



CRC screening and Covid-19 in Finland

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FIT-program in Finland

- **Started as a pilot in 9 municipalities in 2019 (n=30 000)**
 - Different cut-offs for men and women (70/25 $\mu\text{g/g}$)
- **First-year results published,** *BMJ Open* 2021; 11:e046667
 - Excellent participation (83/75%)
 - Narrowed gender gap in the diagnostic performance
 - Positivity and detection rates moderate, however
- **Second-year results underway**
 - Cut-offs lowered to 50/15 $\mu\text{g/g}$
- **Modelling study on cost-effectiveness underway (06/2021)**

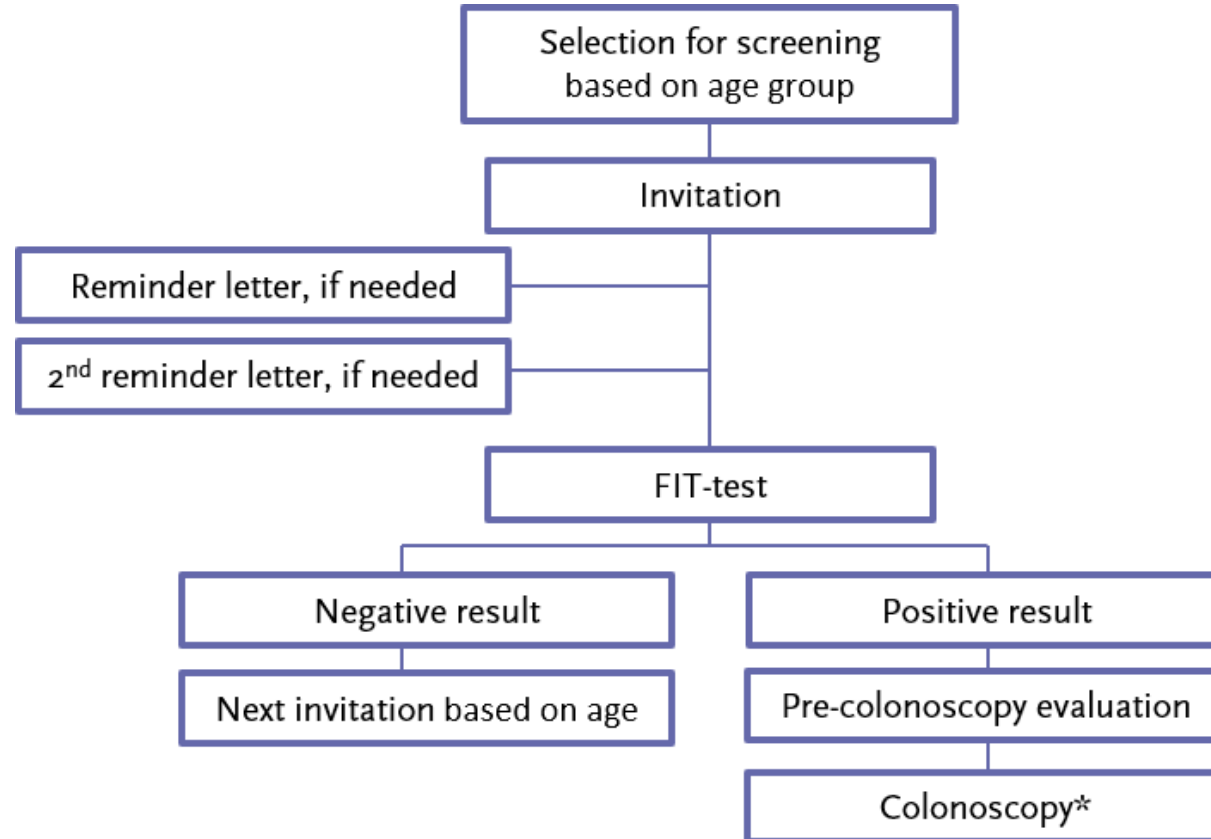
To national program 2022+

- ✓ **Indicates changes in screening legislation**
 - New Act of Screening awaiting Government signing
- Protocol and list of accepted FIT-tests will be prepared by an expert group appointed by the National Screening Board
- ✓ **Municipalities responsible for organisation (n=309)**
- Screening services procurement guide and other materials are currently being prepared in the Finnish Cancer Registry

National program 2022+

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
1975	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
1974	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57
1973	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
1972	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
1971	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
1970	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61
1969	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62
1968	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
1967	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
1966	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
1965	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
1964	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67
1963	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68
1962	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69
1961	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
1960	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71
1959	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72
1958	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73
1957	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74
1956	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	
1955	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74		
1954	68	69	70	71	72	73	74			
1953	69	70	71	72	73	74				

National program 2022+



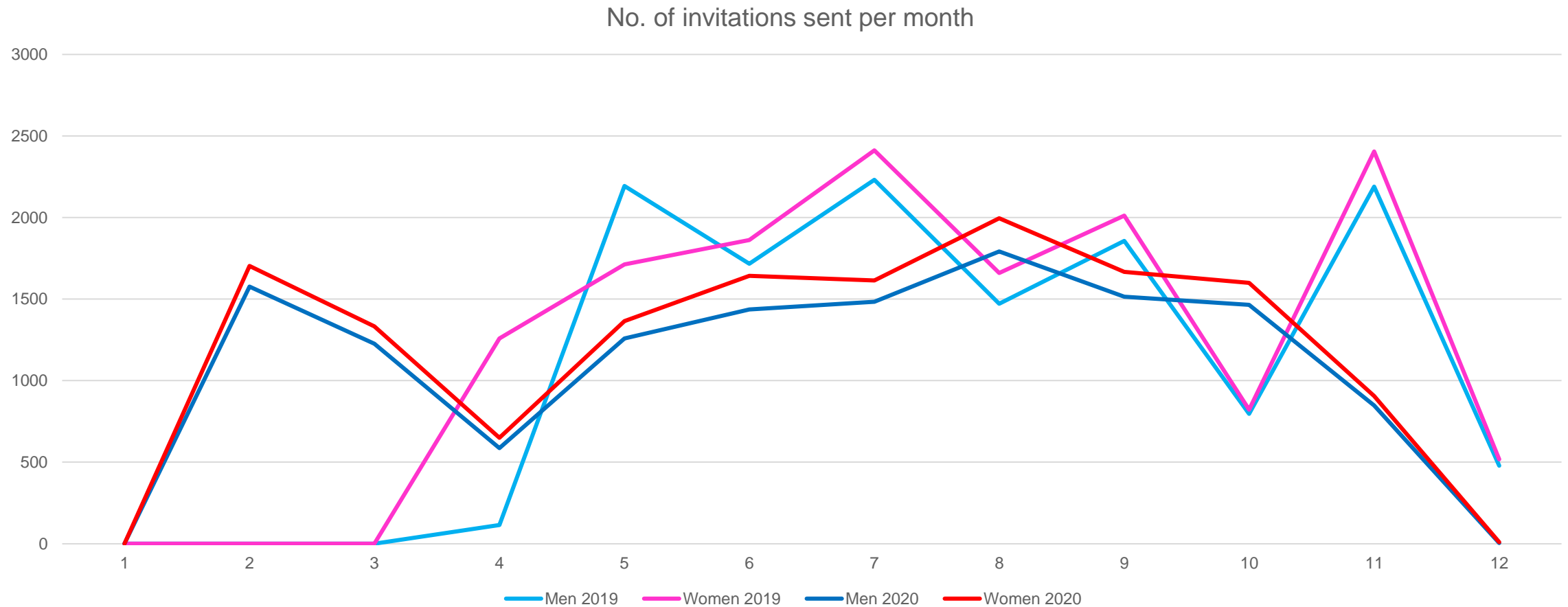
* or CT-colonography

Screening under Covid-19

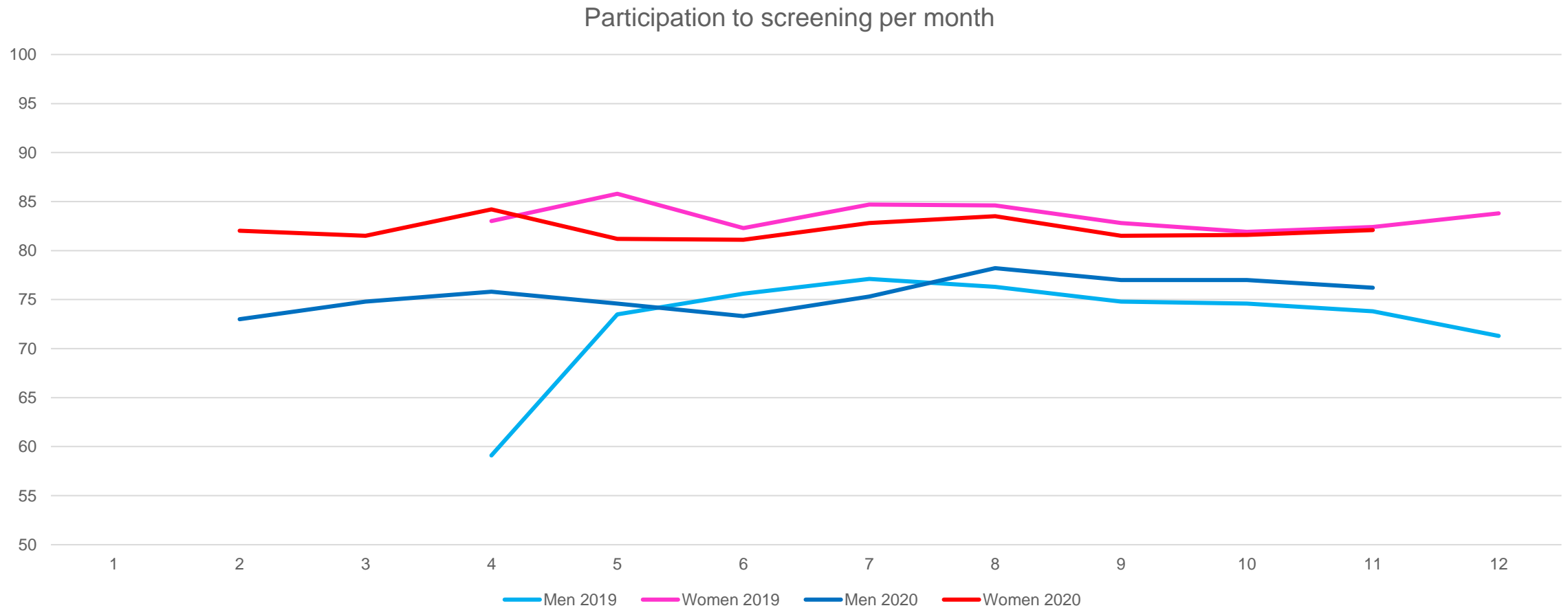
✓ Test cut-offs changed between 2019 and 2020

- Invitations and participations with FIT valid indicators for comparison
- Also checked:
 - Median time between the arrival and the analyses of FIT tests
 - Median time between the analyses of FIT tests and the posting of pos. results
 - Median time between the posting of results and the colonoscopies

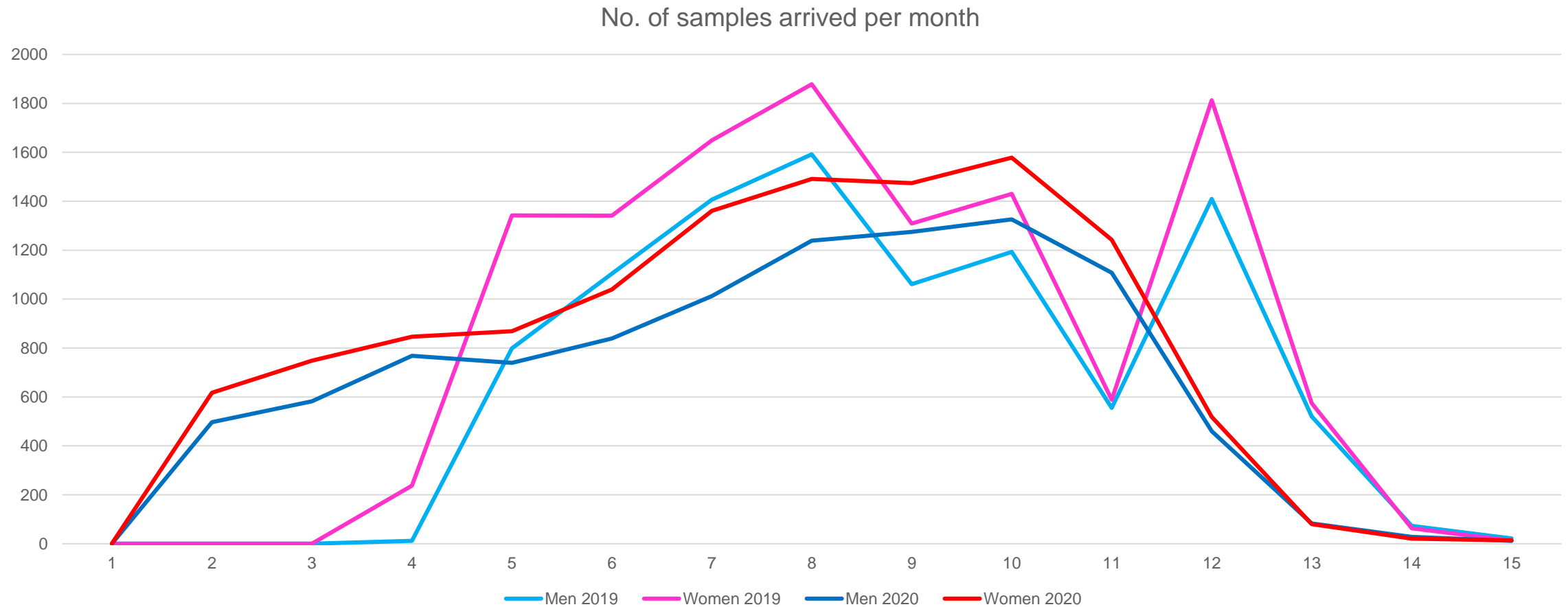
Invitations sent (no.) per month (2019, 2020)



Participation to screening (%) per month (2019, 2020)



Samples arrived (no.) per month (2019, 2020)



Median times (2019, 2020)

- **Btw. arrival and analyses of FIT tests**
 - 1 day in both years
- **Btw. analyses of FIT tests and posting of pos. results**
 - 14 days in both years
- **Btw. posting of pos. results and performing of colonoscopies**
 - 40/43 days

Effects of Covid-19 (2019, 2020)

- Invitations were on pause in all municipalities during March-April 2020 and in two municipalities until June 2020. Thereafter, invitations were sent normally, and the delay was compensated with extra invitations in autumn
- Participation to screening was more or less similar in both years
- ✓ **The analytics of FIT samples worked normally throughout 2020, and it also seems that there was no delays in colonoscopy appointments**
- ✓ **Program seems to work well, and only minor delays have been reported**
 - Changes in the screening protocol btw 2019 and 2020 hampered e.g. comparison of detections rates, and thus comprehensive conclusions cannot yet be drawn