

HIV TESTING AND LINKAGE TO CARE IN LISBON FOR MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN - CHECKPOINTLX, A COMMUNITY PEER BASED INITIATIVE



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CHECKPOINTLX:

- is a Lisbon based community center that provides peer-to-peer voluntary and counseling testing (VCT) to men who have sex with men (MSM);
- addresses MSM sexual health needs regarding Portuguese HIV epidemics, since MSM HIV infections have doubled over the last decade and these weigh 31,7% of new HIV infections in Portugal in 2012⁽¹⁾ and currently the infection incidence in MSM is 2,6 per 100 MSM/ year⁽²⁾.

KEY GOALS:

- Increase early detection of HIV;
- Increase MSM knowledge about HIV risk reduction strategies;
- Assure linkage to NHS for HIV treatment.

SUPPORT STRATEGIES:

- Set up in gay area;
- Service promotion in gay venues, bars, outdoor cruising areas, gay online dating sites and gay media;
- Participation in MSM research (MSM Lisbon cohort, SIALON II, PREVIH-RDS).

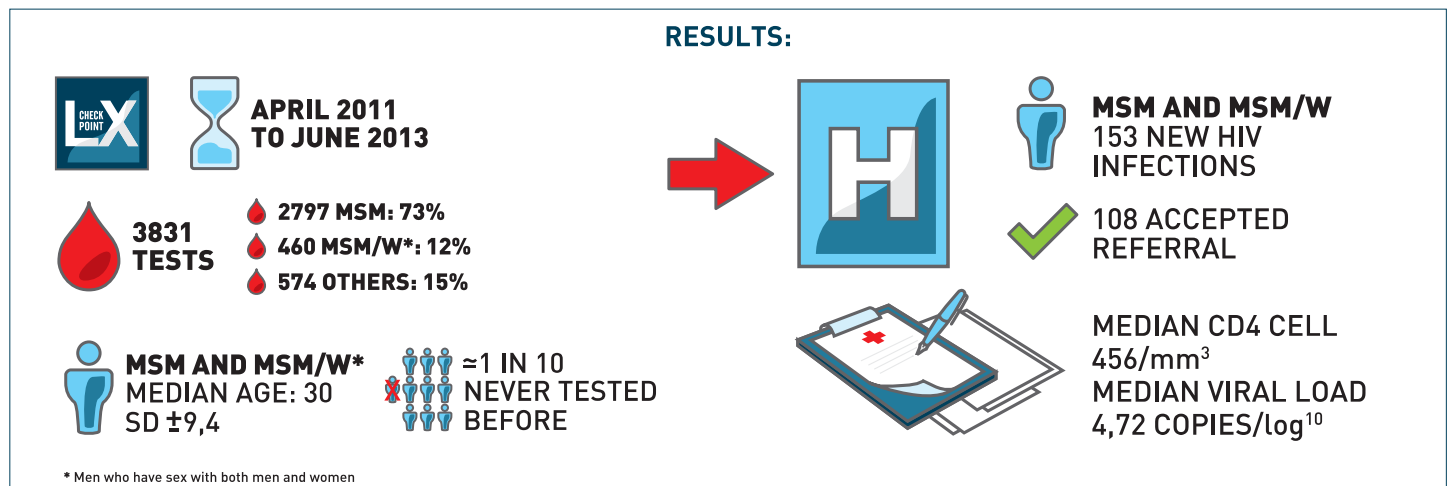
INTERVENTION STRATEGIES:

- Free, anonymous and peer executed HIV screening (Alere Determine™ HIV 1/2);
- Condom and lube available;
- Voluntary questionnaire to collect socio demographic data, reasons for testing and sexual behavior;
- Sexual counseling based on HIV risk reduction strategies;
- Post exposure prophylaxis counseling and referral;
- Peer referral to National Health System of MSM with reactive results;
- Peer support of MSM with HIV positive results at first medical appointment in National Health System.

CHECKPOINTLX CONTRIBUTES TO:

- Increase regular testing;
- Improve early detection of HIV infection;
- Provide effective linkage to care, thus preventing new infections in the MSM community.

CheckpointLX was considered by the European Center for Diseases Control as an innovative and good practice example concerning this vulnerable population⁽³⁾.



¹Instituto Nacional de Saúde Ricardo Jorge. Infecção VIH/SIDA: a situação em Portugal a 31 de Dezembro de 2012. Lisboa: INSA; 2013. ²Lucas, R. [2013] A Lisbon MSM Cohort. Ação & Tratamentos VIH/ SIDA, V.31, p. 16. ³European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Monitoring implementation of the European Commission Communication and Action Plan for combating HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighboring countries, 2009-2013. Final report. Stockholm: ECDC; 2013.



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