Leaving no one behind: Addressing disparities in prevention and treatment in Europe

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Disclosures/Conflicts of interest

None
An estimated **2.6 million** people were living with HIV in 2022 in Europe.

- 72% knew their status, 63% were receiving treatment and 60% had suppressed viral loads.

- In Europe, HIV disproportionately affects **men who have sex with men** (MSM), **people who inject drugs** (PWID), prisoners, sex workers, and transgender people.

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**Background:**

Relative risk of HIV acquisition, global, 2019

- Gay men and other men who have sex with men: 26 times higher risk than heterosexual men.
- People who inject drugs: 29 times higher risk than people who do not inject drugs.
- Female sex workers: 30 times higher risk than women in the general population.
- Transgender people: 13 times higher risk than adults in the general population.
- People in prisons and other closed settings have 6 times higher HIV prevalence than the general population.

Overview of progress achieved in HIV advocacy

Rates of HIV in Europe have been falling...

HIV diagnoses, by route of transmission, 2008-2017, EU/EEA

Overview of progress achieved in HIV advocacy

Rates of HIV in Europe have been falling ...

HIV diagnoses, by route of transmission, 2008-2017, EU/EEA

Challenges

- **HIV Burden**: Disproportionately higher rates, late diagnosis, lost to care – MSM, trans, black women, PWID
- **Vulnerabilities**: Homophobia, transphobia, stigma, violence, harassment, isolation, racism, mental health,
- **Policies**: Legal, regulatory, practical barriers, criminalisation, guidelines
- **Data**: Incomplete, inconsistent, not disaggregated
- **Interventions**: Limited, not specific/appropriate, less priority
**Data Availability**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>MSM</th>
<th>PWID</th>
<th>Migrants</th>
<th>Sex workers</th>
<th>Prisoners</th>
<th>All four stages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No data/did not report</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLHIV</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagnosed</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On ART</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virally suppressed</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All four stages</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data availability on the continuum of care for key populations, 2022 (Source: ECDC 2023)
HIV Advocacy

HIV advocacy organisations play a vital role in the HIV response and the 90-90-90 targets...

- Driving prevention, testing and treatment activism.
- Fighting persecution, criminalisation, stigma.
- Spurring innovation and advancement in HIV science.
- Lived experiences, expertise and shaping policy.
Influencing Policy

BMJ Open
Novel health systems service design checklist to improve healthcare access for marginalised, underserved communities in Europe

Leaving nobody outside our healthcare systems—in Europe or elsewhere

COVID-19 in marginalised groups: challenges, actions and voices
Migrants and HIV

HIV PARTNERSHIP

Goal: 3,000 HIV tests

- 6.41% Prevalence rate
- 35.80% PEP awareness rate
- 20.86% Respondents rating condomless sex as their primary behavioural vulnerability
- 14.32% Respondents rating stigma, discrimination and/or racism as their primary barrier to healthcare access

Organisation
- Africa Advocacy Foundation (England)
- Afrikaherz (Germany)
- AIDS Solidarity Movement (Cyprus)
- Association PASTT (France)
- Associazione LHIVE (Italy)
- FPCCSIDA (Portugal)
- Noaks Ark Mosaik (Sweden)
- Open Paths Athens (Greece)
- Plateforme Prevention SIDA (Belgium)
- Stichting AFAA Netherlands (Netherlands)

Tests Performed by Partner Organisation

- 35.80% PEP awareness rate
- 20.86% Respondents rating condomless sex as their primary behavioural vulnerability
- 17.92% Prevalence rate
- 25.29% Prevalence rate
- 16.85% Prevalence rate
- 23.86% Prevalence rate

Migration status
- Asylum seeker
- Foreign national resident
- Foreign national tourist
- Naturalised citizen

Outcome
- Indeterminate (invalid)
- Non-reactive (negative)
- Reactive (positive)
- Unknown (self-testing kit)

Test result
- 2235
- 154
- 2402

Number of tests
Conclusion

We will ‘not reach targets’ unless we address the following gaps:

- Curb the flow on new infections
- Scale up prevention programmes (incl. OST/NSP, PrEP)
- 1 in 5 PLHIV in Europe are unaware of their HIV status
- 1 in 2 people are diagnosed late
- Low testing coverage

- 1 in 3 PLHIV not on ART
- Implement EACS treatment guidelines
- Provide ART to ALL

Major gaps in our understanding of stigma, both among HCW and in the community
Thank You!