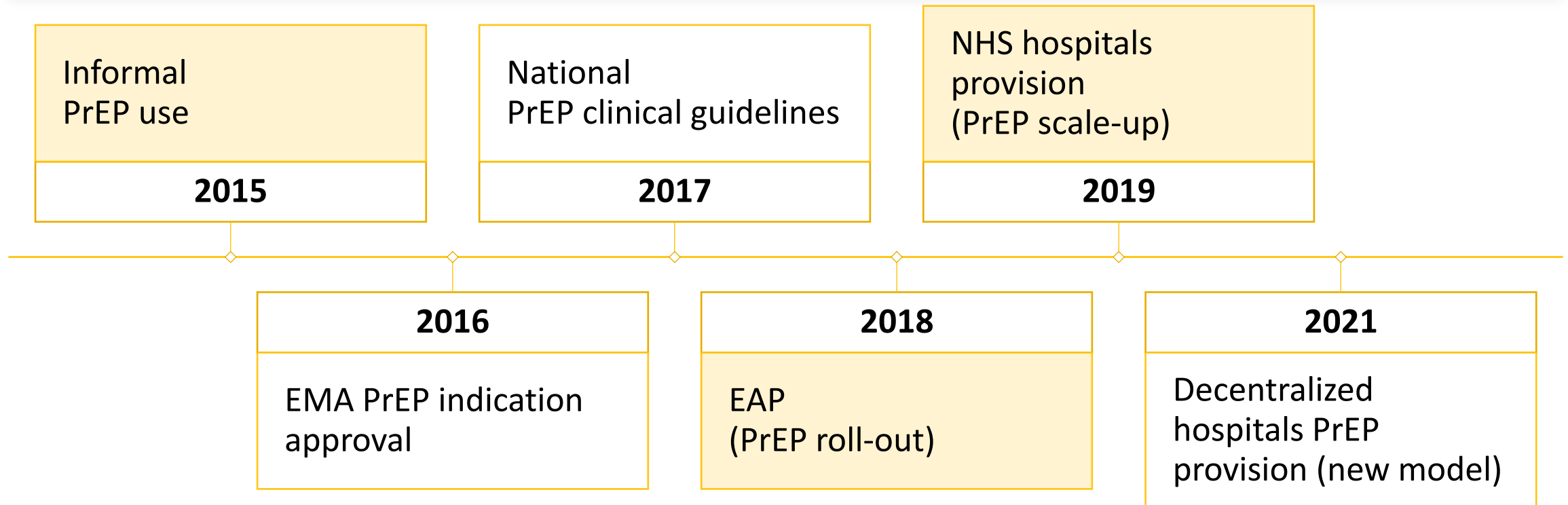


A Community-Based Organization's role in HIV PrEP referral and monitoring: an examination of practices and challenges

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Critical PrEP-related roll-out events in Portugal

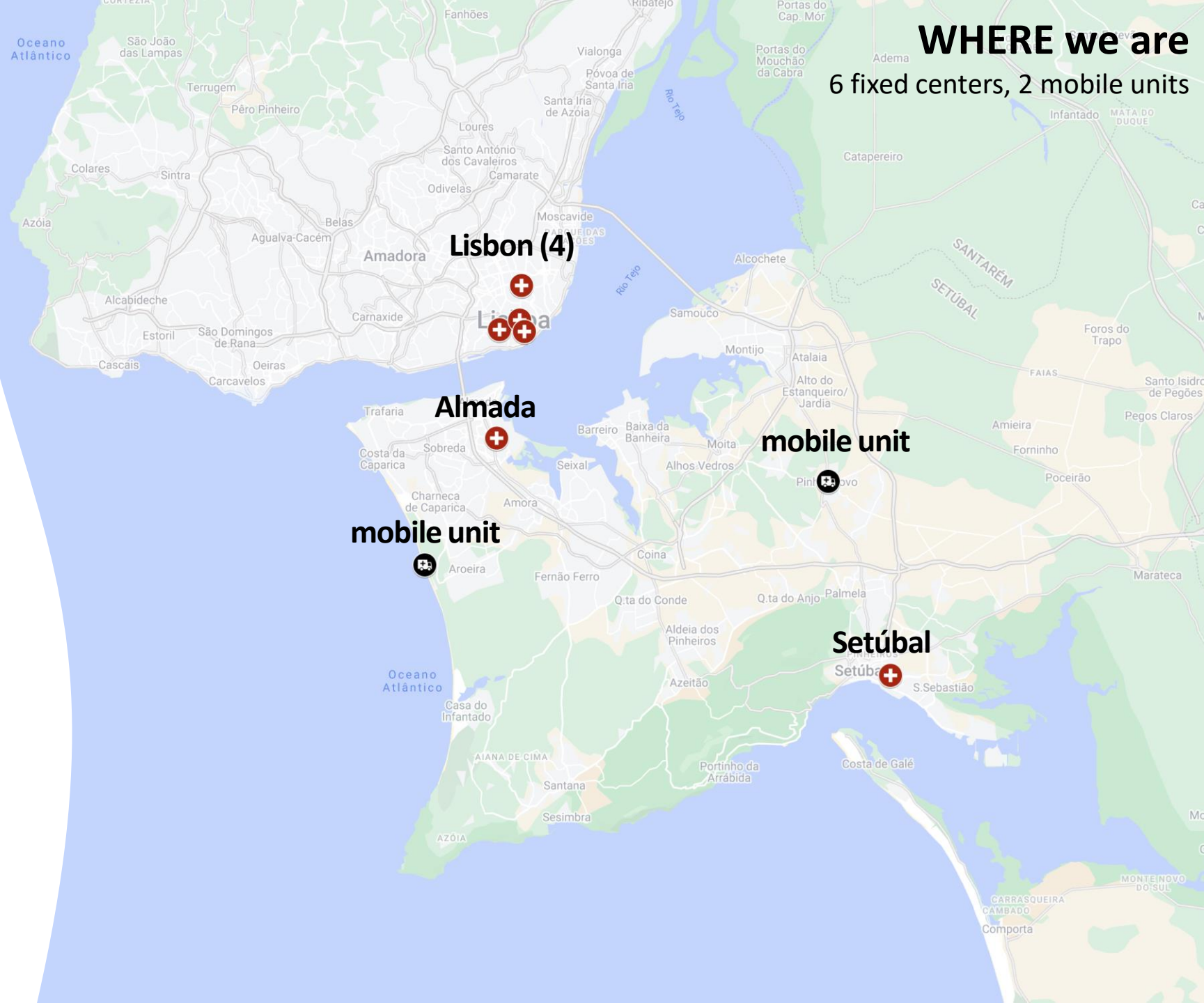


Portuguese PrEP delivery models characteristics

Model	Target population	Delivery setting	PrEP provider	Delivery channel
In-Hospital	People at substantial HIV risk, according to predefined national criteria.	Hospital's outpatient clinic	Hospital healthcare team, physicians mostly from infectious disease departments	In-person visits are the standard practice, including those related to drug delivery at the hospital's pharmacy
Hospital extension		Community-based sexual health center		

WHERE we are

6 fixed centers, 2 mobile units



Lisbon (4)

Almada

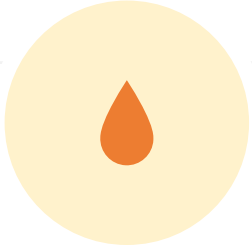
mobile unit

mobile unit

Setúbal

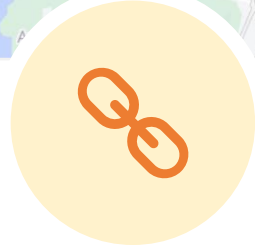
HOW we work

provision of preventive, diagnostic and holistic healthcare



INTEGRATED RDT

HIV, HBV, HCV, and syphilis RDTs.
Led by trained CHW/peers.
Targeting key populations.



LINKAGE TO CARE (LTC)

Referral to NHS.
Navigation support.
Assistance in retention in care.



MEDICAL SERVICES

Bacterial STI prevention, screening, and treatment.
Mental health services and support.
Community-led hepatitis post-diagnostic care
Community-led biomedical HIV prevention.



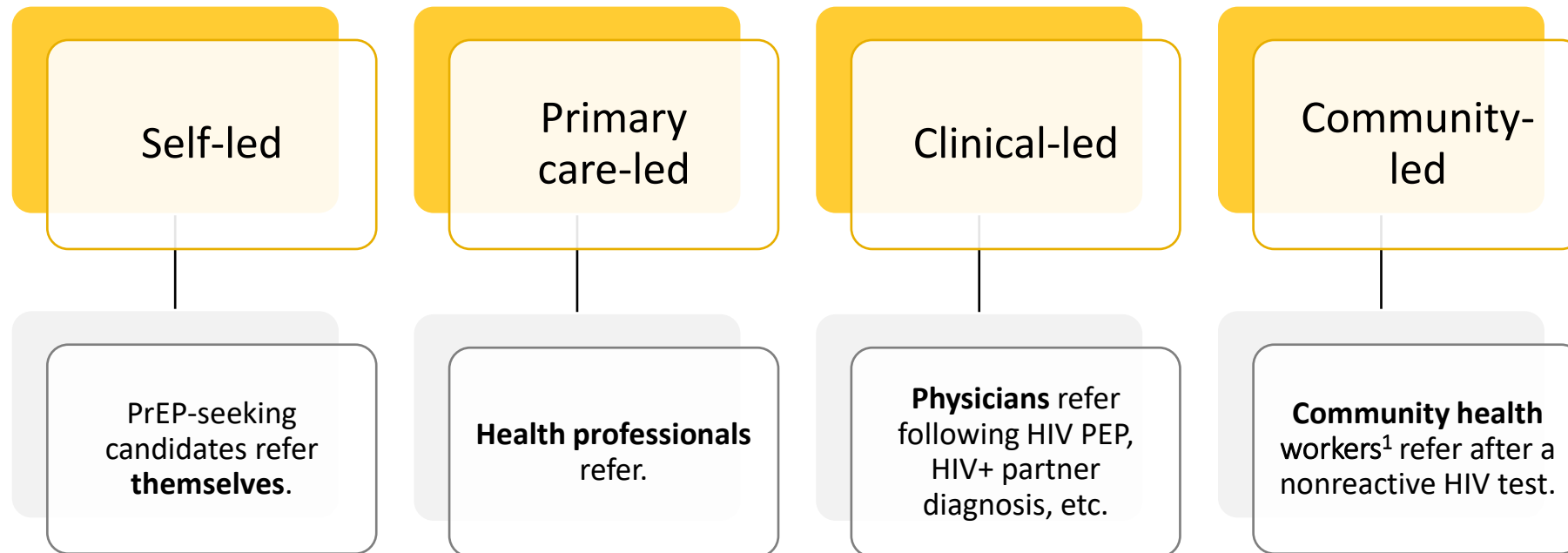
SOCIAL INTERVENTION

Referral to government healthcare and social services.
Navigation support.
Harm reduction.
Housing first.

COMBINATION PREVENTION

Distribution of materials for safer sexual practices and drug use and biomedical prevention.

Types of PrEP referrals to NHS hospital units



¹ Someone who's trained to provide sexual health support around HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, and other STIs to key populations. A CHW delivers health promotion or public health activities in community settings (not in hospitals or clinics) (ESTICOM, 2018).

WHAT we record on PrEP referrals

Time

(date of)

HIV non-reactive
test

PrEP referral

First PrEP
medical visit

Person

Age

Gender identity

Key population

Country of birth

Place

Hospital
referred

Outcomes

Time lags until
first PrEP visit

Linkage to care

Objectives



Characterize the **community-led PrEP referrals** from one NGO in Lisbon in 2021 and 2022



Assess hospitals **response times**



Assess **linkage to care (LTC)**

Operational definitions

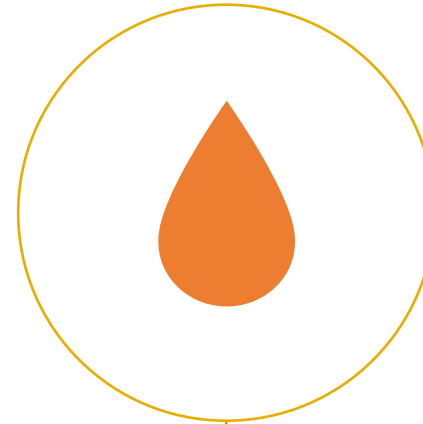
CHW referrals to HIV PrEP, upon consent, and HIV nonreactive test result.

Hospitals **maximum response time target**.
First PrEP visit in **≤30 days** after the referral.

LTC is attending the first physician visit.

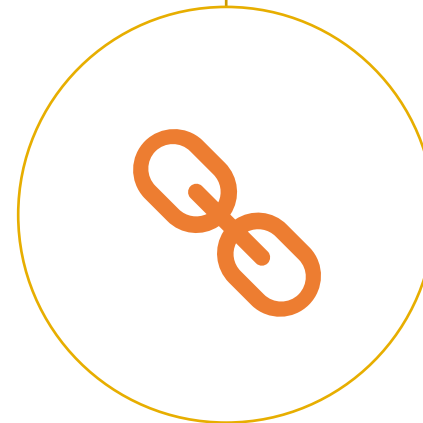
Characterize the community-led PrEP referrals from one NGO in Lisbon in 2021 and 2022

% (n) PrEP referrals



51,720

HIV non-reactive tests



6.9% (3,577) were referred to 27 PrEP sites

NUTS regions	NUTS region name	2021	2022		
NUTS II	Norte	1,00 (16)	0,86 (17)		
NUTS III	Alto Minho	0,00 (0)	0,00 (0)		
NUTS III	Cávado	0,00 (0)	0,05 (1)		
NUTS III	Ave	0,00 (0)	0,00 (0)		
NUTS III	Área Metropolitana do Porto	1,00 (16)	0,81 (16)		
NUTS III	Alto Tâmega	0,00 (0)	0,00 (0)		
NUTS III	Tâmega e Sousa	0,00 (0)	0,00 (0)		
NUTS III	Douro	0,00 (0)	0,00 (0)		
NUTS III	Terras de Trás-os-Montes	0,00 (0)	0,00 (0)		
NUTS II	Centro	1,25 (20)	1,67 (33)		
NUTS III	Oeste	0,00 (0)	0,00 (0)		
NUTS III	Região de Aveiro	0,00 (0)	0,00 (0)		
NUTS III	Região de Coimbra	0,88 (14)	0,81 (16)		
NUTS III	Região de Leiria	0,00 (0)	0,00 (0)		
NUTS III	Viseu Dão Lafões	0,00 (0)	0,00 (0)		
NUTS III	Beira Baixa	0,00 (0)	0,00 (0)		
NUTS III	Médio Tejo	0,38 (6)	0,81 (16)		
NUTS III	Beiras e Serra da Estrela	0,00 (0)	0,05 (1)		
NUTS II	Área Metropolitana de Lisboa	95,99 (1533)	95,61 (1893)		
NUTS II	Alentejo	0,56 (9)	0,30 (6)		
NUTS III	Alentejo Litoral	0,00 (0)	0,00 (0)		
NUTS III	Baixo Alentejo	0,31 (5)	0,20 (4)		
NUTS III	Lezíria do Tejo	0,00 (0)	0,00 (0)		
NUTS III	Alto Alentejo	0,00 (0)	0,10 (2)		
NUTS III	Alentejo Central	0,25 (4)	0,00 (0)		
NUTS II	Algarve	0,56 (9)	0,40 (8)		
NUTS I	NUTS II	NUTS III	Região Autónoma dos Açores	0,00 (5)	0,30 (1)
NUTS I	NUTS II	NUTS III	Região Autónoma da Madeira	0,31 (5)	0,05 (1)
NUTS I			Continente	99,69 (1577)	99,19 (1946)
			Missing data on PrEP site	0,31 (5)	0,81 (16)
Country	Portugal	100 (1592)	100 (1964)		



Characterize the community-led PrEP referrals from one NGO in Lisbon in 2021 and 2022

PrEP referrals per PrEP site, per NUTS region and country, per year, % (n)

Technical note:

Hospital PrEP facilities address was used to determine the NUTS region affiliation. Their facilities are the point of access irrespective of their area of influence for other healthcare provision.

Characterize the community-led PrEP referrals from one NGO in Lisbon in 2021 and 2022

Sociodemographic characteristics of people referred

	2021	2022	Total
Age, years			
Median (P25-P75)	30 (26-38)	31 (26-37)	31 (26-38)
Missing % (n)	0.25 (4)	0.35 (7)	0.31 (11)
Gender, % (n)			
Cisgender men	89.42 (1,428)	90.25 (1,787)	89.88 (3,215)
Transgender men	0.31 (5)	0.35 (7)	0.34 (12)
Cisgender women	8.33 (133)	7.47 (148)	7,86 (281)
Transgender women	1.50 (24)	1.01 (20)	1.23 (44)
Non-binary people	0.25 (4)	0.66 (13)	0.48 (17)
Missing	0.19 (3)	0.25 (5)	0.22 (8)
Country of birth, % (n)			
Portugal	46.1 (736)	40.7 (805)	43.1 (1,541)
Brazil	36.4 (582)	40.8 (808)	39.9 (1,390)
Other countries	17.5 (279)	18.5 (367)	18.1 (646)
Priority groups, % (n)			
MSM only	85.28 (1362)	84.39 (1671)	84,79 (3033)
SW only	6.95 (111)	7.83 (155)	7,44 (266)
PWID only	0.38 (6)	0.20 (4)	0,28 (10)
MSM + SW	4.63 (74)	6.36 (126)	5,59 (200)
MSM + PWID	0.06 (1)	0.45 (9)	0,28 (10)
SW + PWID	0 (0)	0 (0)	0,00 (0)
Missing	2.69 (43)	0.76 (15)	1,62 (58)
PrEP referrals, n	1,597	1,980	3577

**Time to PrEP request¹, days,
median (P25-P75)**

2021	2022	Total
3 (0-11)	9 (6-13)	8 (0-13)

¹% of missings: 3.76 in 2021 and 6.63 in 2022.

Assess hospital
response times

**Time lag between
HIV test date and
PrEP referral
submission to
hospitals**

NUTS III region	Hospital name	2021	2022
Cávado	Hosp. Braga	n.a.	21
	Hosp. Eduardo Santos Silva	50	n.a.
Área Metropolitana do Porto	Hosp. S. João	48 (28-51)	54 (48-60)
	Hosp. St ^o Ant ^o	n.a.	21 (17-42)
Lezíria do Tejo	Hosp. Santarém	51 (47-53)	
Área Metropolitana de Lisboa	Hosp. Beatriz Ângelo	n.a.	55 (36-81)
	Hosp. Curry Cabral	n.a.	n.a.
	Hosp. Garcia Orta - GAT Almada	n.a.	35 (14-50)
	Hosp. Montijo	n.a.	18 (15-28)
	Hosp. N ^a Sr ^a do Rosário	17,5 (12-29)	20 (13-37)
Algarve	Hosp. Portimão	53	n.a.

Technical note:

The overall median time is not presented: ≥50% of missing data on PrEP visits date. Most hospitals directly contact the persons referred rather than the referring NGO.

Median times are reported only for PrEP sites with ≤15% missing data.



Assess hospital response times

Time lag between PrEP referral and first PrEP visit

Assess LTC

	2021	2022	Total
PrEP referrals without data on the appointment, n (%)	753 (47.2)	1,253 (63.3)	2,006 (56.1)
PrEP referrals without data on linkage success, n (%)	741 (98.4)	1,251 (99.8)	1,992 (99.3)

Conclusions

- \cong 7% of those with an HIV non-reactive test had a PrEP referral.
 - PrEP referrals among non-cisgender men were scarce.
 - Native and Brazil-born persons had equal referral proportions.
 - Factors contributing to missing data/hampering traceability:
 - High volume of PrEP referrals;
 - Lack of feedback from hospitals to referral centers;
 - Emphasis on tracking referrals and LTC for positive HIV/HBV/HCV statuses.
-

Funding



Partners



Gilead Sciences' FOCUS Program funding supports BBV screening & LTC to a first appointment after diagnosis regardless of how organizations handle subsequent patient care and treatment.

Acknowledgments



Discussion

HepHIV **2023**
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