

## Impact on invitation, participation and lesion detected in the CRC screening in the Basque Country pre & post COVID-19

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# BASQUE COUNTRY PROGRAMME 2018-2019

<b>POPULATION-BASED-PROGRAM</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
Population	2,178,000
Eligible for screening	541,140
CRC incidence (Spain Globocan 2020)	277.2
CRC mortality (Spain Globocan 2020)	90.3
Screening test	FIT (OC-Sensor)
FIT threshold ( $\mu\text{g Hb/g faeces}$ )	20
Screening interval	Biennial
Screening age-range, years	50-69
Adherence to screening	71.9%
Adherence to colonoscopy after FIT+	92.8%



# COVID-19 DISRUPTION

Disruption  
period:  
from March  
15<sup>th</sup> to the end  
of May 2020

1

**Recovery period for colonoscopies:**

October 2020 for FIT+ previous to disruption

2

**Delay of invitations (6 months – 1 year).**

Differences between organizations.

3

**There were 6 Covid-19 waves.**

Intermittent periods of partial disruptions.

# STRATEGY FOR CATCHING-UP

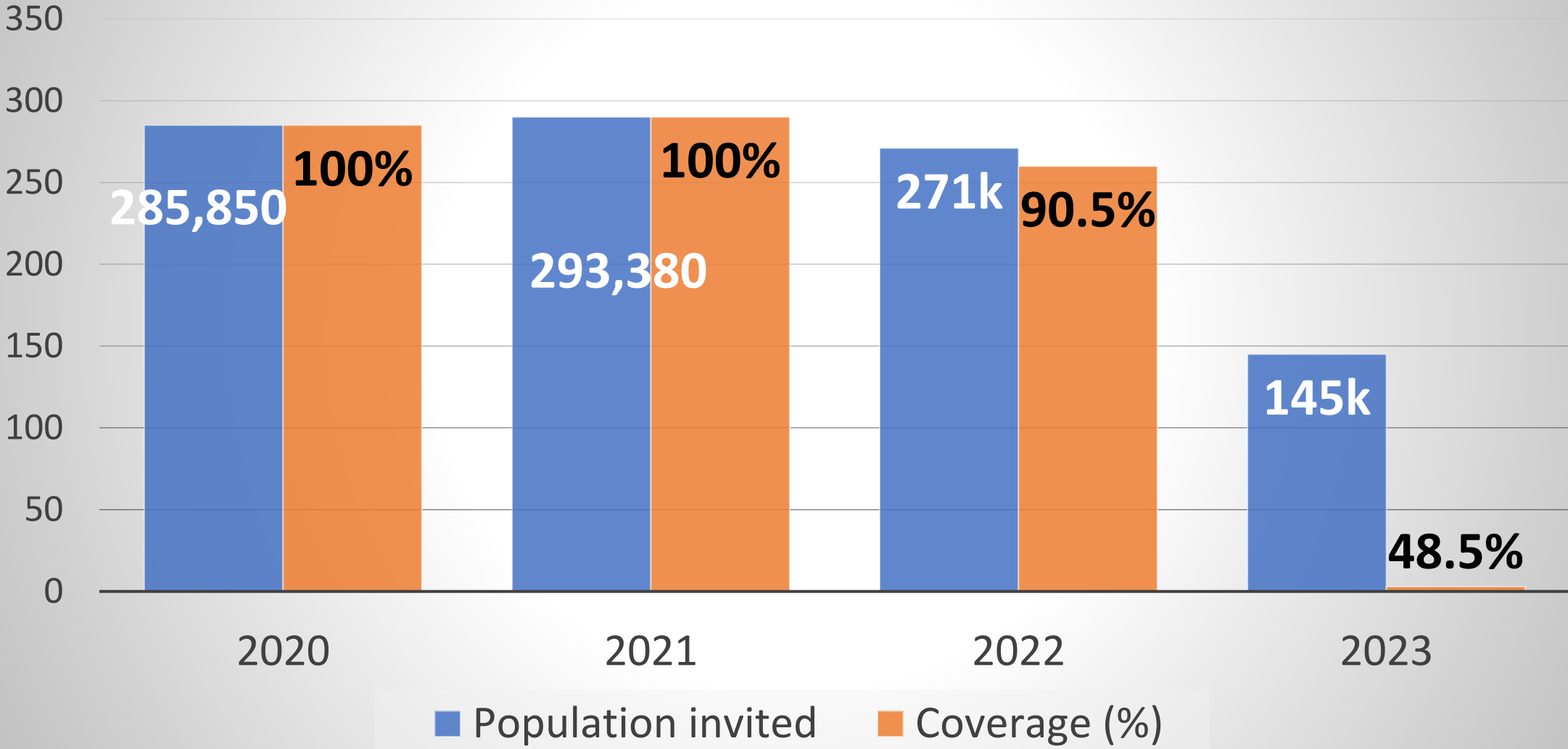
Invitation extended to 70-71 years because of delay of invitations **more than 30 months** between FIT

FIT threshold equal to pre-pandemic period

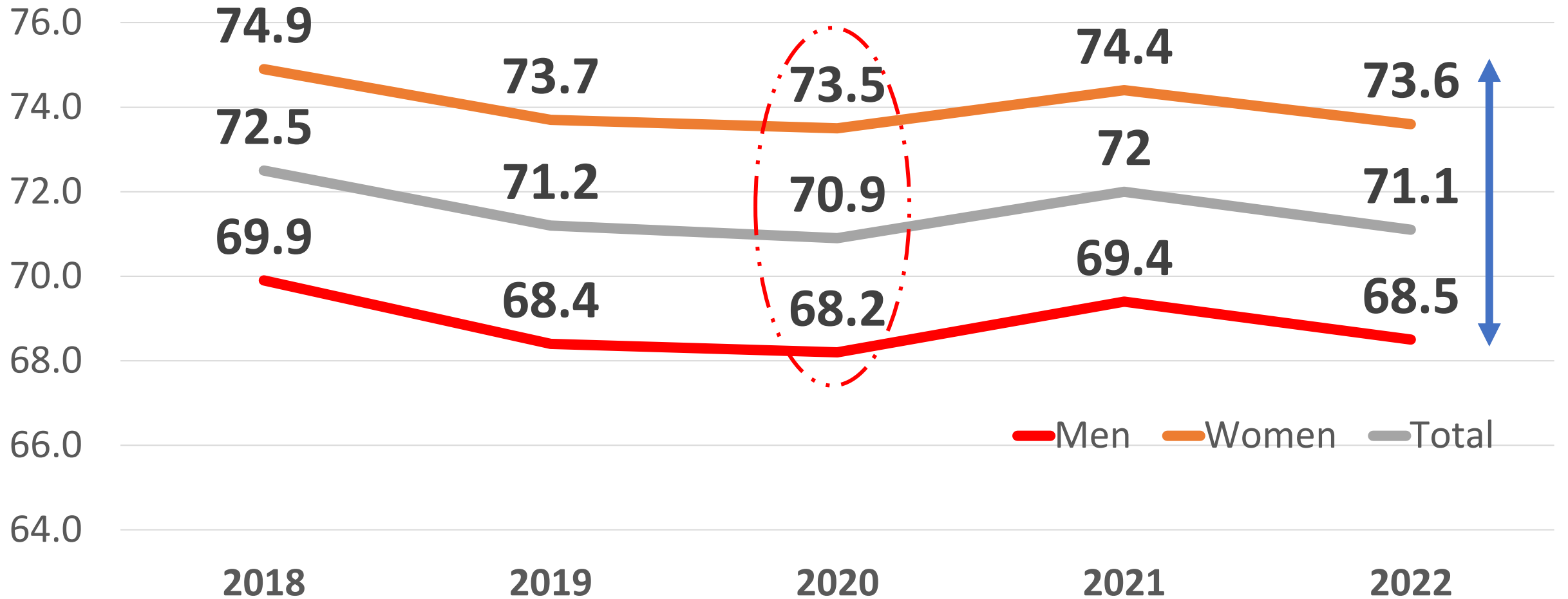
Priorization screening colonoscopies after FIT+ and symptomatic referrals

Extended surveillance colonoscopy for Advanced Lesions no piecemeal resection (from 1 to 3 years)

# Catch-up coverage at 31st May 2023



# PARTICIPATION RATE



# LESIONS DETECTED

	2018	→	2020	Difference
Colonoscopies	9,944	→	4,533	↓ 55%
Advanced lesions	2,950	→	1,362	↓ 54%
CRC	271	→	114	↓ 58%
Pre-malignant lesions	No significant differences			

The absolute numbers show the **real impact due to the pandemic** on the enormous amount of **non-diagnosed advanced lesions and CRC**.

# IMPACT 2018-2023

## Cohort study

- People invited / no invited
- Participants / no participants
- Round
- Participation history
- Colonoscopy adherence
- Advanced Adenoma
- CRC
- Stage
- Mortality
- Survival

By deprivation index, comorbidity index and organization



# CONSIDERATIONS

- Short period of evaluation for the pandemic impact
- The delay in Population Cancer Registry does not allow to measure the real impact of the pandemic (2018)
- **Screening software linked with:**
  - Medical record
  - Procedures (colonoscopies)
  - Laboratories (Biochemistry and Pathology)
  - Hospital Discharges and Surgeries (95% CRC registered)
  - Cancer Registries
  - Mortality

- The burden of colonoscopies continues as a main limitation for screening programmes
- **Quality Assurance of the whole screening process**
  - Invitations
  - Participation
  - FIT traceability
  - Colonoscopy
  - Lesions detected
  - Adverse effects: complications and Interval Cancer (IC FIT and IC colonoscopy)

# GRAZIE MILLE!



**Gonzalo Sánchez, Carlos Azpiazu, Isabel Idigoras, Isabel Bilbao, Irene Sainz de Rozas, Lluc Ballester**