

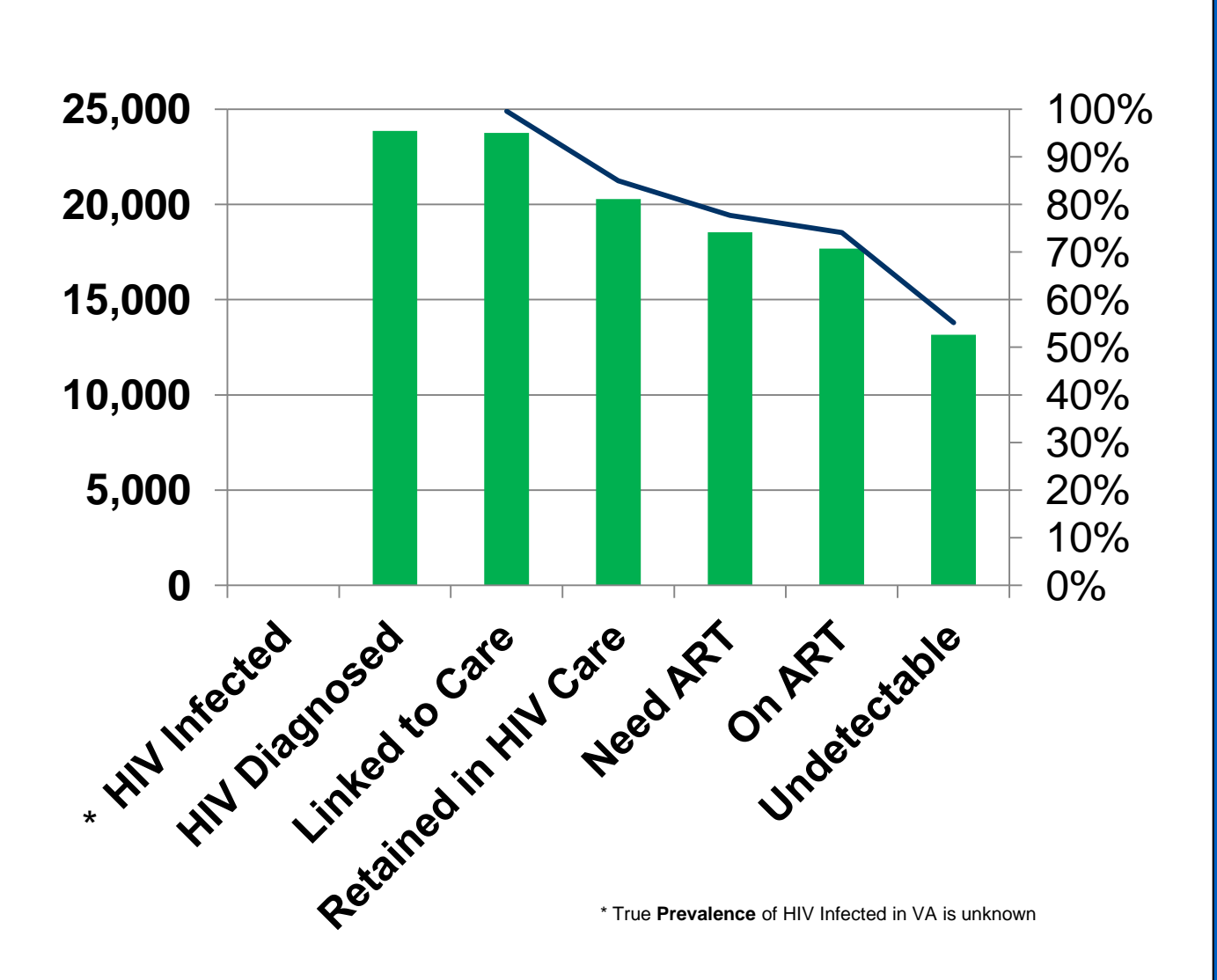
## BACKGROUND

Many HIV-infected individuals receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) can achieve undetectable viral loads and avoid or delay progression to acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). However deficits in the engagement in HIV care can pose significant barriers to realizing optimal treatment outcomes. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the largest HIV health care provider in the US sought to measure the engagement in the HIV care continuum in clinical practice to identify targets for improvement and to determine the proportion of HIV-infected individuals with an undetectable HIV load.

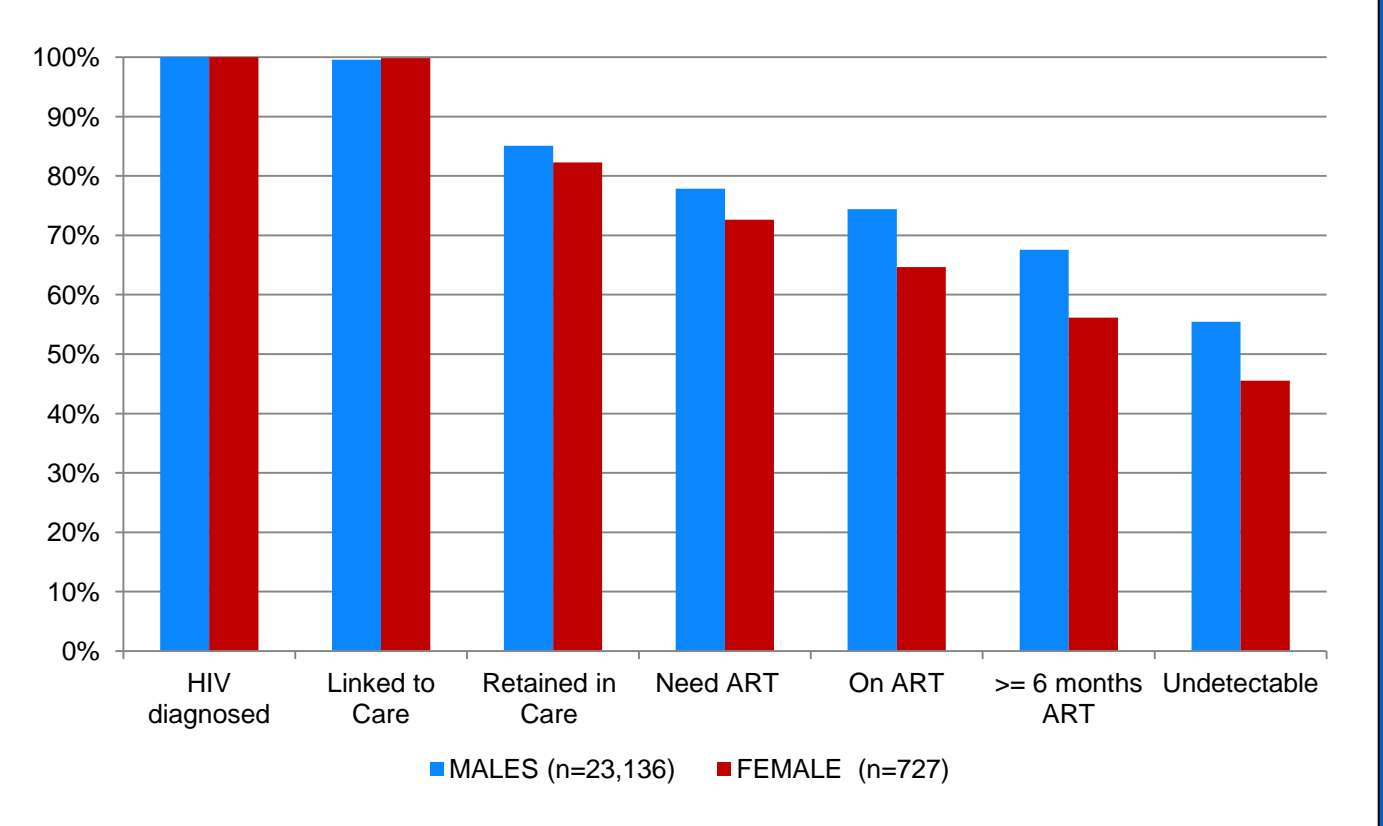
## METHODS

- Using the VA's Clinical Case Registry (CCR) -- a database extracted from the VA's electronic medical record -- HIV infected patients in VA care with laboratory diagnosed HIV by 30 June 2011 and alive through 31 December 2011 were identified.
- Below are the definition for each category:
- "Linked to care" - at least one outpatient visit in 2011
- "Retained in care" - at least two outpatient visits to a primary care or infectious disease clinic at the same facility with at least one visit in each six-month period of the year with a minimum of 60 days between visits
- "Need ART" -- nadir CD4<500 or a history of an AIDS opportunistic infection
- "On ART" -- outpatient prescriptions filled for ART (including at least two drug classes) in the year
- "Undetectable" -- HIV RNA below the limit of detection on the most recent HIV RNA test in the year

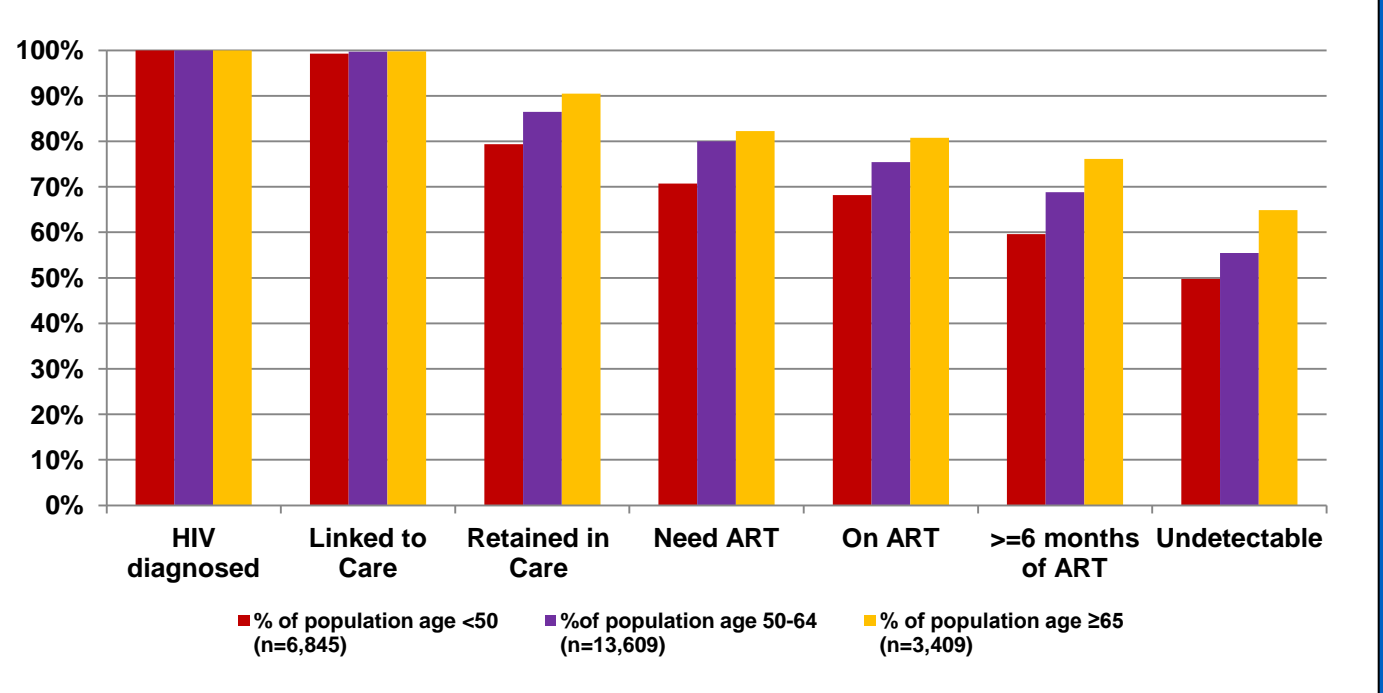
## 2011 NATIONAL VA RESULTS: ENGAGEMENT IN CARE



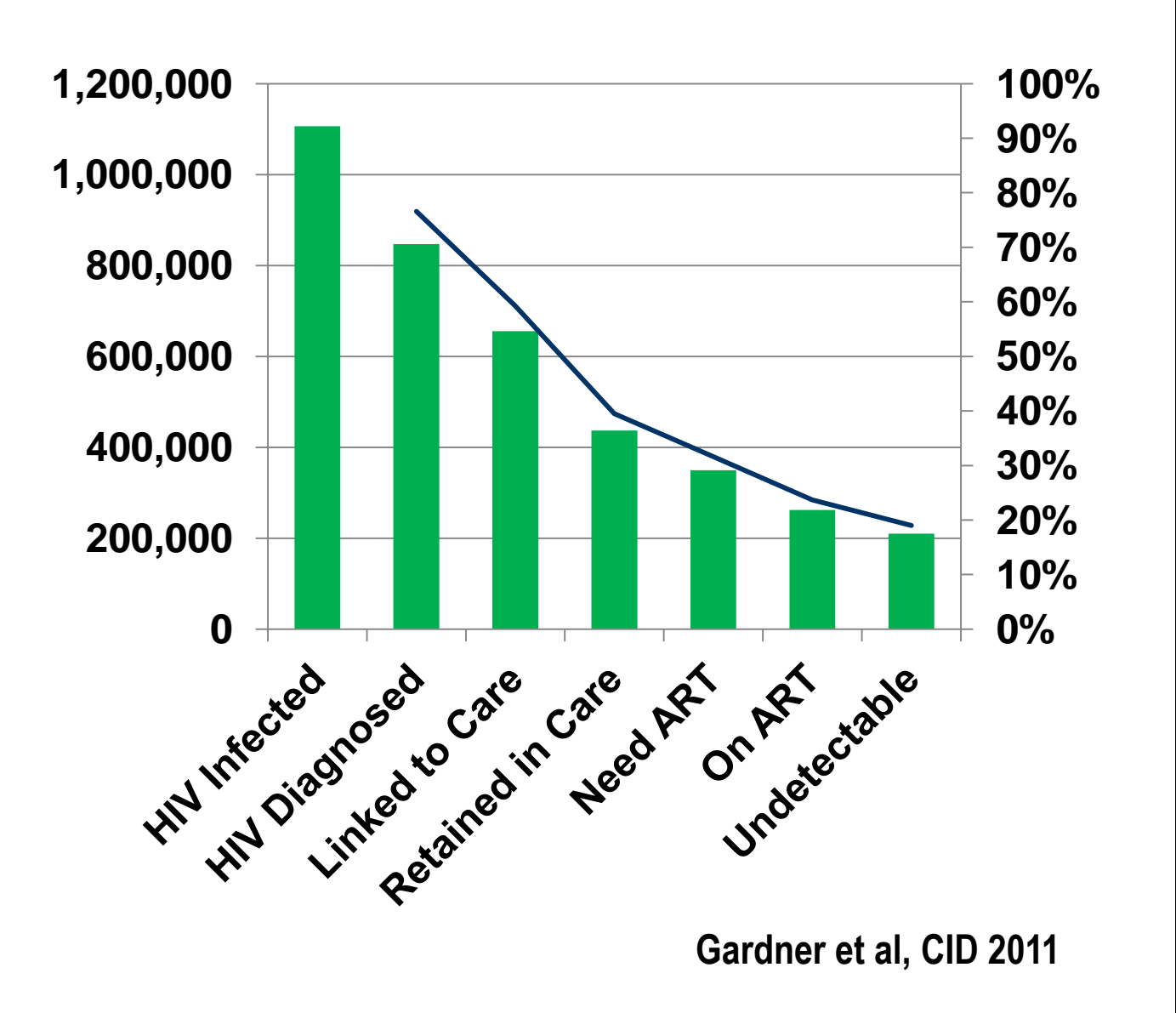
## 2011: ENGAGEMENT IN CARE BY GENDER



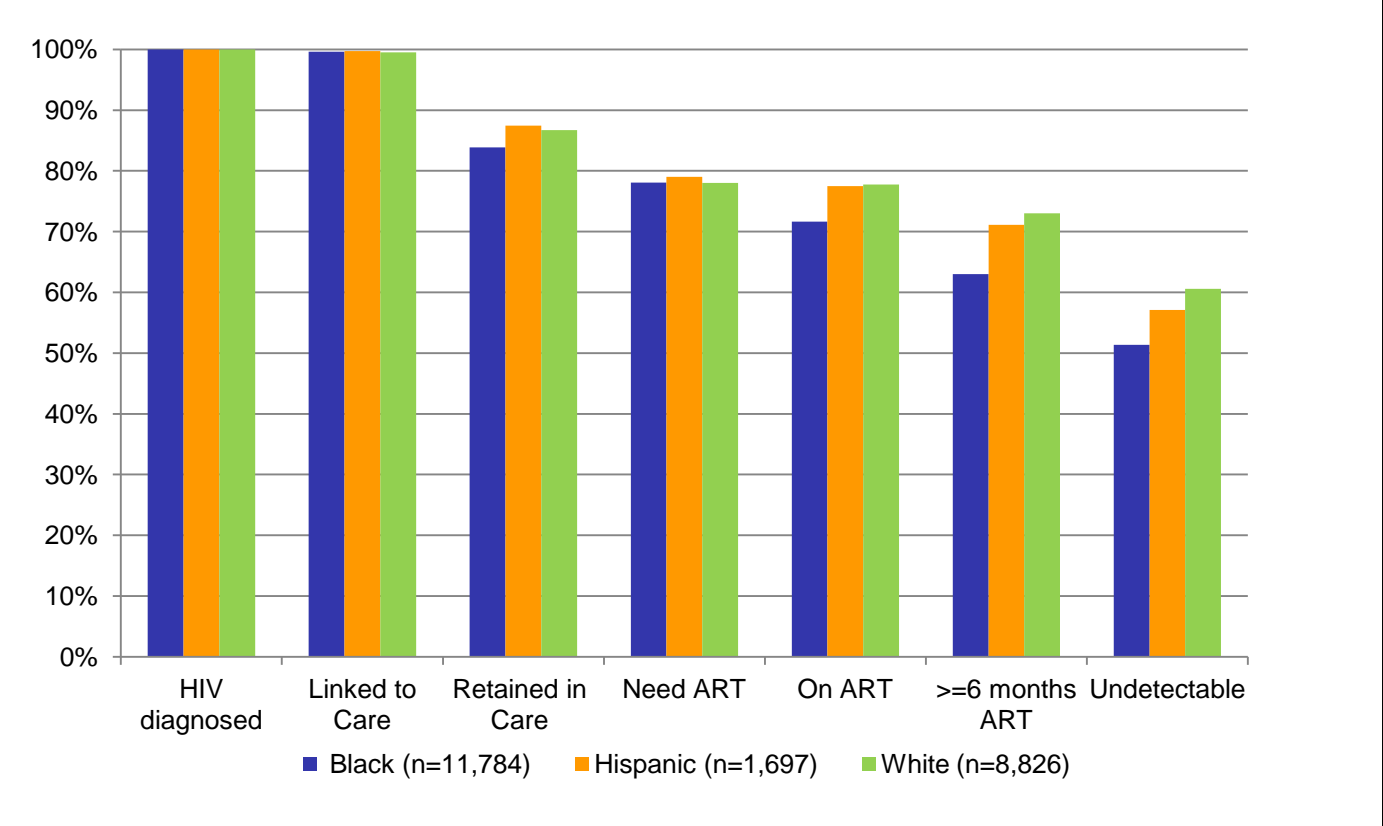
## 2011: ENGAGEMENT IN CARE BY AGE



## ESTIMATED US: ENGAGEMENT IN CARE



## 2011: ENGAGEMENT IN CARE BY RACE



## NATIONAL RESULTS

- 23,863 Veterans with diagnosed HIV infection in 2011
- 23,761 (99.6%) were linked to care
- 20,282 (85.0%) were retained in care
- 18,536 (77.7%) needed ART
- 17,685 (74.1%) were on ART
- 13,163 (55.2%) were undetectable
- Among the patients on ART, 74.4% were undetectable.

## POPULATION HIGHLIGHTS

- Gender Results:**
- 55.5% of males and 45.5% of females had undetectable viral loads.
- Age Results:**
- 49.8% of those under the age of 50, 55.4% of those between age 50-64, and 64.9% of those over age 65 had undetectable loads.
- Race/ethnicity results:**
- 51.4% of Blacks, 57.1% of Hispanics and 60.6% of Caucasians had undetectable viral loads.

## DISCUSSION

- Other studies of engagement in care relied on estimates from relatively small studies and concluded that less than 25% of patients diagnosed with HIV were undetectable largely because of deficits in linkage and retention to care. (Gardner et al, CID 2011)
- In VA, the retention in care rate is extremely high (85%).
- Over 55% of all HIV patients in care and over 74% of HIV patients on ART were undetectable indicating that extremely high rates of HIV viral suppression can be achieved in comprehensive health care system.
- Males are slightly more likely than women to be engaged in care and have undetectable viral loads.
- Older Veterans are more likely than younger Veterans to be engaged in care and have undetectable viral loads.
- Caucasians are more likely than Blacks and Hispanics to be engaged in care and have undetectable viral loads.