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MOVE-SE/GATMOVEL: an outreach intervention in Setubal Peninsula – 2020 data

Background

Setubal was one of the three districts with the highest rates of new HIV diagnoses (11,0 cases/105 citizens) in 2018. MOVE-SE and GATMOVEL (mobile units) are part of a GAT outreach intervention, targeting vulnerable populations in the Setúbal Peninsula. It aims for early detection of HIV, HCV, HBV, and Syphilis (SIF) infections through anonymous, confidential, and free rapid screening, linkage, and retention in care. It also promotes and provides condoms, water-based lubricant, informative material distribution and material for injected, smoked and inhaled consumption; Counseling and intervention performed by peers and health technicians; social support. To the persons with a reactive result, it is guaranteed the referral to hospital services as well as peer escort to the first appointment.

Methods

In each screening session carried out by the MOVE-SE and GATMOVEL team, a questionnaire (prepared by ISPUP and GAT in the scope of the community screening network/ “Rede de rastreio comunitária”) was applied. The questionnaire addresses the perception of risk behaviors, knowledge of the topics covered and characterization of the populations. Data were entered into a database and analyzed using the Microsoft Excel program. All interventions in MOVE-SE /GATMOVEL are anonymous and confidential.

Results

Between January and December 2020 were performed 9111 screening sessions.

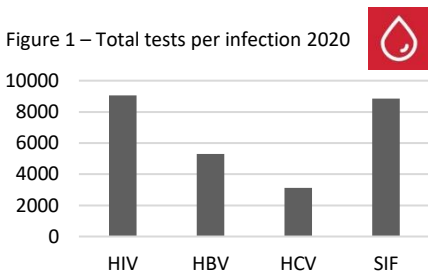


Figure 2- Distributed material in 2020

Distributed Material					
Damage prevention and risk reduction material		Sexual prevention material			
Injected kits*	Smoked base kits	Condoms		Lubricants	Flyers*
411	745	Male	Female	20 0247	15600
*Provided by the Needle Exchange Program		29 6219	13 517	*Project cards and brochures	

The total percentage of reactive tests was 0,34% for HIV infection, 1,28% for HCV, 1,29% for HBV and 0,6% for Syphilis. In all infections the percentage of reactive tests in males were higher.

Figure 3 – Reactives p/infection

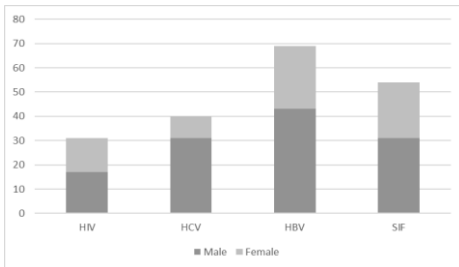
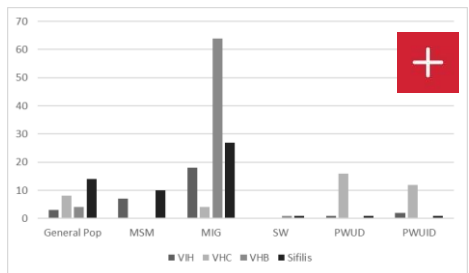


Figure 4 – Reactives p/population



81 healthcare peer navigation support visits (escorting patients to healthcare and social support structures) were performed by the mobile unit’s staff and **117 patients were referred to hospital appointments** (24 of which for HIV PrEP initiation).

Conclusions

- In conclusion, in the population of Setubal screened, people who consume drugs have a higher percentage of HCV.
- It is important to underline the high prevalence of migrants as the main group covered by MOVE-SE and GATMOVEL in the year of 2020, as well as the high prevalence of HBV in that group, possibly related to the fact that those individuals were born or have lived in endemic zones for hepatitis B.

Community-based intervention models promote flexible services adapted to the dynamics of the target populations. Interdisciplinary teams (health professionals and peers), hospital navigation support, and strategic location allow closer case management and therefore better outcomes related to linkage to care and treatment adherence. Social support to undocumented migrants in accessing healthcare reveals to be essential to an effective hospital referral. The inclusion of peers has proven to be key in reaching the target groups, in promoting screening, health literacy, and with a strong component of reducing stigma and discrimination.

Funding acknowledgements

