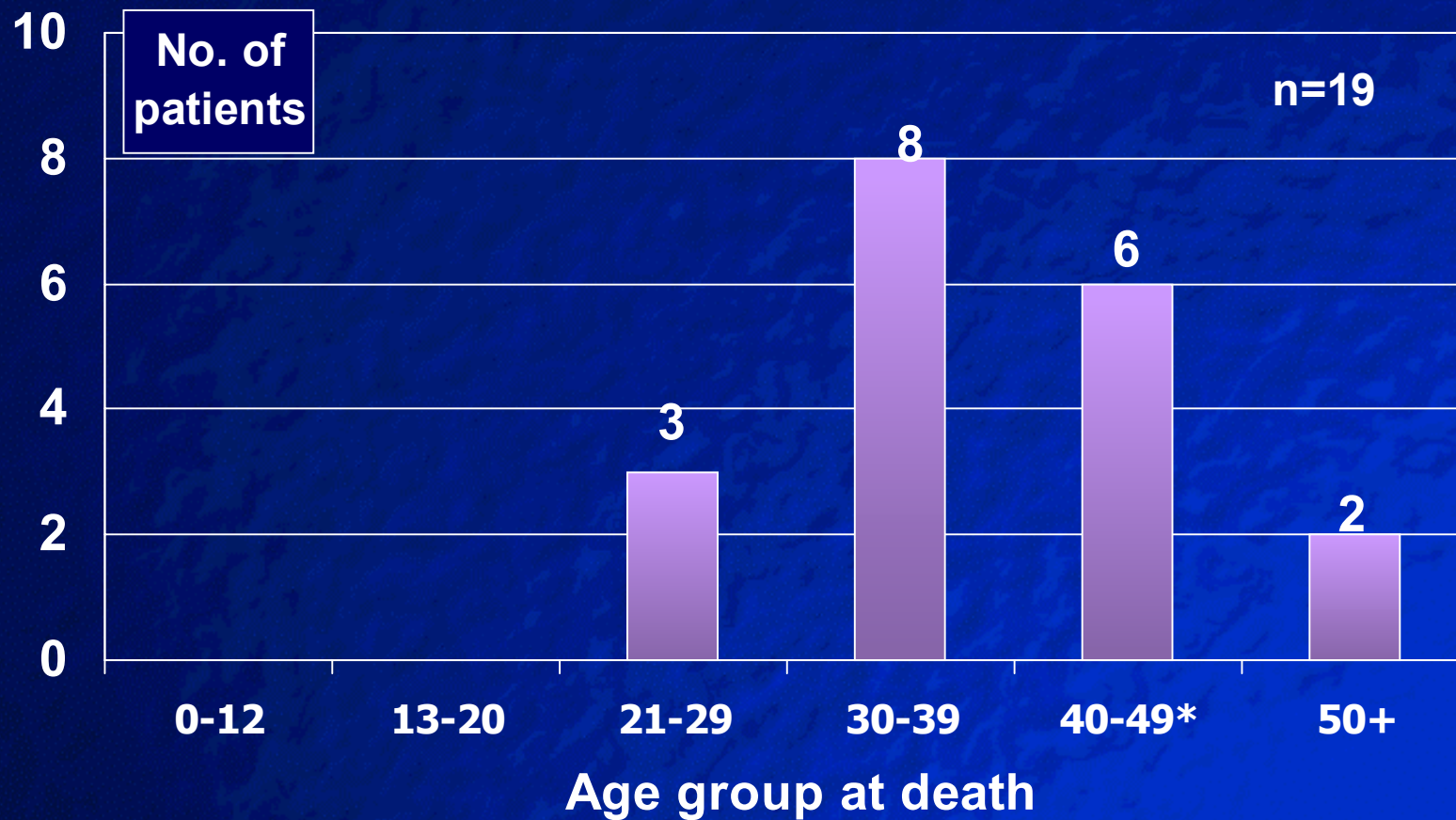
Mother to child HIV

- 2 pregnant females presented
- 1 healthy, non infected child delivered
- 1 pregnant female currently on triple therapy
- Decrease in rate of transmission when taking ART
- Agents of choice AZT & Nevirapine

Gender and age at presentation



Deceased patients by age at death (1996-2001)

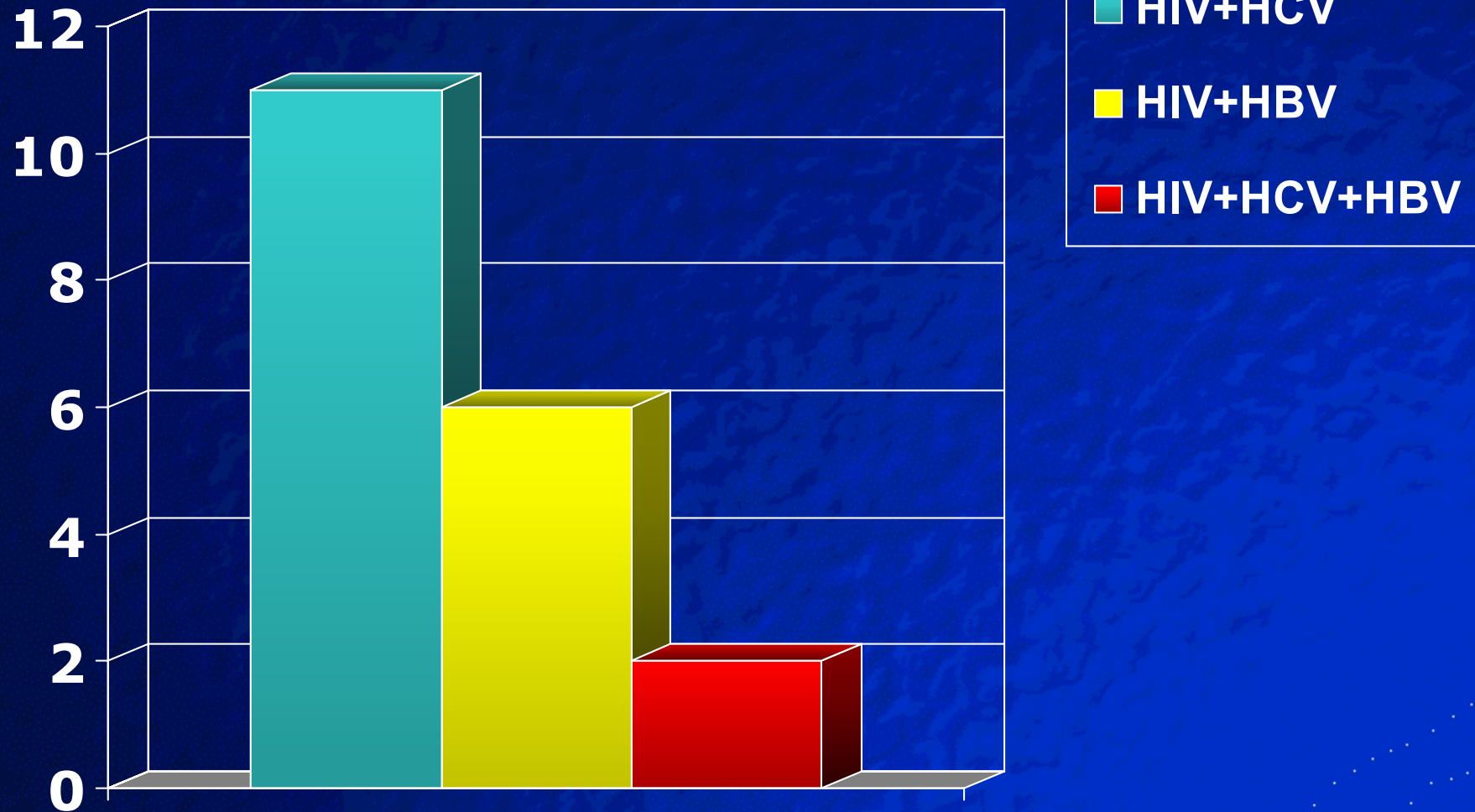


* includes 1 non-AIDS death

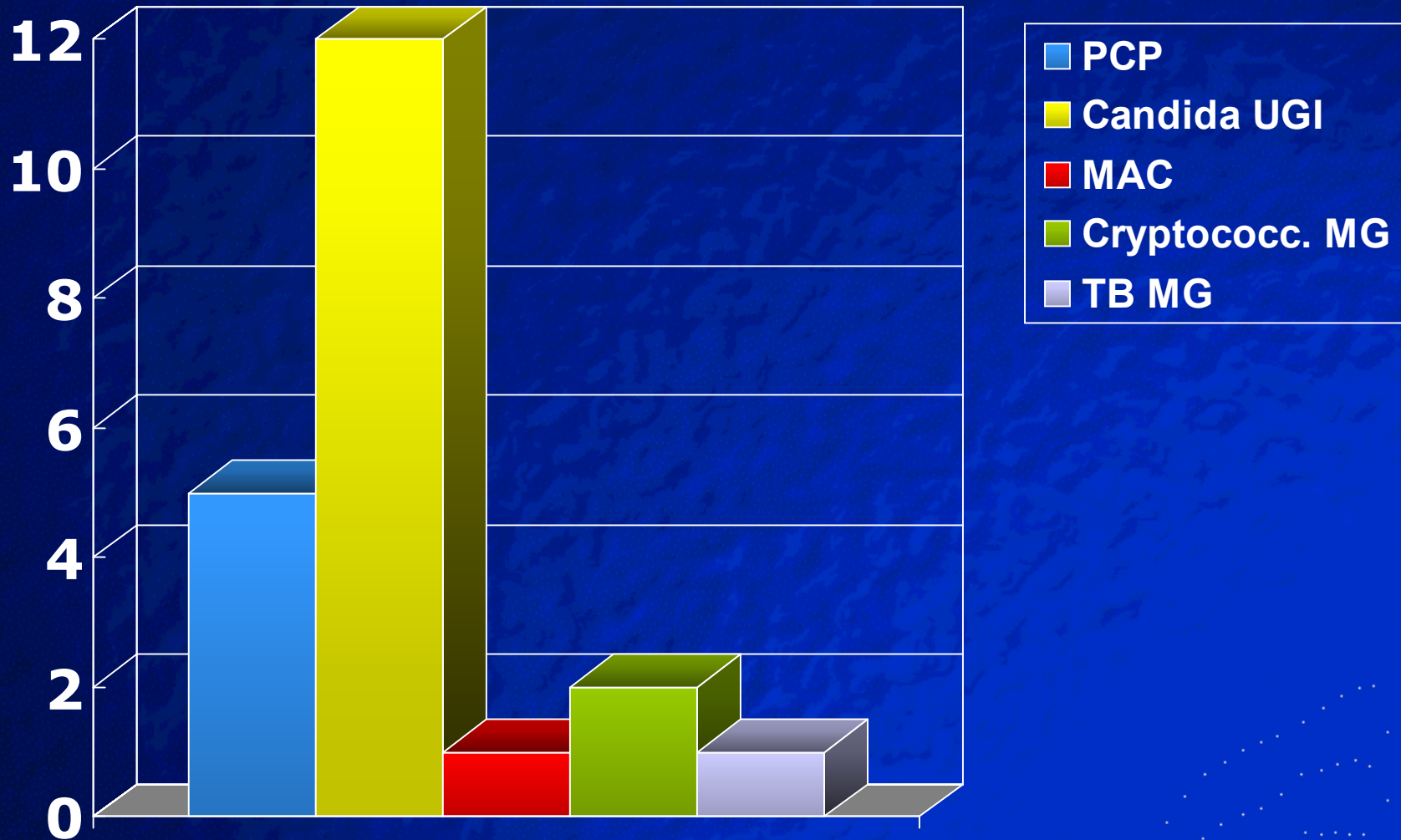
Cause of death

CAUSE OF DEATH	No. of patients
Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia	3
Cryptococcal meningitis	5
HIV wasting syndrome	2
Toxoplasma encephalitis	1
Organ/system failure	2
1° CNS lymphoma	1
Acute myeloid leukaemia	1
Other (incl. 1 non-AIDS death)	4
Total	19

Co-infection

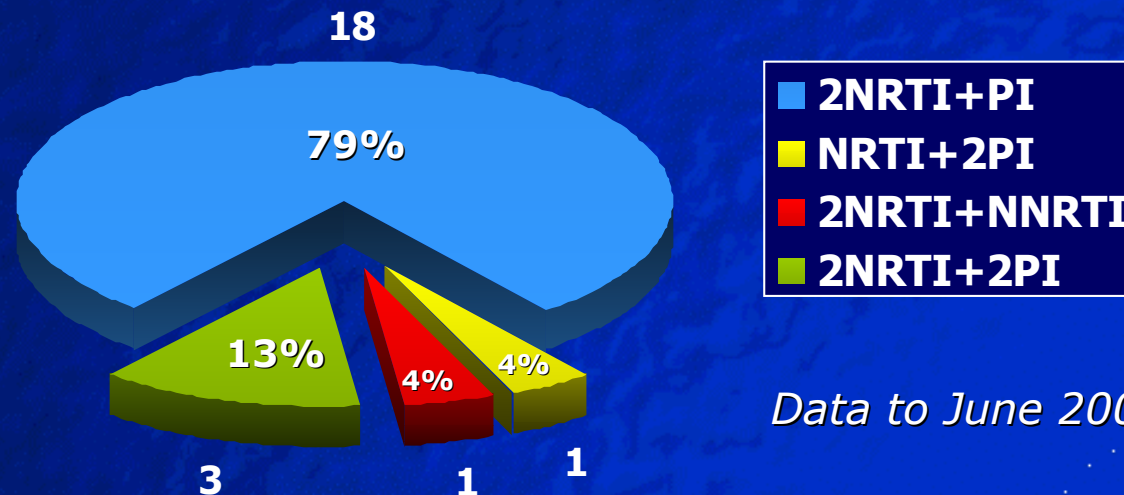


Opportunistic infections



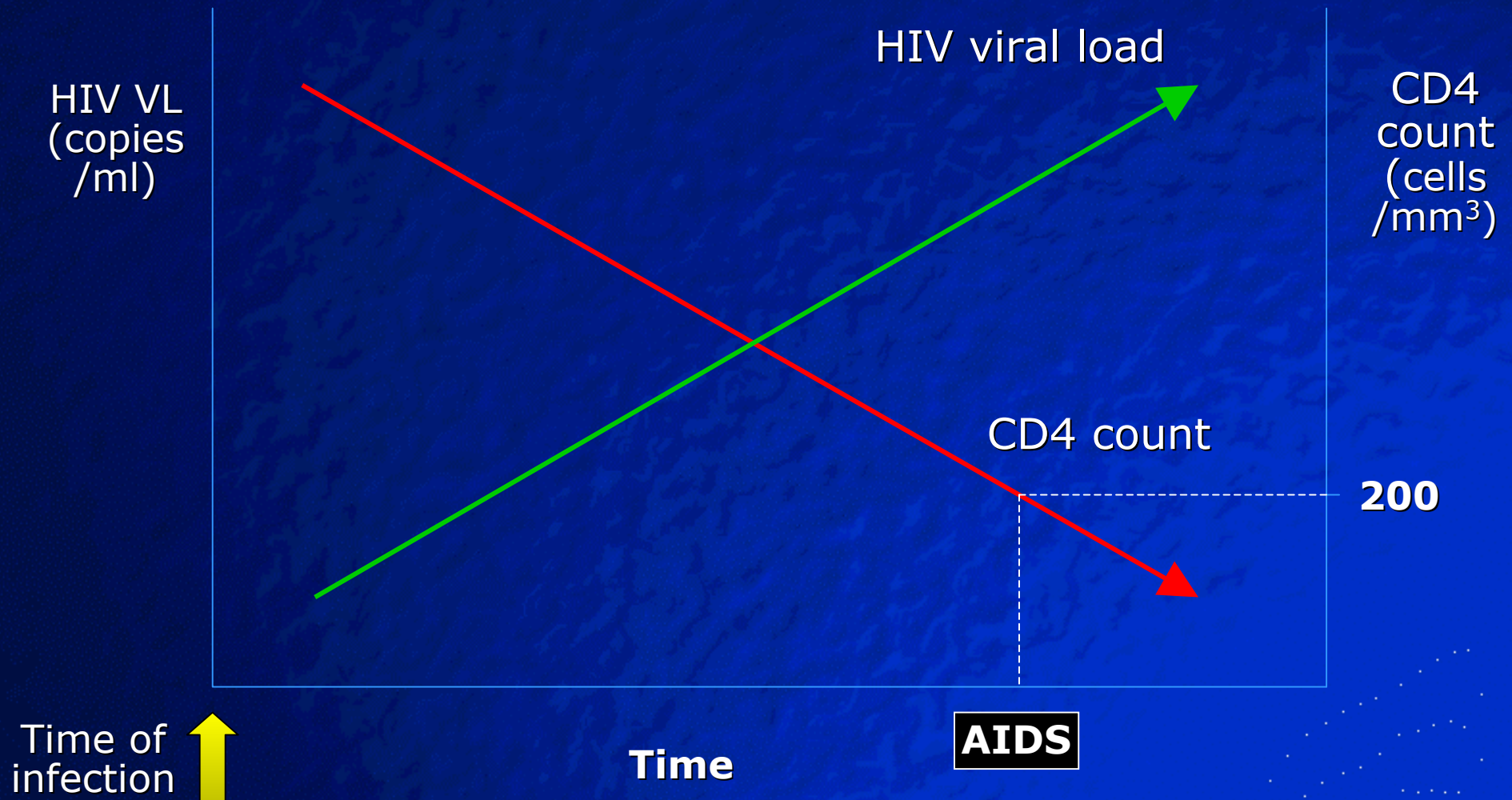
HIV and HAART

- HIV 1
- Virus Resistance to ART: ? not yet a major problem
- Responds to standard ART



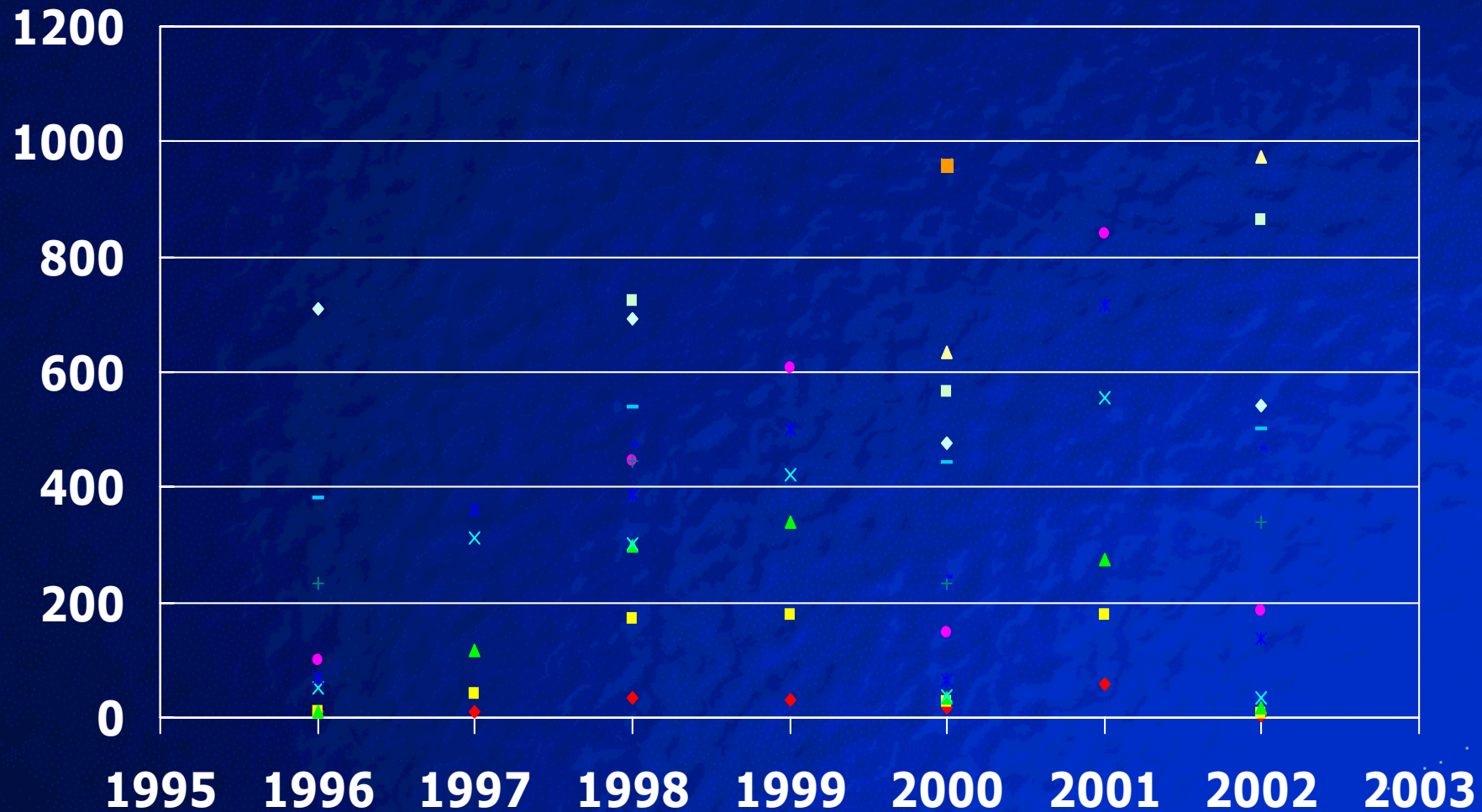
Data to June 2001

HIV viral load and CD4 count

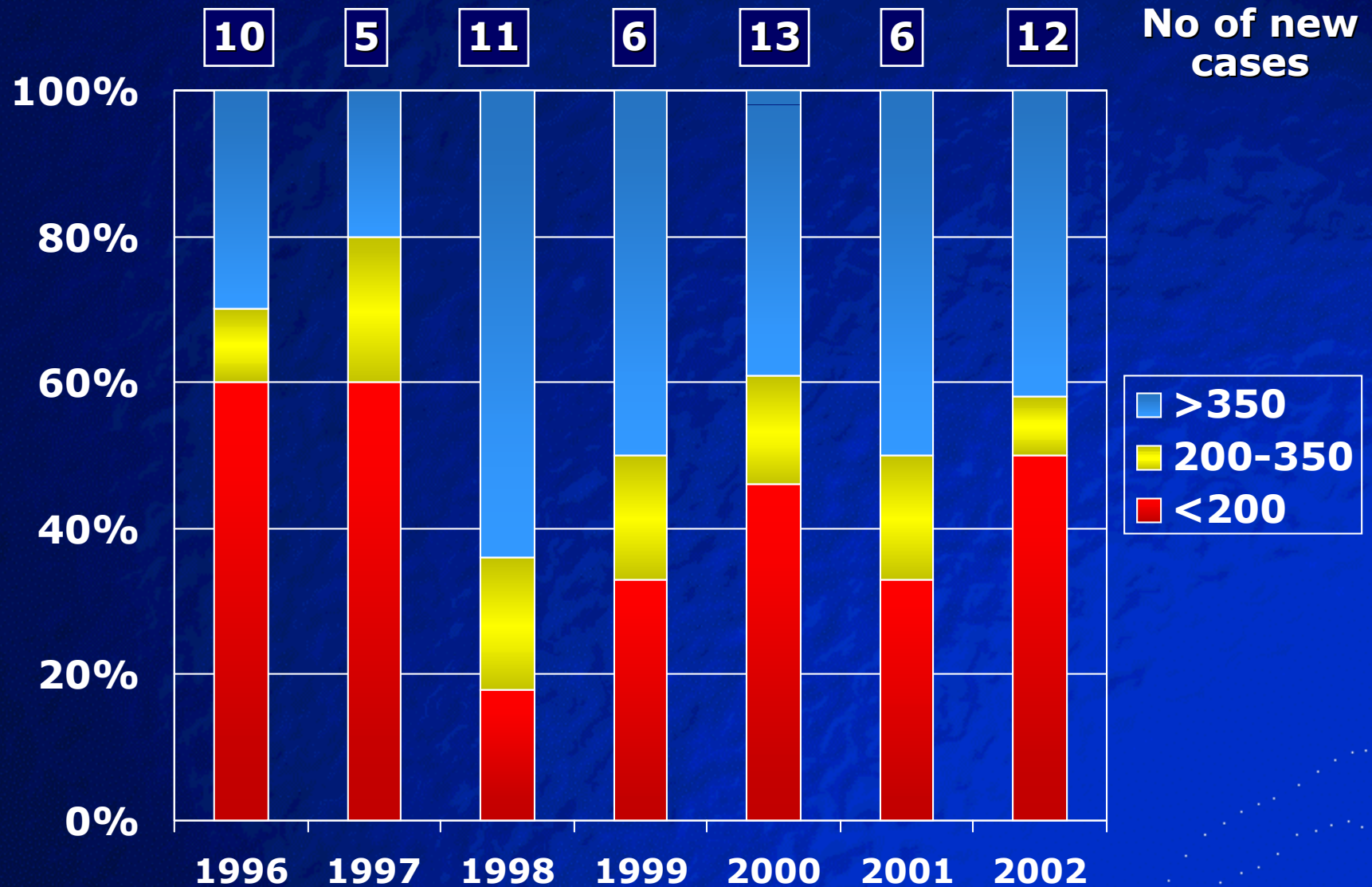


Absolute CD4 at presentation

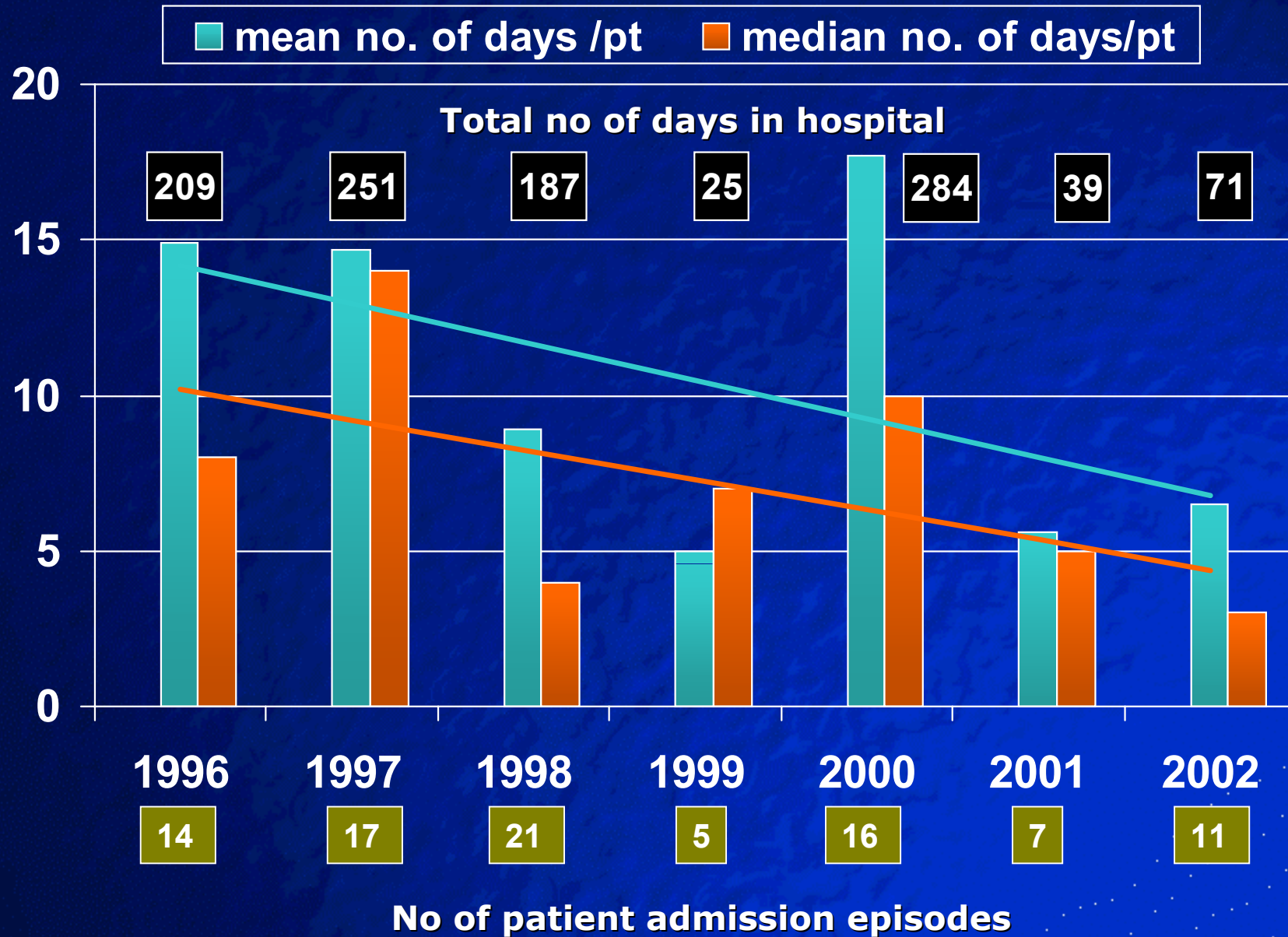
CD4 count (cells/mm³)



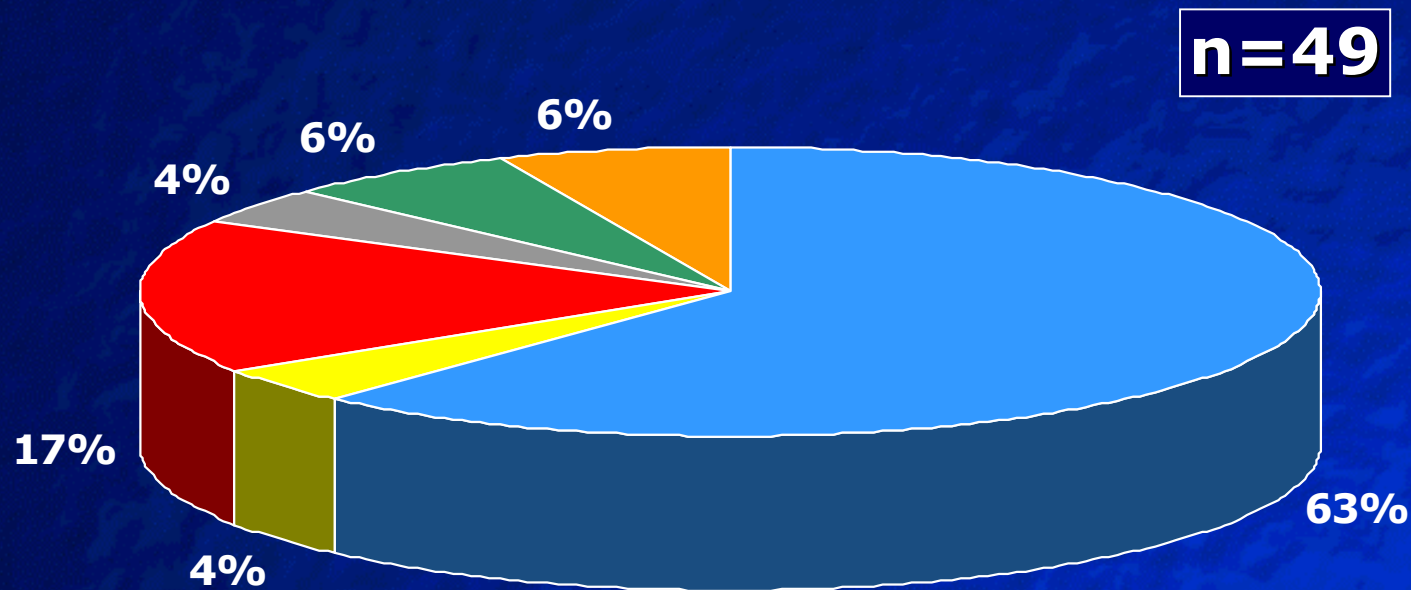
CD4 counts at presentation



Hospital admissions to STZU (Sir Temi Zammit Unit)



Employment status of Maltese patients



Full Time	Part time	Unemployed
Homemaker	Student	Retired

Conclusion

- The no of new cases of HIV presenting to ID each year stable
- Mortality rate decreasing: HAART
- Incidence of AIDS decreasing
- Male predominance; 4th decade; homo/bi-sexual
- Patients seem to be presenting earlier
- No of days in hospital decreased
- Majority of patients with active lifestyle

Acknowledgements

- Dr Karen Vincenti
- Dr Jackie Maistre Melillo
- Doctors and nurses on IDU/STZU
- Dr Charles Mallia Azzopardi