



University of Heidelberg

LIGHTHOUSE

# Patterns of ART re-uptake

The effectiveness of the *Back-to-Care* program  
in Lilongwe, Malawi

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## LIGHTHOUSE

- Located in Malawi's capital: Lilongwe
- Operates 2 day hospitals:
  - Lighthouse Clinic
  - Martin Preuss Centre
- Since 2004: Free access to ART in the public sector
- Largest public sector ART provider in central region
  - > 14,000 patients enrolled in ART Program in 2008-2009
- Established electronic data system (EDS) for routine collection of ART data

# ○ ○ Aims & objectives

## Aim:

- Evaluation of an ***early active follow up strategy*** to improve retention in care

## Objectives:

- Identification of ***ART re-uptake patterns*** among patients with or without intervention of the program
- Clarification of ***reasons for missed appointments*** (current ART status)

## Approach:

- Descriptive retrospective study

## Study population - inclusion criteria:

- Enrolled in ART Program
  - January 2008 - December 2009
- Age >15 years

# ○○ Back-to-care program (B2C)

**Established:** July 2006

**Function:** Identification and early active follow up of patients with missed appointments

**EDS**

> 21 days after calculated last pill day

**B2C team**

Attempt to contact defaulters

Conducting structured interview

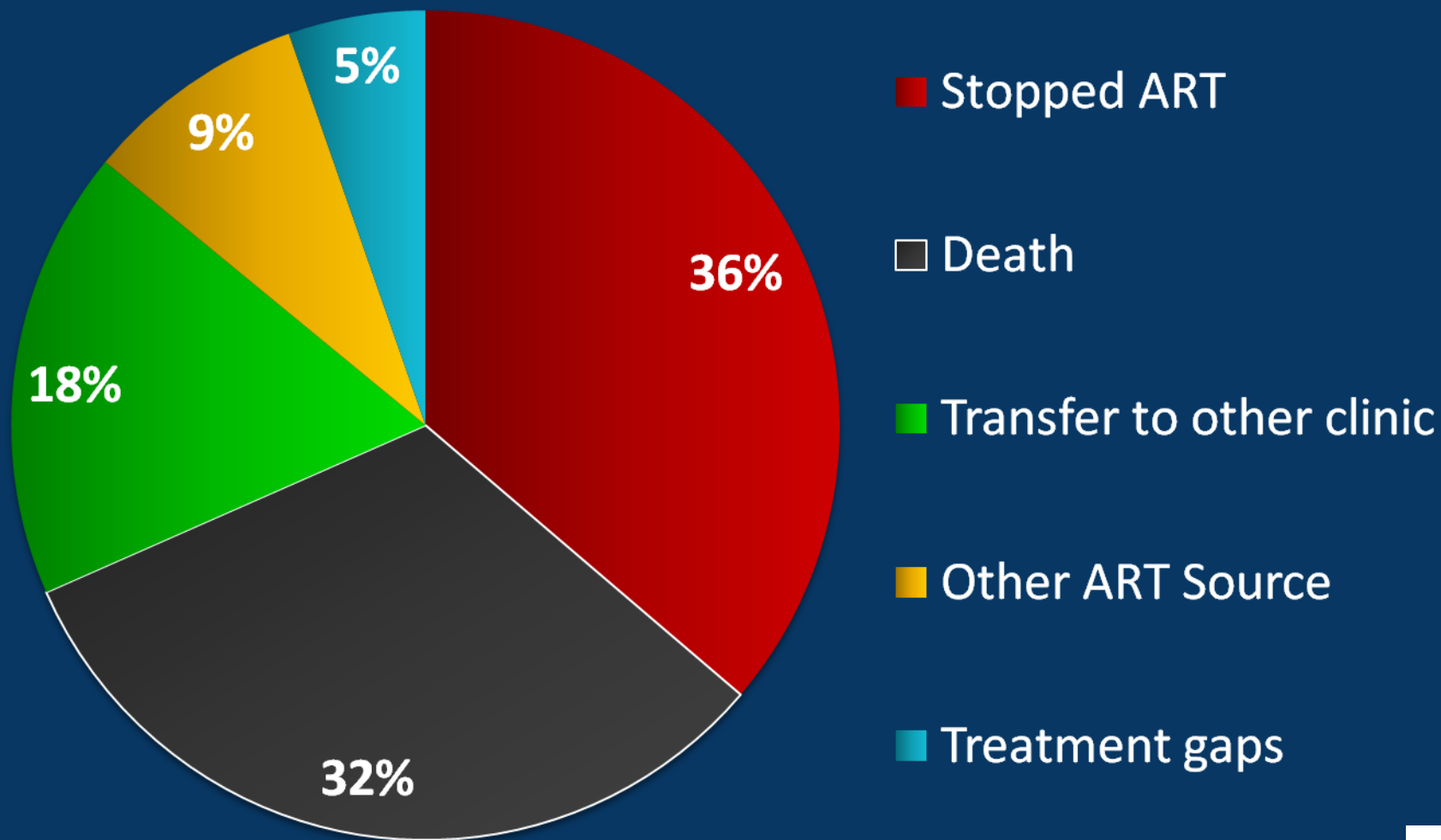
**Outcomes**

Current ART status

Possible return to care

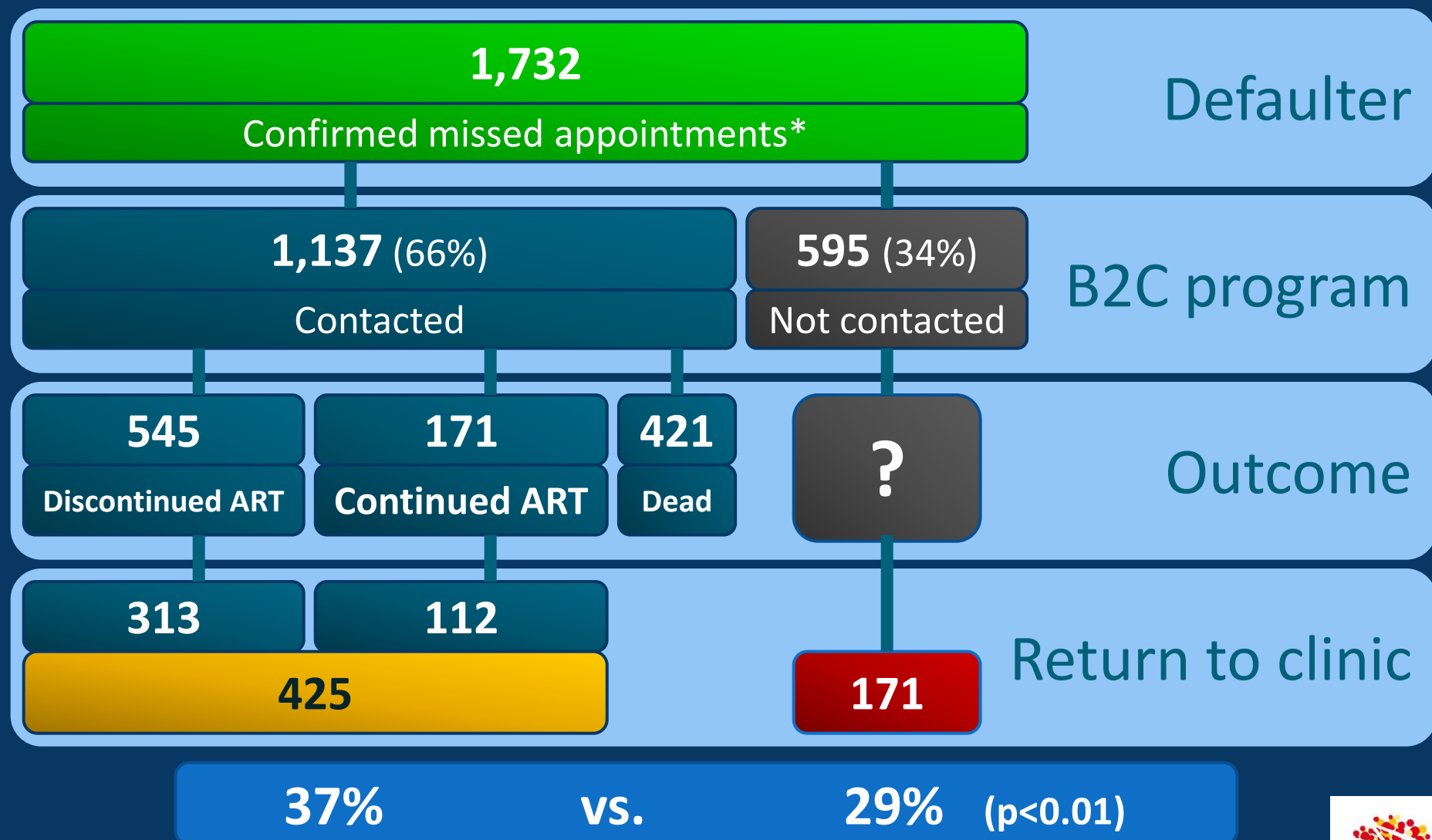


## Outcome: Reasons for missed appointments



# ○ B2C: early active follow up

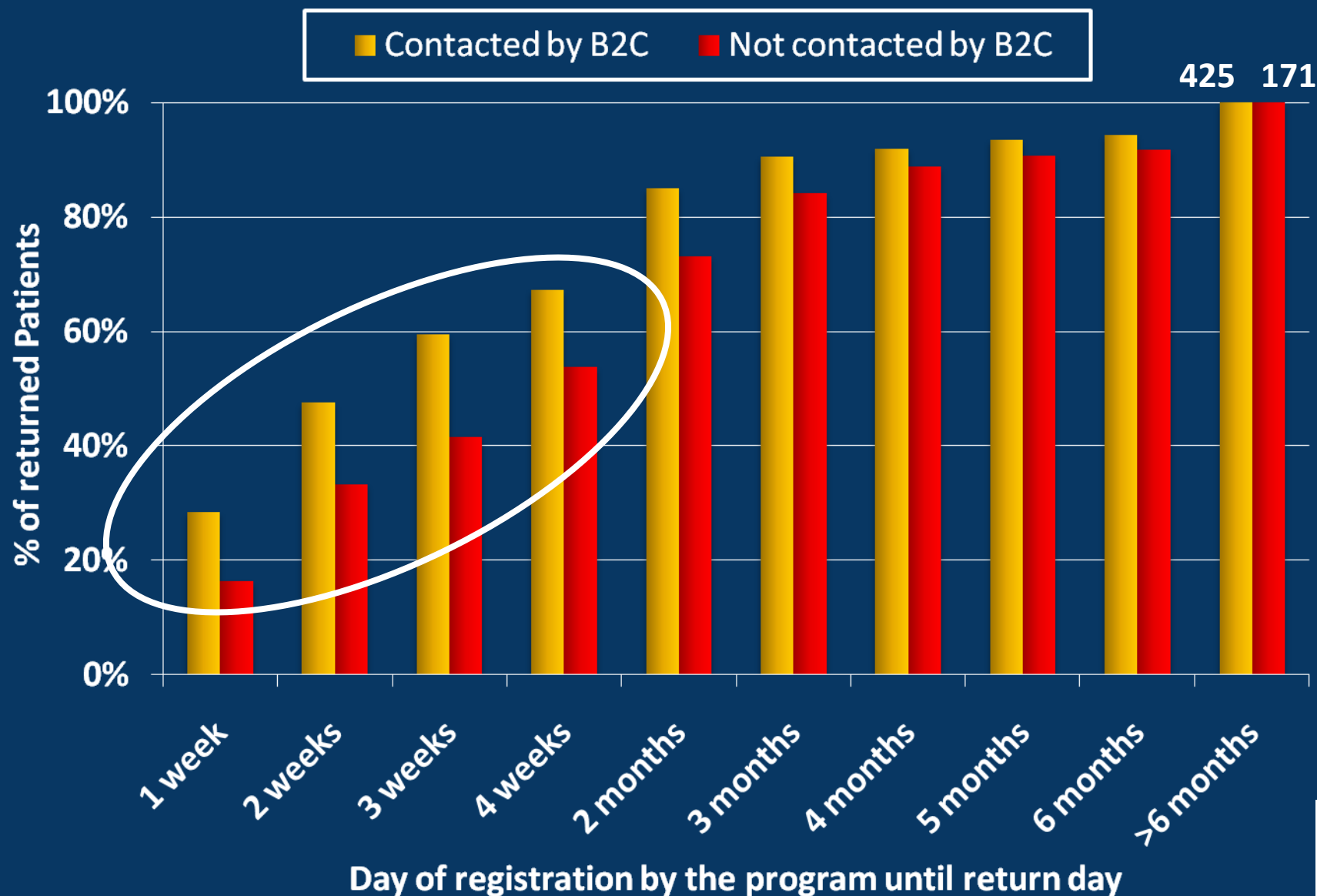
2008/2009



\* Excluding documented transfer outs

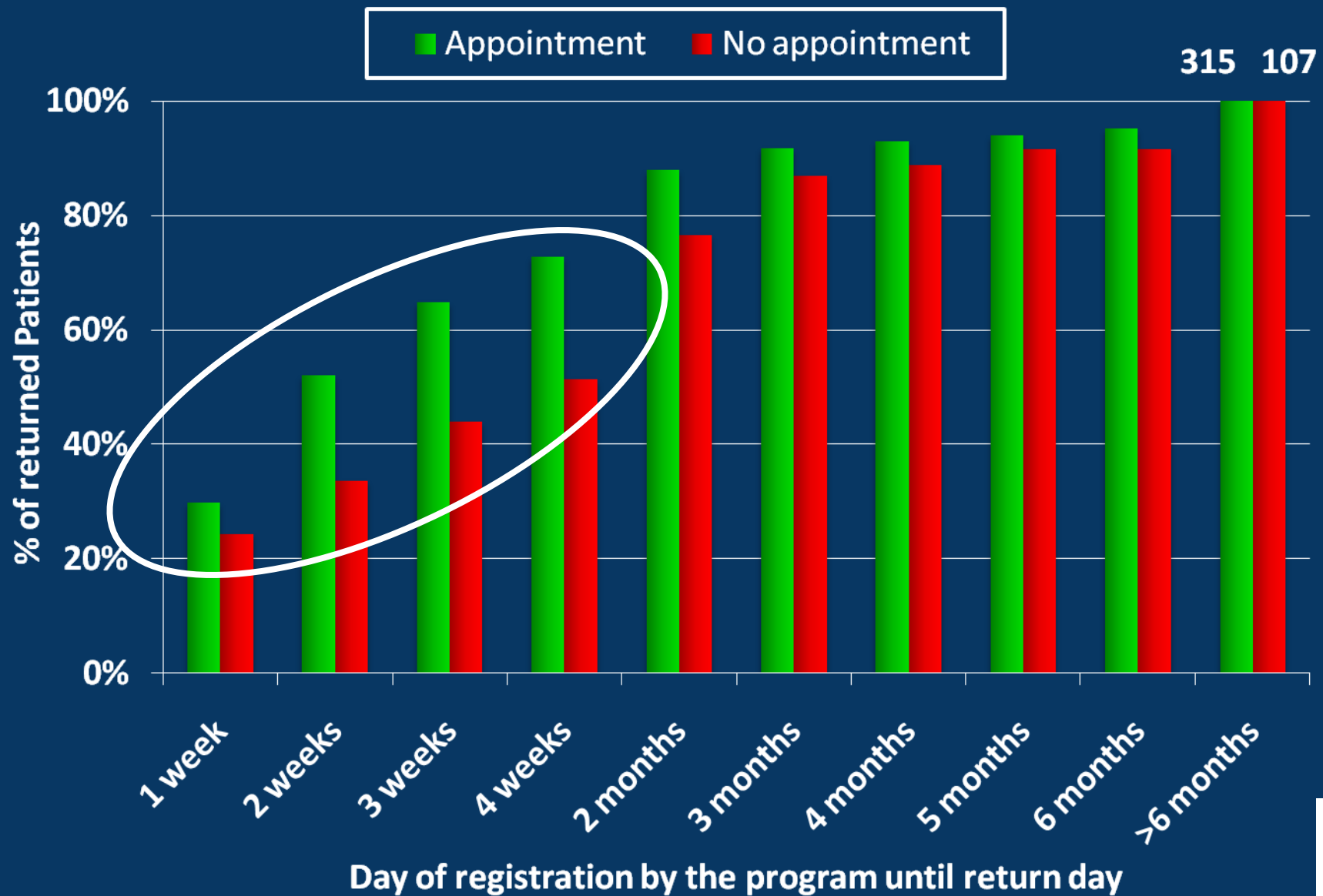


# Contact success & return dynamics

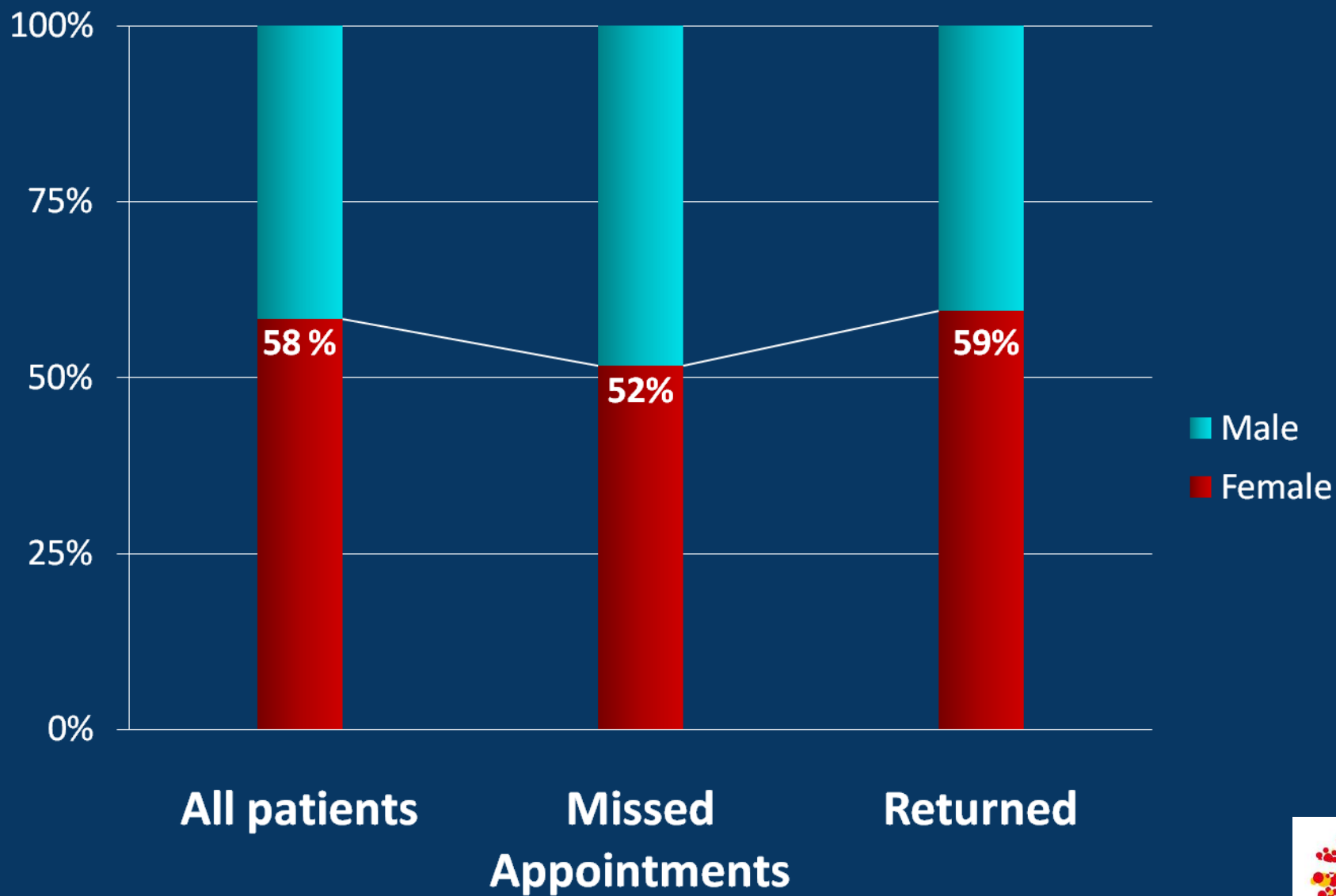




# Appointment given & return dynamics



# Gender and return



# ○○ Key observations

- Patients **contacted by the B2C program** were more likely to return to the clinic
- The contact of the B2C program and scheduled appointments were associated with **early return** to the clinic
- **Men** were more likely to default, whilst **women** were more likely to return to the clinic.
- **ART outcome information** about:
  - Reasons for missed appointments
  - Mortality rates
  - Patient shifting within the health system

## The B2C program

- is a successful early active follow up initiative
- needs to improve contact information
- provides outcome information for future improvement based on *informed decision making*

# ○ Acknowledgements



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Thank you very much for your attention!

