

Sustaining HIV screening in the community from 2019 to mid-2022 in Torremolinos, Spain

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1. Introduction

Outreach screening activities in Torremolinos (a Fast-Track City west of Málaga, Spain) detected high **HIV seroprevalence (3.3%) in 2018**, signaling an unmet need in providing comprehensive prevention services.



2. Description

Apoyo Positivo led a multistakeholder effort of social, public, and private sector players to launch a novel community-based voluntary counseling and testing center (CBVCT) in Torremolinos in April 2019. Herein we analyze the **evolution** of the service from its opening, through the **COVID19** pandemic **until June 2022**.

3. Lessons Learned

After analyzing the data collected in our community center CASA Torremolinos, we can see maintenance and even an increase in the number of tests performed and reactive results from the opening date until mid-2022. Our CBVTC services halted for only two months, from mid-March to mid-May 2020, with the onset of mandatory lockdowns. We can see how even with 321 people in our prep program, and the risk reduction counseling service for people who use Chemsex, the percentage of people who are HIV positive is still around 5% in the 1Q 2022.

According to what users tell us, the perception of HIV risk seems to have decreased because there are many people in prep. In addition to this, the increase of risky sexual practices under the influence of substances, sometimes in groups, could be the explanation for the high rate of **new HIV positives cases as most of them are related to Chemsex context**.

	Q2 2019	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022
HIV tests	86	136	155	149	68	171	110	119	136	176	124	157	152
HIV Ab+	4 (4,7%)	4 (2,9%)	0 (0%)	4 (2,7%)	2 (2,9%)	4 (2,3%)	6 (5,5%)	4 (3,4%)	0 (0%)	3 (1,70%)	5 (4,03%)	7 (4,46%)	2 (1,32%)
HCV tests	52	110	115	123	66	126	101	109	127	120	125	142	162
HCV Ab+	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (1,7%)	1 (0,8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1,0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0,70%)	0 (0%)
HBV tests	28	74	96	80	38	72	64	36	36	47	45	113	107
HBV AgtAb+	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (1,6%)	2 (5,6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Table 1: HIV. HCV and HRV test output and positivity rate

4. Recommendations

Data shows **how specific community-oriented resource is key for prevention and early HIV detection**, even to detect possible problematic use of Chemsex. Community-based services, such as the ones described above in this document, **need help and support** from the state and health resources to achieve UNAIDS goals.

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