



The two faces/directions of the Bergamo Check Point: Young people and key populations

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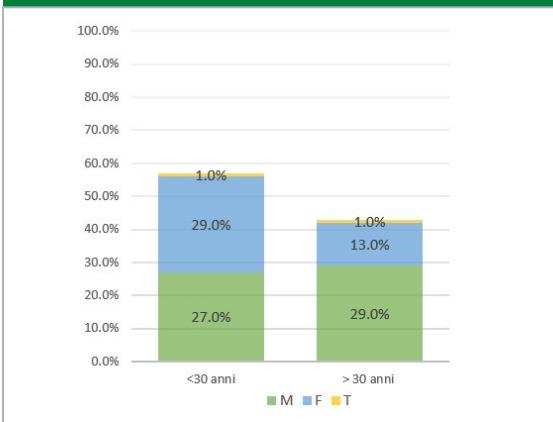
Introduction

- Since 2019, Bergamo Fast Track City developed the activity of testing for HIV, HCV and Syphilis in a specific location (check point) and among the territory in different settings.
- At the network joined 6 public institutions and 13 NGOs and the contribution and specific experience of each one are fundamental to work on the territory, increasing the capacity of the network to deal with the HIV issue.

Results

- Analysing the data from November 2021 to the end of December 2022, 57% of the population is less than 30 years old and most of these are female (Figure A).

Figure A: Gender and Age



- 42% knew the service in another ways those presented by the questionnaire (Figure B):
- 361 people (16%) met us thanks to an email sent by the Consulta of University of Bergamo twice a year during the European Testing Week and on the occasion of the promotion of the test at university;



Methods

- Since November 2021, through the Cobatest questionnaire, we have collected anonymous socio-demographic data and some about sexual health care habits and risk appetite of the population that did the test. From 2019 to 31st March 2023 we met n. 4530 people, carrying out n. 4514 tests for HIV and similar for HCV and Syphilis. The questionnaires collected concern 2124 answers.

- 79 students (8%) decided to take the test after participating in training courses organized at their high schools on the theme of HIV, at the check point or directly during two events organized at the same schools.
- At the end of 2022 we make a collaboration with the CPIA (Centro Provinciale Istruzione Adulti) of Bergamo, which organizes Italian and middle school diploma courses towards an almost completely foreign population. After organizing informative meetings with 540 students, 20% of them took the test directly at school.

- The incidence of test reactivity in the youth people is almost nihil.
- For the key populations we started a project and in the last three months of 2022 we meet 192 marginalized people (sex workers, DU, homeless, migrants) and we achieve 6 HIV, 25 HCV and 6 syphilis positivity, attacking people with new infections at the hospital and helping to hang up those who were not being treated or struggling to maintain the therapy (Figure C).

Figure B: How do You Know the Service?

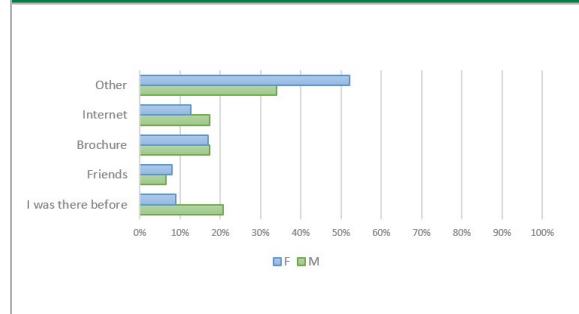
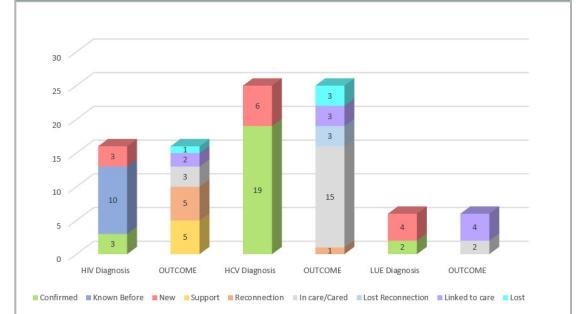


Figure C: Diagnosis and Outcome



Conclusions

- The implementation of different ways of promoting and offering the test allows us to reach the entire population and the collaboration between institutions and NGOs is the key.
- Generally, among the younger people there is no positivity, but did the test generated awareness, an increased attention to their sexual health, the propensity to test and stigma reduction.
- Among key populations it is much more frequent to find positive results.
- The Check Point of Bergamo is doing an important educational role especially with regard to young people and a significant activity to bring out the submerged and support the retention in care of the most fragile people.



DOVE FARE IL #FRIENDLYTEST, RAPIDO, ANONIMO E GRATUITO PER HIV, HCV E SIFILIDE

La Settimana Europea del Test è una campagna che incoraggia le organizzazioni partner della comunità, dello scolaro e delle istituzioni pubbliche. In tutta Europa si unisce per una settimana due volte l'anno per aumentare gli sforzi per promuovere il test e la consapevolezza sui benefici di una diagnosi precoce di epatite C ed HIV. La rete delle organizzazioni di Bergamo Fast-Track City aderisce come ogni anno, offrendo il test per HIV, per Epatiche C e Sifilide.

#FRIENDLYTEST AL CHECK POINT
MERCOLÌ 17 maggio - dalle 18:00 alle 22:00
c/o Checkpoint
Via Moroni 93, Bergamo

#FRIENDLYTEST NELLE SEDI UNIVERSITARIE
LUNEDÌ 15 maggio - dalle 13:00 alle 17:00
c/o Sede Cattolica, V. dei Canonici 2, Bergamo
MARTEDÌ 16 maggio - dalle 13:00 alle 17:00
c/o Sede di Dalmine, V. Pascoli 3, Dalmine 52
VENERDÌ 19 maggio - dalle 13:00 alle 17:00
c/o Sede Sant'Agostino, Pia Sant'Agostino 2, Bergamo

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