

POSTER

## Social and behavioural science, marginalized groups, community aspects and community surveys

### P 169 How relevant is working with key populations?

#### Authors

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#### ABSTRACT

**Background:** On March 2019 Bergamo joined the global network of Fast-track Cities, a checkpoint was opened on June 2020. This offers HIV, HCV and syphilis screening. On June 2022 the project Bergamo Leaves No One Behind (BGLNOB) started with the purpose to screen people who live in vulnerable situations. The aim was also to offer support to PWH in linkage to care or in retention in care. Testing was done from October 2022 to February 2024.

**Methods:** In BGLNOB tests are offered in six spaces run by NGOs that deal with poor or marginalized people. Data are collected through COBATEST.

**Results:** From October 2022 to October 2023, BGLNOB performed 343 in different contexts [TABLE 1]. Reactive test were 9 for HIV (2,6%) with 7 PWH linked to care; 6 for HCV (1,7%), 5 linked to care; 5 for syphilis (1,5%), all linked to care. Equally important are the persons already diagnosed but lost to follow-up that asked for help for a new engagement, to collect therapy, or interact with health facilities. In total, 48 people were supported in the linkage or retention in care: 26 became autonomous, 11 are actively helped, 11 were lost to follow-up.

In the same period 3113 tests were made at the checkpoint: 2 were positive for HIV (0,06%), 2 for HCV (0,06%), 10 for syphilis (0,32%) [TABLE 2].

Regarding people who had a new HIV diagnosis it is important to underline that 6 declared to be SW, 5 out of 6 are transgender women, migrated from South America. The remaining 5 reactivity were found in people migrated from Africa (4) and from East Europe (1) [TABLE 3].

We think that a further relevant aspect is the prevalence of reactive tests and the place where they were performed. For HIV test, 6 were performed in apartments or on the streets with "Melarancia", an NGO that take care of SWs, 2 were administered at the local Drop-In and 1 was performed in the ambulatory of "Patronato San Vincenzo", that deals with refugees and migrants. For HCV, 4 reactive tests were from Drop-In, 1 from "Fondazione Bonomelli" a shelter where homeless may spend the night and 1 from "Melarancia". For syphilis, all 5 reactive tests were found with "Melarancia". Prevalence of positive tests performed at the Drop-In and from "Melarancia" is noteworthy. For the former, on 139 tests the positive ones are 6 (4,3%, mainly for HCV), for the latter, on 93 test there were 12 reactive ones (12,9%

incidence) [TABLE 4].

**Conclusions:** The incidence of positive tests in the BGLNOB population is high and would be significant in a cost-effectiveness analysis. This project has increased the ability to find positive tests in these specific key populations and to support their linkage and retention in care. A relevant are migrants, especially those who live in marginal situations. Another population at high risk are and sex workers and this population is at higher risk of infection or abandonment of therapy and, for this reason, it would be important to invest in specific projects to reach them.

Contexts and tests performed

Total Number of Tests:  
October 2022 - February 2024  
**343**

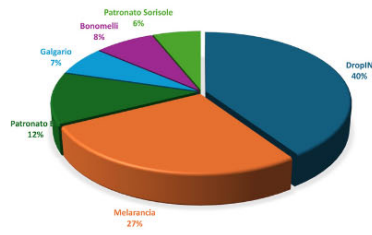
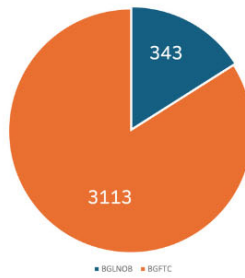


Table 1

Incidence compared



**HIV + HCV + Syphilis Incidence**  
**BGLNOB**  
 20 reactivities of 343 test = 5,83% incidence  
**BGFTC**  
 14 reactivities of 3113 test = 0,44%  
 (from october 2022 until february 2024)

**Specific Incidence**  
 BGLNOB:  
 9 HIV+ = 2,6%  
 6 HCV+ = 1,7%  
 5 SYPHILIS+ = 1,5%  
 Checkpoint:  
 2 HIV+ = 0,06%  
 2 HCV+ = 0,06%  
 10 SYPHILIS+ = 3,2%

Table 2

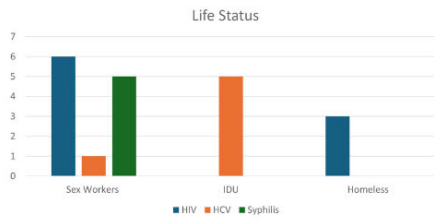
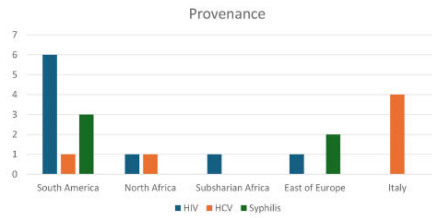


Table 3



context-related impacts

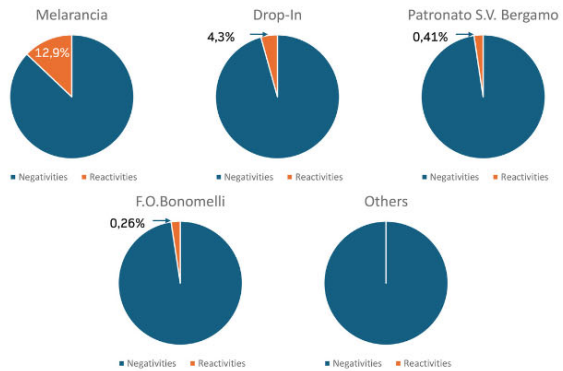


Table 4