



Fast-track the end of AIDS in the EU
practical evidence-based interventions

Session 3: Scaling up HIV Testing and Linkage to Care

“Community-based testing: The Ath Checkpoint Initiative”



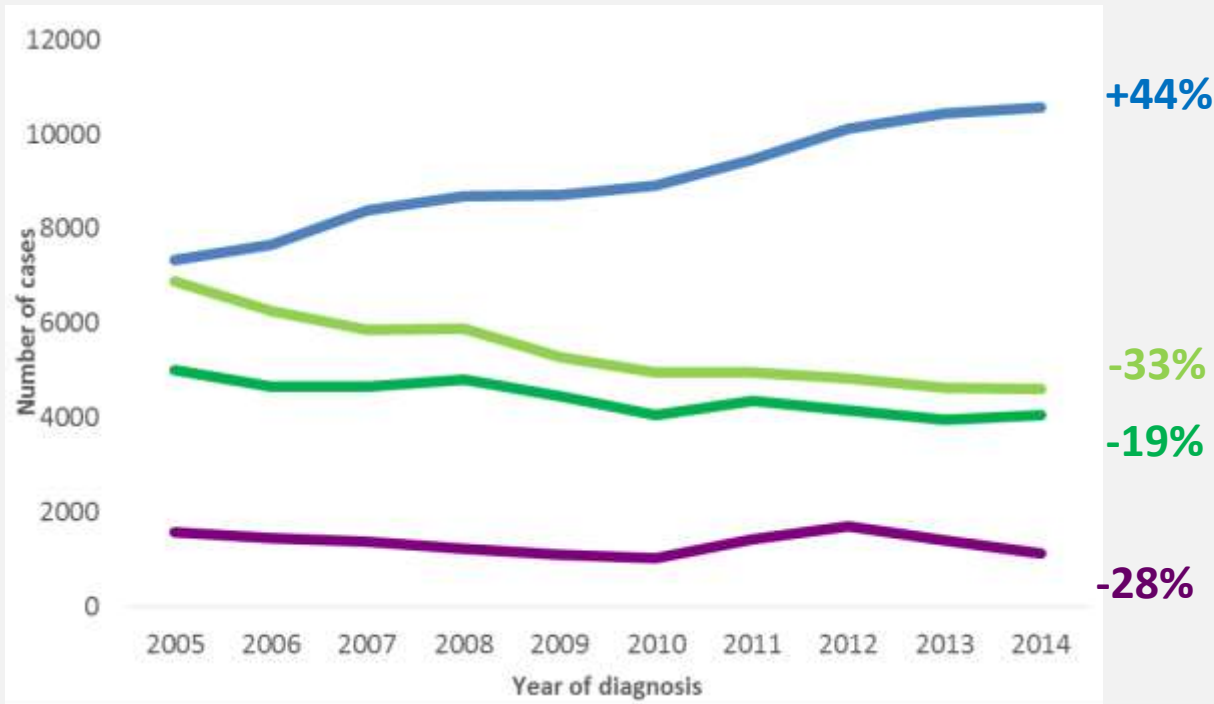
MALTA EU2017



Outline

1. Background – Epidemiological data
2. The Ath Checkpoint initiative and evolution
3. Linkage to care experience
4. Community-based testing challenges in Greece
5. Concluding remarks

HIV diagnoses, by mode of transmission, 2005-2014, EU/EEA



Sex between men

Heterosexual contact (women)

Heterosexual contact (men)

Injecting drug use

HIV diagnoses, 2014 MSM (EU/EEA)

Cases per 100.000
population

< 1

1 to <3

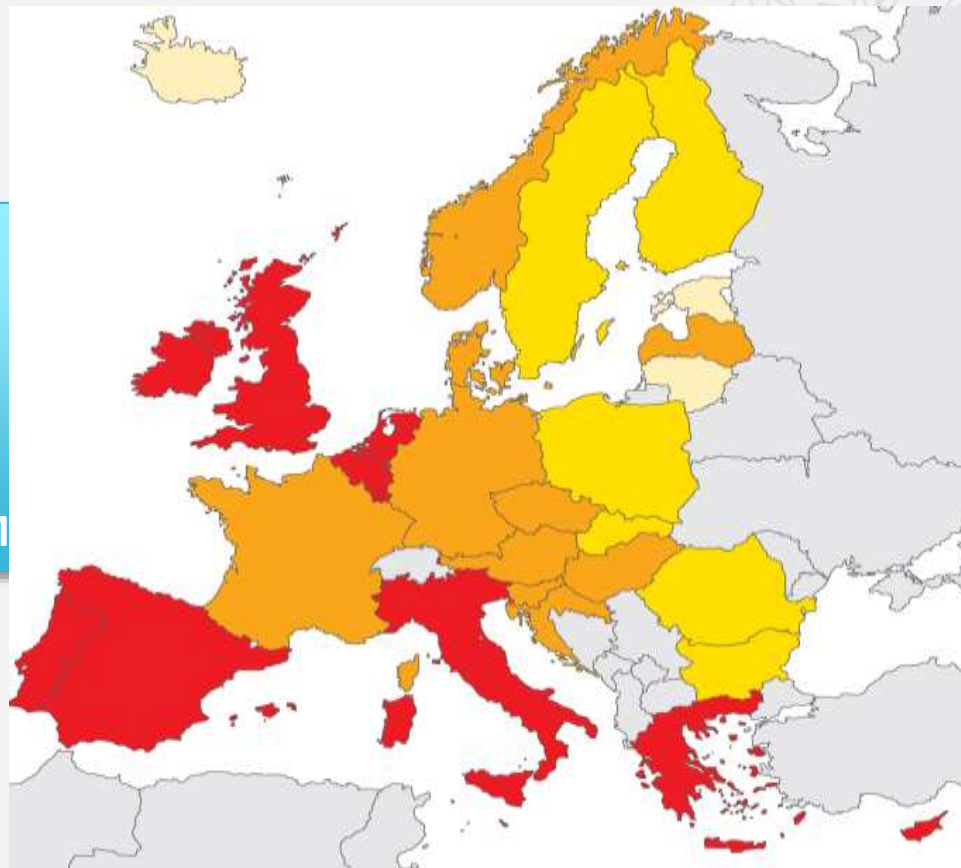
3 to <5

> 5




Not included or
not reporting

42% of new HIV
diagnoses in 2014

16 EU/EEA countries
report **>5%** HIV
prevalence among MSM



Non-visible countries

-  Liechtenstein
-  Luxembourg
-  Malta

Source: ECDC/WHO (2015). HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Europe, 2014

EU/EEA VS Greek HIV diagnosis trends 1985 - 2015

Sex between men

Heterosexual

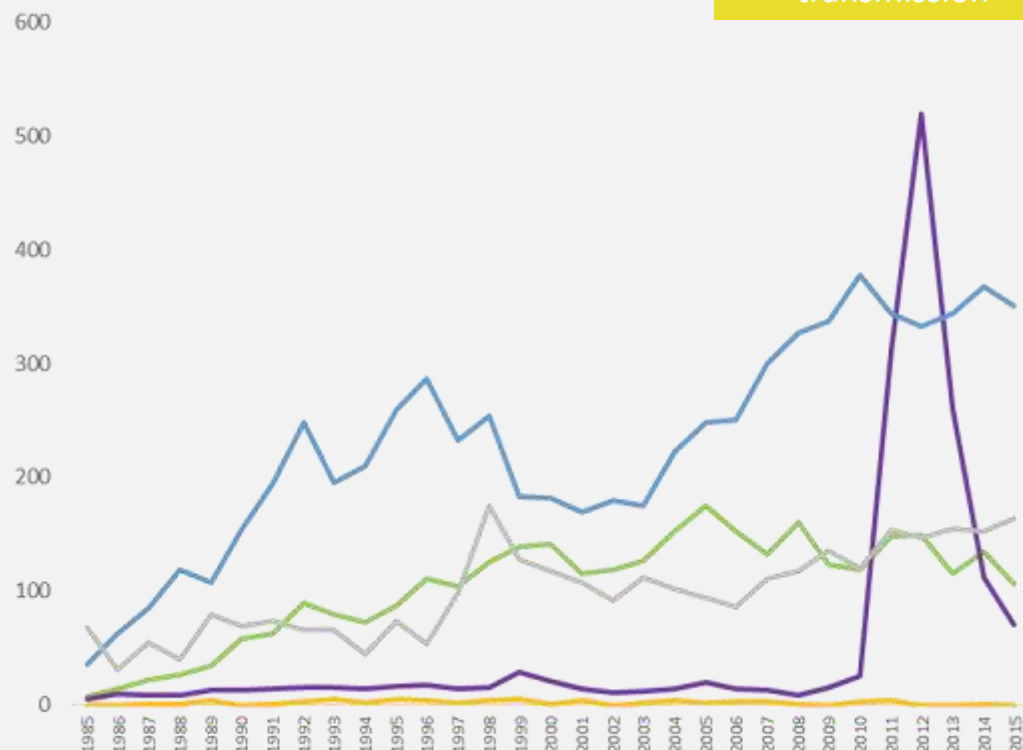
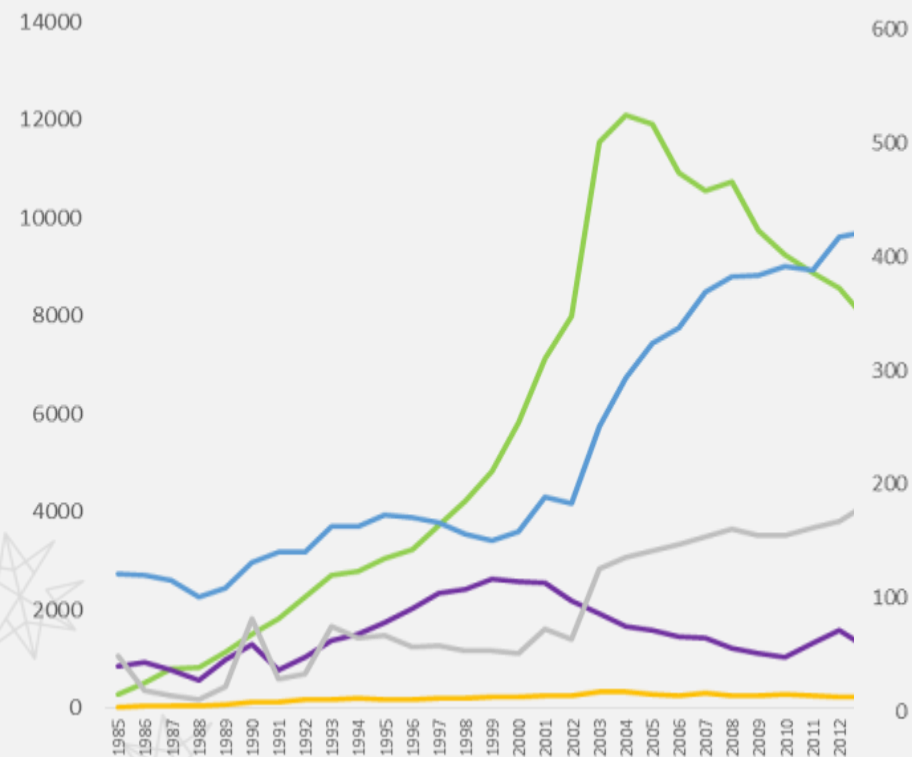
Other/unknown

Injecting drug use

Mother to child transmission

EU/EEA

Greece



Source: ECDC/WHO (2015). HIV/AIDS Surveillance in Europe, 2014



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EMIS 2010: The European Men-Who-Have- Sex-With-Men Internet Survey

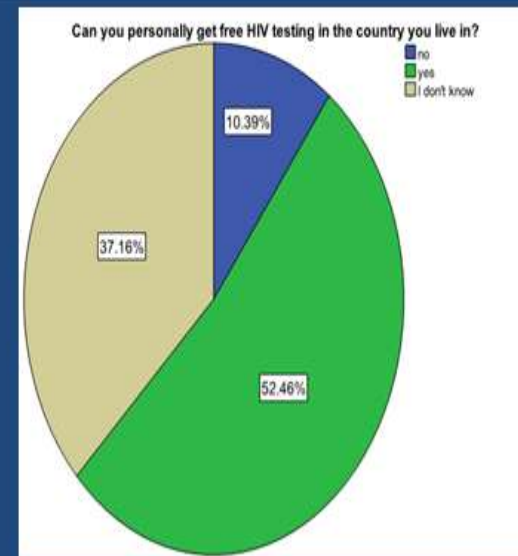
HIV test - Greece

Never tested for HIV: **936 (1 out of 3)**

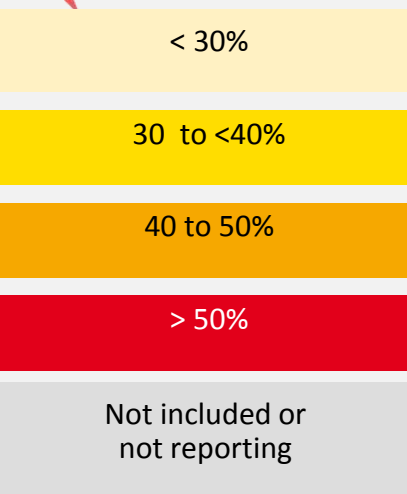
Tested at least once for HIV: **1605 (2 out of 3)**

	Never received an HIV test result	Received an HIV test result
	N (%)	N (%)
Athens	359 (27.5)	946 (72.5)
Thessaloniki	148 (38.4)	237 (61.6)
Rest of Greece	429 (50.4)	422 (49.6)

Free HIV test



Proportion of HIV cases diagnosed with CD4 < 350 cells/mm³, 2014, EU/EEA






EU/EEA: 47%

Greece: 51%

CD4 < 350 at diagnosis



Non-visible countries

-  Liechtenstein
-  Luxembourg
-  Malta



- Economic crisis: 2010 onwards...
- HIV testing severely disrupted
 - Testing facilities reduction
 - Fee introduction
 - Diagnostics stock-outs



CHECKPOINT

prevention and testing centers





Ath
CHECKPOINT

November 2012



Thess
CHECKPOINT

Thess: March 2014

PositiveVoice
people+HIV



MALTA EU 2017

Partnerships - Collaborations



: Aids Healthcare Foundation, Los Angeles, California



: Greek CDC: Training, evaluation and supervision



: Greek Liver Patients Association



: Municipality of Athens

Objectives - Targets

OBJECTIVES:

- 1) HIV testing
- 2) Facilitation of early diagnosis and optimal access to treatment
- 3) Normalization of HIV testing
- 4) Using pre and post test counseling to promote a **modern** safer sex message through a confidential, candid, non-judgmental way
- 5) Battling stigma and discrimination in the MSM community by informing people of the **beneficial impact of early treatment** and of the **transmission reduction** benefit of antiretroviral treatment

TARGETS:

- 1) Reduce the undiagnosed fraction
- 2) Reduce the number of **MSM** who have never been tested before

Operation

1. Monday to Saturday, 12 – 8 pm
2. After working hours
3. Central, easily-accessible location
4. In-premises services but also outreach awareness-raising & testing activities
5. Recognizable brand name & logo
6. Contemporary diagnostics



Outreach..



Campaigns - Communication

Ath CHECKPOINT
γρήγορο, δωρεάν για HIV

Είσαι για ένα γρήγορο; Είναι δωρεάν...

ΚΛΕΙΣΕ ΡΑΝΤΕΒΟΥ ΣΤΟ 210.33.10.400
ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ - ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ 10.00 - 20.00

www.athcheckpoint.gr

ΓΡΗΓΟΡΟ | ΑΝΩΝΥΜΟ | ΔΩΡΕΑΝ | ΑΠΟΔΕΥΜΟ

CHECKPOINT
εθνογλωσσική για τον HIV

HIV AIDS

Ενημερώσου!

- Πώς να προστατευτείς
- Πώς να αντιμετωπίσεις
- Πώς να αντιμετωπίσεις
- Πώς να αντιμετωπίσεις

CHECKPOINT
εθνογλωσσική για τον HIV

ΚΑΝΕΙΣ ΣΕΞ; ΚΑΝΕ ΤΕΣΤ!

www.athcheckpoint.gr

Ath CHECKPOINT
Centre de prise de rendez-vous

On y aille pour quelque chose qui va vite ?
Personne ne le saura...

PRENDS UN RENDEZ-VOUS AU 210 3310 400
LUNDI - SAMEDI 10.00 - 20.00

RAPIDE | ANONYME | GRATUIT | INDOLORE

BAREBACK: ΜΗΝ ΥΠΟΘΕΤΕΙΣ

ΑΝ ΜΟΝ ΕΠΙΤΥΧΕΙ ΚΑΡΔΙΑ, ΜΕΤΕΒΑ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΙΤΕ ΟΡΘΟΠΕΔΙΚΕΣ

ΓΙΑ ΜΕ ΛΕΙΠΕΙ ΟΜΩΣ ΚΑΡΔΙΑ ΣΦΑΙΡΙΚΕΣ ΟΡΘΟΠΕΔΙΚΕΣ

Πολλοί ομοφυλόφιλοι πιστεύουν ότι ομοφυλικοί είναι πρόβλημα να κάνει σεξ χωρίς στέροϊδ ή να μην κάνουν σεξ χωρίς στέροϊδ.

Πολλοί ομοφυλόφιλοι πιστεύουν πως ομοφυλικοί είναι πρόβλημα να κάνουν σεξ χωρίς στέροϊδ ή να μην κάνουν σεξ χωρίς στέροϊδ.

CHECKPOINT

ΕΛΑ ΜΕ ΤΟ ΚΑΛΑΜΑΚΙ ΣΟΥ!

Η χρήση ουσίας από τη μύτη μπορεί να προκαλέσει ατροφία και μείωση ή να μεταδώσει HIV. Η χρήση ουσίας από τη μύτη μπορεί να προκαλέσει ατροφία και μείωση ή να μεταδώσει HIV. Η χρήση ουσίας από τη μύτη μπορεί να προκαλέσει ατροφία και μείωση ή να μεταδώσει HIV.

CHECKPOINT

ΜΗΝ ΠΑΙΡΝΕΙΣ CRYSTAL METH, VIAGRA™ ΚΑΙ POPPERS ΜΑΖΙ!!!!

Crystal Meth + Viagra™ + Poppers = πολύ επικίνδυνο! Μπορεί να «κόψει» τον αέρα και να προκαλέσει προβλήματα. Μπορεί να οδηγήσει σε καρδιακή προσβολή και άλλους σοβαρούς τραυματισμούς.

Crystal Meth + Viagra™ = καρδιακό κινδύνος! Μπορεί να οδηγήσει σε καρδιακή προσβολή και άλλους σοβαρούς τραυματισμούς.

Poppers + Crystal Meth = καρδιακό κινδύνος! Μπορεί να οδηγήσει σε καρδιακή προσβολή και άλλους σοβαρούς τραυματισμούς.

Viagra™ + Poppers = Πίσω στο αίμα, κίνδυνος! Μπορεί να οδηγήσει σε καρδιακή προσβολή και άλλους σοβαρούς τραυματισμούς.

ΜΗΝ ΠΑΙΡΝΕΙΣ ΟΥΔΕ ΜΕ ΑΛΚΟΟΛ!

CHECKPOINT

FIST ME TO GANTI

Όταν κόψεις, τσεκ φορέμας γάντι μας, χρόνιας από μόνη, μετάνοια ομοφυλικοί ομοφυλικοί μετάνοιας ή να μην κάνουν σεξ χωρίς στέροϊδ.

CHECKPOINT

facebook

Ath Checkpoint - Εθνογλωσσική - Έλα με το Καλαμάκι Σου!

Είσαι για ένα γρήγορο; Κάνε σου τον τεστ. Εθνογλωσσική για τον HIV.

Ath Checkpoint
Centre de prise de rendez-vous

PRENDS UN RENDEZ-VOUS AU 210 3310 400
LUNDI - SAMEDI 10.00 - 20.00

83 likes

Facts & Figures

Gender	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Male	202	2,292	6,229	9,004	10,501	28,228
Female	49	419	2,568	4,199	4,713	11,948
Transgender	1	7	34	42	86	170
Total	252	2,718	8,831	13,245	15,300	40,346

Gender	Sexual Orientation	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Male	MSM	190	1,906	3,711	4,940	5,981
Male	Heterosexual	12	386	2,518	4,064	4,520
Female	Bisexual	1	12	53	104	124
Female	Heterosexual	43	362	2,413	3,950	4,417
Female	Lesbian	5	45	102	145	172
Transgender	Heterosexual	1	7	34	42	86

HIV Result	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Reactive	15	89	152	244	175
Non Reactive	237	2,629	8,608	12,866	15,125
NA	0	0	71	135	0

HBsAg Result	2014	2015	2016
Reactive	16	47	72
Non Reactive	2,335	3,341	2,560
NA	6,480	9,857	12,668

Have you visited us before?	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Yes	0	406	1,645	3,420	5,163	10,634
No	252	2,312	7,186	9,825	10,137	29,712

Have you been tested for HIV before?	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
I don't know / I don't remember	0	3	50	64	50	167
Yes	101	1,837	4,792	7,268	8,183	22,181
No	151	878	3,989	5,913	7,067	17,998

HCV Result	2014	2015	2016
Reactive	78	244	235
Non Reactive	2,935	3,283	2,630
NA	5,818	9,718	12,435

Anti-Syphilis Result	2015	2016
Reactive	32	104
NA	12,776	13,456
Non Reactive	437	1,740

Up to December 2016 testing course..

Ath & Thess Checkpoint

	Total	+	% General	% MSM
HIV	40.322	675	1.6	3.6
HBV	8.074	127	1.6	
HCV	9.406	557	5.9	
SYPH	2.313	136	5.8	6.4

Checkpoint Milestones

- **July 2015:** The WHO referred to the **Ath and Thess Checkpoint as best practice** regarding a holistic HIV prevention methodology, in the framework of the updated guidelines for HIV testing services
- 40.322 HIV tests
- Approximately 30.000 **unique** beneficiaries
- **19% of the total Greek HIV cases** reported to the HCDCP for **2014** was recorded at the Checkpoint
- **31% of the total Greek HIV cases** reported to the HCDCP for **2015** was recorded at the Checkpoint
- **33% of the total Greek HIV cases** reported to the HCDCP for **2016** was recorded at the Checkpoint



Data Collection & Research..

1. Flash ! PrEP Online Survey: Knowledge, attitudes towards, willingness to take and actual (informal and less official) use of PrEP to inform sexual health policy making across Europe

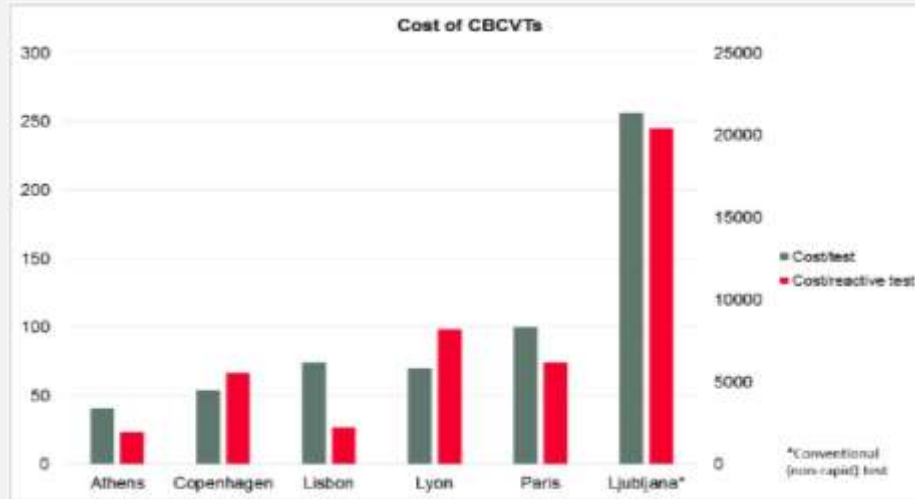


2. EURO HIV EDAT Program: Operational knowledge to improve HIV early diagnosis and treatment among vulnerable groups in Europe

- a) WP5:** Follow up and longitudinal analysis of clients attending MSM Checkpoints (Coordinated by CEEISCAT, Spain)
- b) WP6:** Data collection and pilot study on Point of Care and linkage to health services for HIV/STI in MSM Checkpoints (Coordinated by AIDS Fondet, Denmark)
- c) WP7:** Development of a Toolkit for implementation and evaluation of MSM Checkpoints (Coordinated by AIDS-Hilfe, Germany)
- d) WP9:** KAP/B survey and pilot intervention on innovative strategies and interventions (Coordinated by The Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium (ITM), Belgium)

Data Collection & Research..

3. Cost and effectiveness of HIV testing for Men who have Sex with Men in community-based organizations. Results from six European cities



4. Reducing Undiagnosed HIV Infections in Crisis-Affected Services in Greece
(Nikolopoulos, G., Chanos, S., Tsiptsias, E., Dedes, N., Papadopetrakis, G.)

5. High HIV incidence between MSM visiting the Ath Checkpoint (2013-2015)
(Nikolopoulos, G., Chanos, S., Tsiptsias, E., Dedes, N., Paraskeva, D.)

6. Asklepius: HIV epidemiology in Men who have Sex with Men Sex Workers (MSM SW)
(Nikolopoulos, G., Chanos, S., Tsiptsias, E., Dedes, N., Paraskeva, D.)

7. SOPHOCLES – P4G (PrEP for Greece) – Interventional Implementation Study
(Medical School University of Chicago – Medical School University of Athens - Checkpoint)

Data Collection & Research..

- ✓ Knowledge and attitudes on PrEP
- ✓ Improvement of early diagnosis and treatment
- ✓ Cost-effectiveness
- ✓ Prevalence
- ✓ Incidence
- ✓ Male Sex Workers
- ✓ PrEP demonstration study

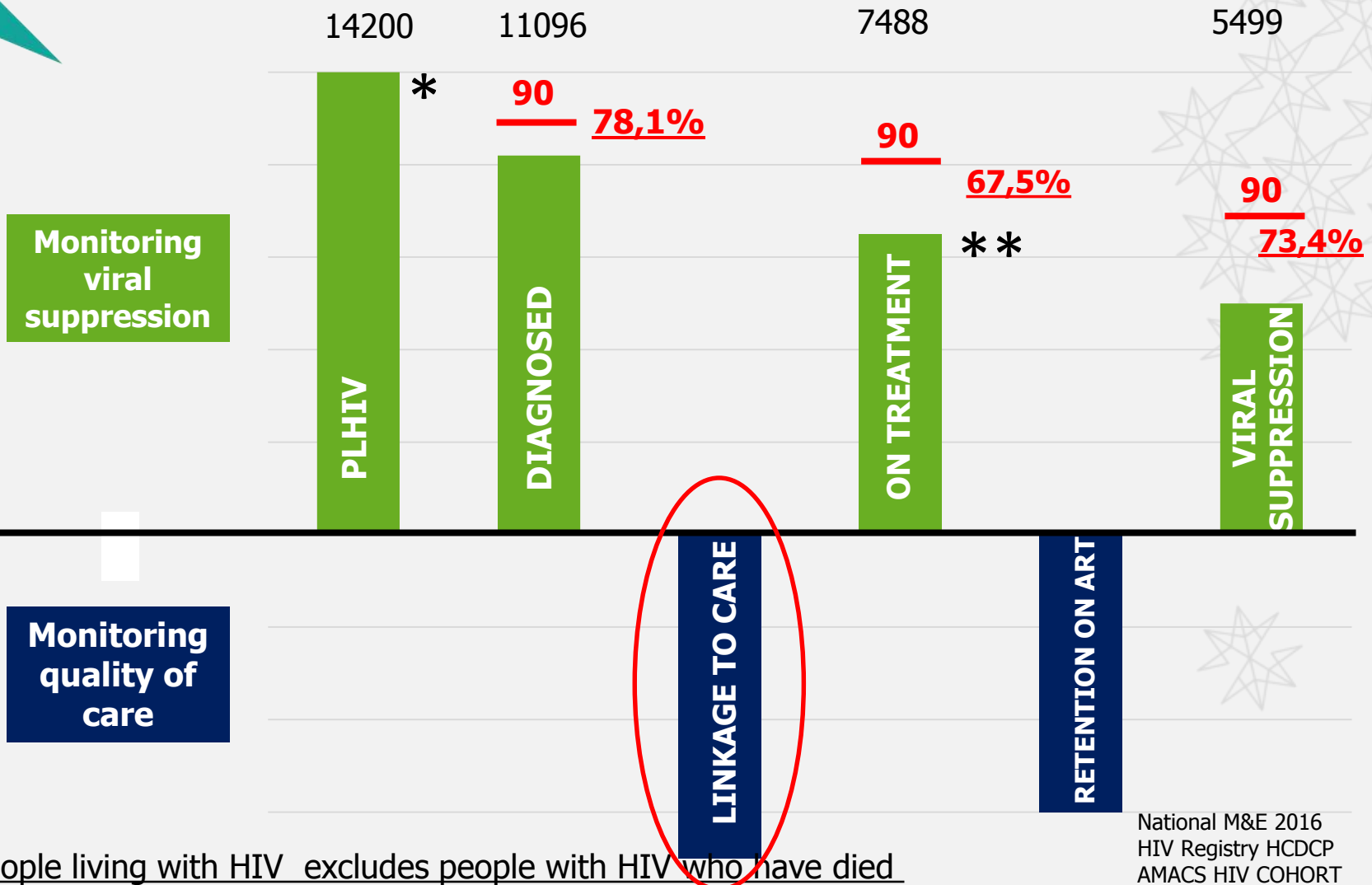
Checkpoint: Data source for the Dublin Declaration of the HCDCP

Linkage to care

WHO & ECDC Definition

- **WHO 2015:** the duration of time starting with HIV diagnosis and ending with enrolment in HIV care or treatment
- **ECDC 2015:** the proportion of patients seen for HIV care (measured by first CD4 count and/or viral load and/or attendance date and/or treatment start date), **with prompt linkage defined as linkage within 3 months of diagnosis**
- Where is Greece according to the above?

Diagnosis & Linkage to care in Greece, 2013



* People living with HIV excludes people with HIV who have died

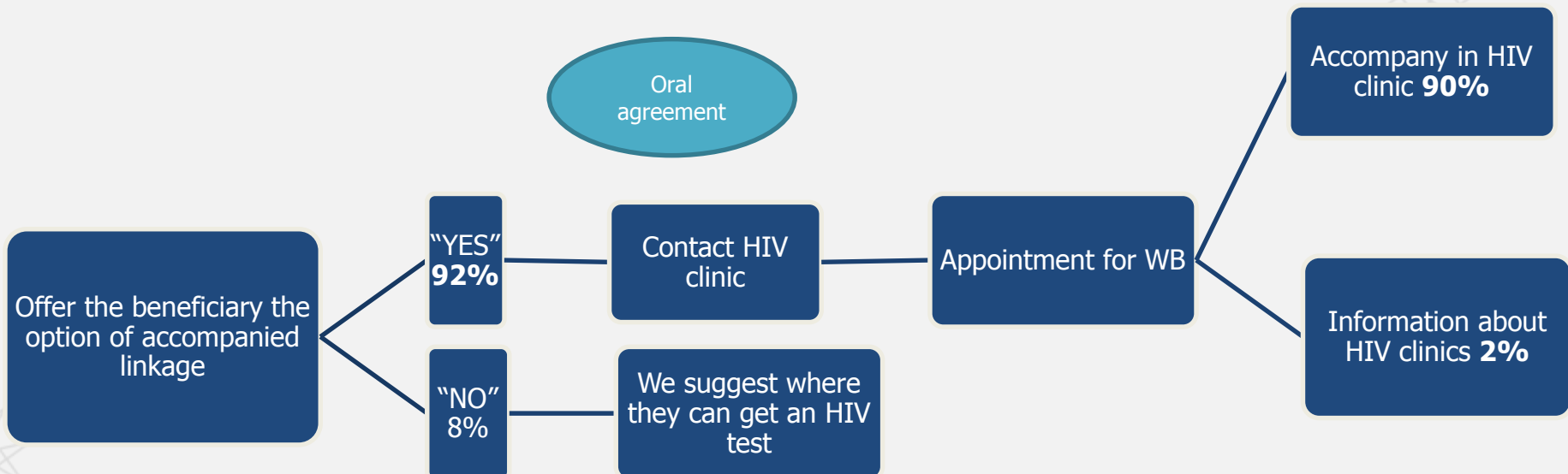
** Ever treated

National M&E 2016
HIV Registry HCDCP
AMACS HIV COHORT

Community-based linkage to care experience

Linkage procedure in case of a reactively-tested beneficiary at the Checkpoint:

Population Groups: **MSM**, PWID



Checkpoint Highlights

- **92%** of the reactively tested beneficiaries was successfully linked to care
- Dispensing of > than **3.000.000** free condoms and **200.000** informative material
- Approached > **30.000** people during our outreach activities
- **Mobile Unit** acquisition (& HIV testing in the **Roma** community around Greece)
- During WAD 2015, **MoH Mr. Ksanthos Andreas** visited the Checkpoint and greeted our HIV prevention activities
- MoP, Dr. Sprenger (ECDC) with colleagues, 2 last Chairs of HCDCP



Next Steps...

Community-based testing challenges

1. Operation (grey zone) – legal framework
2. De-medicalization of rapid testing
3. More Checkpoints
4. On-site testing
5. Notion of routine testing
6. Second generation surveillance instruments (we need new tools i.e. avidity tests, a way to check incidence in a community so that we are sure about our effectiveness and M&E our activities)
7. Discrimination & HIV-related stigma issues
8. Further research to measure knowledge, perceptions and attitudes in MSM (participation in EMIS 2)

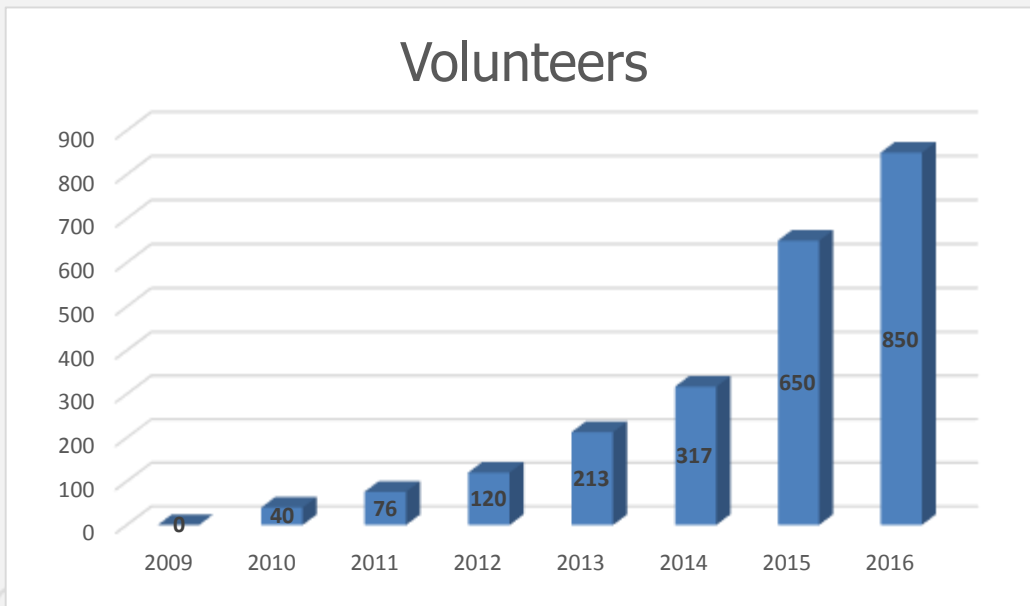
Concluding remarks

1. CBT had a huge impact to Greece
2. Even though we have scaled up testing and the fact that high risk MSM trust us, the **reduction of new diagnoses** in the Checkpoint framework, most likely **reflects a reduction in new infections** as well. This is corroborated by the fact that the national report of new infections had a considerable decline in 2016.
3. So, the Checkpoint has contributed to the reduction of new cases

	HCDP	Checkpoint	%
2014	802	153	19
2015	691	216	31
First 10 months 2016	453	147	33

Concluding remarks

- 3. The Checkpoint has managed to change the landscape of the attitudes, perceptions and knowledge in the MSM community



Acknowledgements

Ath Checkpoint Team



Acknowledgements

Thess Checkpoint Team



Acknowledgements

Athens, Thessaloniki and rest of Greek regions' volunteers



Thank you very much

**Sophocles Chanos
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