The experience of providing community based testing services in a harm reduction centre
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TESTES RÁPIDOS
DE DETEÇÃO DO VIH.
SERVIÇO ANÓNIMO, CONFIDENCIAL E GRATUITO.
RESULTADOS EM 20 MINUTOS.
IN-Mouraria
Low-threshold centre for people who use drugs
Free of charge
No ID required
Open 5 hours per day, Monday to Friday
IN-Mouraria

672 registered clients (Oct. 2012- June 2016)
111 current injectors (82%M)
Main drugs injected (30 days)
  74% cocaine
  67% heroin
74% inject in public places
26% HIV+ (self reported, injectors)
89% HCV+ (self reported, injectors)
Basic healthcare

Rapid testing for HIV, HCV, HBV and syphilis

Social support

Referral and escort to health and social services

Drop-In

food, clothing, telephone, internet, mail

Peer education

Condom distribution

Distribution of injecting and smoking material
Testing services
HIV (Ab), Syphilis (Ab), HCV (Ab), HBV (Ag), according to criteria
Targeting PWUD but open to general population and other most at risk populations
Tests performed by health professionals and peers/lay workers
(included as case example in WHO Guidelines HIV Testing Services 2015 and received a Commendation Award from WHO Global Hepatitis Programme as innovative programme for viral hepatitis testing 2016)
Testing data 2015

HIV tests = 946  2.22% reactive cases
HCV tests = 543  2.39% reactive cases
HBV tests = 560  2.50% reactive cases
Syphilis tests = 836  1.56% reactive cases
Complementary Interventions

Prevention and Information (Needle/syringe exchange, crack pipes)
Linkage and relinkage to care
Awareness and informative sessions
Awareness and information activities

Hepatitis Testing Week 2015

Discussions with medical doctors

Information materials
Awareness and Advocacy

Demonstration in front of Parliament
February 2015

Meeting with Health Secretary of State,
July 2014
The Portuguese Community Screening Network
HIV incidence (2014) and network coverage (2015)
Discussion

Providing testing services is a tool to identify infections but also to work on access to care

Providing testing for general population can diminish NIMBY situations

Less expertise with other tests (besides HIV)

Technical limitations for Point of Care tests (specially Hep C)

Bureaucratic barriers to link to care (increased for Hep B and C)
Needs and claims

Recognition of the peer's role

Move/transfer some diagnosis/treatment options to HR/drug treatment services

Support to overcome health and social gaps as part of care

Treat active drug users to stop chain of infections (HCV)

Drug consumption rooms (direct prevention interventions)
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