

18° CONGRESSO NAZIONALE



Italian Conference
on **AIDS** and **Antiviral**
Research

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Promosso da
 **SIMIT**
Società Italiana
di Malattie Infettive
e Tropicali



CATANIA
20|22 Sheraton Hotel
maggio Catania Four Points

2026

**Embrace
Treatment**

**Empower
Prevention**

**Advance
Innovation**



"The value of promoting hepatitis and HIV screening in high-prevalence populations: the "Test in the City" project "

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**The complete working group is made up of representatives of the 14 cities participating in the project*

Affiliation

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Declaration of potential conflicts of interest



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President of Don Giuseppe Monticelli Social Cooperative Society which manages the following projects:

- *#cHIVuoleconoscere 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 editions*, funded by the Community Award Program of Gilead Sciences.
- Together for Health, funded by the Zeroing In: Migrant and Mobile Population Grant of Gilead Sciences.
- CONCRETO, funded by the RHIVolution 2025 Call of ViiV Healthcare.
- Take and Test: Do It Yourself, Do It for You! — which received sponsorship from Gilead Sciences.

«Test in the City» project (SLTC proactive)



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The **first Italian Project** which involved the **National FTCs Network** in order to proactively support the healthcare system in **identifying undiagnosed patients with viral hepatitis (HBV, HCV, HDV) and HIV**, and in facilitating their linkage to care by:



Reaching high-prevalence populations

- **migrants:** communities from Eastern Europe (Romania, Moldova, Albania, Ukraine), the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Ecuador, India, Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, Latin America, China;
- people using drugs (**PUD**);
- people **over** the age of 55.



Engaging key field stakeholders

- third sector organizations (e.g., Caritas, Red Cross, CUAMM),
- CAS (Extraordinary Reception Centers), CPIA (Provincial Centers for Adult Education), Italian language schools
- SMI (Integrated Multidisciplinary Services), SerD (Drug Addiction Services),
- low-threshold proximity service management entities
- institutional representatives (Consulates/Embassies) and community leaders



The project is promoted by Gilead Sciences

Project Tools



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Outreach & Awareness

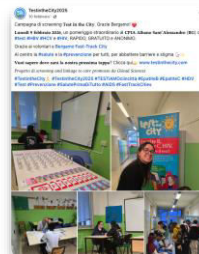
- Dedicated website (www.testinthecity.com) and social media
- **Brochures and posters**
- **Videos** in 14 languages
- **Social campaign** on FB and Instagram
- City-specific **digital cards**

Data Collection

- Paper informed consent for test performance
- Data collection tool (Cobatest questionnaire / Google Form)
- Summary tables of tests performed and reactive results
- Referral document to nearest STI center for confirmatory testing and follow-up

Coordination & Best Practices

- Regular meetings among all participating cities
- **Experience sharing, discussion of challenges, development of new ideas**



Types of testing activities organized



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Ad Hoc Events in Specific Contexts

- CPIA (Provincial Adult Education Centres) and Italian language schools
- Embassies
- CAS (Extraordinary Reception Centres)
- SAI Project (Reception and Integration Systems)
- Community Centers
- Outpatient clinics and proximity services
- Dormitories and Solidarity Canteens
- Sporting and social events organised by foreign associations



Continuous Testing in Structured Contexts

- City checkpoints
- Drop-In / Low-Threshold Services
- SerD / Addiction Services

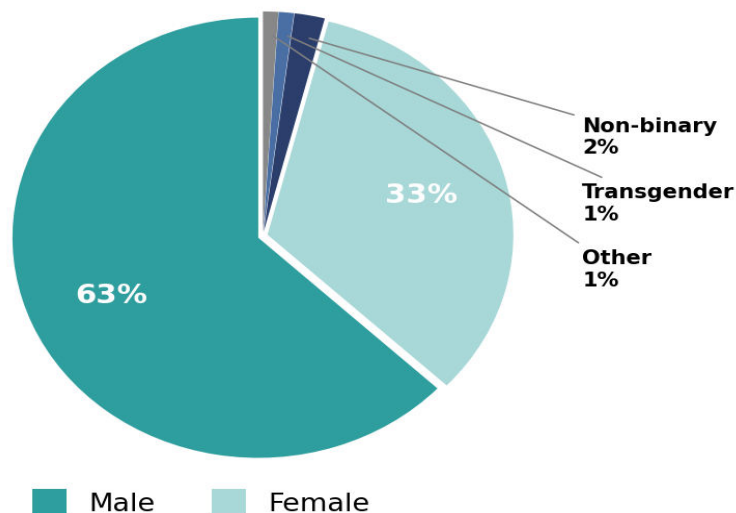
The People Tested



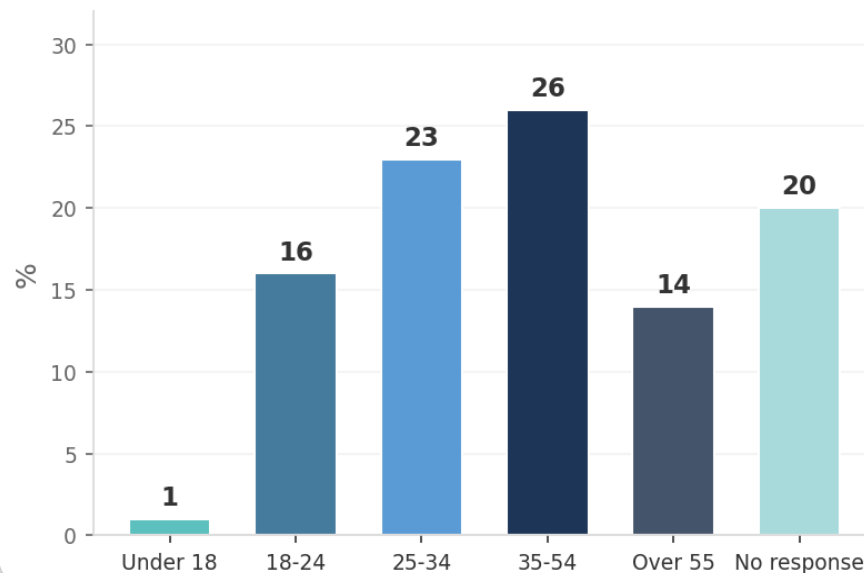
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5,020 questionnaires analyzed related to the target population

Gender



Age



Elements of the analyzed population



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11.67%

report no access to NHS

16.4%

report having no home
in the last year
(9.18% as a current condition)

2.40%

sex workers

12.71%

use psychoactive substances

127

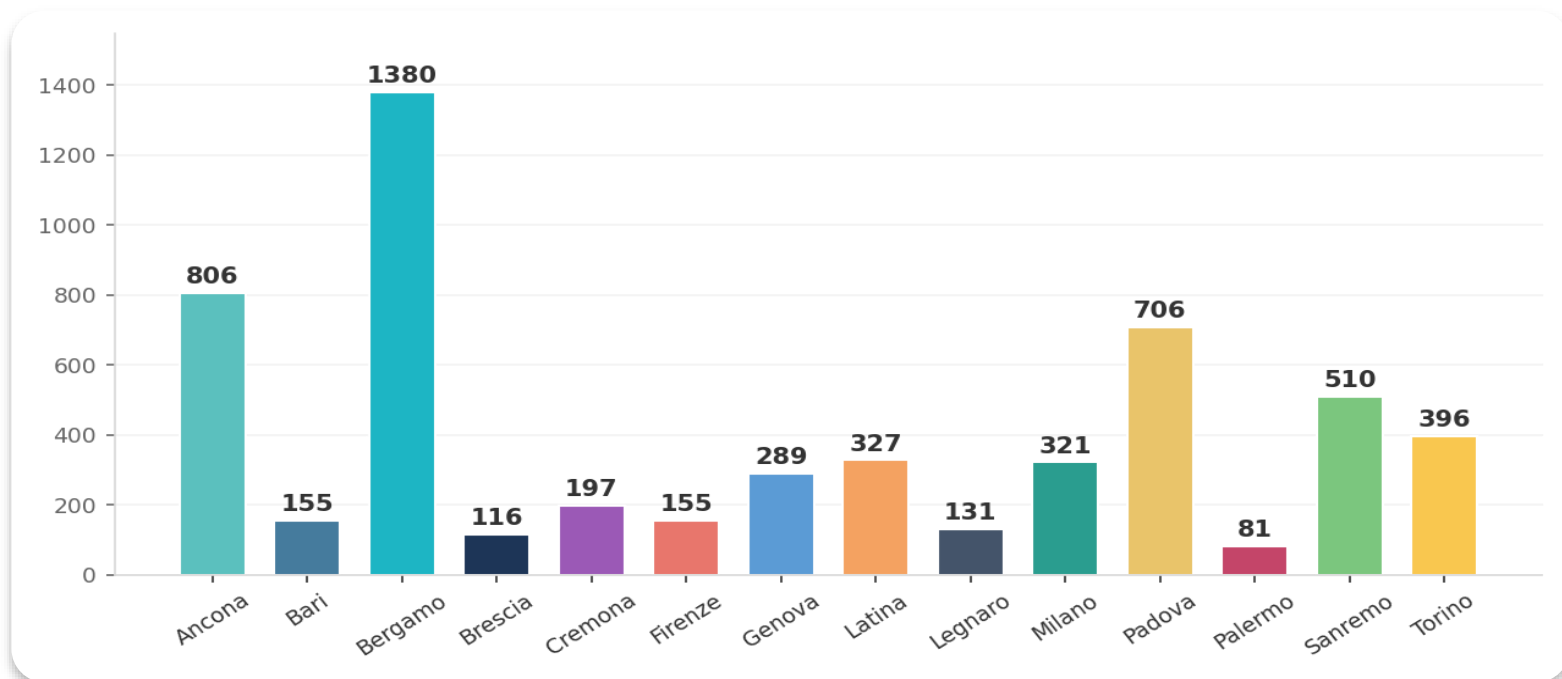
nationalities detected
(85% of foreign origin)

Testing - 2025



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People tested: 5,572 · Target population: 5,020



Screening results: prevalence and reactivity



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5020 people in target tested				
IST	HIV	HCV	HBV	TOT.
No. of target people tested	4967	4993	4983	5020 (14943 tests performed)
No. Reactive tests	17 (+19 note)	38 (+ 87 note)	85 (+16 note)	140 (+122 note)
Prevalence of new reactivity	0.34%	0.76%	1.72%	2.80%
Prevalence of known diagnoses	0.38%	1.74%	0.32%	2.43%
Total Head (new and well-known diagnoses)	0.72%	2.50%	2.04%	5.23%

In-depth analysis: the project's targets



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The people tested in the target refer to*:

- **84.34%** to the migrant population
- **13.54%** to the population over 55
- **12.7%** to users of psychoactive substances (DU)

*It should be noted that within the calculation there are people who belong to more than one target.

	Migrants			DU			Over 55		
Prevalence	Total	New diag.*	Known diag.	Total	New diag.*	Known diag.	Total	New diag.*	Known diag.
HIV	0.53%	0.33%	0.23%	2.36%	1.26%	1.10%	0.60%	0.00%	0.60%
HCV	1.89%	0.62%	1.27%	5.70%	1%	4.70%	5.60%	0.60%	5%
HBV	2.29%	1.91%	0.33%	0.80%	0.50%	0.30%	1%	0.60%	0.40%

Characteristics of people with infection*



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	HIV	HCV	HBV
Gender	male 63%	male 80%	male 92%
Age	35-54 (70%)	45-54 (28%)	under 44 (85.7%)
Origin	Italy 36% Sub-Saharan Africa 25% Latin America 16% Pakistan 13%	South Asia 32% Italy 30% Sub-Saharan Africa 20%	Sub-Saharan Africa 38% (Burkina Faso 11%) South Asia 20% (India 11%)
No health-care service access	32%	34%	28%
Homeless	45%	27%	23%
Co-infections	4.3%	4%	not relevant
Psychoactive drug use	39%	32%	5%

*The data presented take into account total reactivity, both new and already known

Conclusion – first year activity



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Proximity screening is crucial to uncover undiagnosed cases the healthcare system misses, enabling early diagnosis and continuity of care



Personalized support breaks down cultural, economic and social barriers to healthcare access



The alliance between local healthcare facilities and third-sector organizations is key — combining rapid patient management with deep community expertise



Strong local networks are essential to understand community dynamics and reach target populations in the right settings



These public health efforts deserve greater institutional and policy-level support and recognition

Thank you!



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TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Proximity, personalization and networking: the formula for discovering the underground and guaranteeing the right to care for all, leaving no one behind.