



# The French network for surveillance of equine diseases

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## Background

Equine health is important in regard to equine welfare, trade, economy, society as well as public health. Created in 1999, the RESPE is the first network of surveillance of equine diseases developed in Europe. Since 2008, it brings together veterinarians and the equine industry to monitor the epidemiological situation and evolution of equine diseases in France.

## Surveillance purposes

To share reliable information for disease management and prevention  
To minimize the consequences of equine disease outbreaks

## Surveillance objective

Early detection of known and emerging equine diseases in France, for early warning of all the stakeholders of the equine industry

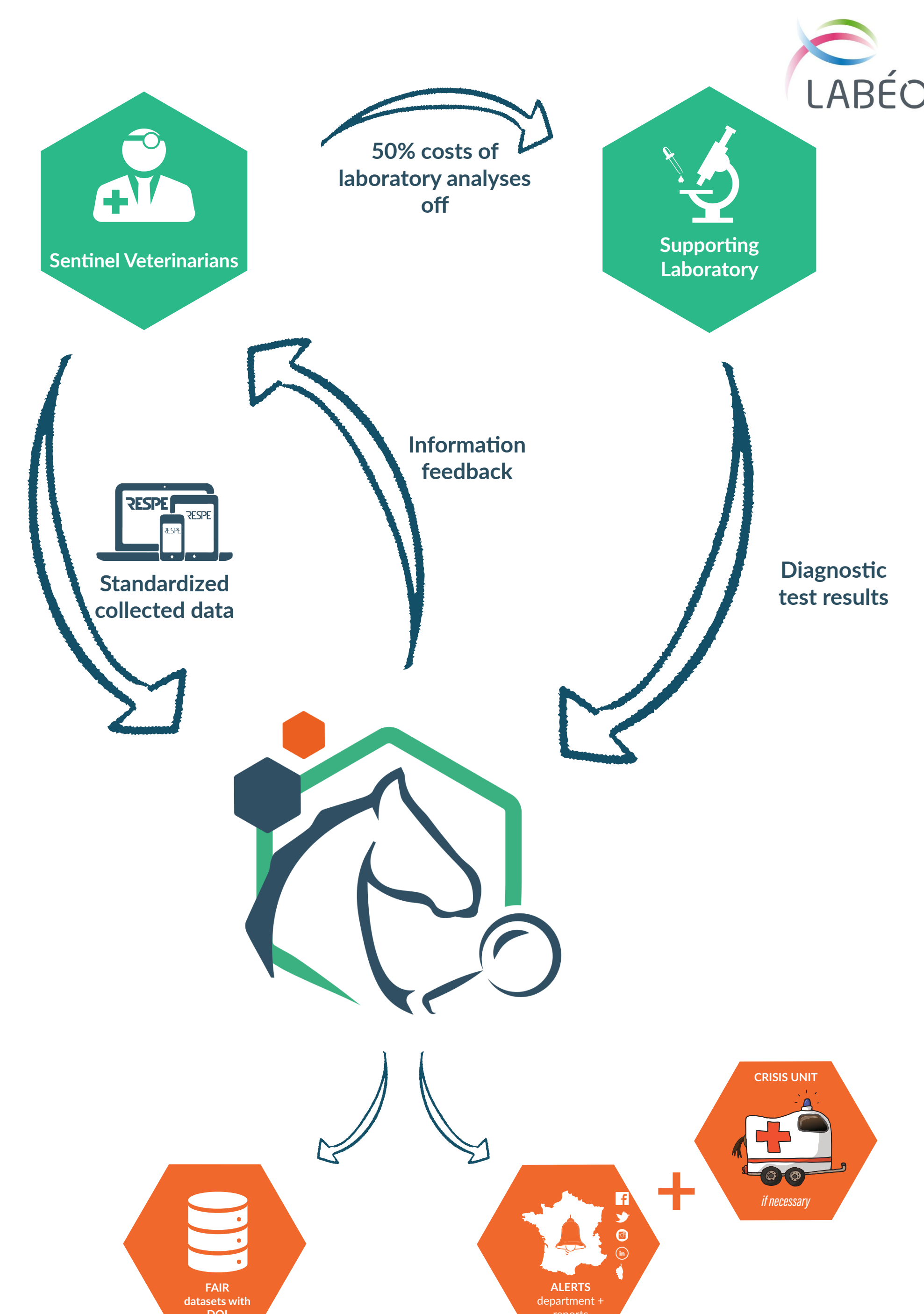
## Passive surveillance activities

- Syndromic surveillance** based on clinical suspicions from the network of voluntary veterinarians, called «Sentinel Veterinarians»
- Targeted surveillance** on specific diseases based on positive laboratory diagnostic test results from the supporting laboratory

## Syndrome and disease focus

- **Contagious and transmissible diseases** for which early detection is crucial to implement immediate and collective management measures
- **Transmissible but not contagious diseases and metabolic diseases** for which exposition factors are environmental and early detection is crucial for (1) treatment implementation at the individual level, (2) prevention, by increasing stakeholders' awareness of the presence of favourable environmental conditions
- **Non contagious diseases** for which there is a lack of knowledge: centralising cases helps the development of research activities

## Online veterinary & laboratory-based reporting and information system for the early detection of equine syndromes and non-notifiable diseases in France



## Coverage

### Veterinarians

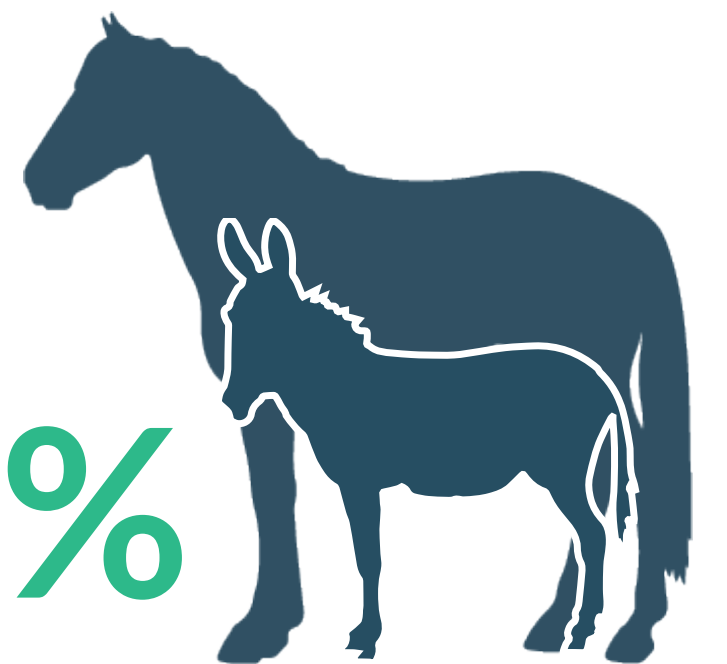


1086

= 34%

of French equine vets

### Equine population

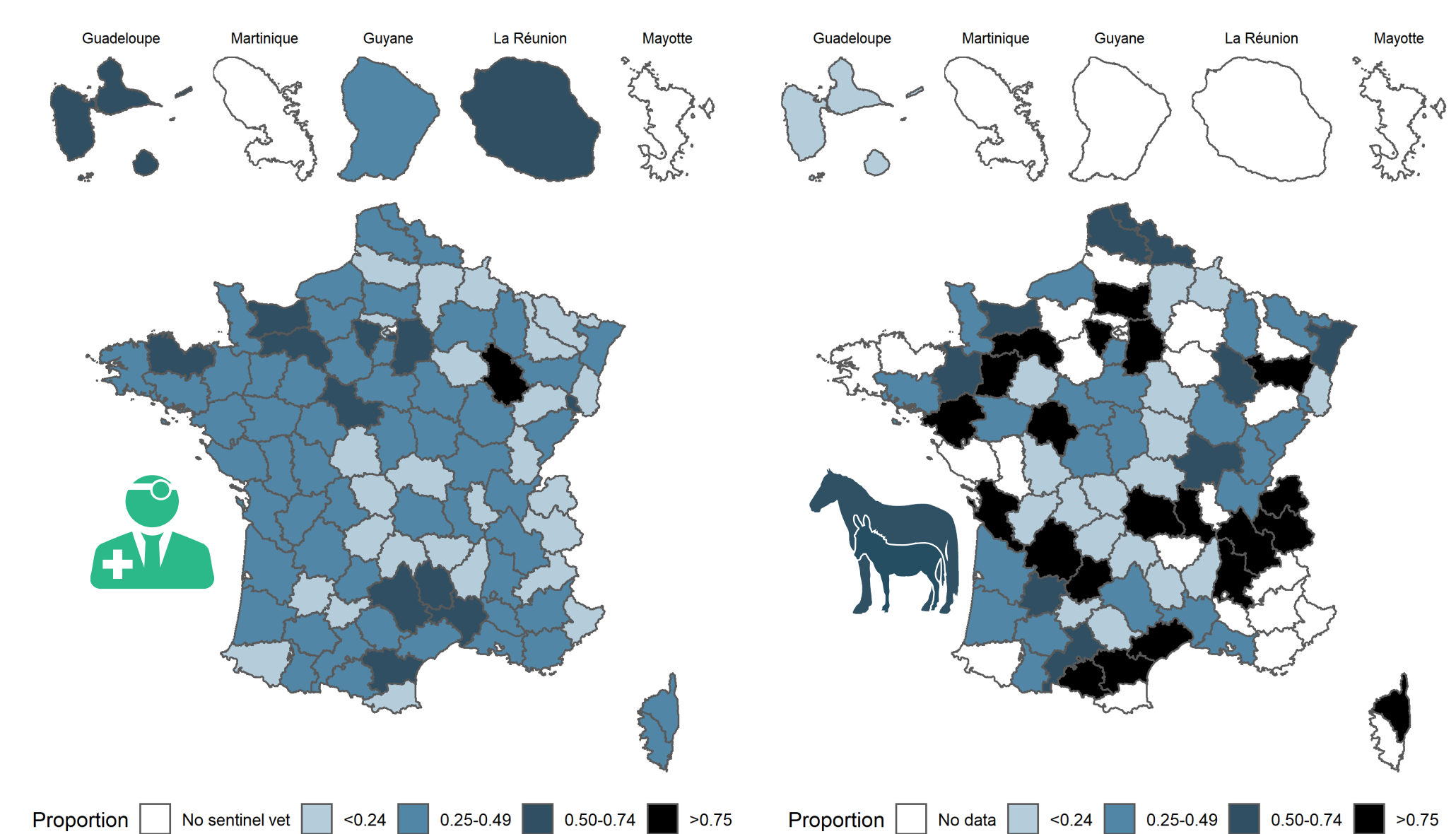


72%

95% CI [37 - 100]

(2021 data)

## Geographical representativeness



Local proportion of equine vets involved as RESPE sentinels

Local proportion of equine population included in the surveillance activities

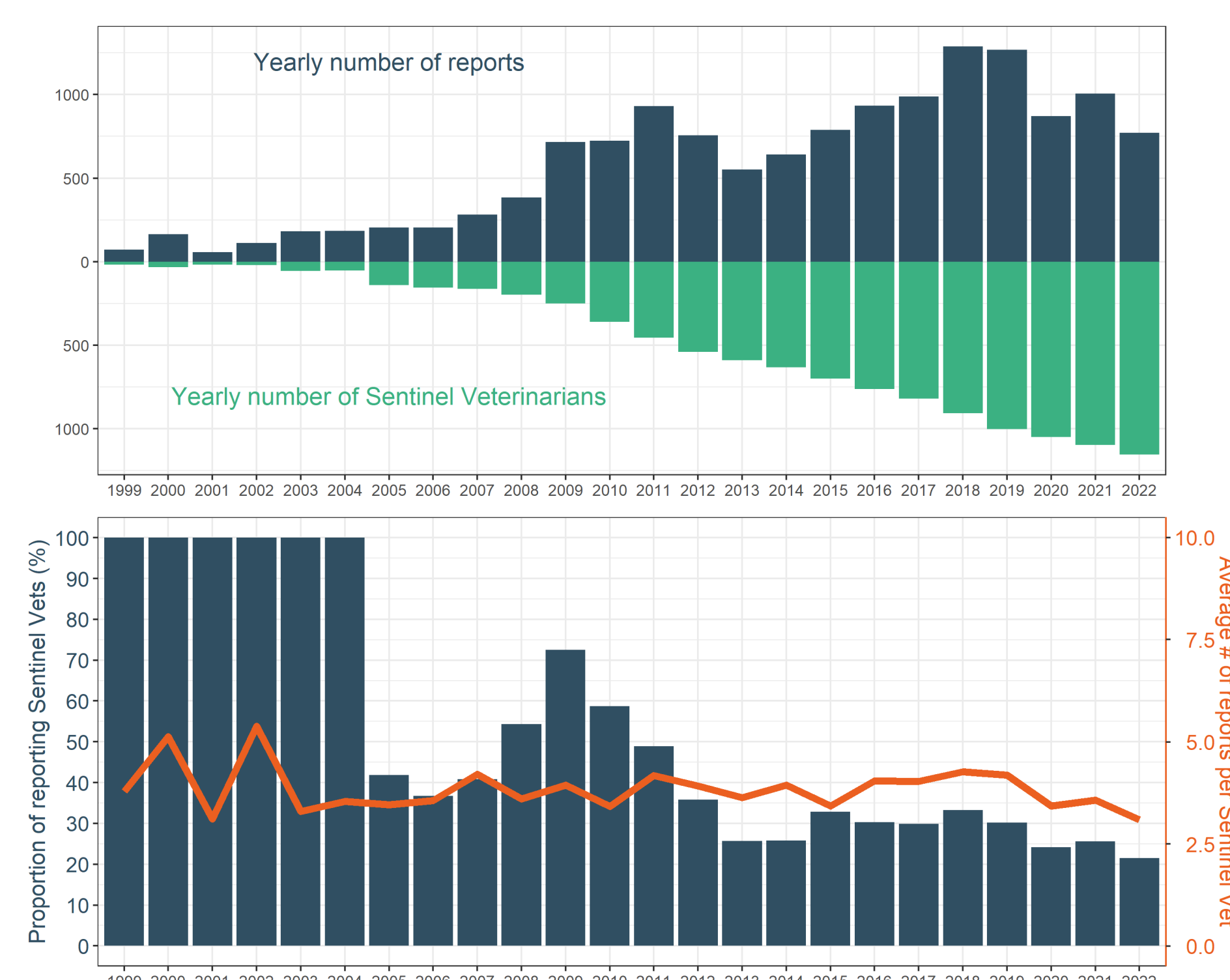
(2021 data)

5 syndromes & at least 26 diseases



\* EU notifiable disease, complementary to the official surveillance conducted by the National competent authority

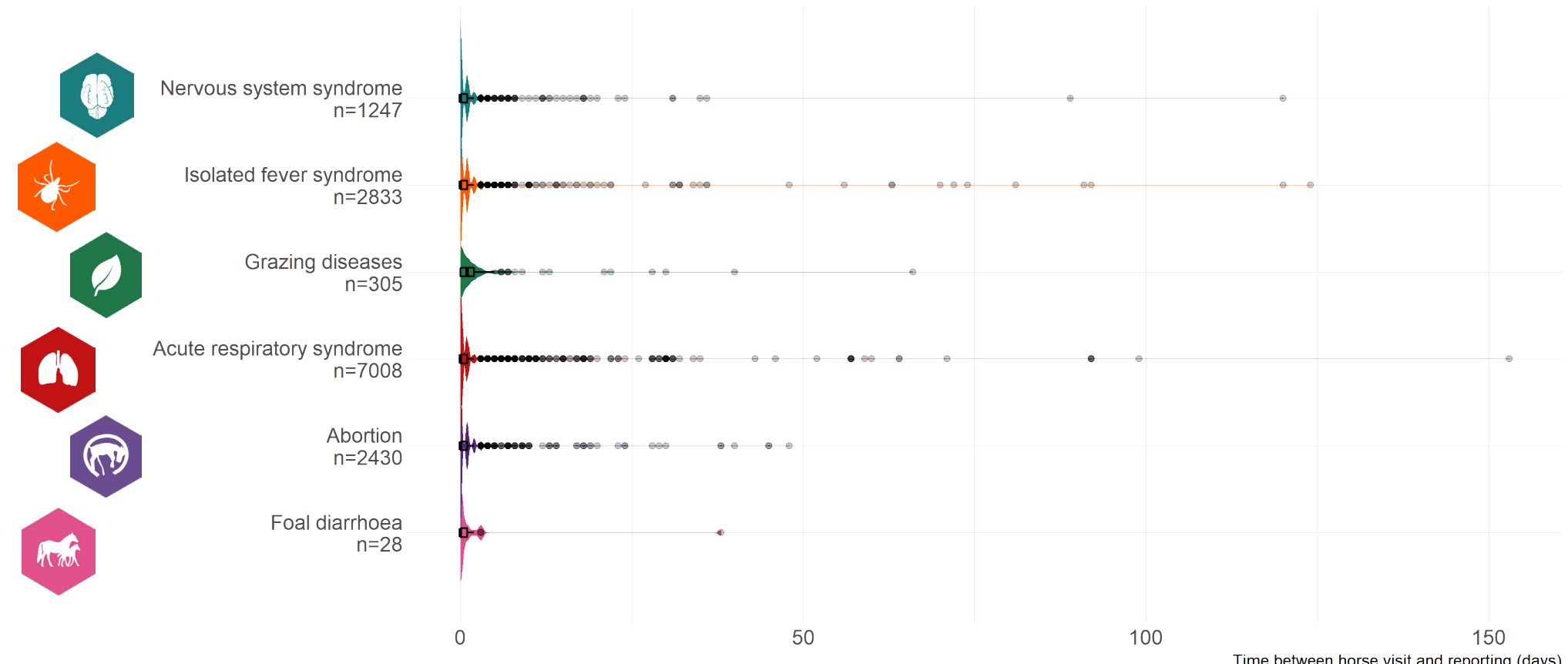
## Activeness of Sentinel Veterinarians



- Decreasing proportion of reporting Sentinel Veterinarians in the network
- Participating veterinarians have a constant activeness, with an average of 4 reports per year and per person

## Timeliness of reporting

<2 days for 85% of reports (1999-2022 data)



## Sustainability challenges

- Regain the involvement of Sentinel Veterinarians in the surveillance activities
- Develop a network of diagnostic laboratories to increase the surveillance coverage, i.e., the proportion of equine population included in the surveillance activities

The RESPE is supported by:

- 1 RESPE, Saint Contest, France
- 2 BIOTARGEN, Normandie Univ, UNICAEN, Caen, France
- 3 CISCO-ONIRIS, Nantes, France
- 4 LAB O Frank Duncombe, Saint Contest, France



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