

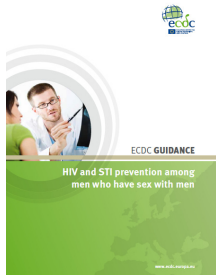
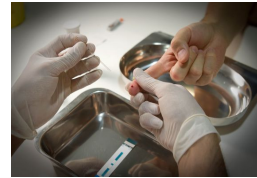


HOW TO KEEP FOCUS AND RECRUITMENT IN PARTNER AFTER 5 YEARS

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PARTNER 2 Investigator meeting at EACS 2015
Barcelona, 22 October 2015

- BCN Checkpoint introduced the use of **HIV rapid tests** in community-based centers in Spain in 2006
- The **model of community intervention for early HIV detection** developed by BCN Checkpoint has been recognized by WHO and ECDC, and over the years has inspired the creation of similar centers throughout Europe (such as in Lisbon, Athens, Bologna, Zagreb, etc.).



MSM-competent points of care

"In some European countries, community-based projects providing professional services and peer support (by gay men for gay men) have had success in achieving high client satisfaction, thereby ensuring better uptake, follow-up and compliance.

Examples of this include community-based HIV testing 'checkpoints' in Barcelona and elsewhere throughout Europe."



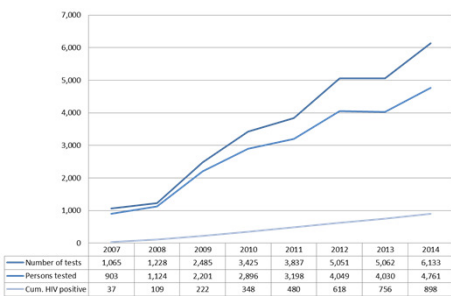
Preventing HIV and STI among men who have sex with men – an ECDC guidance 17 July 2015

BCN CHECKPOINT SERVICES

- HIV and Syphilis rapid testing
- Peer counseling
- Referral to Public Health Centres (HIV hospital units or STI Clinics)
- Hepatitis A and B vaccination
- New in 2015: chlamydia, gonorrhoea and HCV
- Community Research



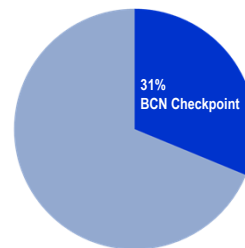
BCN Checkpoint Testing



Impact of BCN Checkpoint



* Catalonia depicted in red



31% of HIV infections in Catalonia were detected by BCN Checkpoint

Total of HIV cases reported in MSM in Catalonia (2007-2014)



Recruitment

- Counseling during testing include questions about partner/s, HIV status, condom use and the knowledge about viral load and transmission
- Invitation to participate in the Partner study when the partner is HIV positive, has an undetectable viral load and "not using condom consistently"
- If the HIV positive partner is in the waiting room, recruitment is done at the same moment. If not, an appointment is scheduled in a few days
- HIV positive partner may follow his controls at his usual hospital (no need for change), and bringing the results at the next visit.
- A physician works at BCN Checkpoint 2 days/week
- October 2012 - September 2015: 28 couples were recruited



Retention

- Excel spread sheet to follow all appointments
- Most participants (HIV neg) already have the habit of regular HIV testing
- Regular testing helps to overcome fear
- Participants may come every three months
- At the end of a visit a new appointment is scheduled
- A reminder call is made the day before (appointment, test results)
- If they don't show up, a nurse calls them for scheduling a new appointment
- Total withdrawals: 9 couples + 2 delays (1 recovered + 1 pending)
 - 7 broken relationships
 - 1 HIV seroconversion
 - 1 HCV seroconversion



Lessons learned

- HIV negative partner is also interested to participate
- Simplify procedures as much as possible
- Community center may help sites to increase number of participants (HIV negative partners don't use to join their partners at hospital visits, but HIV positive partners do join their partners at the moment of HIV testing, because they are worried about the result)
- PARTNERS come often to the community center to get tested (HIV, other STI) which facilitate retention / easiness to make appointment
- PARTNERS feel comfortable at the community center (they talk freely about their relationship, use of condom, open relationships)
- PARTNERS don't like "sero-different"



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