



Ath Checkpoint:

Reducing Undiagnosed HIV Infections in Crisis-Affected Services in Greece

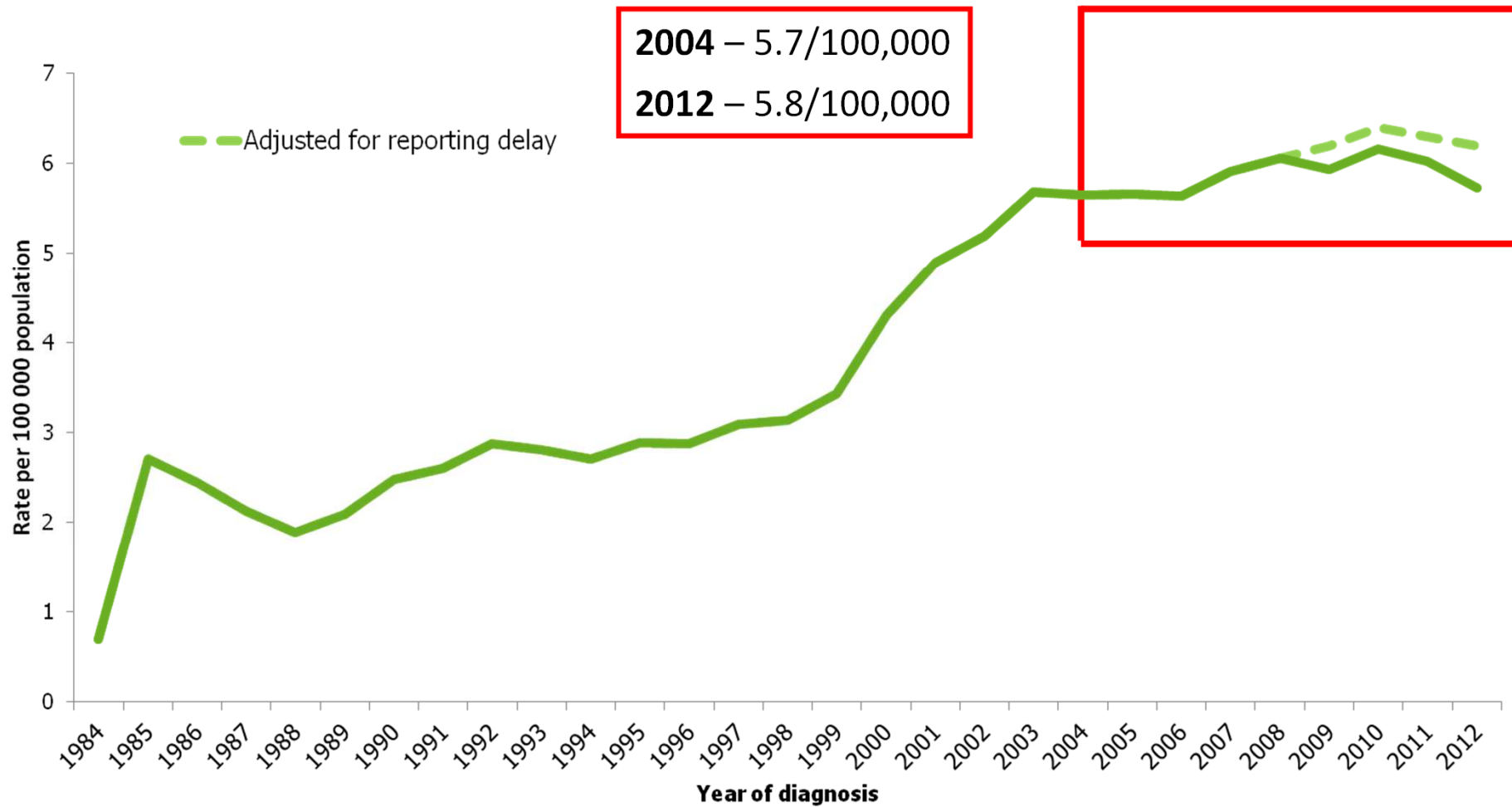
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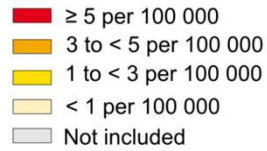
Background..

HIV is *not* decreasing in the European Union



HIV infections diagnosed, 2012

Men who have Sex with Men, EU/EEA

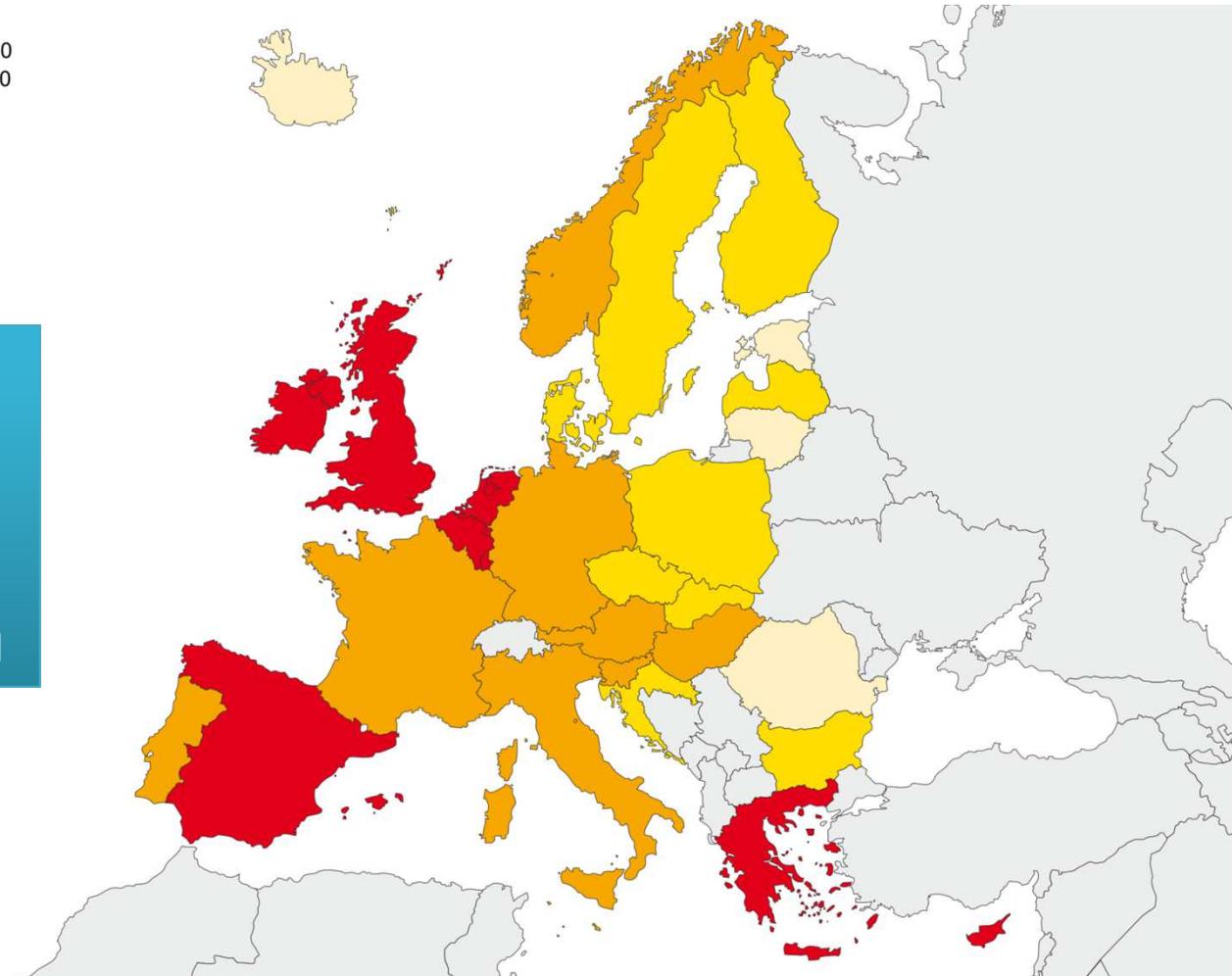


40% of new HIV diagnoses in 2012

16 EU/EEA countries report $>5\%$ HIV prevalence among MSM

Non-visible countries

- Red: Luxembourg
- Orange: Malta



Background Greece

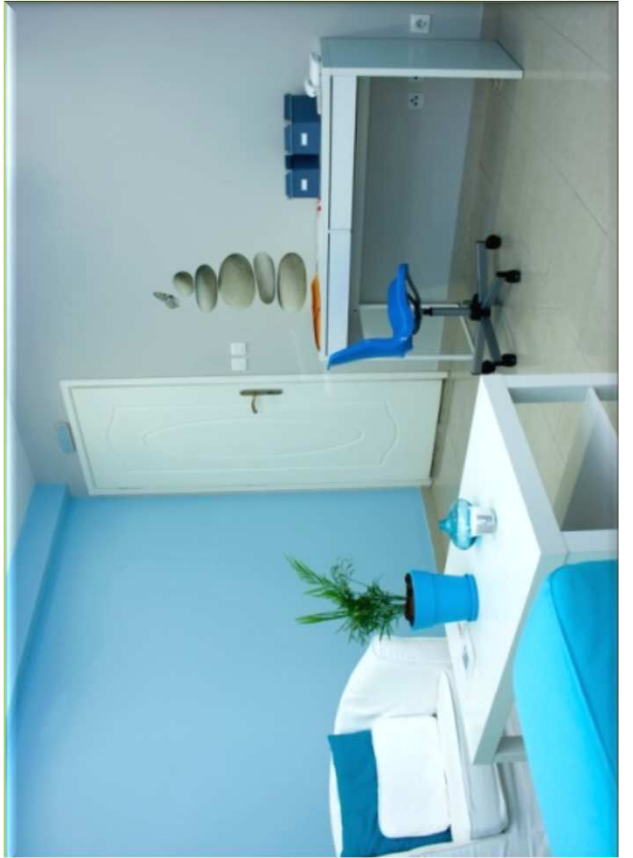
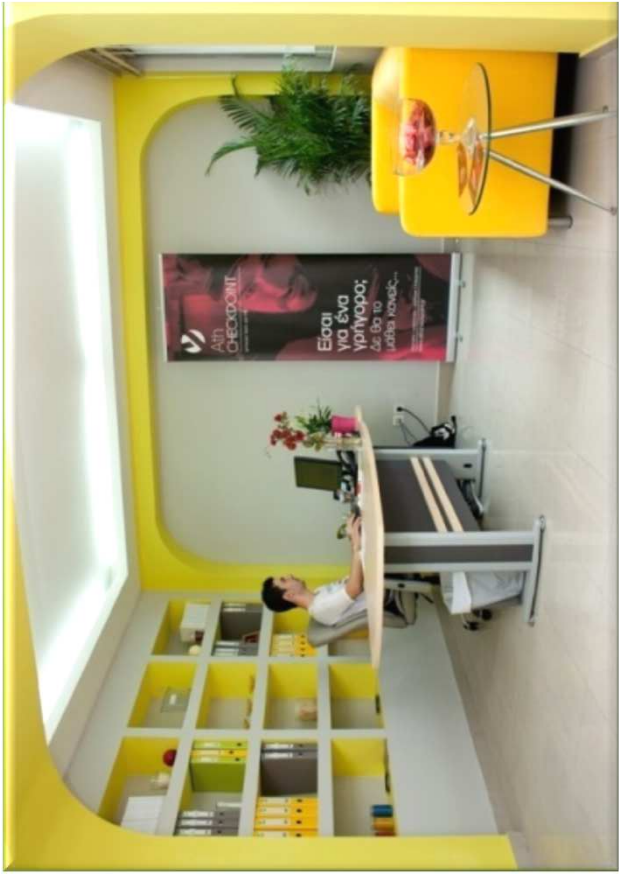
- Most HIV infections in Greece occur among MSM
- 13.622 reported HIV infections
- 83% males and 17% females
- MSM (almost 65%)
- A range of 25% to 30% of undiagnosed, corresponds to 2.000 to 2.500 MSM



- Economic crisis: 2010 onwards
- Testing facilities reduced
- Fee for testing is introduced
- Diagnostics stock-outs
- HIV testing severely disrupted



Ath
CHECKPOINT



Ath Checkpoint

- **Test**
 - Offer testing, support and linkage to health care
- **Promote Safer Sex**
 - Risk minimization through a candid, non-judgmental two-way-communication & counseling
 - Outreach of informative material and condoms at community venues
- **Battle Stigma**
 - Stance towards HIV testing – Routine testing
 - Treatment impact on prognosis and QoL
 - Transmission reduction benefit of ARV treatment

Outreach

HepHIV 2014
5-7 OCTOBER BARCELONA

- ✓ Athens & Thessaloniki Pride
- ✓ LGBTQI Festivals
- ✓ International Condom Day
- ✓ World Aids Day





 **CHECKPOINT**
HIV prevention center

Ath Checkpoint

- Rapid HIV Antibodies Test – INSTI™ (Biolytical Laboratories)
- Data collection on: socio-demographics, sexual orientation, testing history and sexual behavior
- Data analysis: SPSS, edition 21

Data Collection

Appointment Details Registration Form

1. How did you hear about the Ath Checkpoint?

<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Flyer
<input type="checkbox"/> Website	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Informative sites	<input type="checkbox"/> Magazine
<input type="checkbox"/> Poster	<input type="checkbox"/> GayRomeo
<input type="checkbox"/> GayDar	<input type="checkbox"/> Grindr/Scruff
<input type="checkbox"/> Condoms	<input type="checkbox"/> TV spot
<input type="checkbox"/> Helpline	<input type="checkbox"/> Streetwork
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Reminder Service

2. Residence

<input type="checkbox"/> Athens	<input type="checkbox"/> Salonica
<input type="checkbox"/> Patras	<input type="checkbox"/> Larissa
<input type="checkbox"/> Volos	<input type="checkbox"/> Abroad
Other _____	

3. Have you ever had an HIV test before?

Yes No I do not know / remember

4. When was the last time you got tested for HIV?

< 6 Months < 1 Year

> 2 Years Other _____

5. Where did you get tested for HIV that last time?

Public Sector Private Sector Mobile Unit

Checkpoint Abroad Other _____

6. Were you content with the services provided to you?

Yes No

7. Have you been tested for other STIs during the last 12 months?

Yes No I do not know / remember

8. What kind of other STIs you have been tested for?

<input type="checkbox"/> Syphilis	<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis B
<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis C	<input type="checkbox"/> Gonorrhoea
<input type="checkbox"/> Chlamydia	<input type="checkbox"/> HPV
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

9. Where did you get tested for other STIs that last time?

Public Sector Private Sector Mobile Unit

Checkpoint Abroad Other _____

10. Were you content with the services provided to you?

Yes No

11. Have you been vaccinated for Hepatitis B?

Yes No I do not know / remember

12. Have you got any close friend of yours who is HIV+?

Yes No

13. Have you had unprotected sex during the last 12 months?

Yes No

14. Did you use a condom the last time you had sex?

Yes No

15. How many sexual partners you had during the last 6 months?

0 1 2-5

6-12 > 12

16. Where did you meet your sexual partners during the last 12 months?

<input type="checkbox"/> Dating sites	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile applications	<input type="checkbox"/> Bars - Clubs
<input type="checkbox"/> Cruising Places	<input type="checkbox"/> Friends
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Brothel

17. Client code: _____

(This field contains the last name along with the first characters of the first name and the year of birth in the end. eg. George Michailakis Year of Birth 1972 = 30081972)

Client Code: _____

18. Sex: Male Female

Trans

19. Age: _____

20. Population Group:

<input type="checkbox"/> MSM	<input type="checkbox"/> Migrant
<input type="checkbox"/> IDU	<input type="checkbox"/> Sex Worker
<input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual	<input type="checkbox"/> Trans
<input type="checkbox"/> Does not wish to say <input type="checkbox"/> Was not asked	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

21. Reason for getting tested

Scheduled check-up

Potential exposure to HIV

Dangerous sexual practices

Other _____

22. HIV test result

Reactive Non-reactive

NON-REACTIVE result

23. Was the client offered to be reminded to get re-tested after 3, 6 or 12 months?

Yes - Not expressed wish Yes - 3 Months

Yes - 6 Months Yes - 12 Months No

24. Client's contact number: _____

25. Client's e-mail: _____

26. Was the client suggested to evaluate the Ath Checkpoint?

Yes No

REACTIVE result

27. Was a confirmatory test in an Infections' Unit scheduled;

Yes No

28. Were written directions to the Infections' Unit and the appointment's details given to the client?

Yes No

29. Did the client accept to get accompanied by an Ath Checkpoint staff member to the Infections' Unit for the confirmatory test?

Yes No Were not asked

30. Did the client accept to get accompanied by an Ath Checkpoint staff member to the Infections' Unit to get the confirmatory test results?

Yes No Were not asked

31. Did the client ask for an extra counselling appointment?

Yes No

Referral

32. Was the client referred to a health care unit and if yes, which one?

Yes No

Which one? _____

For what reason? _____

Appointment Details

33. Was it about a scheduled appointment?

Yes No

34. Appointment No: _____

35. Appointment Date: _____

36. Appointment Day: _____

37. Appointment Time: _____

38. Counsellor's Name: _____

39. Register's name: _____

Counsellor's signature: _____

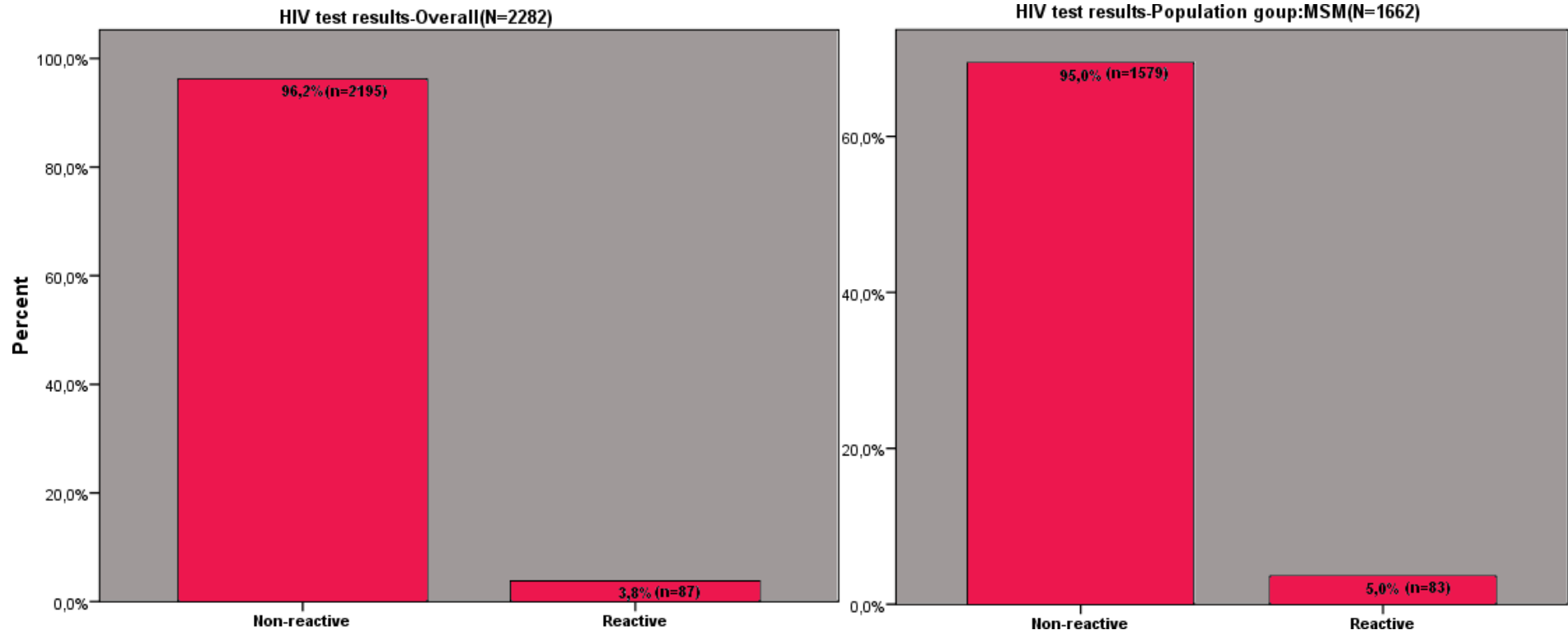
Results

- 2.282 participants were tested in 2013 (mean age 31.2 years old)
- One third of them (n=686) had never been tested before
- Most participants were males (n=1949, 85.1%)
- MSM: (n=1662, 72.8%)
- Heterosexual participants: (n=543, 23.8%)

Results

- Diagnosed n=87 (3.8%)
 - MSM n=83 (5%)
 - Heterosexual n=5 (0,9%)
- 15 (17.2%) were participants without previous test
- 24 (27.6%) participants had a self-reported negative HIV test less than 6 months ago

HIV Diagnoses

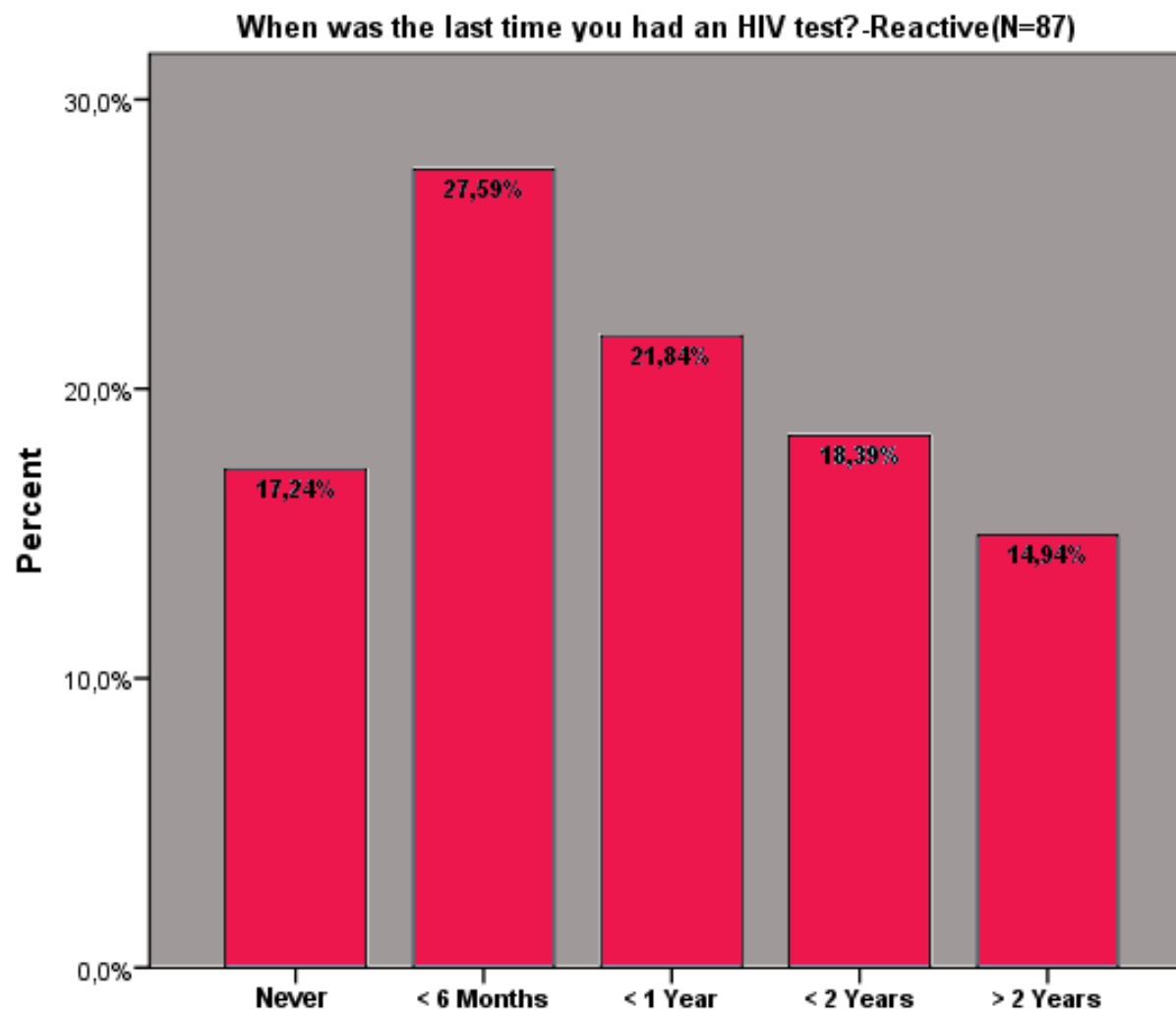


Overall n= 87 (3.8%)

MSM n=83 (5%)

Recent Infections

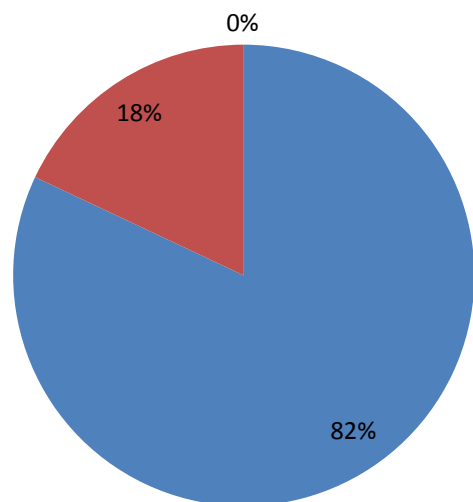
- 43 participants (49.43%) had a self-reported negative HIV test less than a year ago
- 15 participants (17.2%) with no previous test



Jan – Sep. 2014: 2855 clients

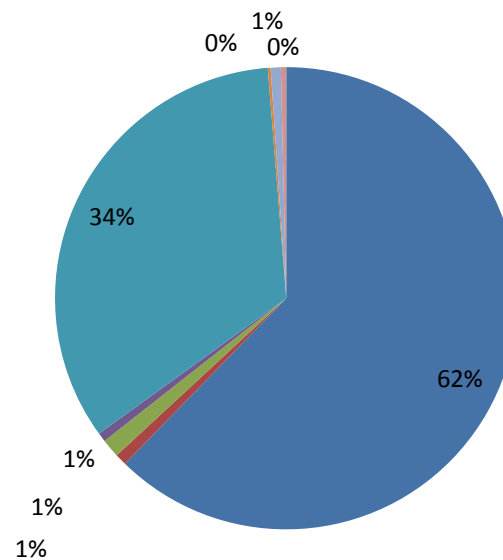
Sex

■ Male (2334) ■ Female (515) ■ Trans (6)



Population Group

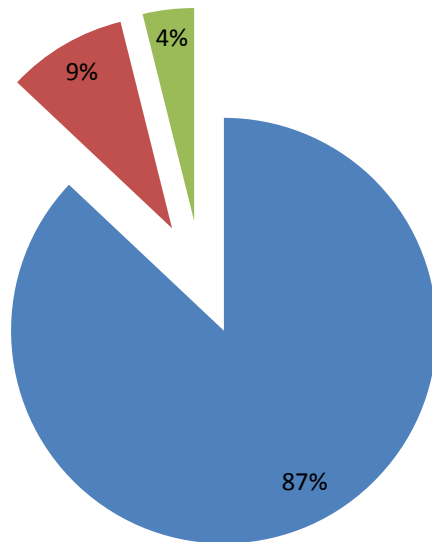
■ MSM ■ Immigrant ■ IDU ■ Sex Worker
■ Heterosexual ■ Trans ■ Lesbian ■ Bisexual (Fem)



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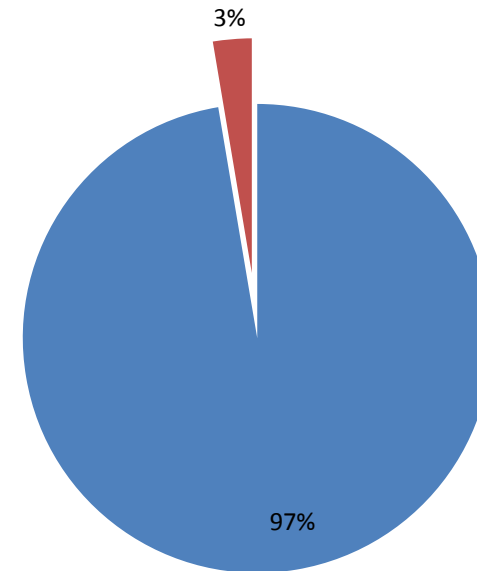
Reactive Test Population Group

■ MSM (67) ■ Heterosexuals (7) ■ IDUs (3)



HIV Test Result

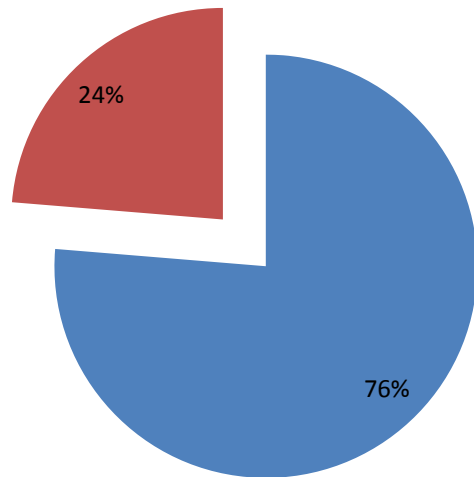
■ Non-reactive (2778) ■ Reactive (76)



Jan – Sep 2014: 2855 clients

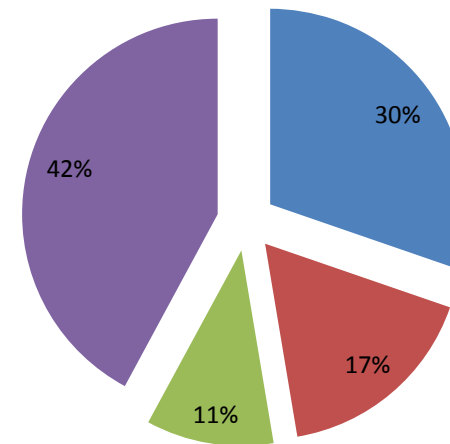
Reactive Test Results: Have you ever had an HIV test?

■ Yes (58) ■ No (18)



Reactive Test Results: When was the last time you got tested for HIV?

■ < 6 Months (23) ■ < 1 Year (13) ■ < 2 Years (8) ■ > 2 Years (32)



Conclusions

- Ath Checkpoint has offered free rapid HIV test targeting MSM while being open to all
- Out of 87 infections in 2013 and the 76 in 2014 around 50% were people who tested in the last year and 17% who had never been tested before
- We aim at *further reducing* the HIV undiagnosed fraction by facilitating testing among vulnerable groups who are reluctant to visit public services or unable to pay the recently established fee

References

- 1. ECDC/WHO Regional Office for Europe. HIV/AIDS surveillance in Europe 2012. Stockholm; 2013, <http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/hiv-aids-surveillance-report-2012-20131127.pdf>
- 2. Hamers, FF., Phillips, A. Diagnosed and undiagnosed HIV-infected populations in Europe. HIV Med. 2008;9 (Suppl 2): 6-12
- 3. Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report in Greece, 31-12-2013 (Issue 28). Athens 2013. Also available at: <http://www.keelpno.gr>
- 4. SIALON <http://www.sialon.eu/en/projects/lessons-learnt-from-sialon.html?id=7>. (The study/survey indicated that 56% of HIV+ people were unaware of their HIV status. Rates of unaware MSN were higher than 70% in Bucharest and Ljubljana and lower than 50% in Barcelona)The European MSM Internet Survey (EMIS): <http://www.emis-project.eu>
- 5. The European MSM Internet Survey (EMIS): <http://www.emis-project.eu>
- 6. Velter, A., Barin, F., Bouyssou, A., Guinard, J., Leon, L., Le Vu, S., Pillonel, J., Spire, B., Semaille, C. AIDS Behav. 2013 May;17(4): 1266-1278. Doi: 10.1007/s10461-012-0303-1
- 7. Wallace L.(1), Li, J.(2), McDaid, L.(3). PLoS One. 2014 Mar. 12;9(3):e90805. Doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0090805. eCollection 2014. (Undiagnosed infection among HIV-positive men (25.4%))
- 8. WHO Data and Statistics webpage: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/communicable-diseases/hivaids/data-and-statistics>

Thank you very much for your attention

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