

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS INFLUENCING RETENTION IN CARE AMONG PEOPLE WITH HIV IMMIGRANTS AT HOSPITAL CLINIC OF BARCELONA: A 12-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE COHORT STUDY

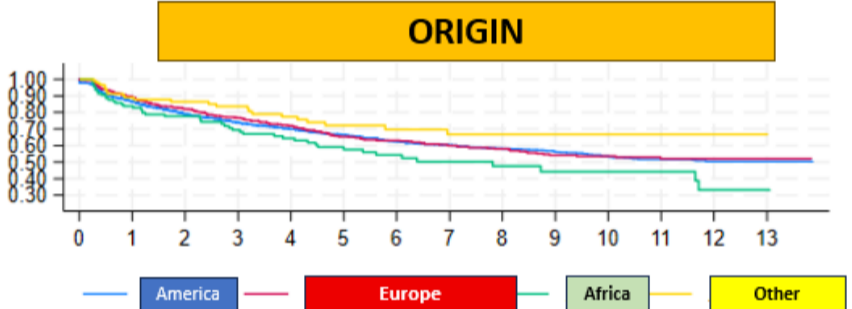
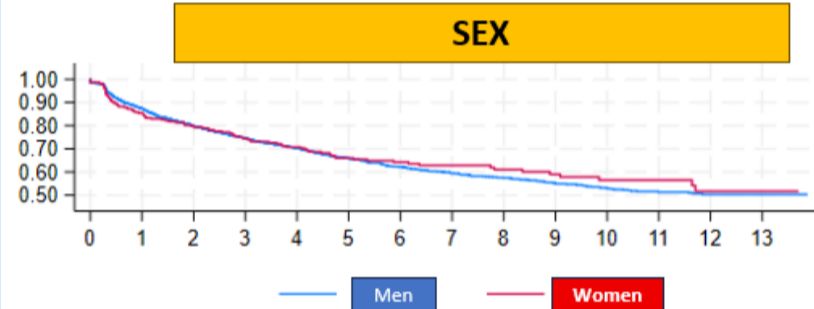
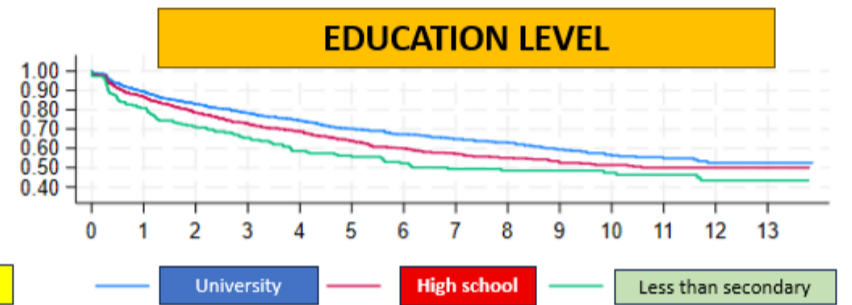
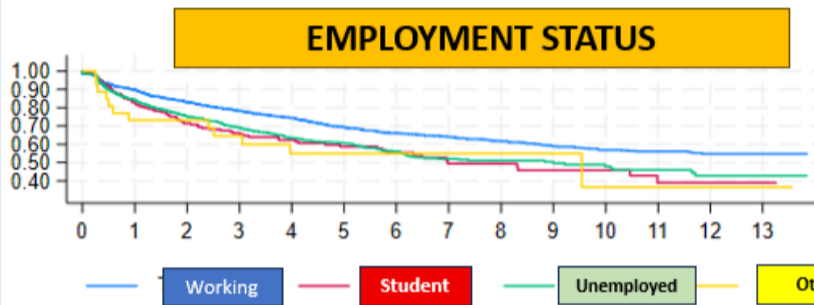
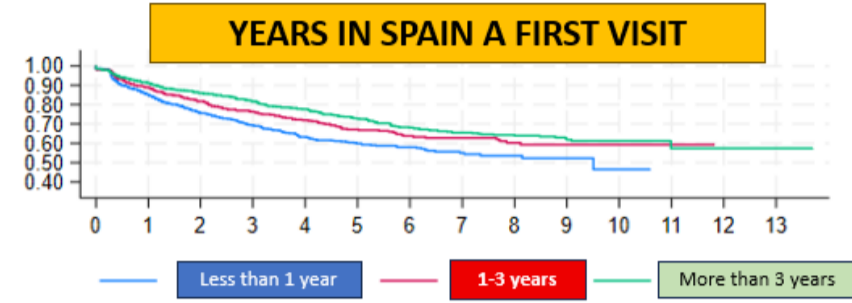
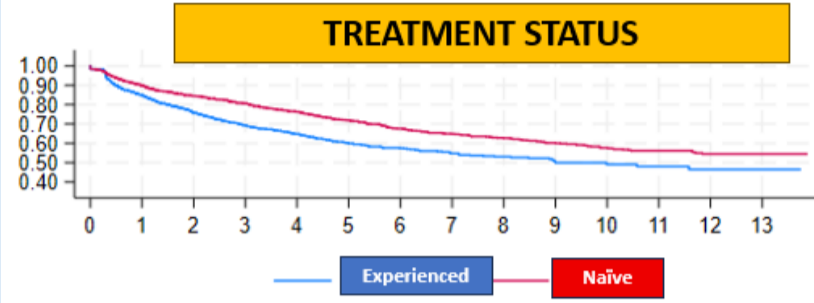
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BACKGROUND

Immigration profoundly impacts Europe, stressing the healthcare challenges of people with HIV (PWH), necessitating focused analysis for improved integration. This study aimed to investigate **sociodemographic factors influencing retention in care among immigrant PWH in Spain**.

VARIABLE	VALUE
TREATMENT STATUS	
Naïve	1402 (41%)
EMPLOYMENT STATUS	
Unemployed	982 (29%)
Working	2091 (63%)
Student	228 (7%)
Others	37 (1%)
SEX	
Male	3168 (91%)
YEARS IN SPAIN AT FIRT VISIT	
Less than 1 year	1183 (46%)
1-3 years	588 (23%)
More than 3 years	820 (32%)
EDUCATION LEVEL	
University degree	1572 (48%)
High School degree	1408 (43%)
Primary Education	279 (9%)
ORIGIN	
America	2579 (74%)
Europe	704 (20%)
Africa	112 (3%)
Other	96 (3%)



MATERIALS AND METHODS

This retrospective longitudinal study was conducted at the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, including immigrant PWH who first consulted between **2010 and 2022** and with at least one year of follow-up, Kaplan-Meier survival curves estimated retention in care (RIC) and the Log-Rank test was used to compare rates across variables. The variables analyzed included **treatment-naïve vs treatment-experienced, time in Spain at the initial visit, educational level, employment status, sex and origin**.

Variable	HR	(95% CI)	P-Value
Treatment Status			
Treatment-experienced	1		<0.001
Treatment-naïve	0.79	(0.69; 0.90)	
Years in Spain at first visit			
Less than 1 year	1		<0.001
1-3 years	0.78	(0.67; 0.91)	
More than 3 years	0.72	(0.61; 0.84)	
Educational levels			
Less than secondary	1		<0.001
Secondary levels	0.82	(0.68; 0.98)	
Tertiary levels	0.62	(0.51; 0.75)	

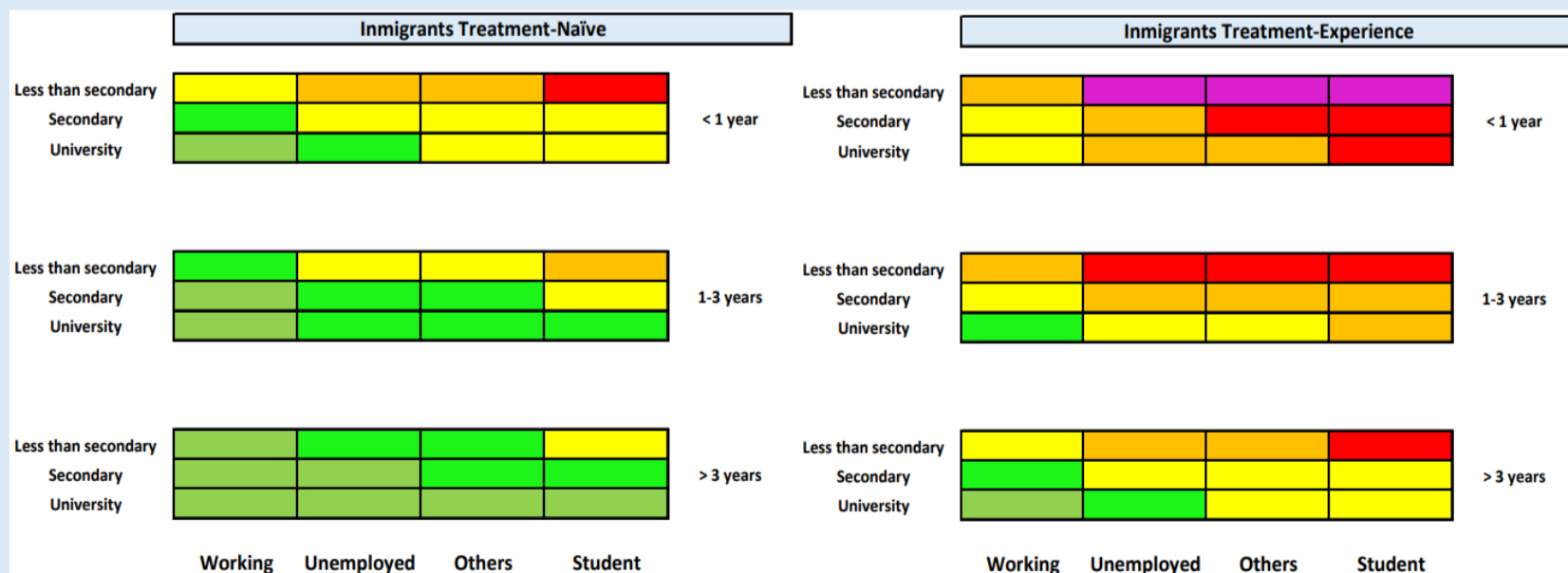
RESULTS

Among 3494 migrants, 91% (n=3168) were male. The median age was 34 (29-40) years; 59% (n=2053) were non-naïve; 46% (n=1183) moved to Spain during the previous year. Regarding employment, 29% (n=982) were unemployed, and 26% (n=877) were temporarily employed. 48% (n=1572) had a university education. **RIC was 87% at one year** (95% CI:86%-88%), 66% at five years (95% CI:64%-68%), and 51% at twelve years (95% CI:48%-53%).

Significant differences were found in RIC for treatment-naïve vs treatment-experienced ($\chi^2=34.24$, $p<0.0001$), **time in Spain** ($\chi^2=24.97$, $p<0.0001$), **educational level** ($\chi^2=21.29$, $p<0.0001$), **and employment status** ($\chi^2=35.20$, $p<0.0001$). Working individuals had the highest RIC (90% at 1y, 70% at 5y, and 55% at 12y), while the unemployed had the lowest (85%, 60%, and 40%, respectively). University-educated PWH (90% at 1y, 75% at 5y, 55% at 12y) managed better than those with less education (80%, 58%, 40%, respectively). PWH in Spain for longer periods had better RIC (85% at 1y, 75% at 5y, and 60% at 12y) than those with shorter periods (80%, 60%, and 45%, respectively). **No significant differences were observed for sex** ($\chi^2= 0.17$, $p=0.6776$) or region of **origin** ($\chi^2=6.93$, $p=0.0741$).

CONCLUSIONS

Retention rates dropped significantly, particularly within the first five years, with **only 50% remaining after 12 years**. Among immigrants, those with treatment experience had lower retention rates. However, immigrants with **more extended residency, higher education, and employment** demonstrated **better retention** in care. Gender and origin did not impact follow-up.



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