



# PARIS

**FAST-TRACK CITIES 2024**

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## EASY-TESTS

**Preliminary Results of an Outreach Program  
for HIV/STI Testing and PrEP Targeting Men  
Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and  
Transgender Populations in the Paris Region**

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# Background

- Despite free access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) since 2017, its coverage remains insufficient in France, especially among individuals born outside of France, having limited access to healthcare, young MSM (< 25 y.o), women (4,6%), and sex workers **[Epi-phare, 2023], [ERAS Survey 2023]**
- 62% of HIV+ migrant MSM had acquired HIV in France. Young age at arrival, origin from sub-Saharan Africa or Asia, low socioeconomic conditions, and a high number of sexual partners were independently associated with acquiring HIV during the first year in France. **[GANYMEDE study 2023]**

## **EASY-TESTS study objectives were:**

- 1.To engage individuals from the MSM/TG population not reached by other interventions,
- 2.To promote HIV/STI testing,
- 3.To increase PrEP uptake in the Paris region

# Methods

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- Ongoing prospective study
- To evaluate the acceptability of HIV /STI testing and PrEP programs among MSM and transgender
- Contact through **geolocated social networking applications or physical outreach locations** in Paris Area.
- Once **contact is established**, individuals are invited to visit Le SPOT/L'antenne, a community-based sexual health center
- **HIV/STI screening** is conducted using rapid tests (Determine® or INSTI®) and self-sampling methods (PCR for gonorrhea and chlamydia).
- PrEP or PEP is offered based on the results of rapid tests and risk assessments.



# Methods

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- **Primary Outcome:**  
To assess the proportion of HIV-negative participants who accepted PrEP at Month 1 (either PrEP-naïve or restarted after discontinuation) for whom PrEP was indicated on Day 0.
- **Secondary Outcomes :** To assess the proportions of participants accepting STI screening, receiving new or known HIV diagnoses, having an STI diagnosis and treatment, practicing chemsex, as well as care modalities for PrEP and HIV treatment at M1, M3, M6
- **Follow up:** month 1, month 3, month 6.
- **Number of individuals to be enrolled:** 200



# Study population

## Inclusion criteria:

- Cisgender men, transgender men, and transgender women reporting sexual relations with men
- Age  $\geq 18$  years old
- Accepting an STIs screening after making contact on a geolocated community application or a physical place of community sociability
- Given oral non-opposition to the anonymized use of the collected data

## Non-inclusion criteria:

- Planned stay in France  $< 1$  month
- Person under legal guardianship

## Study Status

- Approval by CPP (Ethics Committee): May 2023
- First Enrollment: July 2023
- As of 30/09/2024: 184 participants enrolled
- **Preliminary Data Presented on: 79 participants**

# Socio-demographic characteristics (n=79)

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<b>Age:</b>	years
Median Age (IQR)	30 (25-37)

<b>Sex:</b>	n(%)
Cis MSM	78 (99%)
Trans women	1 (1%)

<b>Birth country :</b>	n (%)
France	36 (46%)
Asia	10 (13%)
Sub-Saharan Africa	10 (13%)
South America	8 (10%)
Western Europe	5 (6%)
Northern Africa	4 (5%)
Other	6 (8%)

54% born abroad

<b>If born abroad, duration of living in France:</b>	Years
Median (IQR)	3.59 (0.93-9.84)

# Socio-demographic characteristics (n=79)

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Residency	n (%)
Paris Metropolitan Area (Île-de-France), including:	76 (96%)
• Paris City	49 (62%)
• 'La Petite Couronne'	23 (29%)
• 'La Grande Couronne'	4 (5%)
Other	3 (4%)

Health insurance	n (%)
Basic Social Security or higher	55 (70%)
Healthcare Coverage for Low-Income and Special Situations	9 (11%)
No coverage	15 (19%)

Education Level:	n (%)
Higher Education (Bac +2 or higher)	64 (80%)
Secondary Education (CAP/BEP, BAC)	14 (18%)
Primary Education	1 (1%)



## Lifestyle (n=79)

- **Number of Sexual Partners in the Last 3 Months:**

Median (IQR) = 6 (3-15)

- **Drug Use (Last 3 Months):**

- 28/79 participants (35%) reported drug use.
  - Of those, 11 (39%) reported engaging in chemsex.
  - 2 (7%) reported drug consumption by injection.

Drug	GHB/GBL	Catinons	Methamph	Cocaine	Ketamine	Cannabis	Other
n	8/28	14/28	4/28	6/28	3/28	14/28	6/28
%	29%	50%	14%	21%	11%	50%	21%

# HIV/STI screening and PrEP use history (n=79)

## Prior HIV testing:

- Negative : 72 (91%)
- HIV + : 3 (4%), all on ART
- **Unknown status (never tested): 4 (5%)**

## HIV/STI screening within the last 12 months:

- Participants tested in the last 12 months: 65 (82%), of those 62 (95%) for HIV
- **Not tested: 14 (18%)**

## History of PrEP Use Among PrEP Non-users at Baseline:

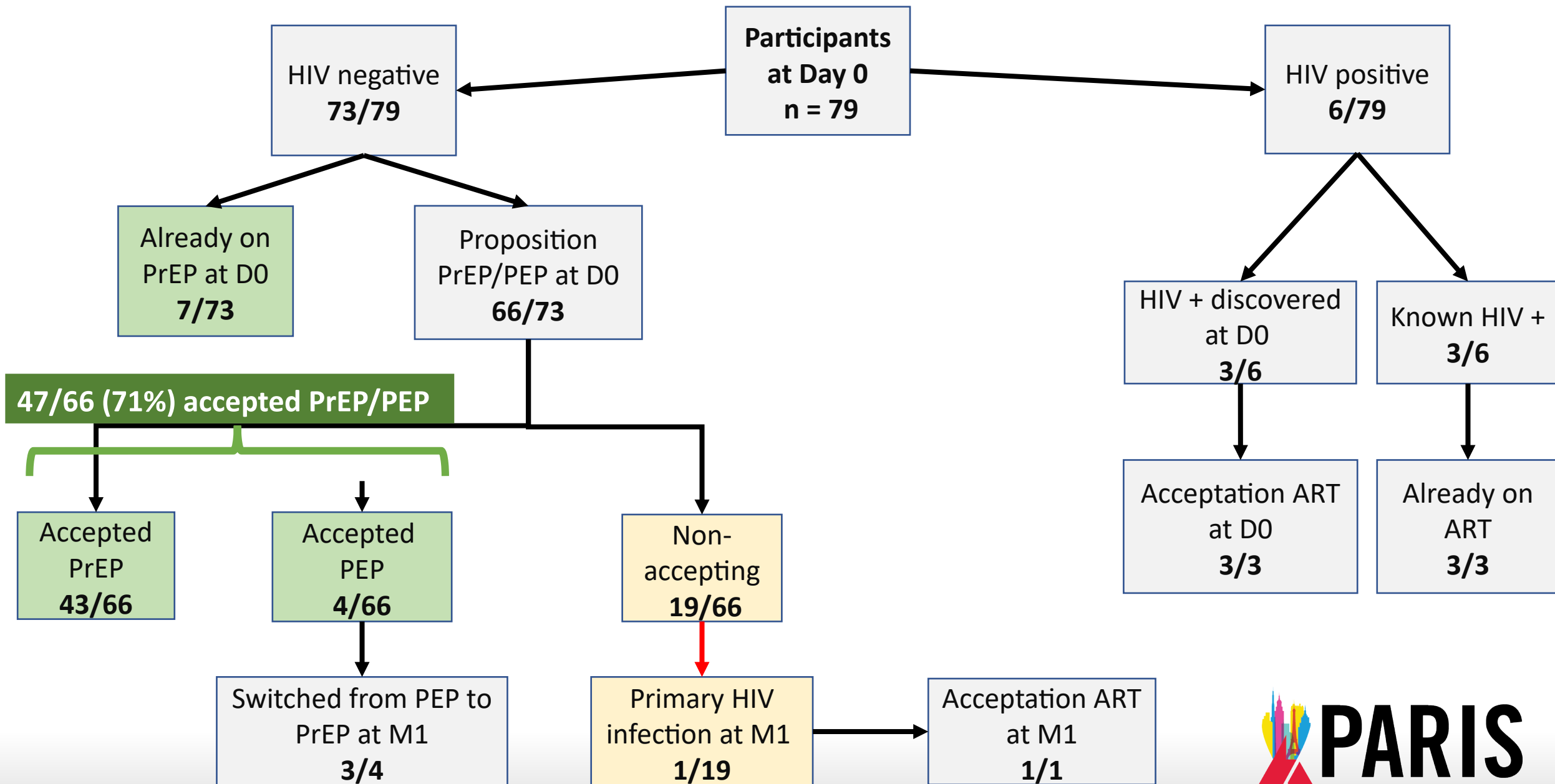
- 9 (13%) had used PrEP previously
- **63 (88%) had never used PrEP**

## PrEP Status at Inclusion:

- **72 (91%) not on PrEP at inclusion**
- 7 (9%) already on PrEP

## STI history and STI tests results at Day 3 (n=79)

- **Previous STI Status:** 46 (58%) reported having a history of STIs at inclusion.
- **Results of PCR STI tests at Day 3: 21/79 participants (27%) Positive for Chlamydia/Gonorrhea, including:**
  - 12 (16%) tested PCR positive for Chlamydia
  - 11 (14%) tested PCR positive for Gonorrhea



# Reasons for declining PrEP/PEP at inclusion (n=19)

*several responses possible*

- **63%** believed they were not at risk
- **37%** reported constant condom use
- **32%** need for more reflection
- Other reasons included concerns about side effects, PrEP-associated stigma, or other reasons

## PrEP follow-up at M1, M3, M6

- Among those who accepted PrEP/PEP at inclusion (n=47), 36/47 participants were taking PrEP at month 1 (77%), 27/47 at month 3 (57%), and 20/47 at month 6 (43%).
- Four participants initiated PrEP after reflection: 2 at month 1 and 2 at month 3.
- The rest stopped participating in the study, mainly due to loss to follow-up.



# Key Preliminary Findings

- **EASY-TESTS**, a community-based research project, successfully targeted a young, high-risk MSM population, with the majority born outside of France and not fully engaged in HIV care and prevention.
- Despite high-risk exposure, 91% not on PrEP prior to the study.
- PrEP acceptance was high, with 74% accepted PrEP (47 at Day 0 and 2 at M1 after reflexion).
- Misconceptions and stigma around PrEP remain.
- Follow-up is ongoing, final results pending.

## EASY-TESTS team



### Le 190 Sexual Health center:

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### Le SPOT/AIDES:

S. Morel, A. Elisa, M. Costa, D. Michels



### Sorbonne University, Pitié Salpêtrière Hospital:

C. Katlama, A. Eremin, Y. Dudoit, R. Palich, R. Agher

And all the community members involved or not yet involved in the prevention and care...