

PREVALENCE OF SARS-CoV-2 IN BELGIAN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES WORKERS

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15/10/2020

Background of the study

Health Care Workers (HCWs) in long term care facilities (LTCFs)

- At risk of infections
- Possible source of silent transmission

Belgian campaign during first wave of the pandemic

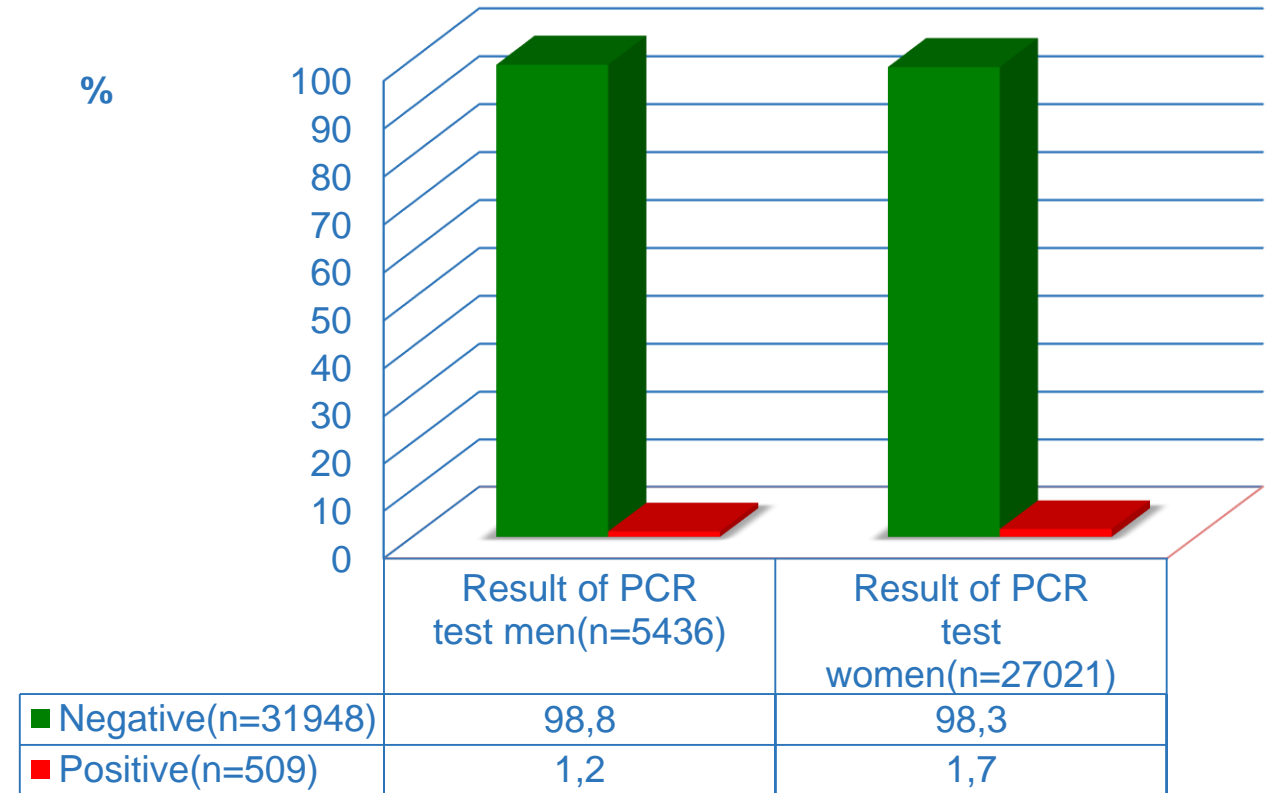
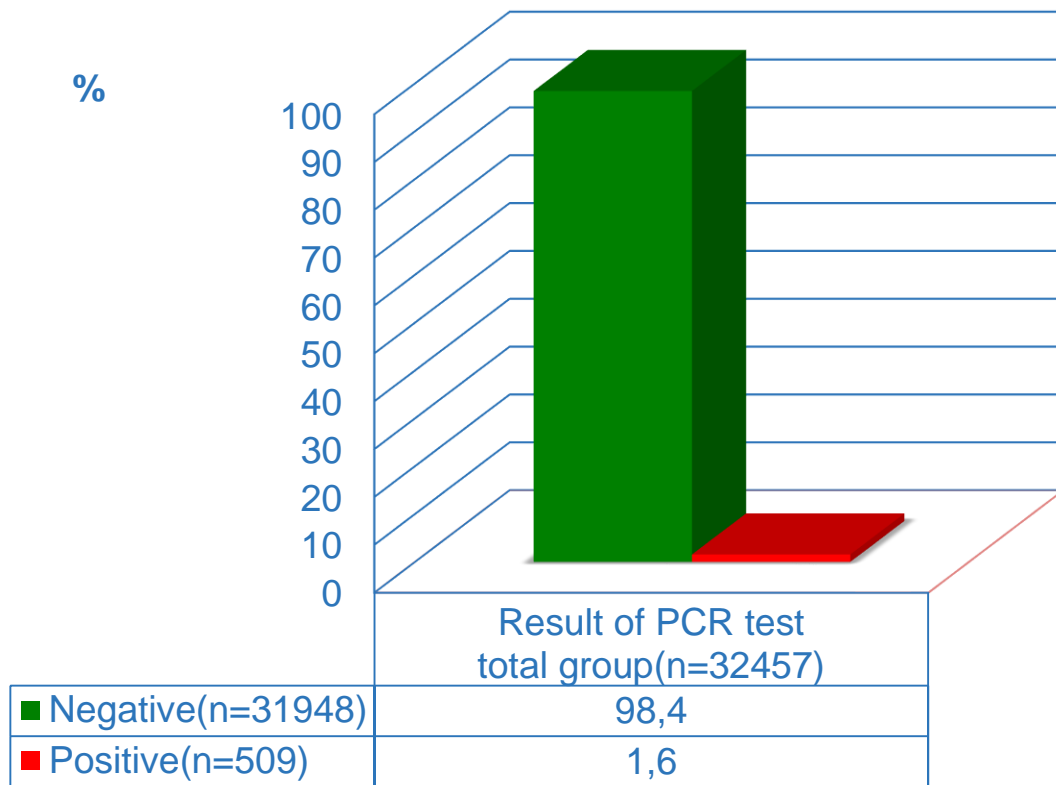
- Mass PCR testing in LTCFs
- Testing of residents by the Coordinating and Advisory Physician
- Testing of HCWs by Occupational Health Services

Aim and methods of the study

To study the prevalence of infection with SARS-CoV-2

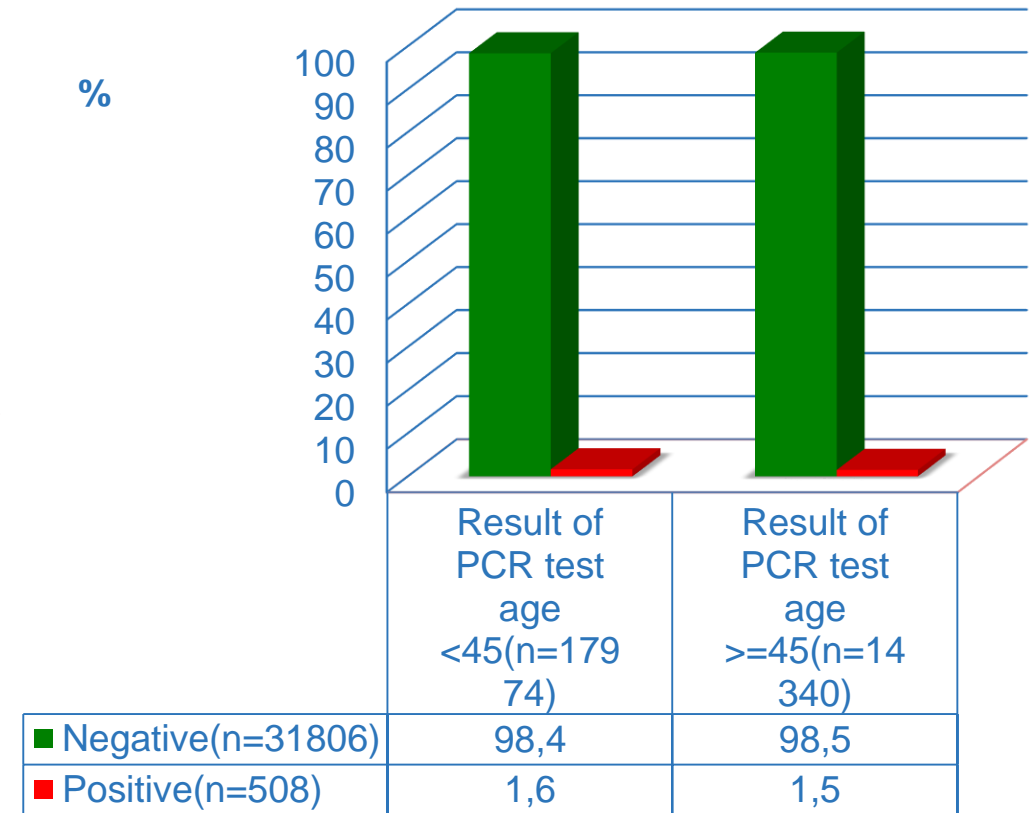
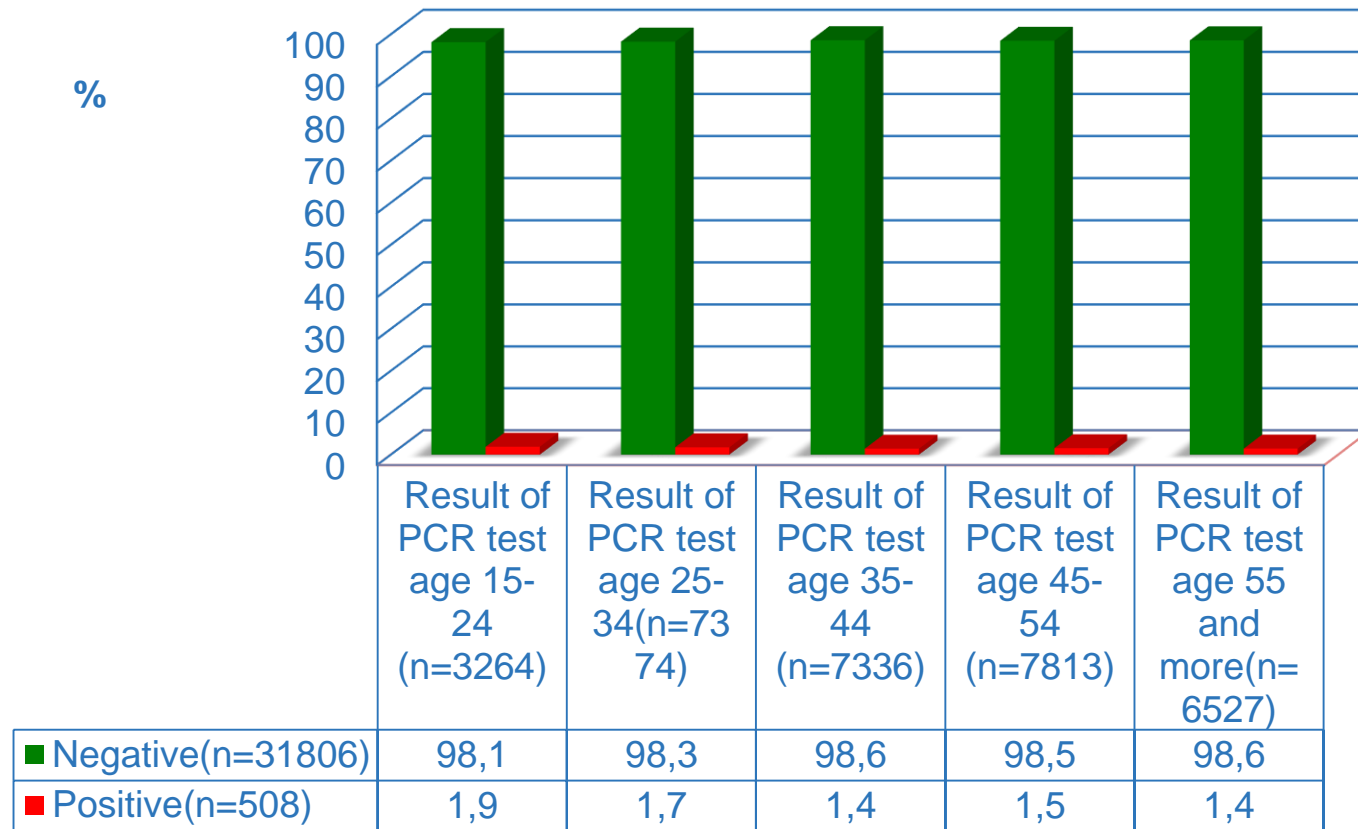
- Who? Staff working in LTCFs
- Important determinants?
 - Gender, age, occupation, symptoms, evolution in time
- How?
 - Campaign of PCR testing organised by the Belgian Ministry of Health – started on April 8, 2020
 - Priority given to LTCFs with higher number of suspected cases
 - Testing materials distributed by regional authorities
 - Collection of nasopharyngeal swabs and registration of symptoms by occupational physicians
 - PCR testing in preselected laboratories
 - Registration of results of PCR tests in electronic medical file
 - Descriptive analyses of the results

Results - % positive tests total and by gender



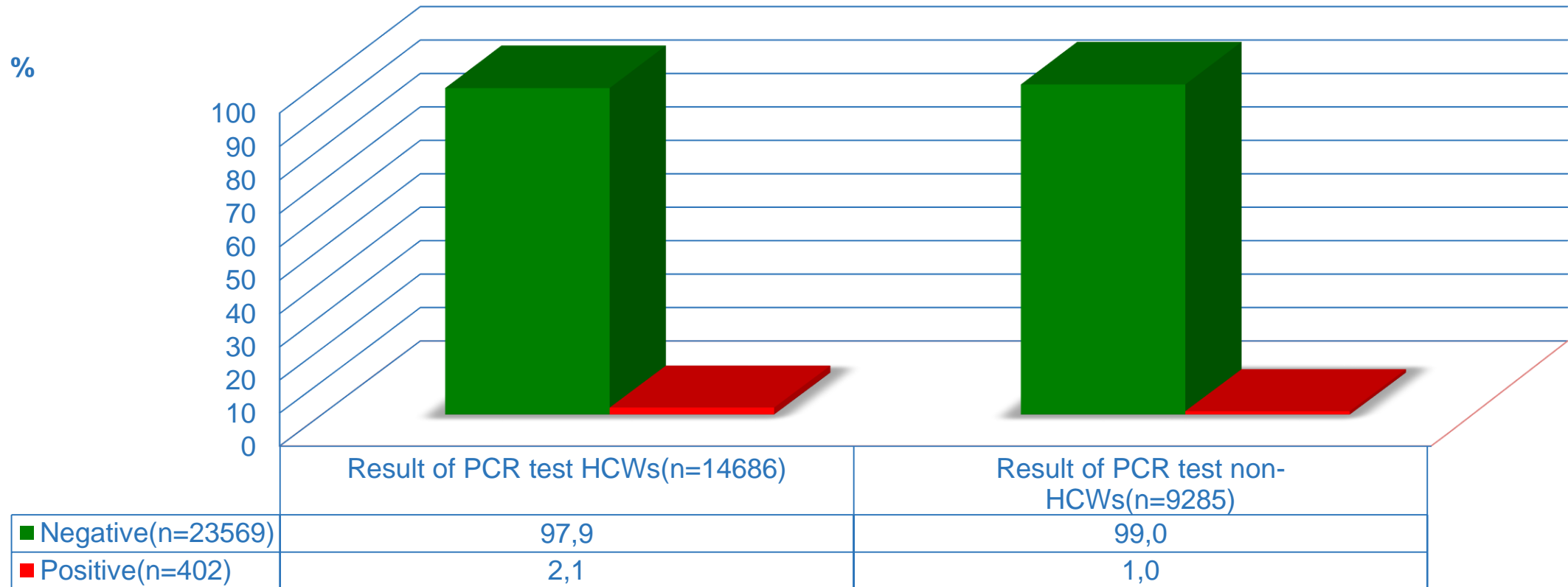
OR Gender 1,4 (95% CI: 1,098 – 1,866)
(more in women – statistically significant)

Results - % positive tests by age group



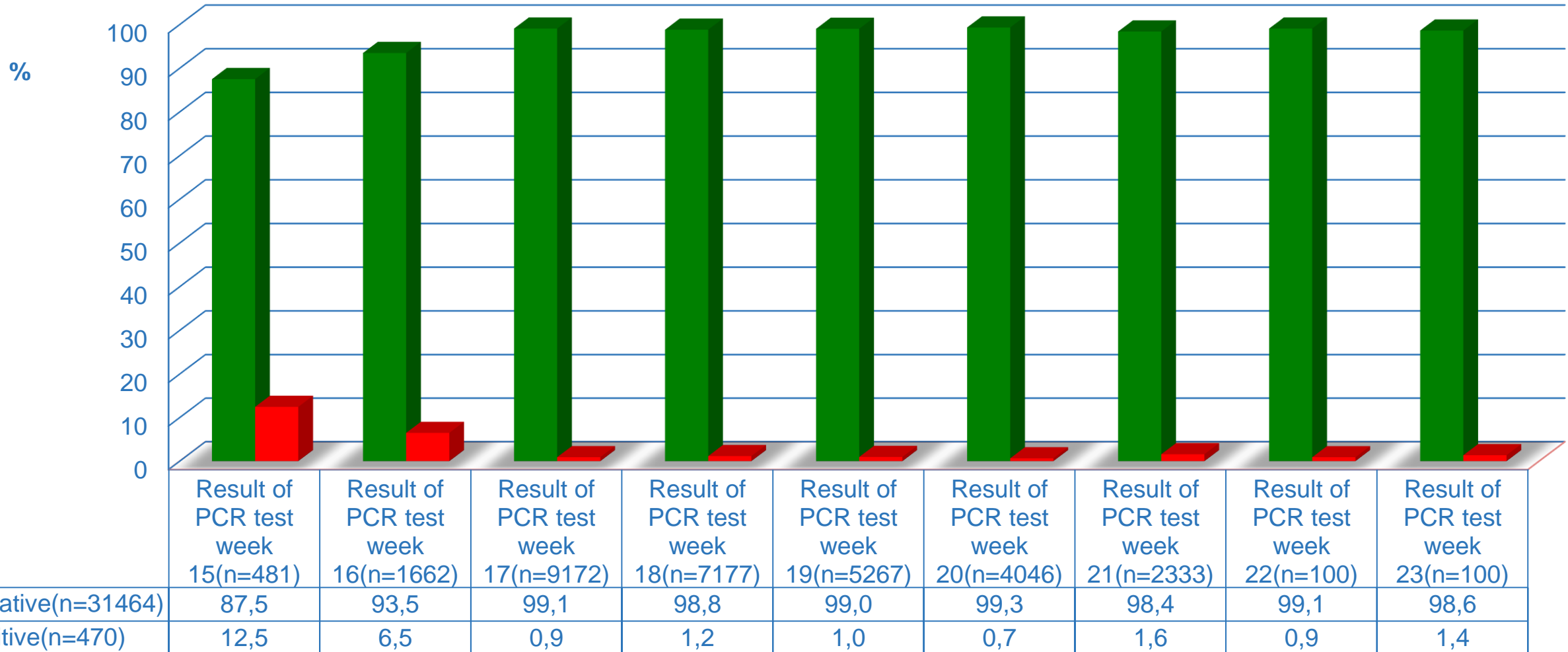
OR Age group 0,9 (95% CI: 0,763 – 1,088)
 (more in age group <45 – statistically not significant)

Results - % positive tests by professional group

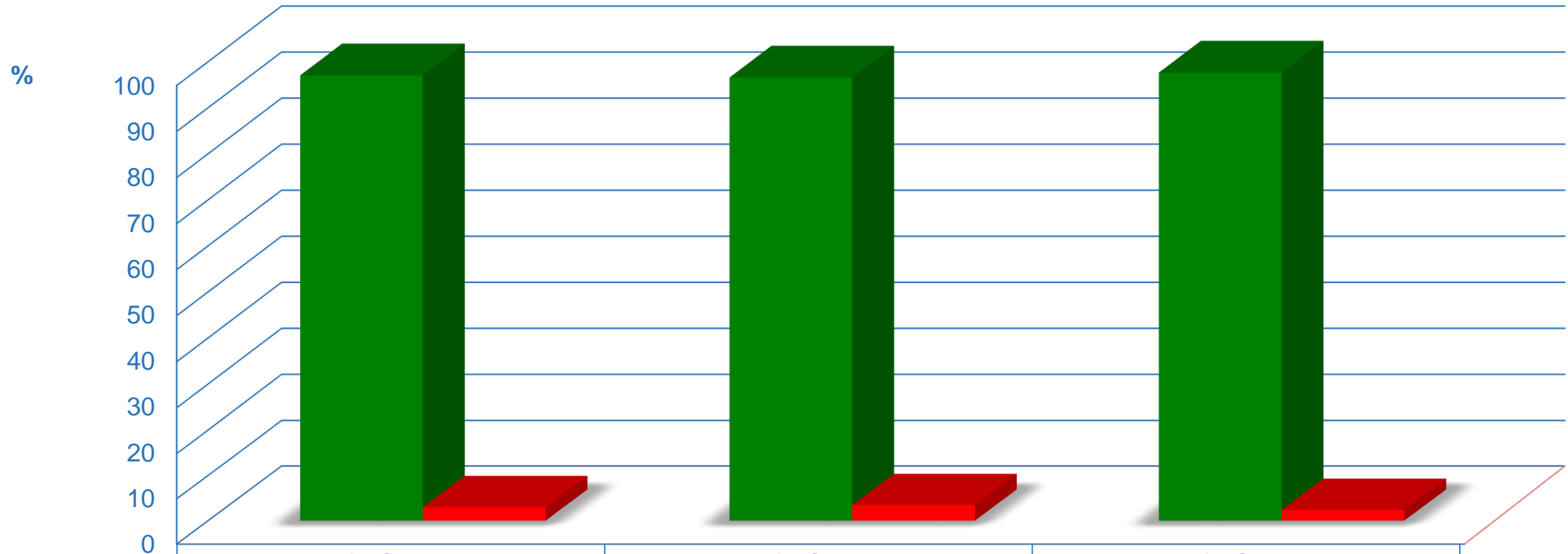


OR Professional group 2,1 (95% CI: 1,660 – 2,643)
(more in HCWs – statistically significant)

Results - % positive tests by time of testing wave 1



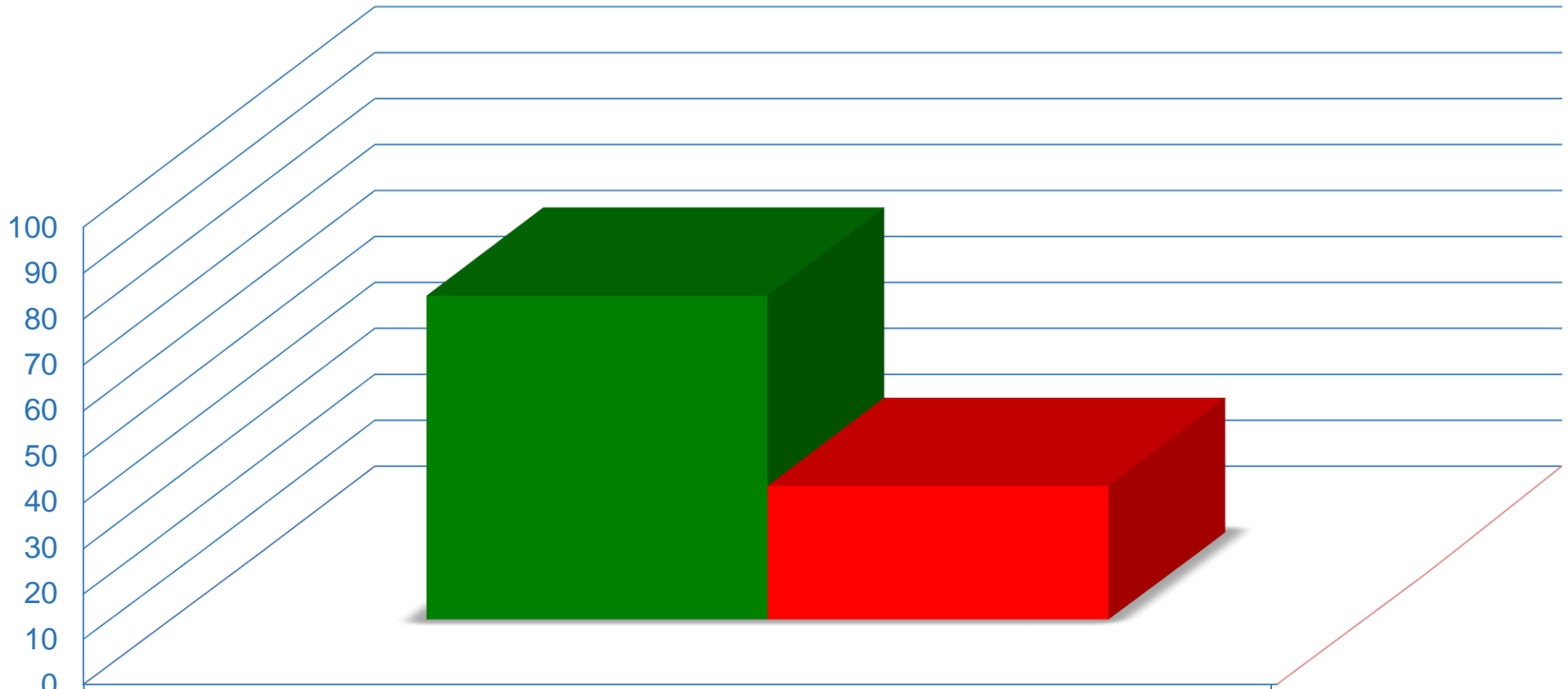
Results - % positive tests by time of testing wave 2



	Result of PCR test week 31 (n=67)	Result of PCR test week 32 (n=116)	Result of PCR test week 33 (n=84)
■ Negative (n=259)	97,0	96,6	97,6
■ Positive (n=8)	3,0	3,4	2,4

Results - % with symptoms (in group with positive test result)

%



Group with positive PCR(n=242)

■ No symptoms(n=171)
■ Symptoms(n=71)

70,7

29,3

Conclusions

- Prevalence of SARS-Cov-2 positive HCWs in LTCFs: +/- 2%
- 70% is asymptomatic
- Similar results in other international and national studies
- Serological studies did not find proof of a higher risk for seroconversion for HCWs when personal protection was worn
- Transmission and spread of virus possible through asymptomatic carriers in HCWs
- Extension infection prevention and control measures, including track and tracing of contacts, and regular screening of HCWs are recommended as long as the epidemic is ongoing

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