

A psycho-social weather report in the Netherlands: Mapping the internalised homonegativity "storms" and the sexual self-efficacy "sunshine" among MSM and their ecological associations with HIV care cascade

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Higher internalised homonegativity "storm" may bar achieving the first "95" but could facilitate reaching the second and third "95" goals in HIV care cascades.

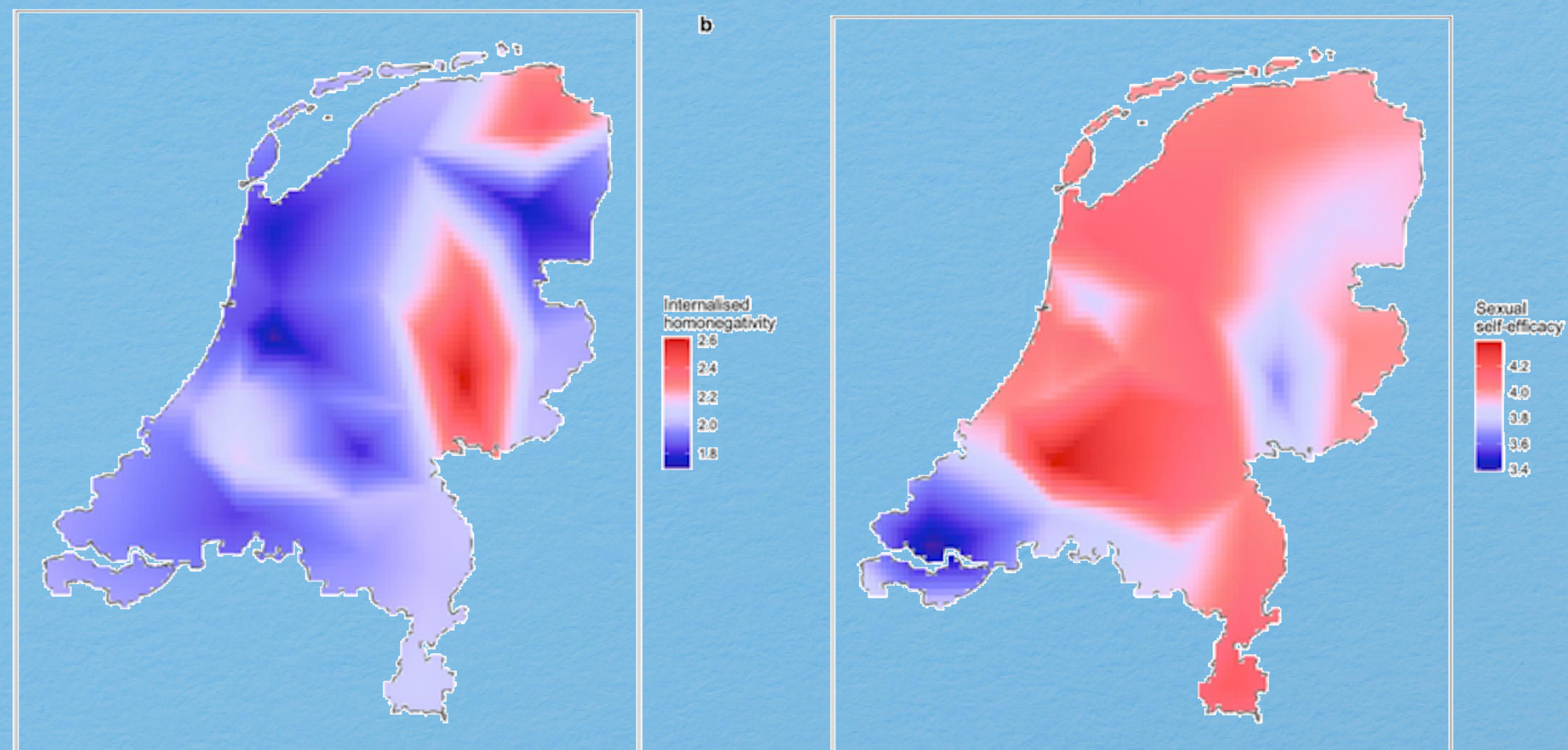
INTERNALISED HOMONEGATIVITY VS. SEXUAL SELF-EFFICACY

BACKGROUND

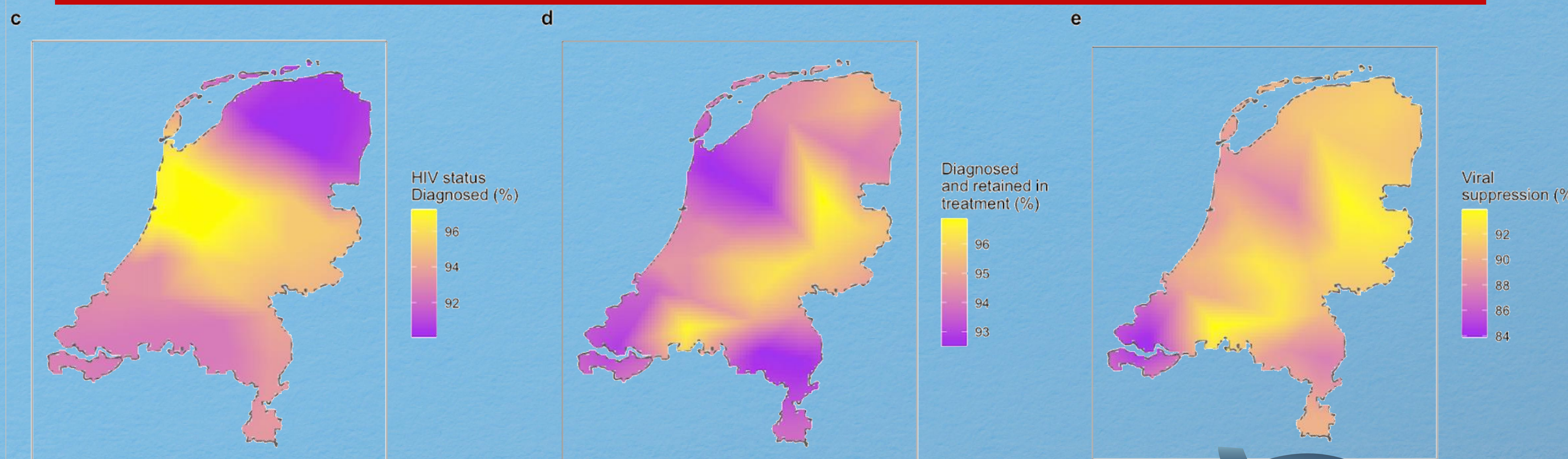
Internalised homonegativity (IH) is associated negatively on all steps of the HIV care cascade (testing, treatment and viral suppression), while sexual self-efficacy (SSE, e.g. confidence to say no to sex) may lead to better outcomes. This study mapped the nationwide IH and SSE among MSM and their ecological associations with HIV cascade in the Netherlands.

METHODS

Data from the Dutch MSM subsample (n=1,102) of PROTECT, a cross-sectional survey, obtained from October-December 2023, were included. IH and SSE (measured on 1-5 Likert scale) were aggregated on the regional level using postcode data. Regional HIV cascades were obtained from the Dutch HIV Monitoring Foundation. We first mapped the IH, SSE, and the HIV cascade using a stochastic partial differential equation approach. We then used ecological regressions to explore associations between geostatistical IH/SSE and each HIV cascade.



HIV CASCADE: % STATUS AWARE → % RETAINED IN TREATMENT → % VIRALLY SUPPRESSED



KEY FINDINGS

1. The highest (lowest) concentrated internalised homonegativity "storm" (sexual self-efficacy) were found around more rural regions.
2. Highest %hiv diagnoses were observed in areas around amsterdam, declining with distance. Upon diagnosis, the %retained in treatment and %virally suppressed were, however, higher in more rural areas.
3. Higher geostatistical ih was associated with lower %hiv diagnosed, higher %linked to treatment, and higher %virally suppressed
4. Geostatistical sse exhibited opposite associations with these cascades

