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## Multilingual Action Week Against Hepatitis C: Enhancing Immigrant Health Access In Germany

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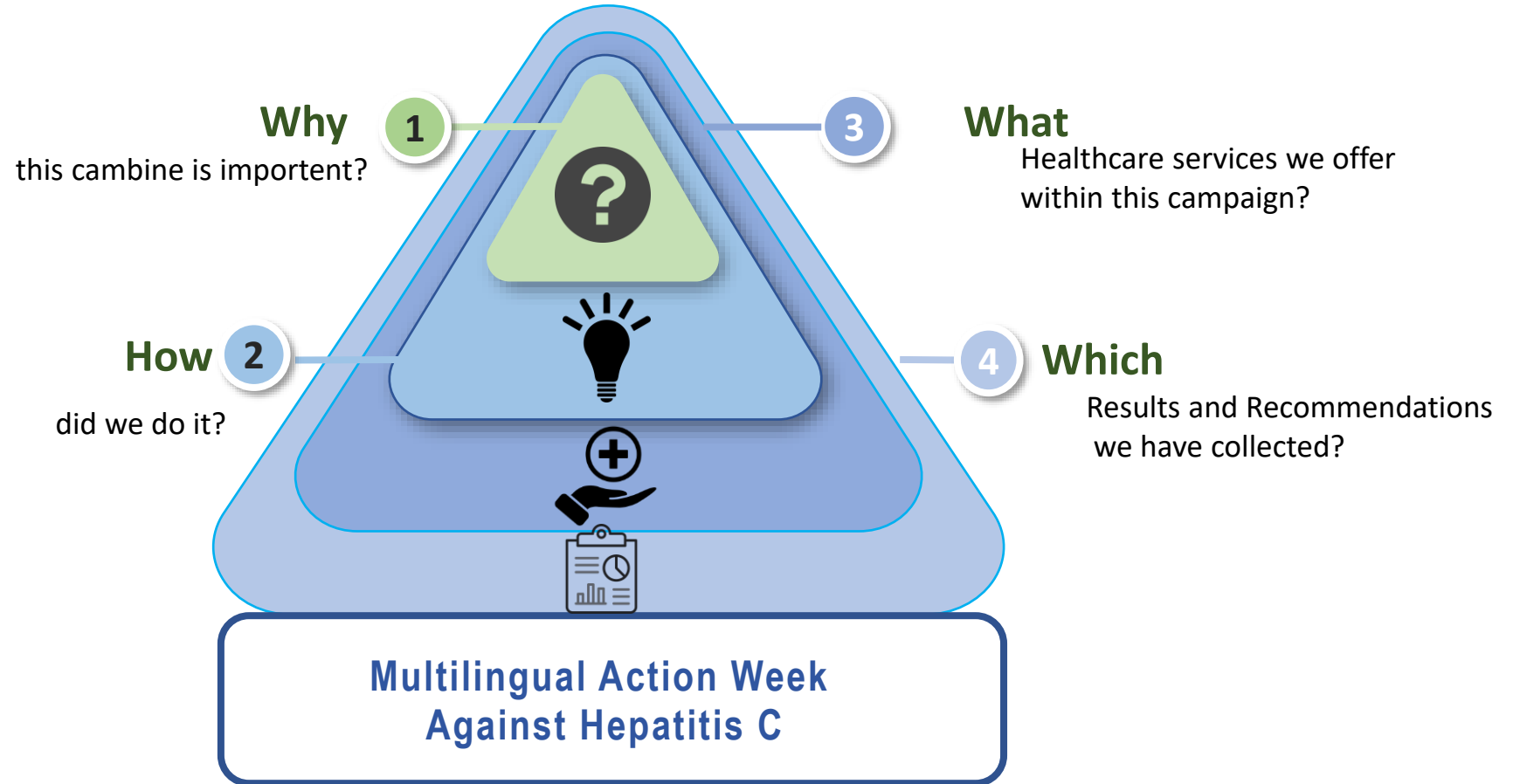
Katholisches Klinikum Bochum®  
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The logo for UK RUB (Universitätsklinikum der Ruhr-Universität Bochum) features a blue curved line above the text 'UK RUB' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of 'UK RUB', the text 'UNIVERSITÄTSKLINIKUM DER RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

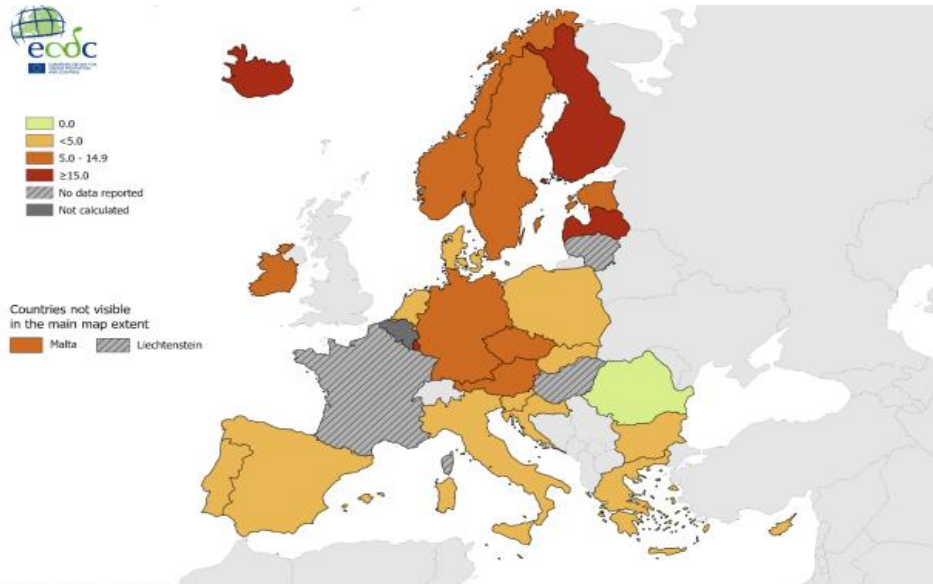
UK RUB UNIVERSITÄTSKLINIKUM DER  
RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

September 25-27, 2023 | RAI Amsterdam Convention Center

# Agenda



# Why



Administrative boundaries: © EuroGeographics  
The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the European Union. Map produced by ECDC on 11 July 2022

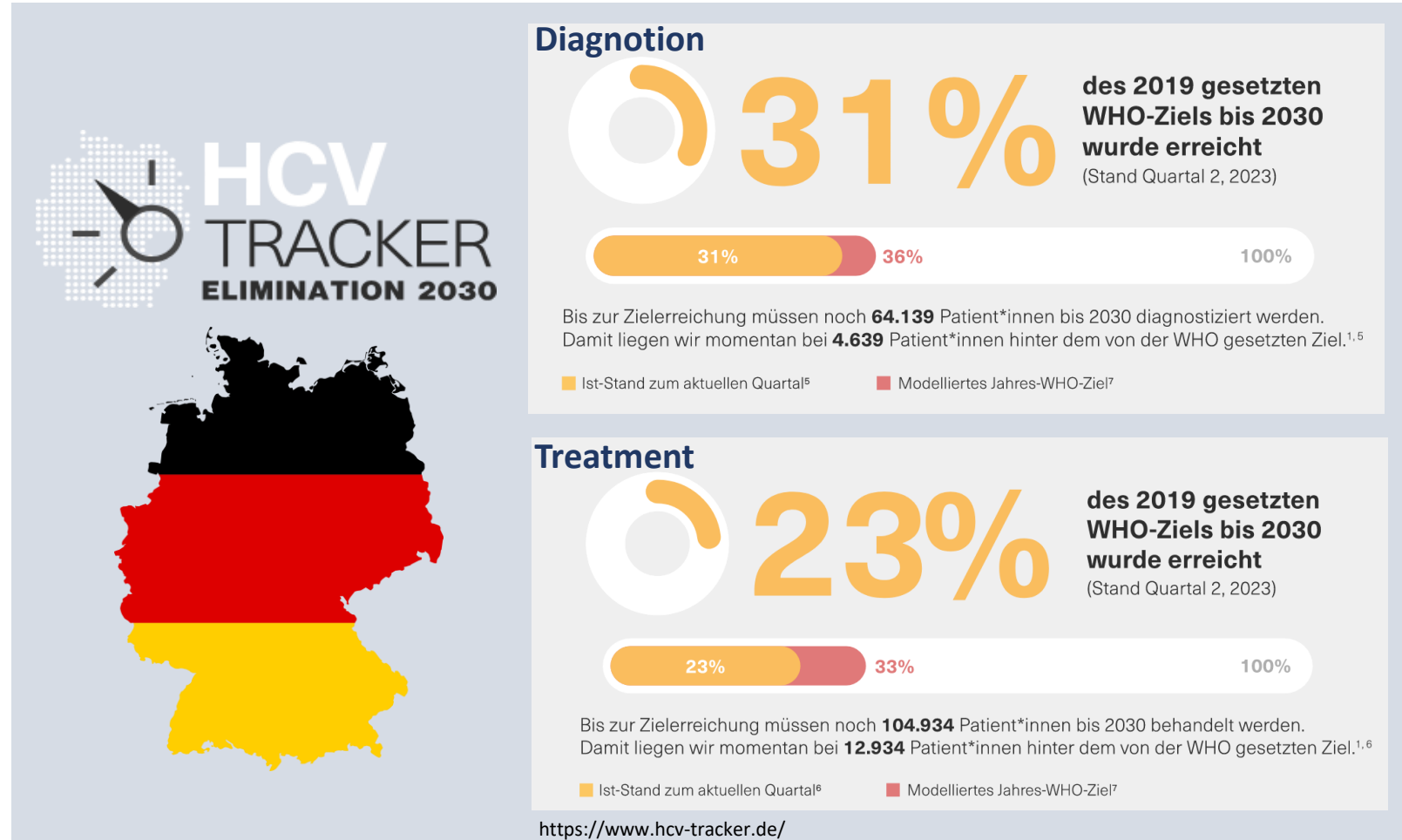
[//efaidnbmnnnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/AER-HEP-C-2020-final.pdf](https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/AER-HEP-C-2020-final.pdf)

- Germany has one of the highest numbers of Hepatitis C virus (HCV) cases in the EU
  - estimated at 189,000 individuals living with chronic HCV infections\*
- Vulnerable groups, including immigrants, individuals accessing homeless shelters, and those with a history of drug use

➡ have higher prevalence of Hepatitis C,  
➡ urgent need for **tailored outreach programs**

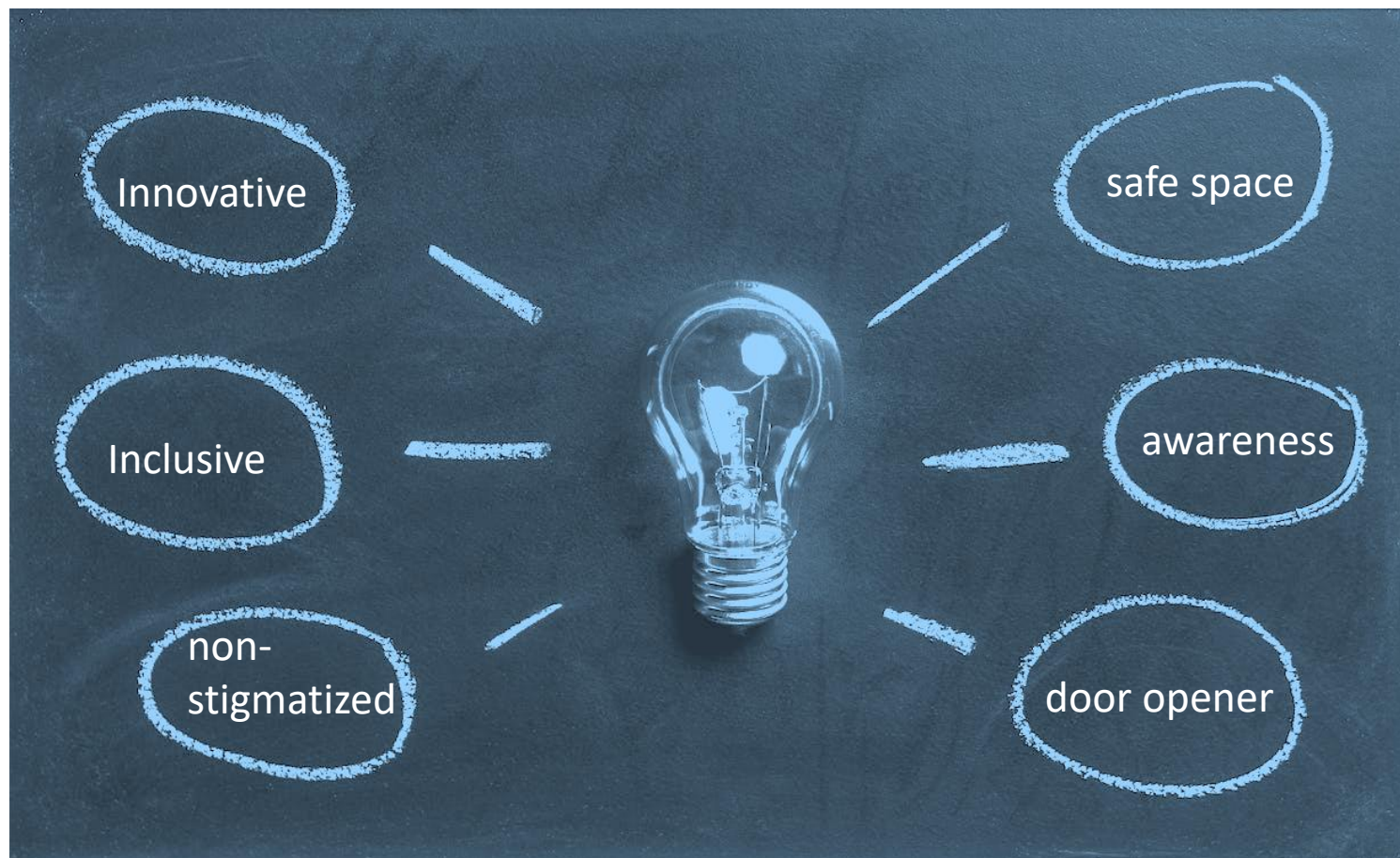
\*Polaris Observatory HCVC. Global change in hepatitis C virus prevalence and cascade of care between 2015 and 2020: a modelling study. Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2022;7(5):396-415.

# Why



# How

urgent need for  
**tailored outreach  
pilot project**



## How

### Nongovernmental organizations

Municipal Integration Centre, Middle East Humanitarian Solidarity Association, AWO sub-district Ruhr-Mitte, Ethno-Medical Centre e. V

### Regulatory authorities and Political

the Public Health Department of Bochum, Serdar Yüksel, a member of the State Parliament in Bochum

Multilingual Action  
Week Against  
Hepatitis C in  
Bochum, Germany



Reachable

Inclusive

Representative

### Healthcare service provider

WIR – Walk In Ruhr, Center for Sexual Health & Medicine in Bochum, St. Elisabeth Hospital

### Pharmaceutical industry

AbbVie Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG

Framework of the PLUS-health-initiative



## What

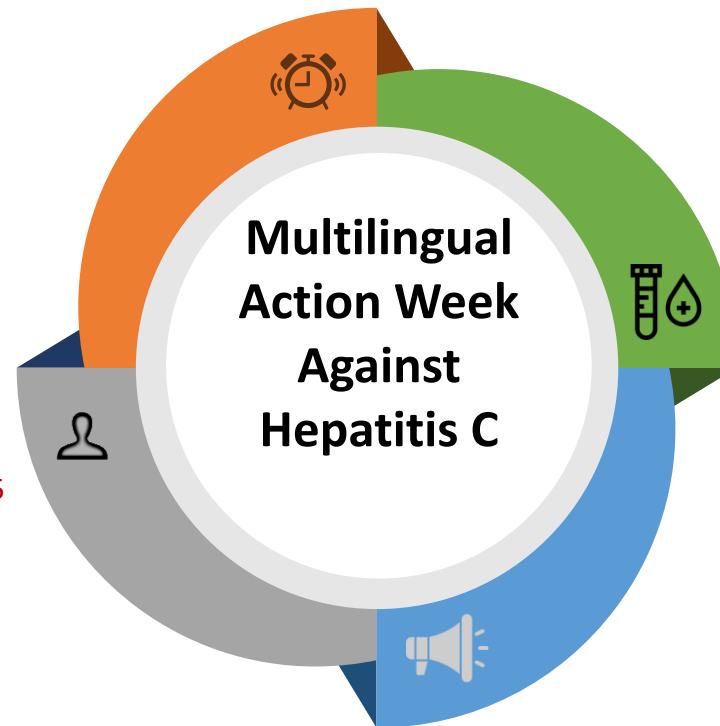
### Start of the campaign

- the campaign took place in the [WIR](#), Center for Sexual Health and Medicine (November, 2022)
- the selected target groups were reached by the different stakeholders involved, especially the [NGOs](#)

### Targeted sub-population

The multilingual action week consisted of **5 days** targeting distinct sub-populations:

- Day-1: for all,
- Day-2: for women,
- Day-3: for native turkish speakers,
- Day-4: for native Arabic speakers,
- Day-5: for native Ukranian speakers



### Testing

- the testing was performed with [OraQuick® HCV](#) which detects HCV antibodies in fingerstick and venipuncture whole blood.
- the testing was also supported by a **doctor** to ensure practicality.
- [Anonymous](#) and [free of charge](#).

### Raising awareness

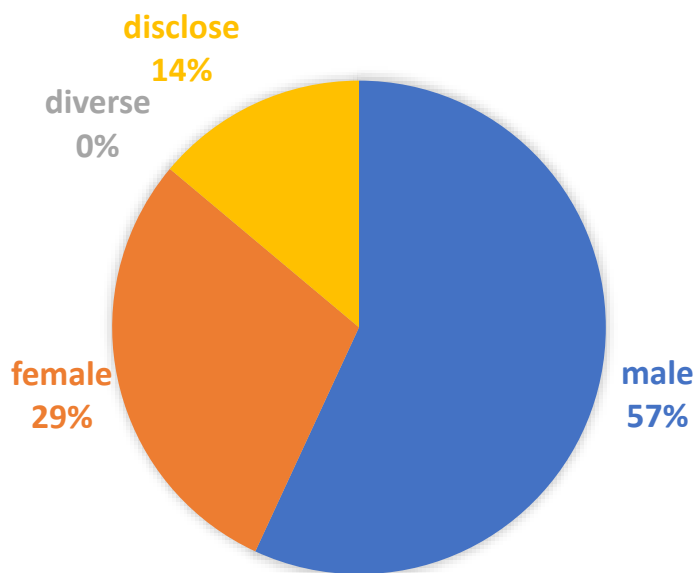
- Participants received information about HCV from [sexual health advisers \(SHA\)](#) in groups of 5-10 individuals in multiple languages
- [Women](#) were provided safety, anonymity, and specialized care by having a specified access time period for them as well as the presence of a gynecologist
- SHA have trained the [stuff of the facilities](#) on hepatitis infection and prevention

# Results

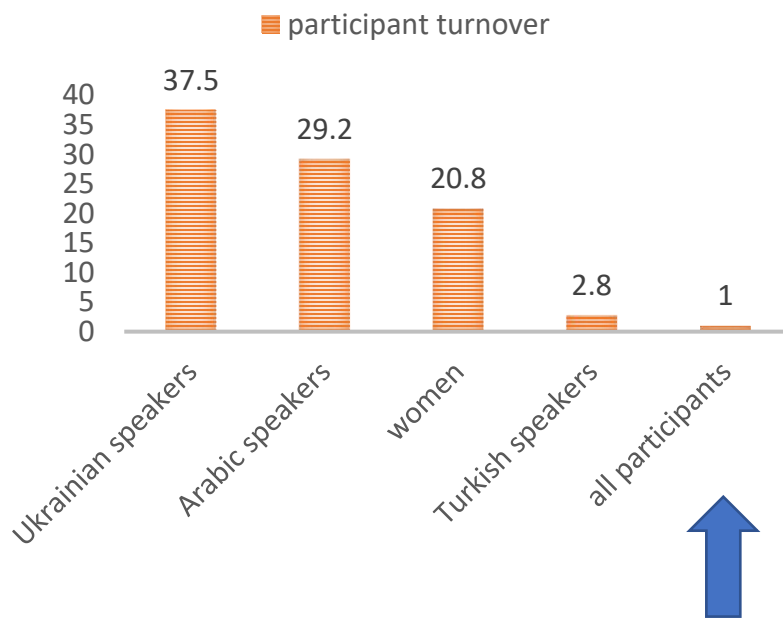
Total participants: **72**

Teste positive for HCV: **0**

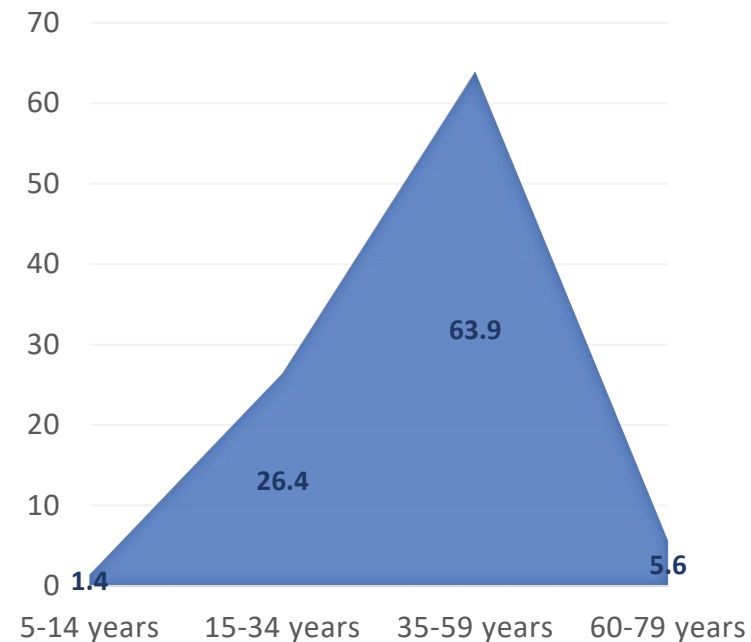
## GENDER DISTRIBUTION



## PARTICIPANT TURNOVER



## AGE DISTRIBUTION





# Recommendations



- I. **Multilingual campaigns** improve HCV healthcare access among immigrants.
- II. Involving **SHAs**, interpreters and **gender-sensitive** as well culture-sensitive care are crucial to broader outreach.
- III. **Community-based testing** proved effective in reaching key populations. (*bottom-up Approach*)
- IV. **Collaborative** efforts and involving various stakeholders are needed to faster achieve WHO's goal of HCV elimination by 2030

# Cordial Greetings from Bochum and Thanks for your attention!

## Further Information

**WIR homepage:**

[www.wir-ruhr.de](http://www.wir-ruhr.de)

**via e-mail:**

[wir@klinikum-bochum.de](mailto:wir@klinikum-bochum.de)



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