

Epidemiological evolution of scabies in Belgium, 2000-2022

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Background and methods

- ✓ Several European countries reported increase in scabies over last two decades
- ✓ No surveillance in Belgium
- ✓ We analysed data at general practitioners (Intego), occupational health services (IDEWE), shelters for asylum seekers (Fedasil), medical services for people in precarious housing situations (Médecins du Monde), student medical services and Regional Health Authorities
- ✓ Additionally we analysed treatment sales and reimbursement data

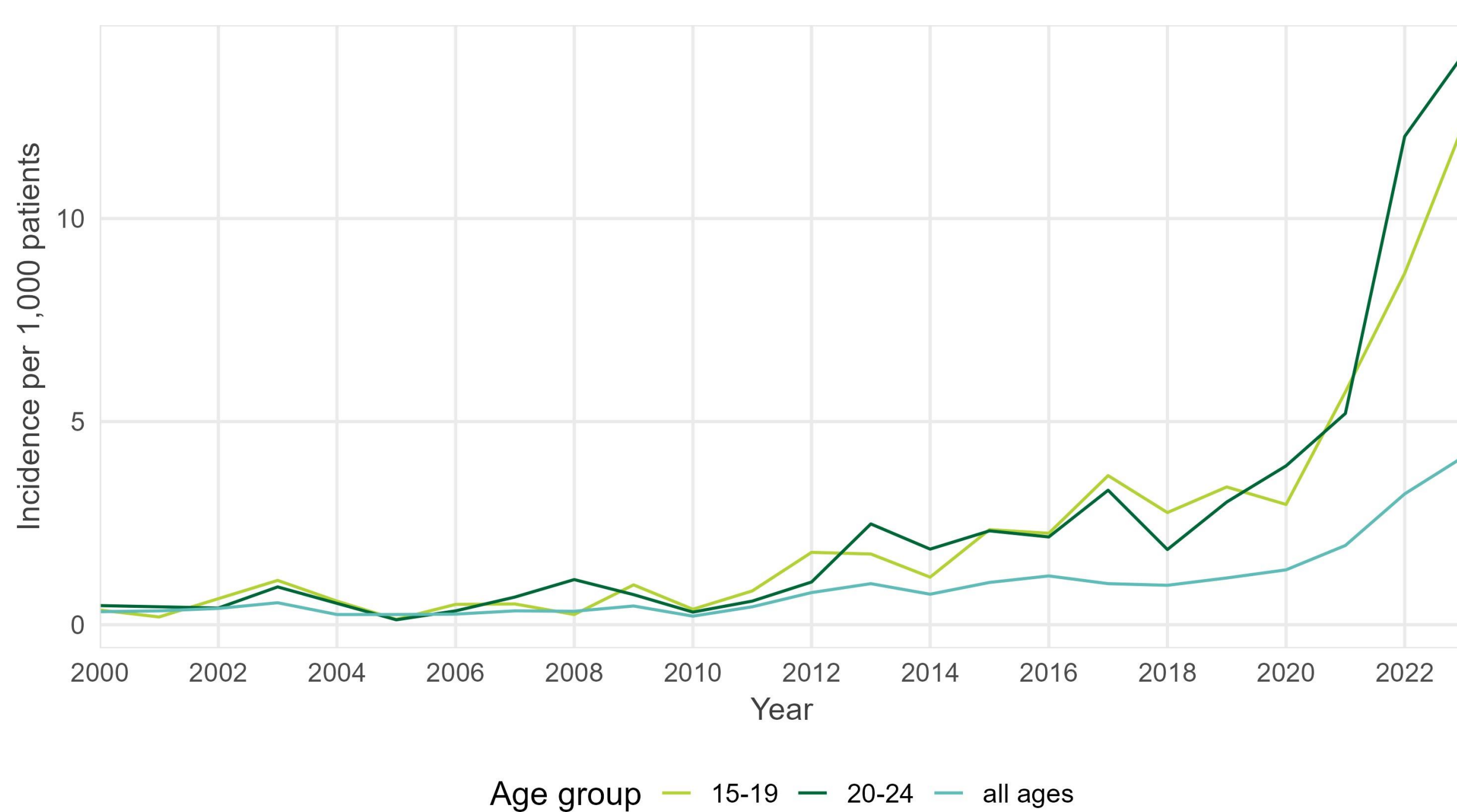
Results and recommendations

- ✓ Both clinical data and data on sales and reimbursement of treatment confirmed increase of scabies infestations
- ✓ Age group 15-24 years most affected, no difference males and females
- ✓ Higher incidence in cities
- ✓ Seasonality: higher infection rates in colder months
- ✓ We recommend further epidemiological follow-up and studies to investigate possible reasons for the increase

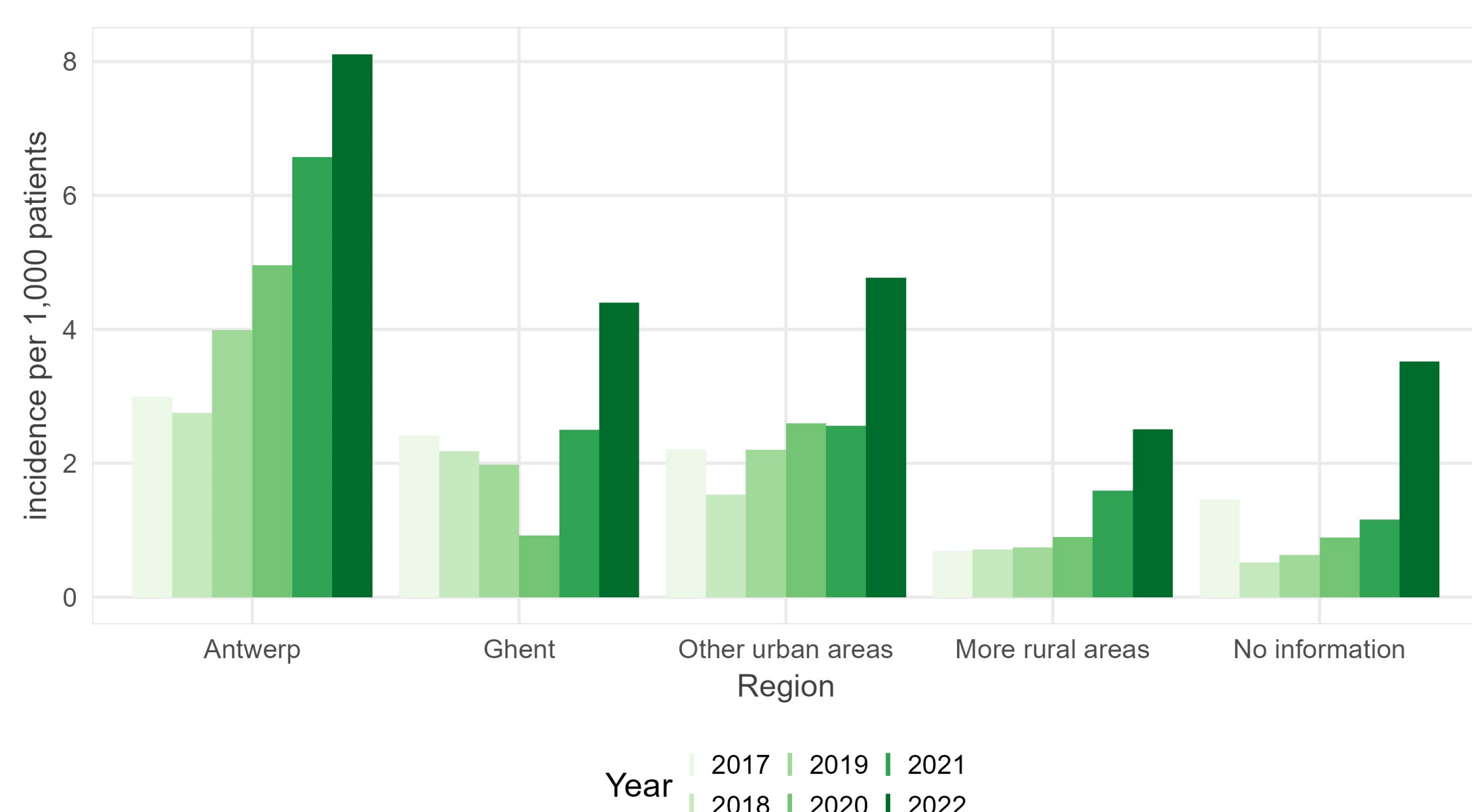
Clinical data

- ✓ Scabies incidence GP network in Flanders increased since 2011.
- ✓ Seasonality with higher incidences in colder months.

Scabies incidence in GP network in Flanders, all ages versus 15-19 and 20-24 years old, 2011-2023 (Source: Intego)



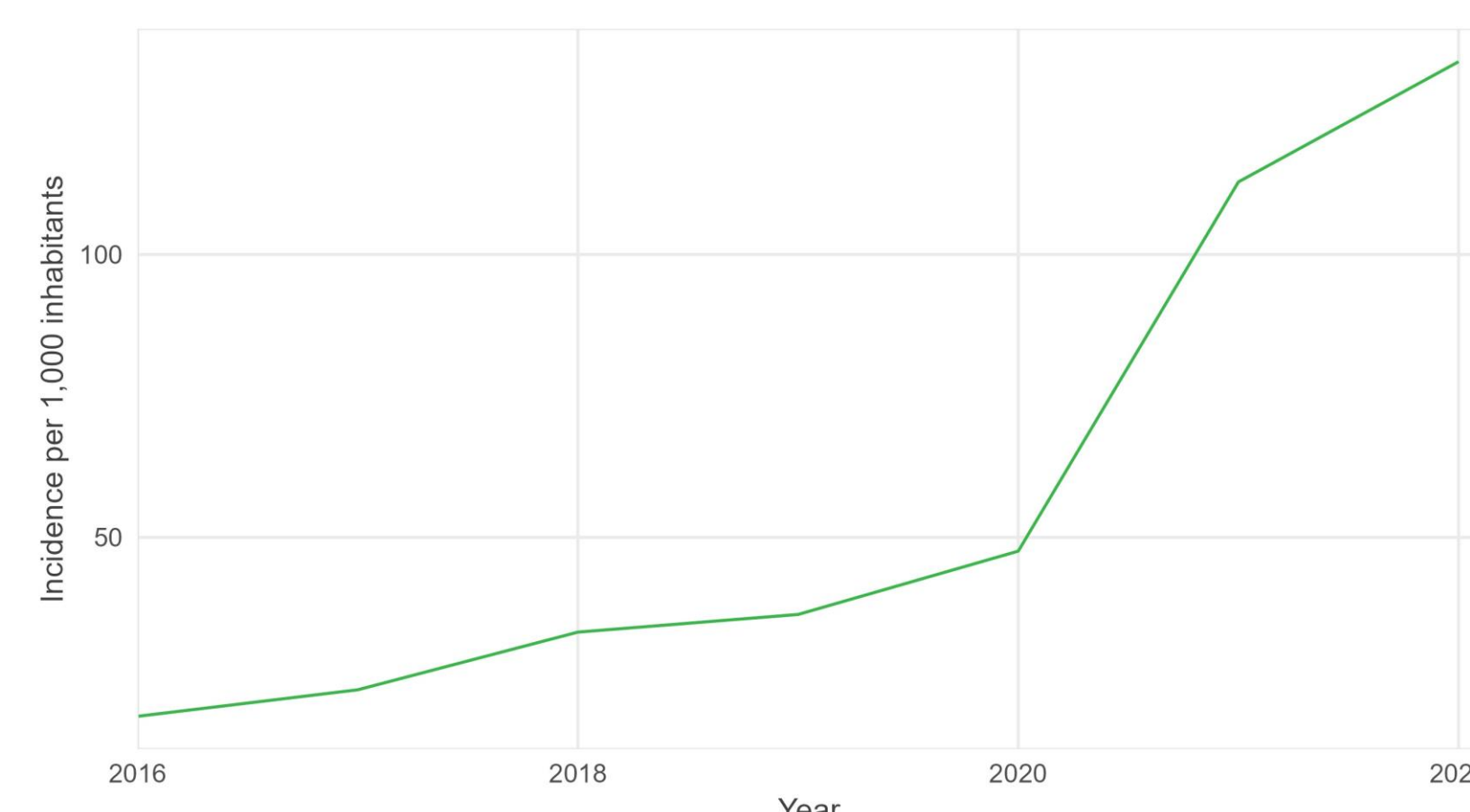
Scabies incidence in GP network in Flanders, by place of residence, 2017-2022 (Source: Intego)



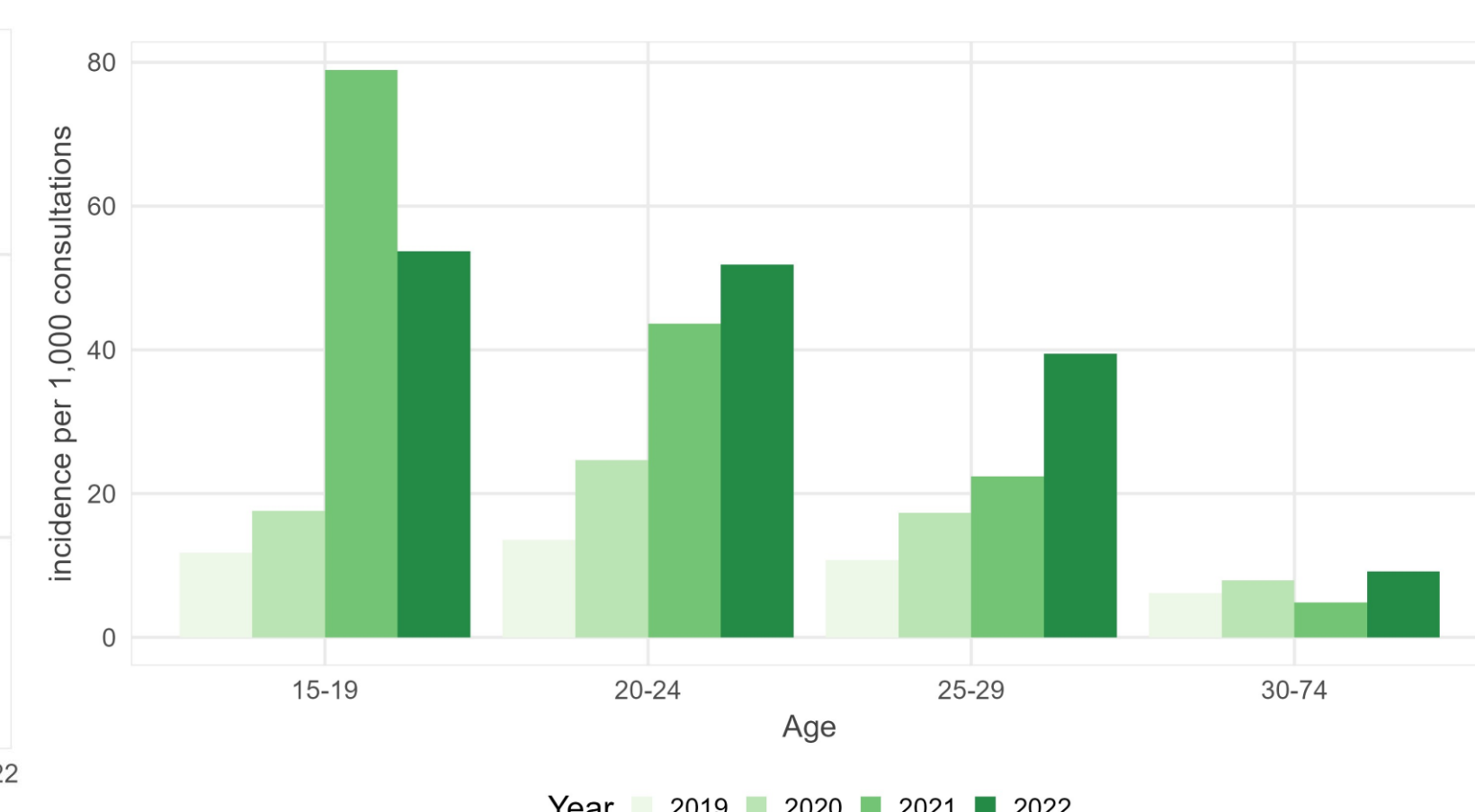
- ✓ Scabies at occupational health and student medical services showed significant increase.

- ✓ Similar increasing trends and age group distribution in people living in precarious situations.

Yearly number of scabies cases per mean number of inhabitants of the respective years in refugee centers of Fedasil



Yearly number of scabies diagnoses (per 1,000 consultations) in patients of Médecins du Monde, 2019-2022, per age group

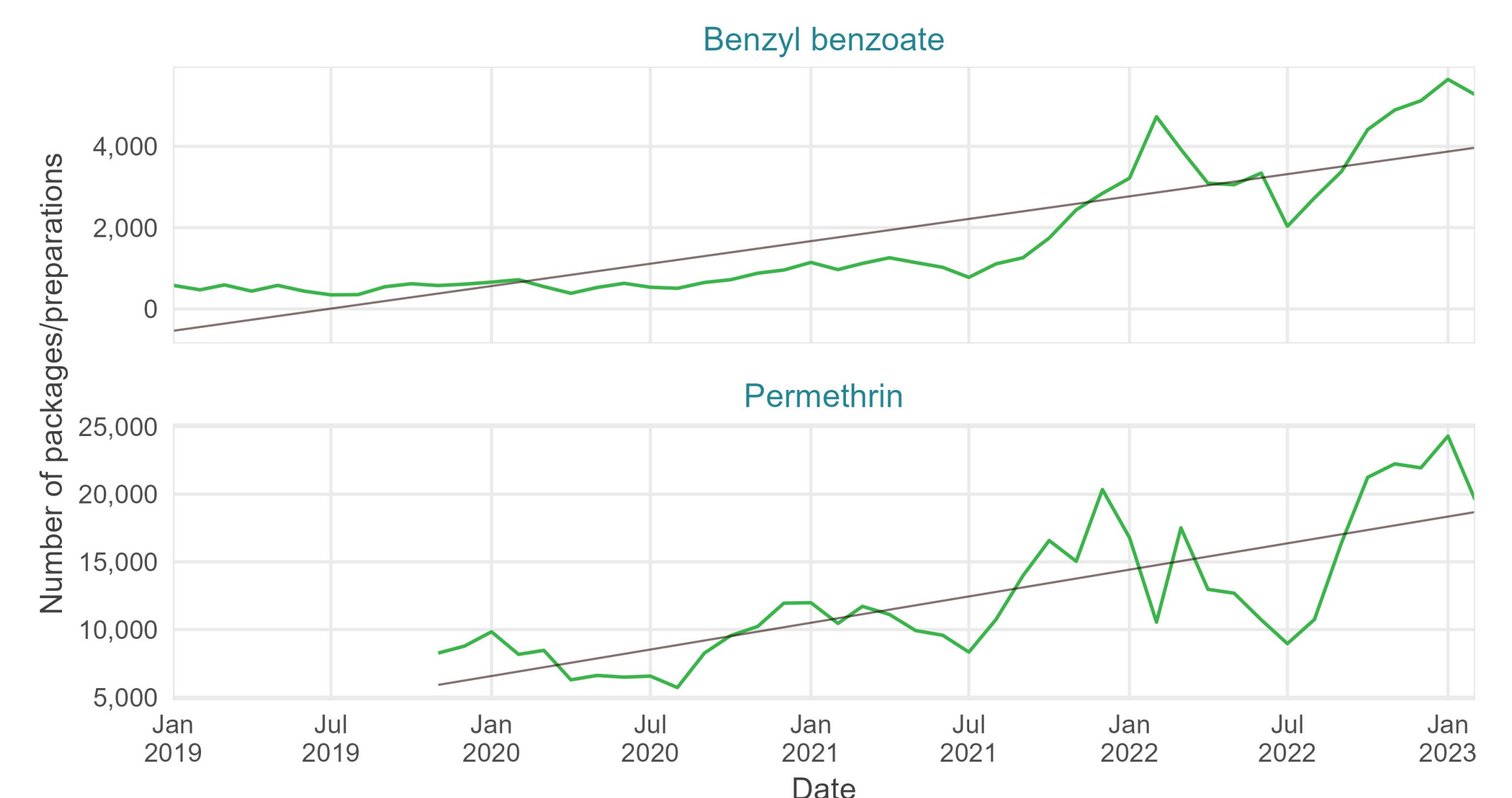


- ✓ Clusters: childcare facilities, schools and nursing homes.

Treatment data

- ✓ Sales and reimbursements of permethrin, and benzyl benzoate preparations in pharmacies significantly increased.
- ✓ Seasonality with higher numbers in colder months.

Number of benzyl benzoate preparations per month with trend, January 2019 – February 2023 and number of reimbursed permethrin packages per month with trend, November 2019 – March 2023



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Thank you to all partners for kindly sharing their data. Special thanks to all participants of the Intego network.

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