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Tests on Bergamo population: the experience of Bergamo Leaves No One Behind and of Checkpoint

Davide Meli

Ilaria Mercurio, Caterina Pellegris, Paolo Meli, Franco Maggiolo

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Disclosures

- Cooperativa Don Giuseppe Monticelli has received funds in support of project Bergamo leaves no-one behind from Gilead Sciences.



*Bergamo
Leaves No One Behind*

Background

- 18th March 2019: Bergamo become Fast-Track City.
- 17th June 2020: A checkpoint that offer HIV, HCV and Shyphilis tests was opened in the city center. The target is general population, especially MSM and young people.
- 1st May 2022: Project Bergamo Leaves No One Behind (from now BGLNOB) started. Target are specific Key populations (IDU, Homeless, SW, refugees).

Data collection method

Data are collected with the Cobatest questionnaire:

- personal data,
- economical and social status,
- lifestyle and exposure to risks data,
- previous infections and possible treatments.



COBATEST
NETWORK

Bergamo FTC Tests and results (2019 – 2023)

Total offered tests:

- HIV: 5786 tests, 21 new infections → prevalence is 0,36%
- HCV: 5202 tests, 29 new infections → prevalence is 0,56%
- Syphilis: 5081 test, 25 new infections → prevalence is 0,49%

BGLNOB tests and results (09/2022 – 05/2023)

Tests were offered in the workstations of the various NGOs who collaborate on the project.

- 280 people were tested with all three tests.
- HIV: 7 new diagnosis (5 linkage to care) → prevalence is 2,5%
- HCV: 8 new diagnosis (5 linkage to care) → prevalence is 2,8%
- Syphilis: 5 new diagnosis (5 linkage to care) → prevalence is 1,8 %

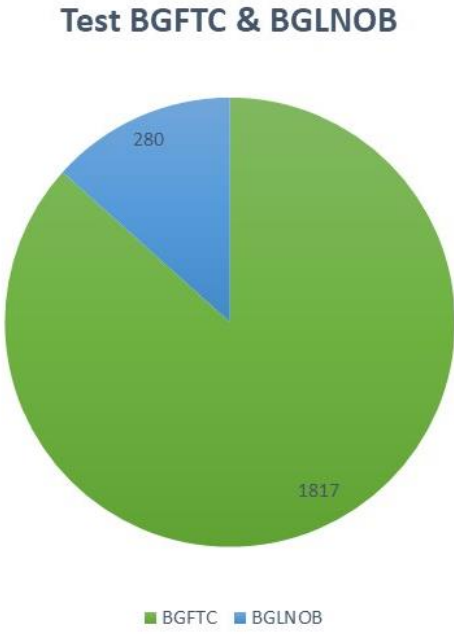
Almost all of them needed help linking to care and continues support in retention in care.

Checkpoint tests and results (09/2022 to 05/2023)

- 1817 people were tested with all three test
- HIV: 2 new diagnosis → prevalence is 0,1%
- HCV: 3 new diagnosis → prevalence is 0,1 %
- Syphilis: 5 new diagnosis → prevalence is 0,3 %

After the initial accompaniment for confirmation test, this people continued the treatment by thereselves.

Prevalence comparison



Panel A

HIV + HCV + SYPHILIS prevalence

BGLNOB

20 new diagnosis of 280 tests = 7,14% (1 only co-infection)

BGFTC

10 new diagnosis of 1817 tests = 0,55%

Specific prevalence

BGLNOB:

7 HIV+ = 2,5%

8 HCV+ = 2,8%

5 SYPHILIS+ = 1,8%

BGFTC

2 HIV+ = 0,1%

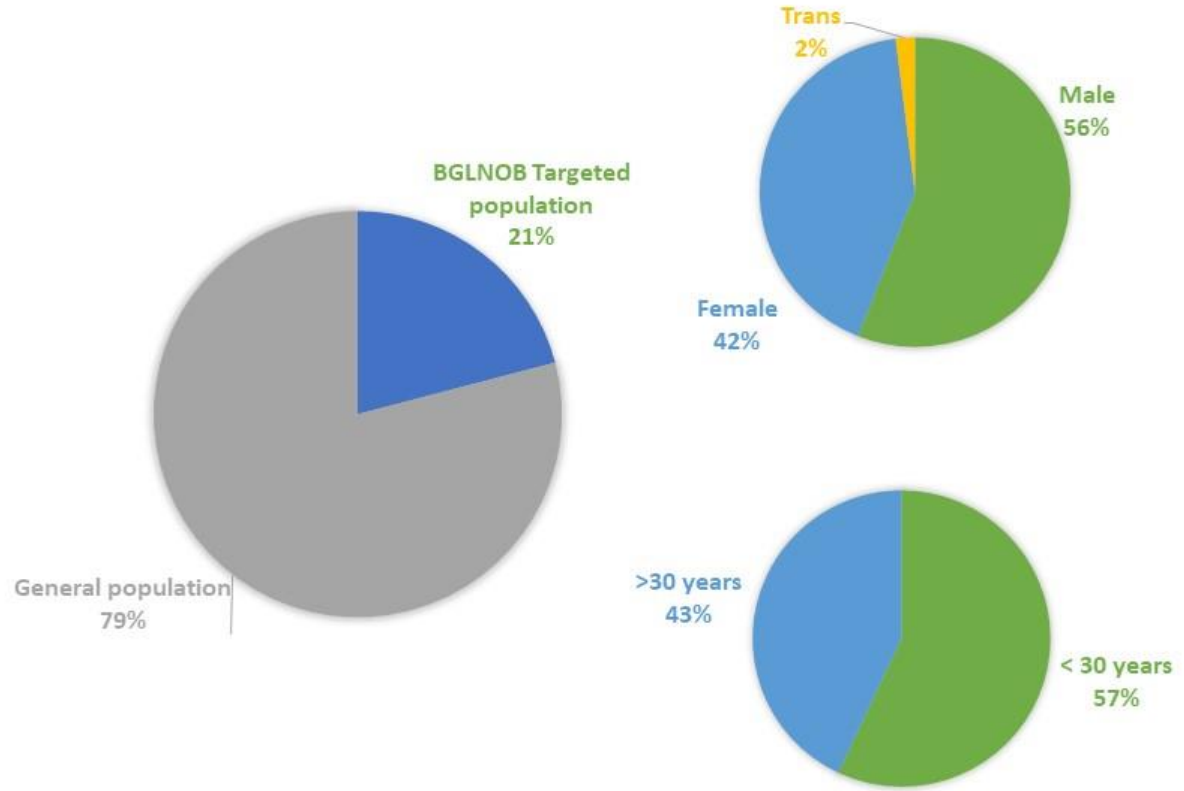
3 HCV+ = 0,1%

5 SYPHILIS+ = 0,3%

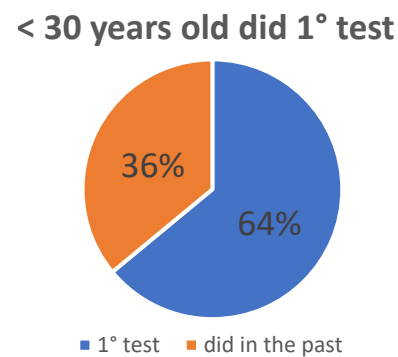
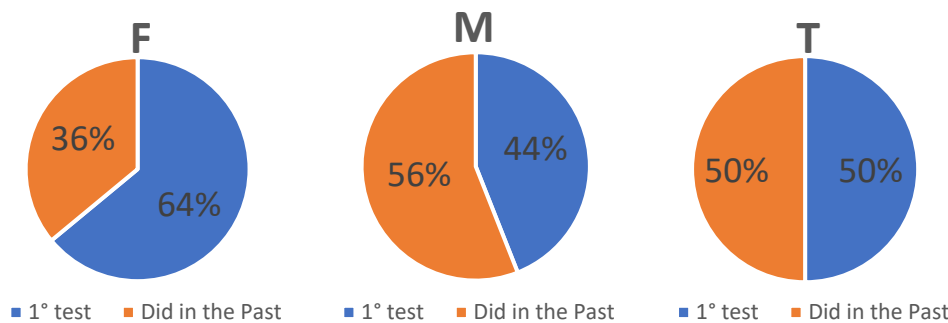
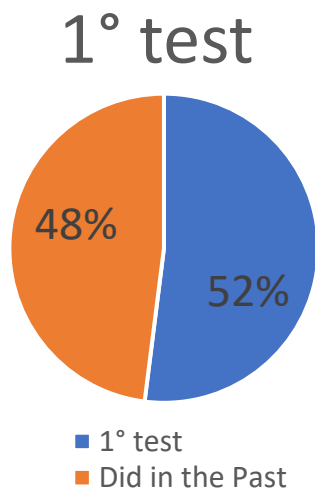
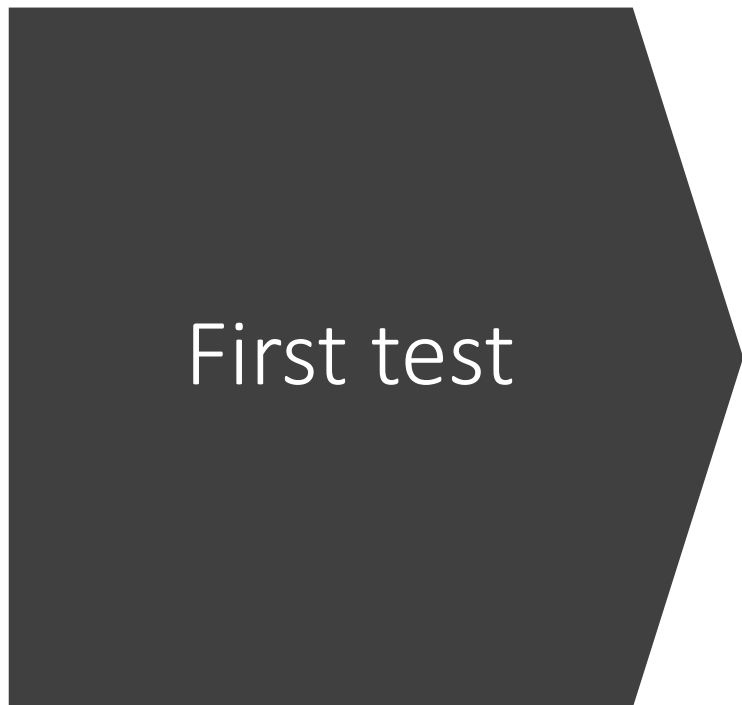
The population of Bergamo FTC

- The totality of Cobatest data recorded that 57% of population is less than 30 years old (Etero 67% - Female 50%).
- Most male (56% of total, 68% of over 30, 49% of under 30).
40% of male are MSM (29% among male under 30, 49% among male over 30).
- Many people were on their first test, especially among those below 30 years old.

Population tested



Panel B



Panel C

Conclusion 1

- The comparison between Checkpoint and BGLNOB tests show the importance in increasing test and help for key populations
- The work at the checkpoint underline the importance of tests among general population in rising awareness and in reducing stigma. The checkpoint does a good job of educating younger people about taking the test by giving them memories of the "first time"

HIV&STIs BASIC INFO

-  Cosa sono, come le evito, come le curo
-  What are they, how I avoid them, how I treat them
-  Qué son, cómo los evito, cómo los trato
-  Quels sont-ils, comment je les évite, comment je les traite
-  O que são, como os evito, como os trato
-  ما هي هذه الأمراض، كيف أتجنبها، كيف أعالجها
-  它们是什么 我如何避免它们 我如何对待它们
-  Ce sunt, cum le evit, cum le tratez
-  Cîlat janë ato, si i shmang, si i trajtoj
-  Що це, як уникнути, як лікувати

friendlytest.it

HIV&STIs AUDIOS

Pidgin English Tunisino

Bambarà Punjabi

Wolof Hindi

Egiziano Urdu

Mandinka Russo

Marocchino Bangla

www.friendlytest.it/pages/HIV-STIS/

Conclusion 2

- Boost up the offer of tests in BGLNOB project is the key to get closer to the 95-95-95 goal in Bergamo.
- The help and support of specific NGOs who work with key populations is essential for the success of the project.
- The help and support of specific multilanguage material is important to increase the lack of awareness and reduce the widespread stigma among key populations of Bergamo.



THANK YOU



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