

Highlights from 2nd parallel sessions

Brian West

HepHIV cochair

Parallel session 4: Key populations 2

- **In Croatia, 84% of new HIV diagnoses are among MSM**, the highest percentage in the EU – even though the testing rate for MSM is lower than in other EU countries. *(PS4/1)*
- In Spain, **Medicos del Mundo has had better HIV testing uptake for migrants in Spain than the national testing venues**, especially for sex workers and undocumented migrants.
- **A Dutch hepatitis screening and education campaign targeting Chinese migrants** found that awareness was low – and that 6% were infected with HBV, suggesting the need for a targeted national campaign. *(PS4/3)*
- Online surveys on gay websites found that **migrant MSM in Spain believe they have no access to HIV testing and have little contact with prevention programs**. *(PS4/4)*
- A study of hepatitis C among migrants in Switzerland discovered **a large number of older migrants from Italy and Spain infected from shared needles in clinical settings in the 60s**. An IDU focus would have missed them. *(PS4/5)*

Parallel session 5: The treatment cascade

- The HIV continuum of care in Belgium shows low attrition between steps, though **non-nationals are less linked to care and retained in treatment** than Belgian natives. *(PS5/1)*
- **Rapid testing by peer educators at an infectious disease unit** in Seville identified more HIV positive cases (13%) among risk groups than other testing venues (1%). *(PS5/2)*
- EuroSIDA sites outside of Eastern Europe reported that though, as expected, lower HBV scores were associated with a greater risk of fibrosis, **the association was not observed with HCV**. *(PS5/3)*
- A survey of hepatitis referrals to specialists in six EU countries found few common practices, suggesting **a need for effective screening and referral protocols for hepatitis**. *(PS5/4)*
- A literature review found that **screening migrant populations for HBV or HCV is relatively cost-effective**, but data are needed to analyze combined screening for HBV, HCV and TB. *(PS5/5)*

Parallel session 6: Alternative approaches

- In London, a **home-based initiative using DBS improved HBV screening and vaccination dramatically** for the household contacts of infected pregnant women. *(PS6/1)*
- In Lisbon, a **peer-led program for targeted HCV screening** resulted in 2% positive tests among MSM who reported unspecified risk behaviors. *(PS6/2)*
- A French study found that after **GPs were recruited and trained to offer HIV, HBV and HCV tests** to a large portion of their patients for a week, they reported being much likelier to offer the tests in future. *(PS6/3)*
- A Barcelona study found that **an outreach strategy using community health workers to refer migrants for viral hepatitis screening** proved more effective than health centres in reaching migrants who were socially vulnerable. *(PS6/4)*
- Analysis of recommendations and evidence used in European and global guidelines for health service HIV testing and counseling found **a widespread lack of client perspectives and of reference to published evidence from Europe**. *(PS6/5)*