

Poster Area Poster Exhibition

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Social Science, PROs

P 154 The impact of awareness-raising and screening initiatives on the migrant population living in Bergamo

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Title: The impact of awareness-raising and screening initiatives on the migrant population living in Bergamo

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Abstract body

Background: According to the COA, in 2023, 36.9% of new HIV diagnoses concern the migrant population. The incidence among foreigners increased from 12 per 100,000 in 2019 to 15 per 100,000 in 2023. In Italy, the rate of foreigners is about 9% (11% in Bergamo).

Bergamo FTC network has implemented specific actions for migrants to raise awareness, improve access to testing and facilitate linkage to care through various projects financed by pharmaceutical companies. Antibody tests for HIV, HCV and syphilis have been proposed, and the HBsAg test has been added since 2025.

Material and Methods: During testing, data were collected using the Cobatest questionnaire. To overcome language barriers, material was created in various languages and cultural mediators and social workers were involved. The population data came from ISTAT.

Results: Relating the number of tests carried out by foreigners to the total foreign population in Bergamo, we obtain an impact index of 1.3%; compared to the Italian, the index is 0.6%.

The analysis of the 7551 questionnaires collected (11/2021-02/2025) shows that the foreign population represents 21% of the people tested by Bergamo FTCI and that, over time, the share of foreigners has remained significant between 16 and 20% with an increase to 55.5% in the first months of 2025 due to the 'Test in The City' project.

52% of those tested defined themselves as male, 46.2% as female and 1.8% as trans, 32% are <24 years old, i.e. 17.4% of the total young population (FIGURE 1).

Only 19% of the foreign population (compared to 45.5% of Italians) took the test at the city checkpoint: 81% did the test during dedicated territorial events or in contexts close to vulnerable populations. In particular, about 44% of the total took the test at CPIAs (Provincial Centres for Adult Education), the rest at high schools and at university sites, or in low-threshold services (FIGURE 2).

With regard to risk behaviour, 37.5% stated that they had not used a condom during their last sexual intercourse but of these, only 17% claimed to have been tested because of a risk they had taken (vs. 27% in Italian people (FIGURE 3).

No significant differences emerged in relation to the incidence of overall reactivity (around 1%), although the incidence of HIV was more than double (0.76%) that of the total population tested (0.31%), and significant data emerged from the recent offer of the HBsAg test with an incidence of around 4.65% in the tests carried out to date.

Conclusions: Data demonstrates the importance of promoting actions that increase health awareness and offer screening opportunities to the foreign population residing in Italy by approaching their places of life and in proximity contexts.

Finally, it must be stressed that in order to be able to continue with these actions to guarantee the right to personal health and promote public health, it is essential that the work of the third sector be recognised on an ongoing basis and supported by structural funds.

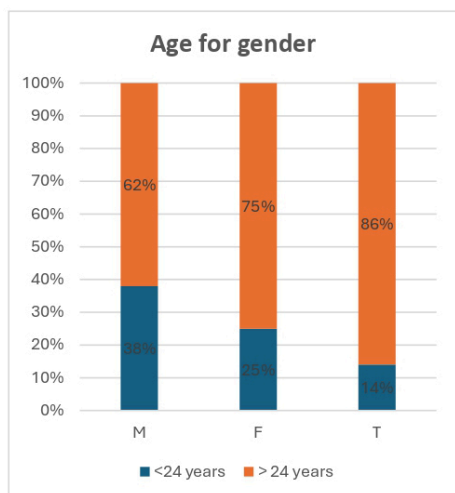


FIGURE 1

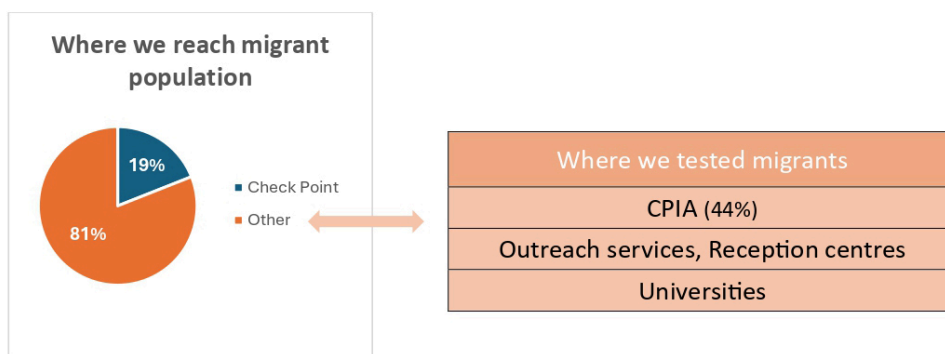


FIGURE 2

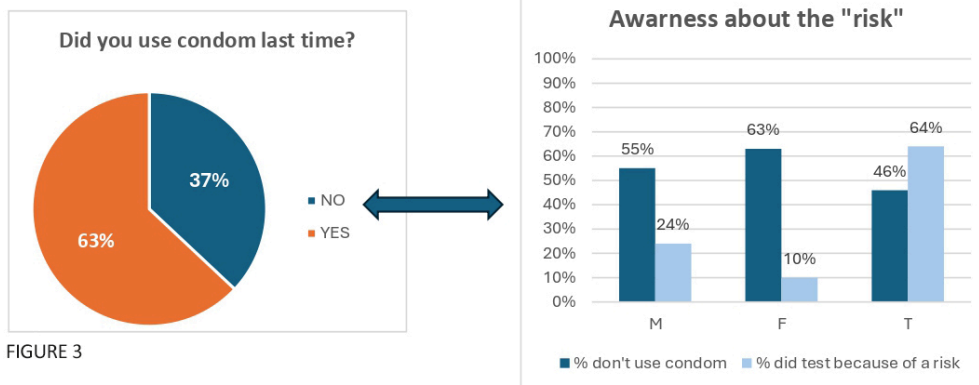


FIGURE 3