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

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Introduction

- 9% of the italian population is foreigner (11% in Bergamo).
- In 2023 36.9% of new HIV diagnoses in Italy concern migrant population.
- The incidence among foreigners increased from 12 per 100,000 in 2019 to 15 per 100,000 in 2023.
- Bergamo FTC implemented specific actions for migrants to raise awarness, improve access to testing and facilitate linkage to care.
- From 2019 test for HIV, HCV and Syphilis are proposed and from 2025 HBsAg test has been added.

Results

- 1.3% = Impact index of testing activities on foreing population (VS 0.6% on italian).
- 21% of the people tested in the Bergamo FTC initiatives were foreigners.
- 52% are male; 46,2% are female and 1,8% are trans.
- 32% are <24 years old (TABLE 1).
- 19% took the test at the city check point
- 81% did the test during dedicated territorial events or in contexts close to vulnerable populations (44% at CPIAs) (TABLE 2).
- 37.5% stated they hadn't used a condom during their last sexual intercourse → only 17% of that claimed to have been tested because of a risk they had taken (TABLE 3).
- About reactivity, the total incidence of HIV,HCV and Syphilis is 1% (as Italian population), but the incidence of HIV is twice as high as that in the Italian population (O.76% VS 0.31%) and significant data emerged for HBV, with an incidence of 4.65%.

Conclusion

- Promoting testing activities on the territory → increase health awarness.
- Reaching the foreign population requires engaging with them in their familiar places and contexts.
- Data demonstrate the effectiveness of the actions, so is essential that the work of the third sector be recognised on an ongoing basis and supported by structural funds.

Material and Methods

- Population data came from ISTAT.
- HIV and IST data came from COA.
- During testing activities, data were collected using Cobatest questionnaire.
- Information material in various language was created to overcame language barriers.
- Cultural mediators were involved in the testing and information activities for effective communication.

TABLE 1: Age for gender foreing population tested by Bergamo FTC

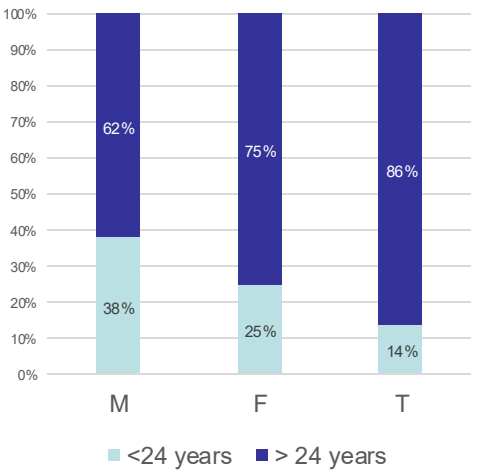

TABLE 2: Where Bergamo FTC reached and tested foreing population

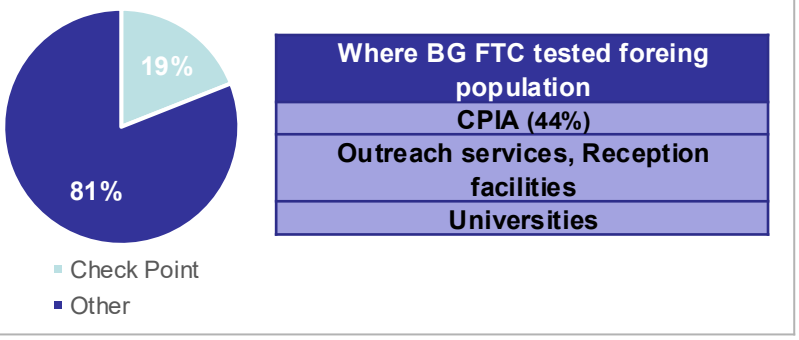
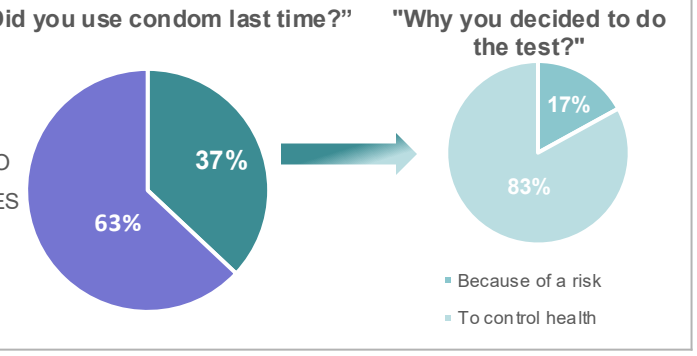
TABLE 3: The concept of risk-taking behaviour in foreign population