



Reach of STI clinics by ethnic groups in the Netherlands

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Introduction

Ethnic minorities from STI endemic countries are a high-risk group qualifying for care free of charge at the Public Health STI clinics. It is unknown to what extent these ethnic minorities reach these STI clinics in the four largest cities in the Netherlands.

Objectives

- To investigate the difference in STI clinic consultation rate and STI positivity rate between ethnic minority groups and ethnic Dutch in the four largest cities in the Netherlands (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht).
- To investigate the difference in STI clinic consultation rate and STI positivity rate between these four largest cities within ethnic groups.

Methods

- Linking of anonymous surveillance data from the STI clinics of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht with the Population Register from Statistics Netherlands.
- Selection of:
 - 2011-2013
 - 15-45 years
 - Living in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague or Utrecht
- Calculation of number of person-years, number of STI consultations and number of STI diagnoses per ethnic group and per city.
- Analyses using negative binomial regression, adjusted for age and sex.

Results

Table 1 Difference in STI consultation rate and STI positivity rate between ethnic minorities and ethnic Dutch living in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Utrecht

Country of origin	STI consultations		STI positives	
	N per 1,000 person-years	RR (95% CI)*	N per 100 consultations	RR (95% CI)*
The Netherlands	40	1.0	18	1.0
East Europe	46	1.3 (1.1-1.5)	24	1.6 (1.4-1.7)
Other Europe	33	0.8 (0.7-1.0)	23	1.2 (1.1-1.3)
Turkey	10	0.3 (0.2-0.3)	25	1.3 (1.2-1.5)
North Africa	15	0.4 (0.4-0.5)	25	1.4 (1.3-1.5)
Sub-Saharan Africa	43	1.3 (1.1-1.6)	31	1.8 (1.6-1.9)
Suriname	49	1.3 (1.1-1.5)	29	1.6 (1.5-1.7)
Netherlands Antilles	57	1.6 (1.4-1.9)	31	1.7 (1.6-1.8)
Latin America	81	2.2 (1.9-2.6)	30	1.7 (1.5-1.8)
Asia	24	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	21	1.2 (1.1-1.3)
Other Western	35	0.8 (0.7-1.0)	22	1.2 (1.1-1.4)

* Adjusted for age and sex

RR=Relative Risk; 95% CI=95% confidence interval; bold=p<0.05

Figure 1 Difference in STI consultation rate between cities within ethnic groups (reference=Utrecht)

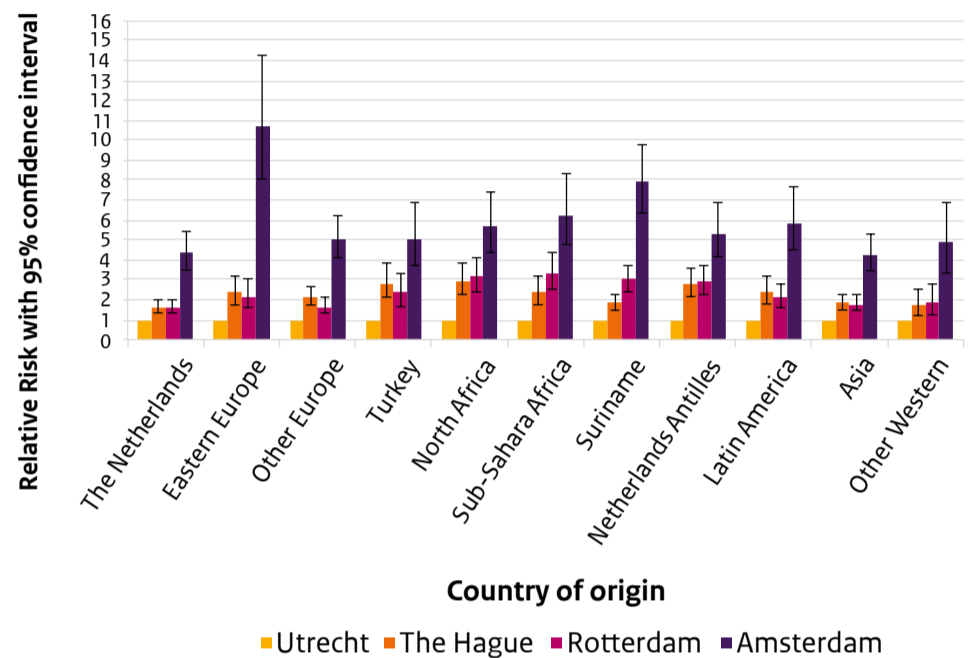
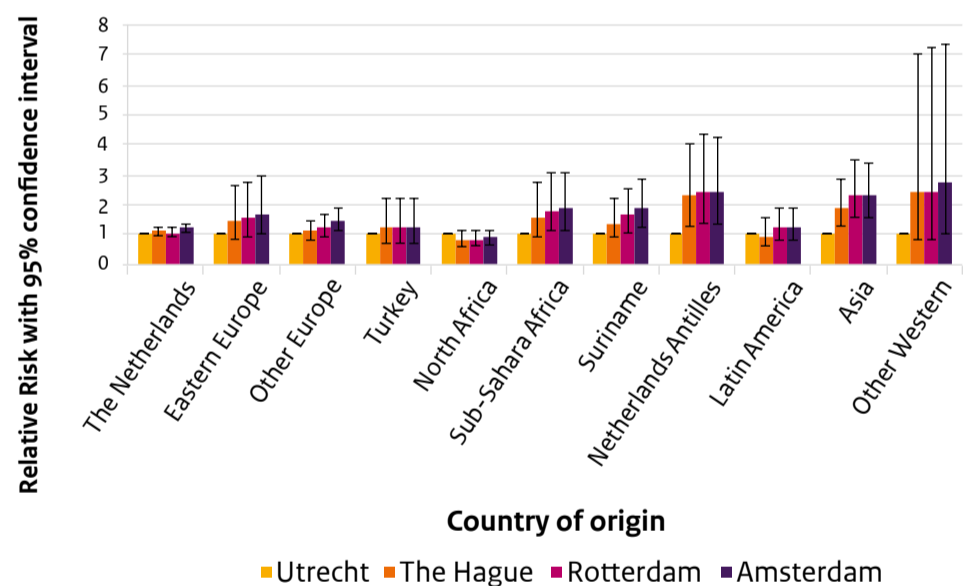


Figure 2 Difference in STI positivity rate between cities within ethnic groups (reference=Utrecht)



Conclusion

- Although high positivity rates among ethnic minorities suggests that these high-risk groups reach STI clinics, we cannot exclude that these groups should visit STI clinics even more.
- Reasons for low consultation rates among certain ethnic groups (Turkish, North-African and Asian minorities) should be evaluated through medical anthropological studies.
- There are substantial differences in reach of STI clinics by ethnic groups between the four largest cities in the Netherlands. Ethnic groups in Amsterdam have the highest consultation rate, whereas ethnic groups in Utrecht have the lowest consultation rate.
- Positivity rates are not lower in cities with higher consultation rates.



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