



The WeFLASH© program  
Anonymous sex partners STI  
notifications

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**LONDON**

**FAST-TRACK CITIES 2019**

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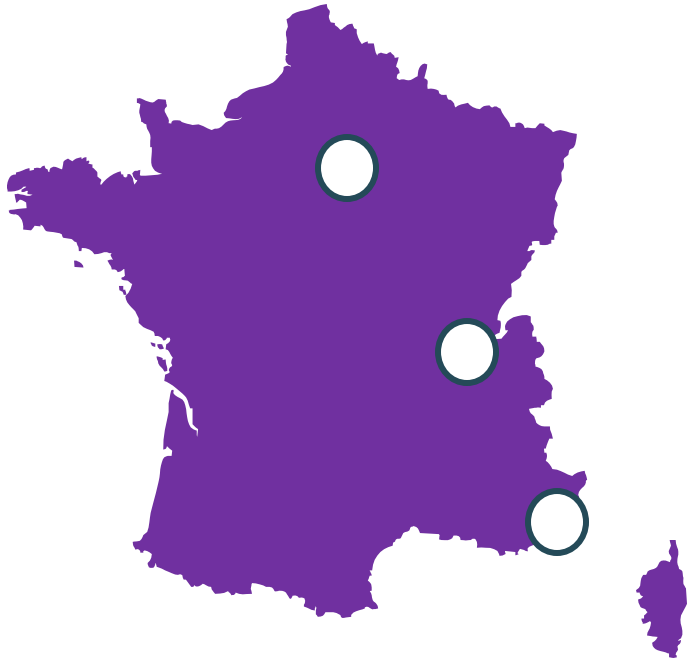
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# Background



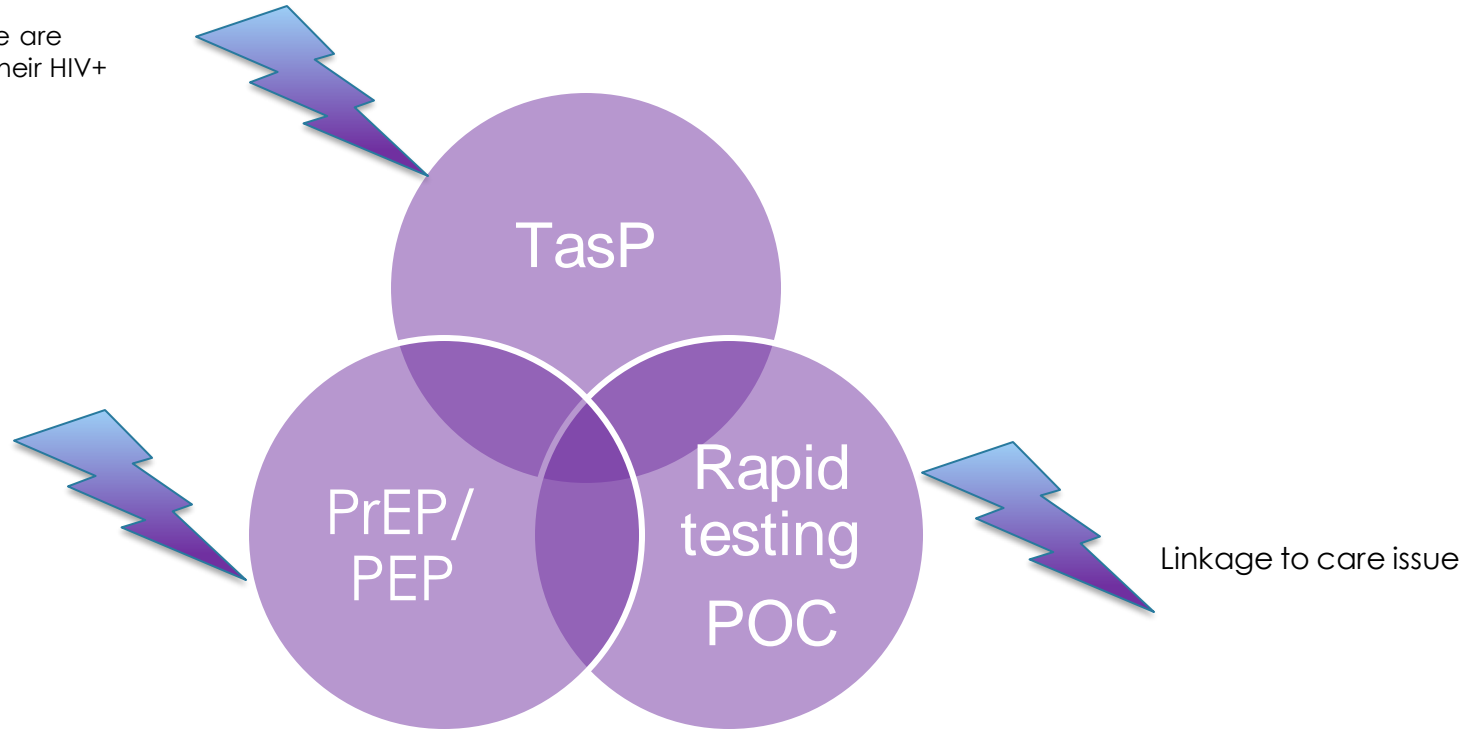
- 6 000 new HIV infection/ year
- 43% MSM
- Increase of STI



- Lack of sexual health information
- Low communication on PrEP
- Decrease in condom use

# Despite a combined HIV prevention

30 000 people are unaware of their HIV+ status



- 15.000 on PrEP
- 97% MSM
- At least 30000 to 60000 needed to reduce the epidemic
- PrEP Provided by physicians mostly in hospital

# Study : Objectives

1. Identify sexual health-related needs of PrEP key stakeholders, including:
  - PrEPers,
  - physicians,
  - Community counselors,
  - policy-makers
2. Describe their perceived benefits and concerns with WeFLASH©

# Methods

## Focus group discussions (FGD)

4 FGD with PrEPers (n=21)

2 FGD with counselors (n=10)

## Individual interviews

with key expert physicians (n=5)

with policy-makers (n=4)



Recruited by AIDES  
association in Paris,  
Lyon, and Nice.

# Results : Stakeholders' needs

## PrEPers

Practical, useful, and relevant information on sexual health

e.g., substance use

A personalized follow-up for PrEPers

Simplified partner notification in case of STI exposure

In particular for anonymous partners

## Physicians

More effective communication between PrEPers, physicians, and mediators

e.g., need to reduce the time spent on medical questionnaires during consultations

## Counselors

Tool that fit their functions and facilitate interactions with PrEPers

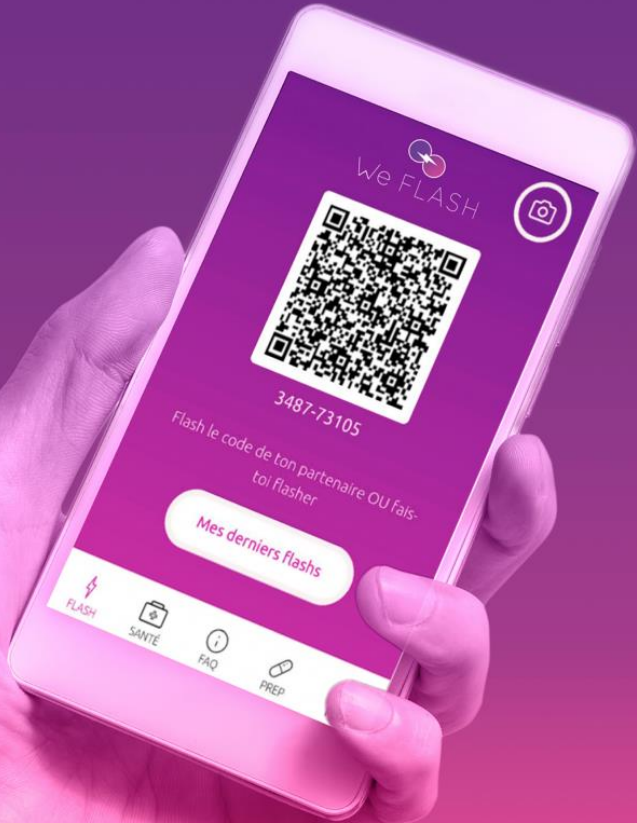
E.g., need to facilitate mediators' follow-up through time

## Policy-makers

Accessible, in-time epidemiological data

To better orient prevention strategies and interventions





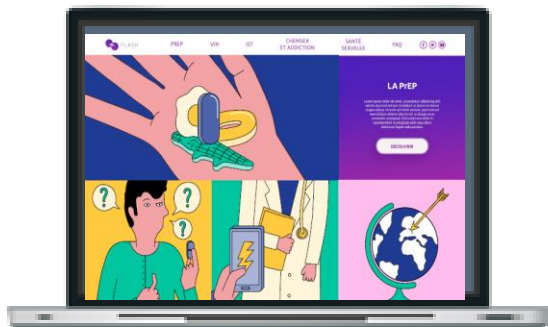
# WeFLASH,

What is it ?



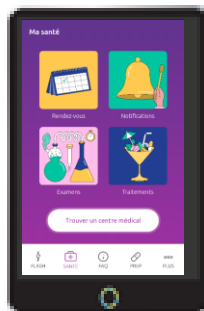
# WeFLASH

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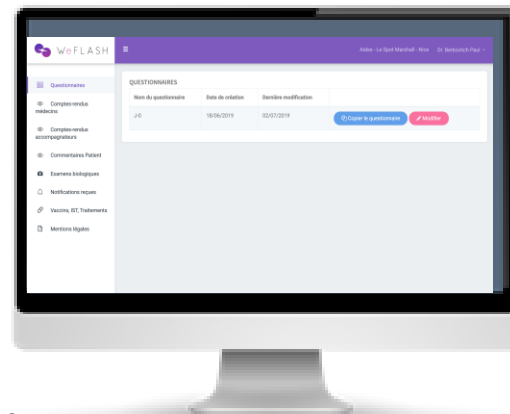
## Web Site

- Information about STIs + risk behaviors + addictions
- PrEP eligibility questionnaire
- Interactive map with PrEP centers
- Call-back system implemented to facilitate linkage to care



## The App

- ANONYMOUS notification system
- Invite sexual partner into PrEP care
- PrEP pill alarm
- Sexual Health and Chemsex management care
- Blood tests and history at the user's disposal



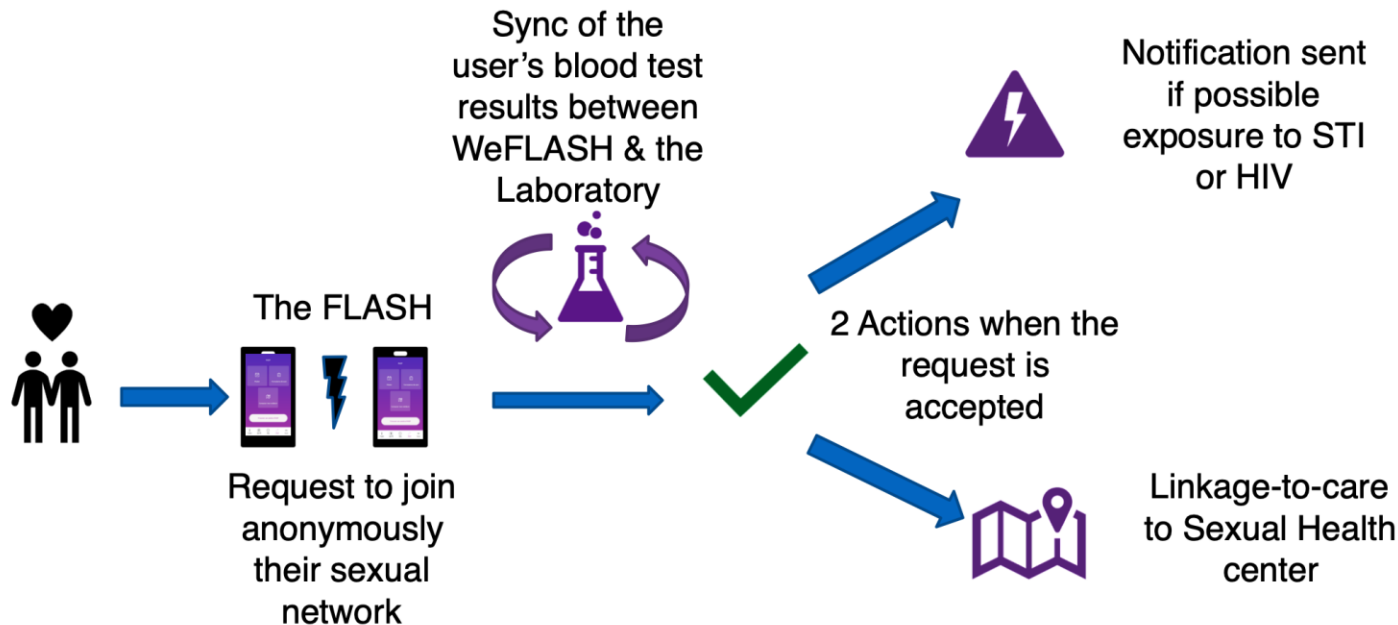
## Web App

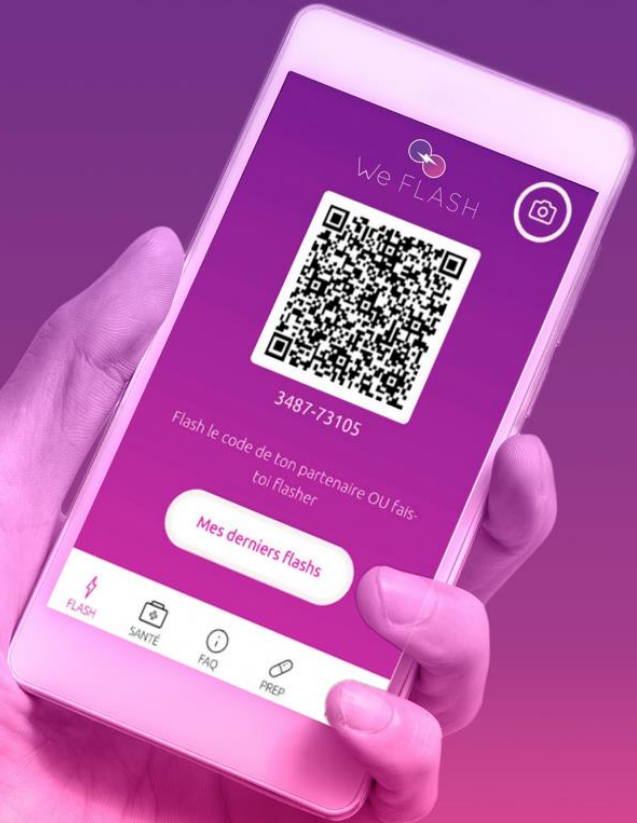
- Consultation Management
- Patient's Record
- Tracking of vaccination, STI treatments and medical history





# WeFLASH – Innovation in Anonymous notifications of STIs





# WeFLASH,

Flashing is protecting yourself and caring for your partners!

# Results: Concerns with WeFLASH©

## Privacy and Confidentiality

- Overall: expectations for a secured network protecting users' privacy
- Physicians and counselors more concerned than other participants about privacy
- PrEPers concerned about being identified when receiving a notification
  - Suggest notification settings (e.g., time of the day) and confidential wording

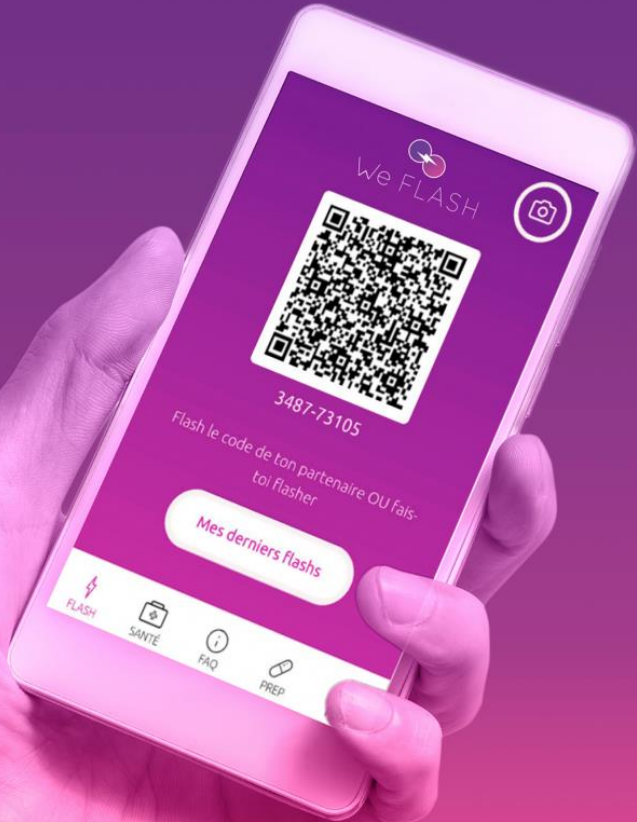
# Results: Perceived benefits of WeFLASH©

- Enhanced partner notification and screening (PrEPers and policy-makers)
  - No existing tool for partner notification in France
  - Possibility to notify anonymous partners met on hook-up apps
- Customized linkage-to-care (physicians and counselors)
  - Possibility to use smartphone functions and geopositioning to offer useful information on local services
- Transferable data (PrEPers and policy-makers)
  - Possibility to generate and share real-time epidemiological data, useful for policy-makers and users

# Results

## Fair access

- First launch among PrEPers could empower PrEPers
- Partner notification feature should be expanded to all MSM beyond PrEPers
  - More partners to flash
  - Reduction of stigma
- WeFLASH© is well-adapted for anonymous partners and online hook-ups
- Need to include game-like features when flashing partners



# WeFLASH,

The hottest tool to be :  
Attractive AND Healthy

# Acknowledgments

- The Participants
- The Study Staff
- Our developers
- AIDES , VPSS , McGill, Région île de France,

