# bcn checkpoint HIV-AIDS - STI - SEXUALITY - MEN - HEALTH

## BCN Checkpoint: High Efficiency in HIV Detection and Linkage to Care

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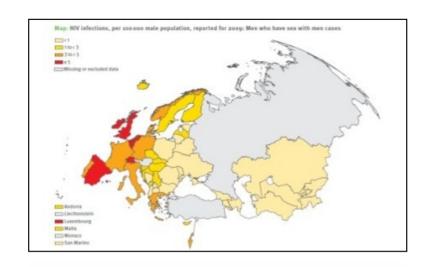
Projecte dels NOMS-Hispanosida • www.bcncheckpoint.com

HIV in Europe
Working Together for Optimal Testing and Earlier Care
Copenhagen, March 19<sup>th</sup> 2012

## Background

- Significant MSM community in Barcelona
- High HIV prevalence and incidence in MSM
- High Community Viral Load
- New HIV infections cause more new HIV infections
- Group traditionally oppressed and marginalized
- Denial of sex education
- Lack of adequate health care
- Early detection of HIV (individual & collective impact)
- Peer counseling for MSM





#### Number & incidence rates in 2008

| Group of transmission* | Number of new infections | / 100,000 py |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Heterosexual           |                          |              |
| French women           | 810                      | 4            |
| French men             | 1 140                    | 6            |
| Foreign women          | 940                      | 54           |
| Foreign men            | 660                      | 35           |
| IDUs                   | 70                       | 91           |
| MSM                    | 3 320                    | 1 006        |
| All                    | 6 940                    | 17           |

#### SHOCKING? FOR WHO?



#### HOMOPHOBIA

The first barrier for prevention, diagnosis and medical attention in HIV

Homossexuality is seen in over 450 animal species. Homophobia is seen in only one.

## History

- Hispanosida established in 2004 the 20th of October as the National HIV Testing Day in Spain
- BCN Checkpoint was created in 2006 by Hispanosida
- BCN Checkpoint introduced the use of HIV rapid tests in non-clinical settings for the first time in Spain



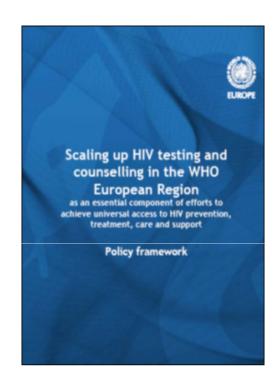


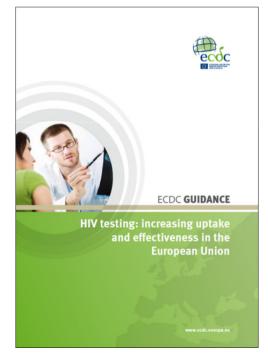


## Five-year Experience

The experience of BCN Checkpoint has served for:

- The implementation of similar projects in Europe: France, Portugal, Serbia...
- Recommendations of HCT in CBO's in international guidelines of scaling up HIV testing in Europe

















## **Services**

- HIV and Syphilis rapid testing
- Peer counseling
- Referral to Public Health Centres (HIV hospital units or STI Clinics)
- Hepatitis A and B vaccination
- Complete STIs screening for MSM (higher risk within a study: HIV, syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, HAV, HBV, HCV, HPV, anal cytology)



## **Community Research**

 First and only HIV negative MSM cohort in Spain

 The Check-ear Study (commitment with the HIV vaccine research)







## **Objective**

To assess the efficiency of BCN Checkpoint in HIV detection and linkage to care



## **Methods**

#### **HIV Negative:**

- Counseling for risk perception and reduction
- Education to avoid discriminatory attitudes towards HIV positive men within the MSM community
- Invitation to repeat the test at least every 12 months (and whenever necessary)

#### **HIV Positive:**

- Western Blot test (confirmatory)
- Immediate emotional support
- Linkage to care



## **Methods**

#### Linkage to care:

- Medical appointment in an HIV unit
- Catalan Health Insurance Card to be able to access the Public Health System; Legal support for obtaining residence in Spain
- Post-test peer counseling for further emotional support and treatment issues



## Results

| HIV positivity rates (2007–2011) |                 |                |               |       |  |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-------|--|
| Year                             | Number of tests | Persons tested | HIV reactive* | %     |  |
| 2007                             | 1.098           | 951            | 37            | 3,89% |  |
| 2008                             | 1.272           | 1.162          | 72            | 6,20% |  |
| 2009                             | 2.483           | 2.197          | 113           | 5,14% |  |
| 2010                             | 3.453           | 2.896          | 126           | 4,35% |  |
| 2011                             | 3.962           | 3.198          | 132           | 4,13% |  |
| Total                            | 12.268          |                | 480           |       |  |

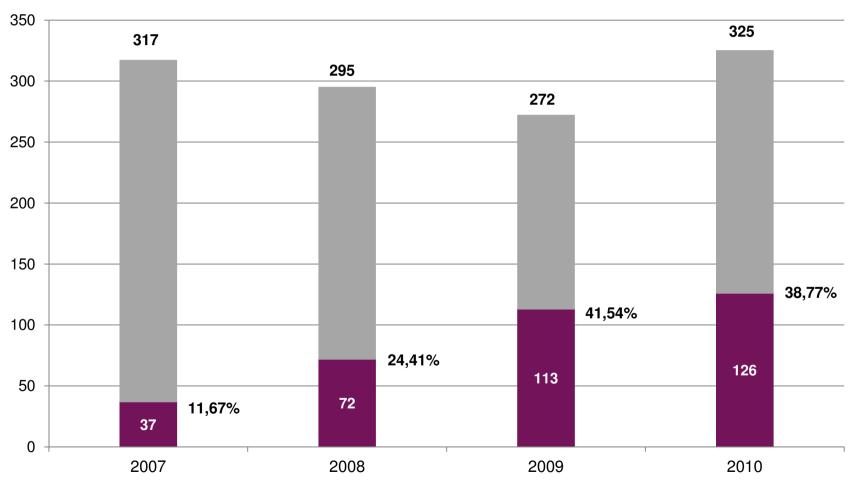
<sup>\*</sup> False positives excluded



## Impact of BCN Checkpoint

#### Proportion of HIV Cases reported in MSM in Catalonia







\* www.ceescat.org - June 30th 2011

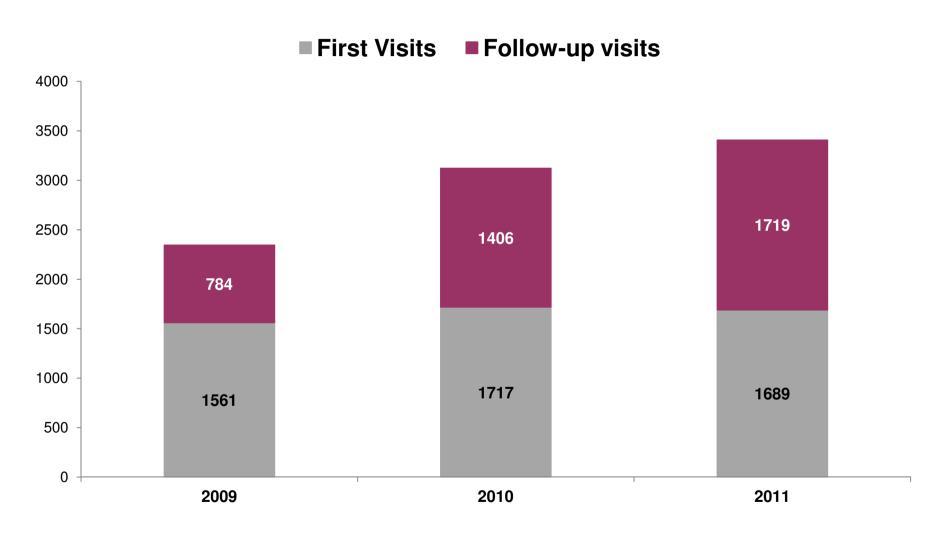
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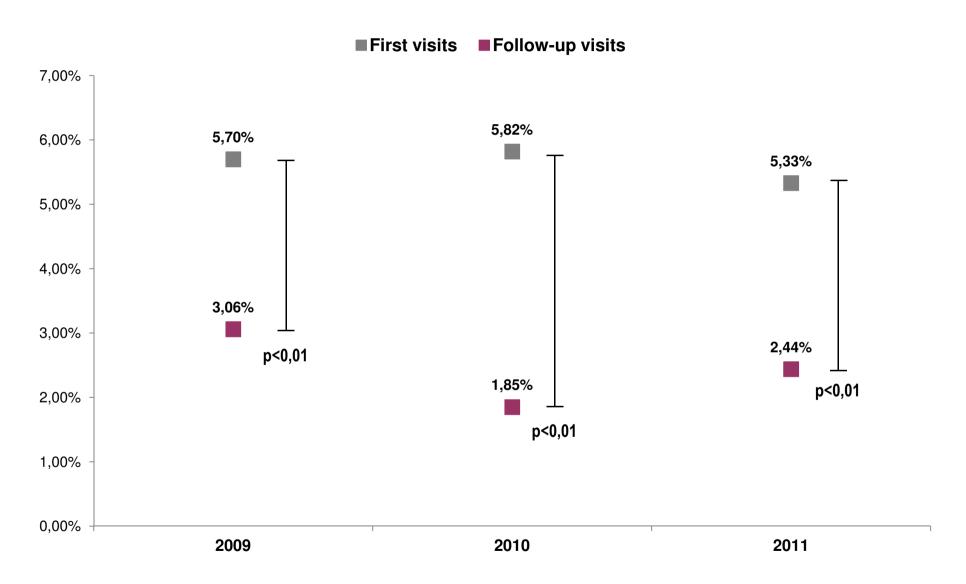
## Population profile (2009–2011)





Follow-up visits: to have been tested & counseled for HIV before in BCN Checkpoint anywhere from 2006 to 2011

### Positivity rates in first visits and follow-up visits (2009–2011)





## **Discussion**

#### Why these differences?

- Having done an HIV test before with negative result?
- Doing regularly an HIV test?
- Receiving counseling with the HIV test?
- Coming to BCN Checkpoint?
- Other factors or a combination of these factors?

Are these differences just a short-term effect?



## Results

Linkage to care

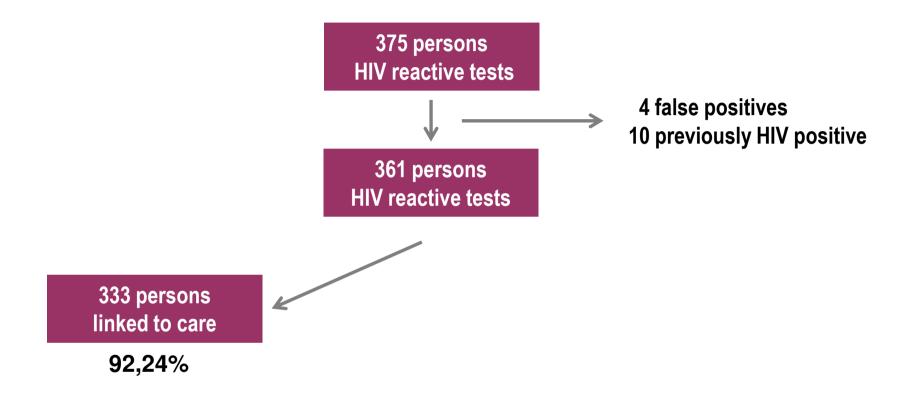


375 persons HIV reactive tests

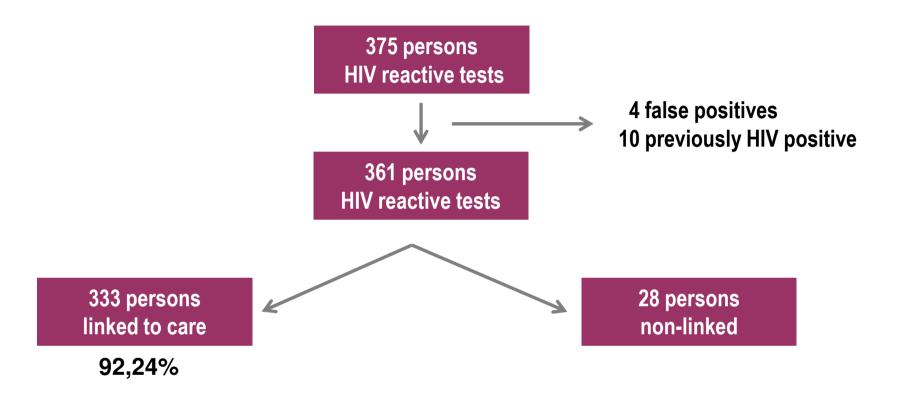




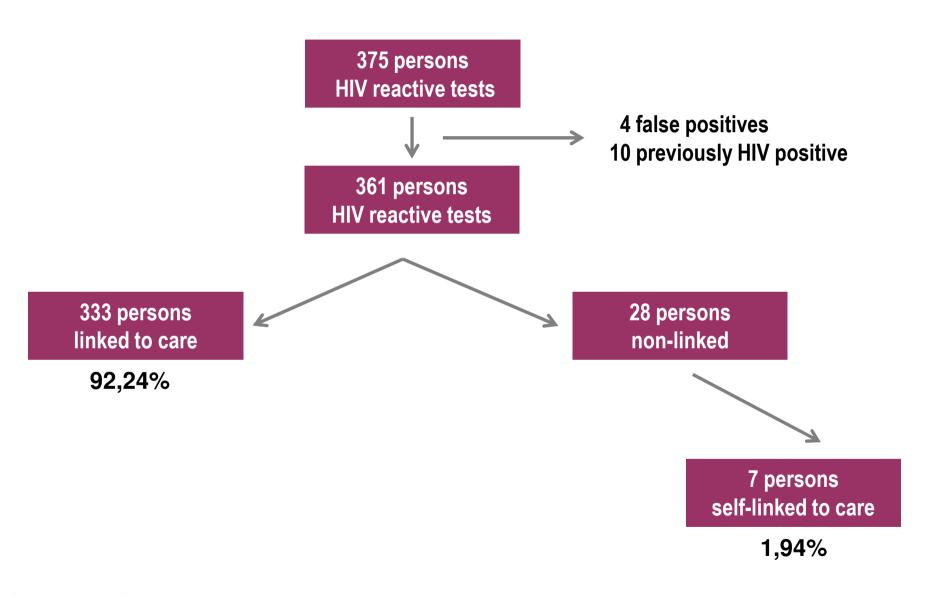




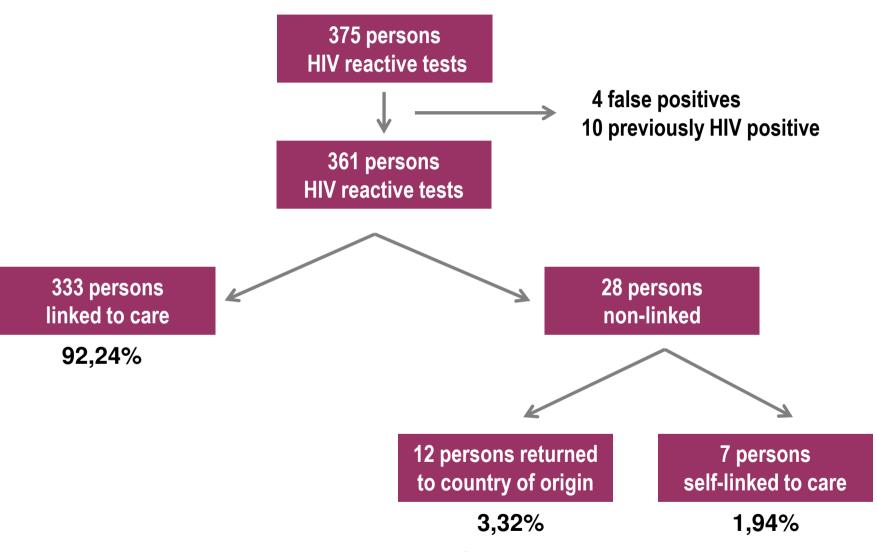






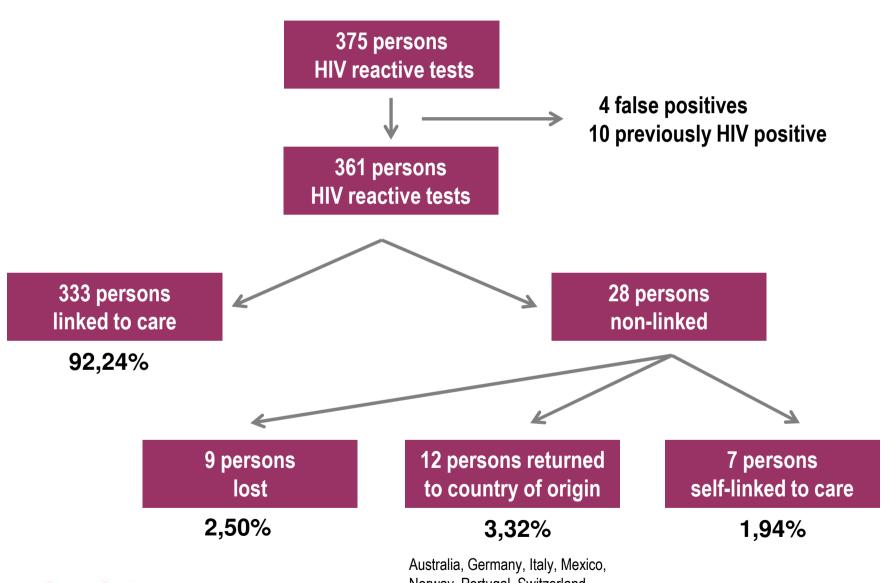








Australia, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, United Kingdom





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## Linkage to HIV unit (2011)

| Time from detection to linkage | %      |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| ≤ 7 days                       | 31,53% |
| 8 – 14 days                    | 18,92% |
| 15 – 21 days                   | 21,62% |
| 22 – 28 days                   | 11,71% |
| ≥ 29 days                      | 16,22% |
| Total                          | 100%   |

Linkage to care of 83,78 % in less than 4 weeks



## **Summary**

- BCN Checkpoint shows high efficiency in HIV detection:
  - Small number of tests achieve an high positivity rate
  - Increase in the absolute number of HIV cases over the years
  - Significant proportion of HIV cases in BCN Checkpoint regarding reported cases among MSM in Catalonia
- Significant higher positivity rate of people coming for the first time to BCN Checkpoint comparing with those who visited the centre before
- ► Linkage to care was achieved in 92,2% of the cases detected in BCN Checkpoint; Only 2,5% of the detected cases were lost
- An appointment within 4 weeks with an HIV unit was made in more than 80% of the cases



## Acknowledgements

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