

Population of the Bergamo Check-Point. A first analysis of Cobatest data.

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Introduction/Summary

- On March 19th, 2019, Bergamo has signed the Paris Declaration becoming a Fast Track City (FTC).
- In June 2020 the Check point was opened offering rapid tests for HIV, HCV and syphilis.
- Since November 2021 the Bergamo Check Point adhered to the Cobatest network.



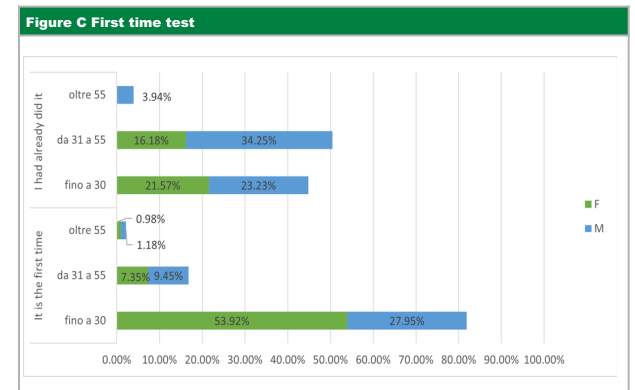
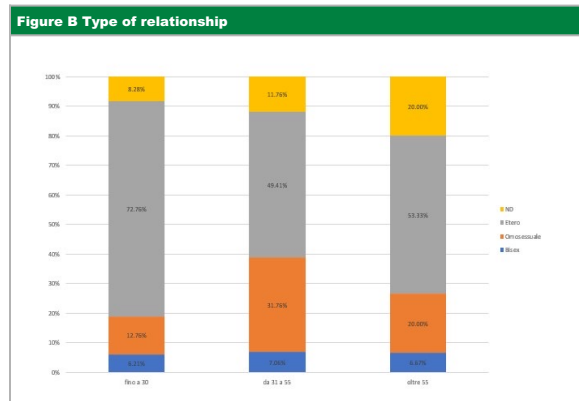
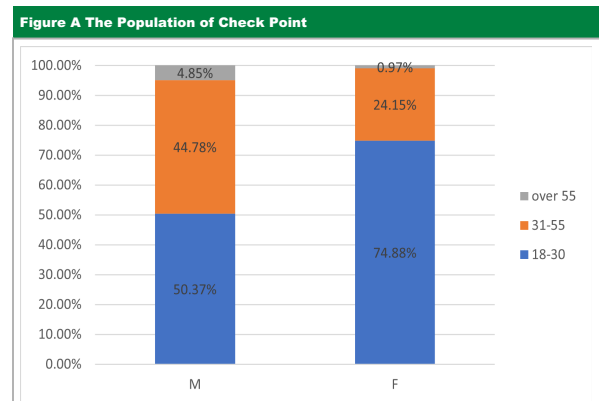
Methods

- At the Check Point the possibility to compile, together with a trained operator, the Cobatest questionnaire is offered to all clients.
- We analyzed results on data obtained in the first 4 months of use of this instrument (Nov 2021 to Mar 2022).

Results

- The questionnaires concern 43.58% females and 56.42% males.
- More than half (50.37%) of males ages between 18 and 30 years, 44.78% ages between 31 and 55 and 4.85% has more than 55 years. For females the same figures are 74.88%, 24.15% and 0.97%, respectively (figure A).
- Overall, 87.37% of clients refers to be Italian and 12.63% of foreign origin.
- Limited to people reporting a sexual intercourse in the last 12 months, 63.79% of subjects refer a heterosexual relationship, 19.79% with a person defined of the same gender and 6.53% both with men or women. A remaining 9.89% do not respond or did not have a relationship in the last 12 months (figure B).

- For 47.27% of persons that was the first HIV test ever done (62.25% females and 38.58% males) (figure C).
- Knowledge of the Check Point existence was in 4% of cases due to information given by relatives or friends, in 21.3% through paper-based propaganda, 19.26% through web-based research and 24.8% because directly reached by a direct e-mail sent during the European testing week thanks to a collaboration with the "Consulta" of students and the rectorate of the Bergamo University. Finally, 2% of persons reaches the service because involved in a program of awareness raising and information held at a high school level in the year 2021/2022 (figure D).



Conclusion

- We believe that the high proportion of people that performs the HIV test for the first time is an index of a growing attention to personal sexual health and well-being and of a rising awareness of the potential risks especially among young people.
- The high prevalence of young subjects highlights the efficacy of strategies based on awareness rising programs in high schools and of a constant collaboration with the University management.
- Young women seem more sensitive to these factors compared to male peers.
- The interaction among different services, institutions and third sector organizations already operating on the territory allows the construction of a positive network as confirmed, among the key populations, by the good prevalence of MSM accessing the test.
- Some of them seems to be already sensitized about this topic (previous test already performed) but still prefer and find more friendly this type of service.

