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matrix) and a binomial distribution for evaluating sexual behaviour (using an unstructured covariance matrix). We controlled for potential confounders including age, education, nationality, number of sexual partners (past 6 months) and individual ACS follow-up time. Analyses were performed separately for HIV-1-negative and HIV-1-positive men.

Table 1: Baseline characteristics of 1062 young (≤ 30 years) homosexual men, stratified by HIV-1 status, in four subsequent time-periods, Amsterdam Cohort Study, 1984-2000, The Netherlands

Characteristics		Oct.'84-Apr.'87 n=328	May'87-Feb.'92 n=61	Mar.'92-Jun.'96 n=403	Jul.'96-Dec.'99 n=270	
HIV-1[†] antibodies (%[‡][n])		22.3 [73]	82.0 [50]	9.9 [40]	8.1 [22]	
No. of sex partners in lifetime	HIV-1-	100 (40-238)	30 (12-140)	25 (10-70)	20 (8-50)	***
(Median, IQR)	HIV-1+	300 (155-650)	88 (23-300)	95 (33-238)	88 (23-350)	***
Self-reported STD past 5 years						
Gonorrhoea (%[‡][n])	HIV-1-	49.4 [126]	11.1 [1]	9.5 [34]	7.0 [17]	***
	HIV-1+	83.6 [61]	42.0 [21]	25.0 [9]	30.0 [6]	***
Syphilis (%[‡][n])	HIV-1-	16.5 [42]	11.1 [1]	1.4 [5]	0	***
	HIV-1+	58.9 [43]	18.0 [9]	8.3 [3]	0	***
Socio-demographic						
Age (Median, IQR)	HIV-1-	27 (25-29)	26 (25-28)	26 (23-28)	25 (22-28)	
	HIV-1+	28 (26-30)	27 (25-30)	28 (25-30)	28 (26-30)	
College degree (%[‡][n])	HIV-1-	42.9 [94]	44.4 [4]	59.5 [213]	68.0 [121]	***
	HIV-1+	43.1 [31]	43.2 [16]	42.2 [14]	60.0 [6]	
Northern/central European nationality	HIV-1-	96.5 [246]	81.8 [9]	91.5 [332]	97.1 [237]	
(%[‡][n])	HIV-1+	91.8 [67]	86.0 [43]	72.5 [29]	90.9 [20]	

IQR, Interquartile range; STD, sexually transmitted diseases
*** $p \leq 0.001$, p values indicate linear trends except for number of partners and age, where p values represent a comparison between the periods July 1996-December 1999 and March 1992-June 1996 †) human immunodeficiency virus, time trend in HIV-1 prevalence was not tested as changes in prevalence were due to recruitment policy ‡) In the calculation of percentages, missing values were excluded