

# Targeted screening for HIV infection in emergency departments. Two-year experience in 20 Catalan hospitals. VIHGILA Project

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## Objectives

The VIHGILA project was launched in June 2021. It was proposed to carry out a targeted HIV screening in 10 hospital emergency departments of hospitals in Catalonia. Professionals were encouraged to perform HIV serology in 5 specific scenarios, following GESIDA/SEMES recommendations: pneumonia and herpes zoster (HZ) in under 65 years of age, mononucleoside syndrome (MNS), STD, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and Chem Sex. In verifying the excellence of the data obtained during first year (55 cases of HIV out of 6180 serologies, 0.82%) it was decided to expand from 10 to 20 hospitals. This extension involves the participation of level 2 and level 3 county/urban hospitals.

## Methods

The serologies performed in all hospitals were analyzed: the reason for performing them and their results. There is a central coordination of the project that weekly requests the updating of data. The data are sent telematically and collected in a centralized database. The data are public and can be viewed at <https://www.urgencies-vihgila.cat/>.

## Results

The results are reported after two years of follow-up, between June 2021 and August 2023. We detected 150 new HIV diagnosis, from 16300 determinations (0.93%). 67 patients were diagnosed with various pathologies and 83 patients were diagnosed following SEMES/GESIDA recommendations: SMN 12, (1.2%), PPE 10 (0.5%), Chem sex 3 (2.3%), HZ 3 (0.7%), pneumonia 34 (1.6%), STD 21 (1%). In the last year 95 patients have been detected. 52 of them in the 9 of the 10 new hospitals. Next figure (Fig 1) show actualized data from VIHGILA STUDY.

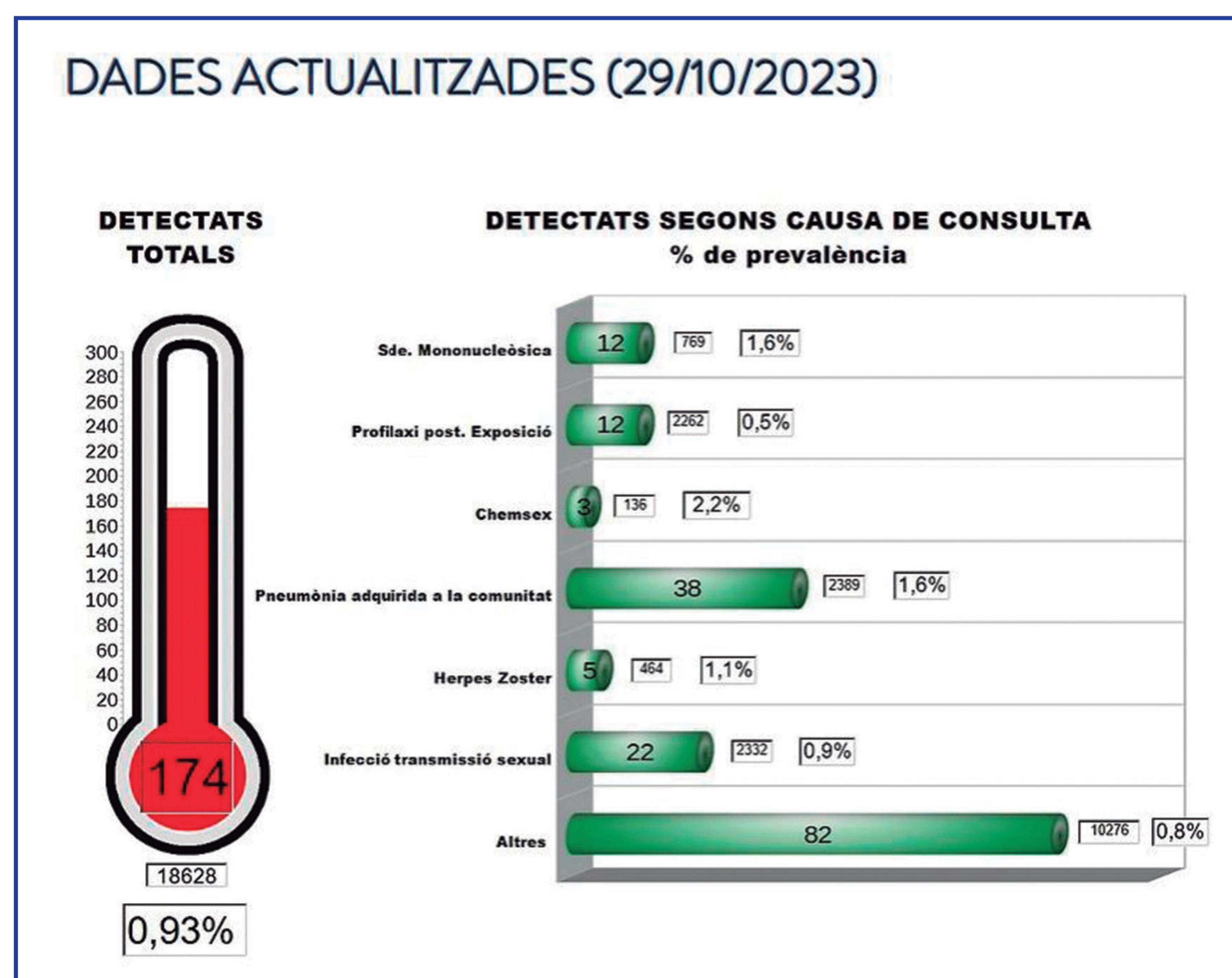


Figure 1. Actualized data from VIHGILA STUDY

## Conclusion

About 1% of serologies performed are positive for HIV. It is striking the high level of positives in patients with pneumonia (1,6%). The strategy of targeted screening is clearly cost-effective. The inclusion of new hospital achieves a higher number of detections than the first 10 hospitals chosen. The involvement and proactivity of professionals in detecting new cases is essential.