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

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Disclosures

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

• 18\textsuperscript{th} March 2019: Bergamo become Fast-Track City.
• 17\textsuperscript{th} June 2020: A checkpoint that offer HIV, HCV and Syphilis tests was opened in the city center. The target is general population, especially MSM and young people.
• 1\textsuperscript{st} 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.
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 tests.
- 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 themselves.
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

- General population: 79%
- BGLNOB Targeted population: 21%
- Male: 56%
- Female: 42%
- Trans: 2%
- >30 years: 43%
- <30 years: 57%
First test

1° test

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"
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