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

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Agenda

1. Why
   this campaign is important?

2. How
   did we do it?

3. What
   Healthcare services we offer
   within this campaign?

4. Which
   Results and Recommendations
   we have collected?

Multilingual Action Week
Against Hepatitis C
Why

- 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

Why

HCV TRACKER ELIMINATION 2030

Diagnosis

- 31% des 2019 gesetzten WHO-Ziels bis 2030 wurde erreicht (Stand Quartal 2, 2023)

- Bis zur Zielerreichung müssen noch 64.139 Patient*innen bis 2030 diagnostiziert werden.
  Damit liegen wir momentan bei 4.639 Patient*innen hinter dem von der WHO gesetzten Ziel. 3,4

- Ist-Stand zum aktuellen Quartal
- Modelliertes Jahres-WHO-Ziel

Treatment

- 23% des 2019 gesetzten WHO-Ziels bis 2030 wurde erreicht (Stand Quartal 2, 2023)

- Bis zur Zielerreichung müssen noch 104.934 Patient*innen bis 2030 behandelt werden.
  Damit liegen wir momentan bei 12.934 Patient*innen hinter dem von der WHO gesetzten Ziel. 1,6

- Ist-Stand zum aktuellen Quartal
- Modelliertes Jahres-WHO-Ziel

https://www.hcv-tracker.de/
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

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

Multilingual Action Week Against Hepatitis C in Bochum, Germany
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 Ukrainian 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**

**GENDER DISTRIBUTION**
- Female: 29%
- Male: 57%
- Diverse: 0%
- Disclose: 14%

**PARTICIPANT TURNOVER**
- Ukrainian speakers: 37.5%
- Arabic speakers: 29.2%
- Women: 20.8%
- Turkish speakers: 2.8%
- All participants: 1%

**AGE DISTRIBUTION**
- 5-14 years: 0%
- 15-34 years: 26.4%
- 35-59 years: 63.9%
- 60-79 years: 3.6%

Teste positive for HCV: **0**
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

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