



HIV-AIDS ▪ STI ▪ SEXUALITY ▪ MEN ▪ HEALTH

## **BCN Checkpoint: Peer Education, Health Promotion, VCT & Beyond**

**Michael Meulbroek / Ferran Pujol**

Projecte dels NOMS-Hispanosida ▪ [www.bcncheckpoint.com](http://www.bcncheckpoint.com)

**II International Conference on HIV infection among Hidden Groups, namely Men who have  
sex with Men (MSM) and Commercial Sex Workers (CSW)**

Lisbon, 26 March 2013

# Acknowledgements

Jorge Saz

Héctor Taboada

Félix Pérez

Gerard Font

Alberto Pérez

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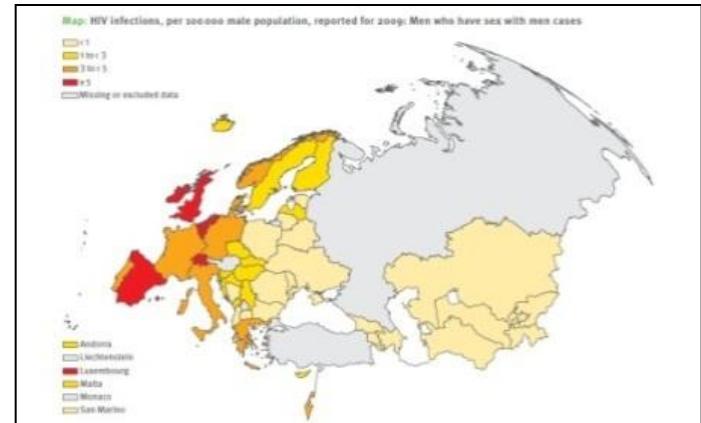
Jaume Uya

José Carlos Cabrero

Rafael Marín

# Background

- Significant MSM community in Barcelona
- High HIV prevalence and incidence in MSM
- High Community Viral Load
- The important role of acute 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

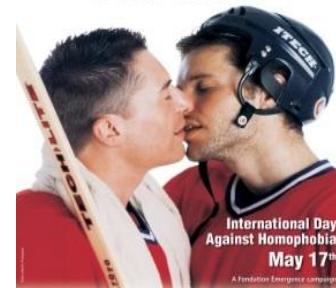


## Number & incidence rates in 2008

Group of transmission*	Number of new infections	Incidence rate / 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

\* Sources for 18-69 years population sizes:  
Insee (National census) ; Inserm, Ined (Population-based behavioral study) ; OFDT (National behavioral study)

**SHOCKING?  
FOR WHO?**

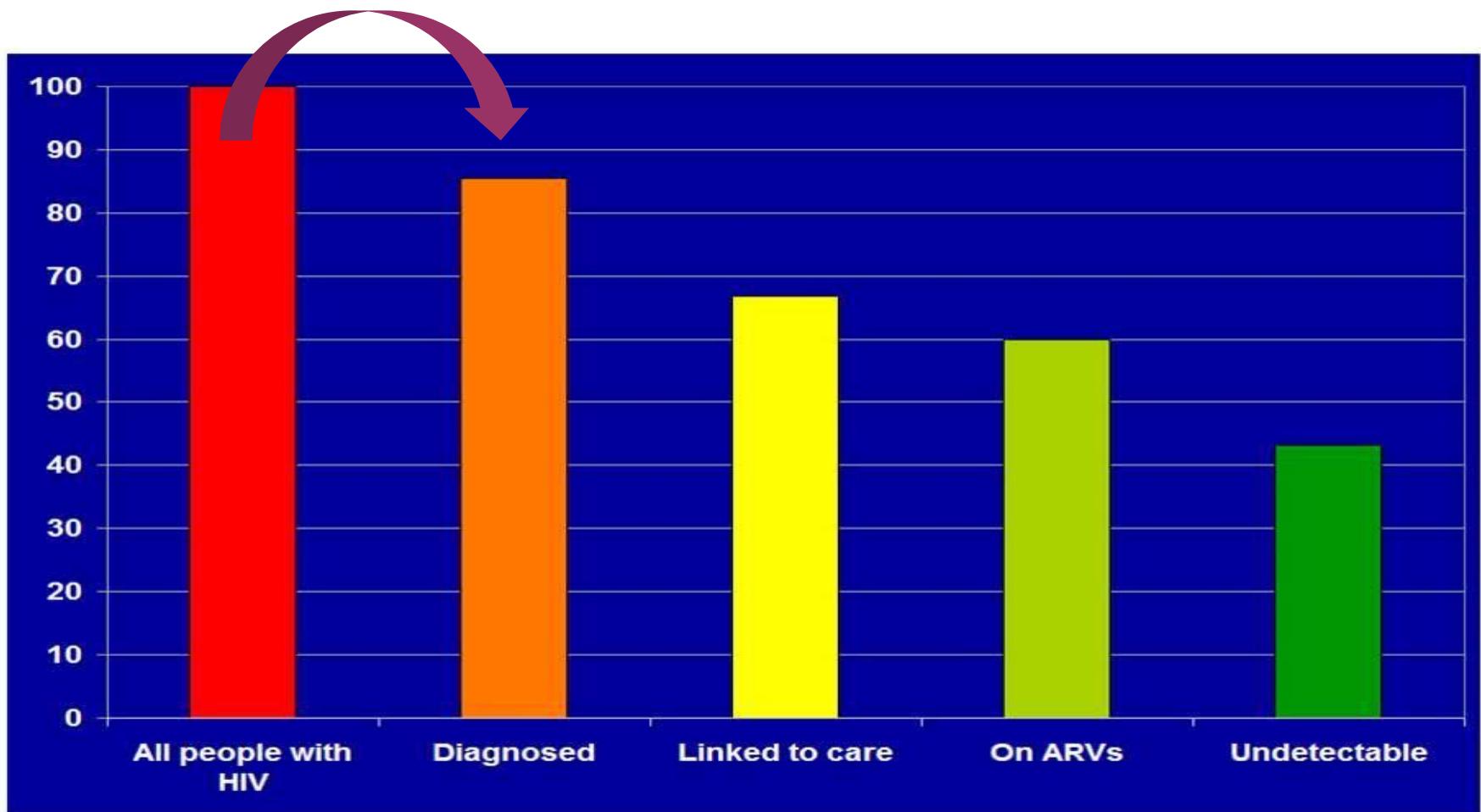


## HOMOPHOBIA

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

*Homosexuality is seen in over 450 animal species.  
Homophobia is seen in only one.*

# Treatment Cascade



# 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 **Community Based Centres** for the first time in Spain
- BCN Checkpoint started to promote **regular testing** for MSM





**bcn** **checkpoint**  
HIV-AIDS • STI • SEXUALITY • MEN • HEALTH

# 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)

# 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

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>1. Number of tests</b>	1.098	1.272	2.483	3.453	3.962	5.051
<b>2. Persons tested</b>	951	1.162	2.197	2.896	3.198	4.049

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<b>3. HIV positive</b>	37	72	113	126	132	138
<b>4. % HIV positive</b>	3,9%	6,2%	5,1%	4,4%	4,1%	3,4%

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<b>5. Persons at first visit BCN Checkpoint</b>	850	957	1.583	1.722	1.689	1.717

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<b>6. HIV positive at first visit</b>	36	53	91	100	90	92
<b>7. % HIV positive at first visit</b>	4,2%	5,5%	5,7%	5,8%	5,3%	5,4%

# Impact of BCN Checkpoint

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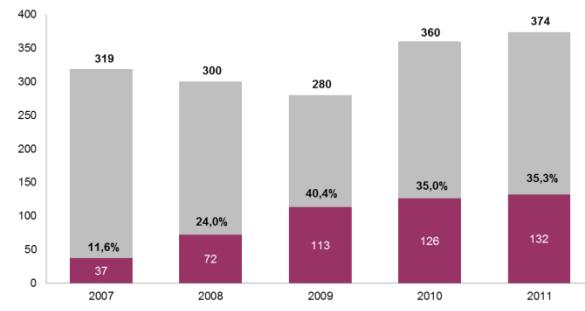
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<b>8. Total HIV cases in MSM reported in Catalonia</b>	319	300	280	360	374	N/A



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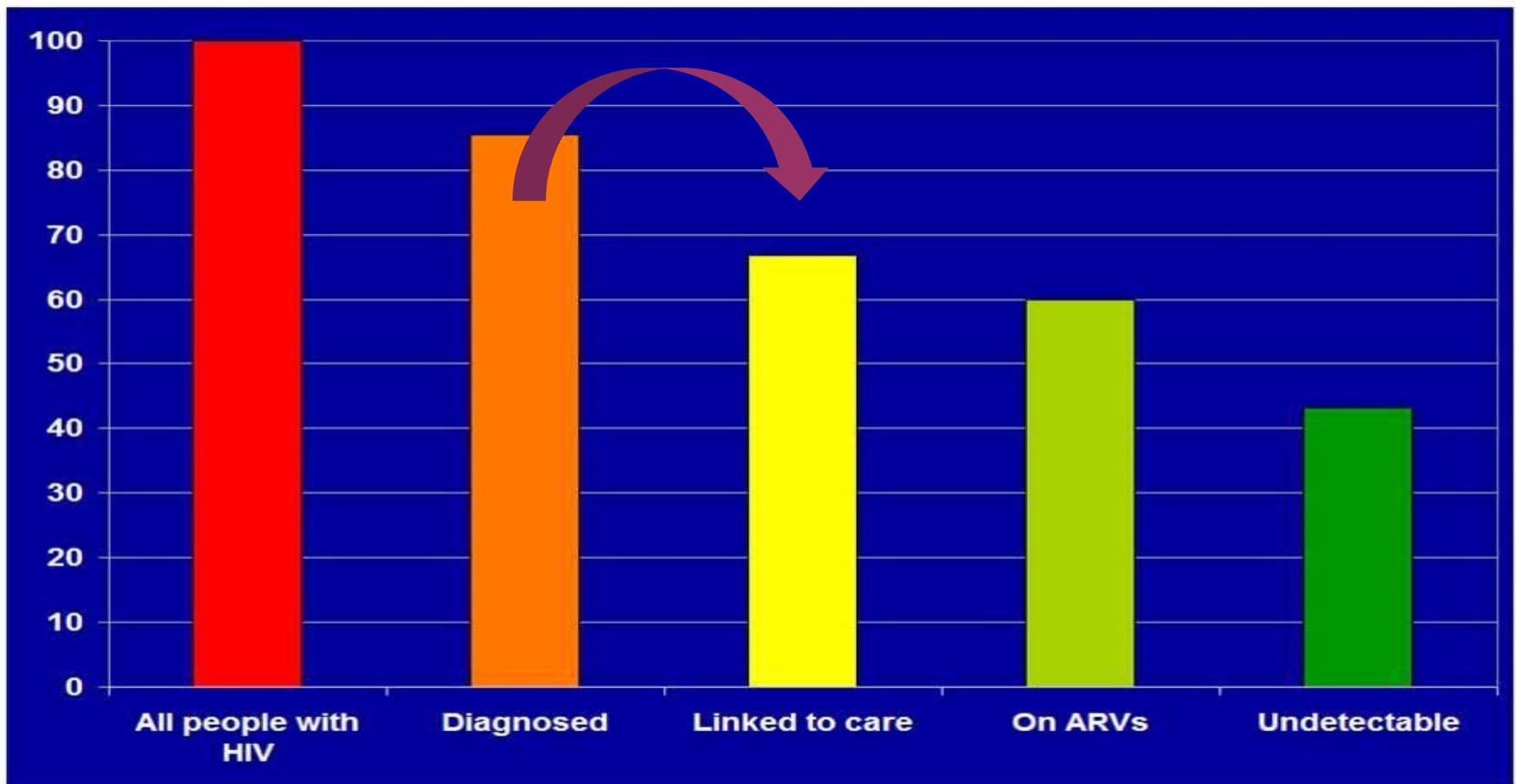
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<b>3. HIV positive</b>	37	72	113	126	132	138
<b>8. Total HIV cases in MSM reported in Catalonia</b>	319	300	280	360	374	N/A
<b>9. % of cases detected in BCN Checkpoint</b>	11,6%	24,0%	40,4%	35,0%	35,3%	N/A



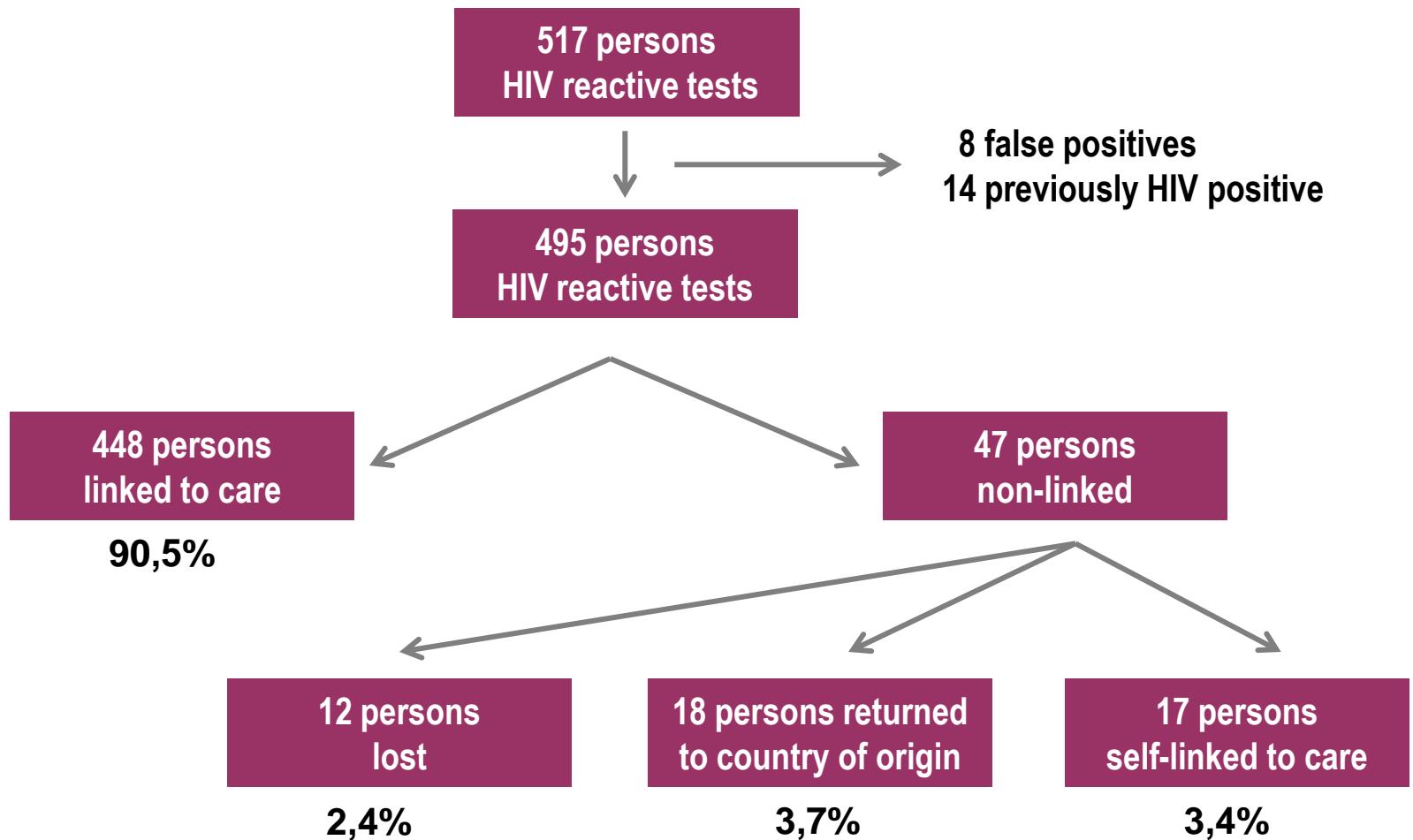
# Results – Early / Late detection

HIV infection 2009-2011				
Year	HIV + cases	Cases with known previous negative test	Negative test < 1,5 year	Prevalence
2009	113	96	63	65,6%
2010	126	106	59	55,7%
2011	132	125	81	64,8%
2012	138	130	81	62,3%
Total	509	457	284	62,1%

# Treatment Cascade



# Linkage to HIV Unit (2009-2012)



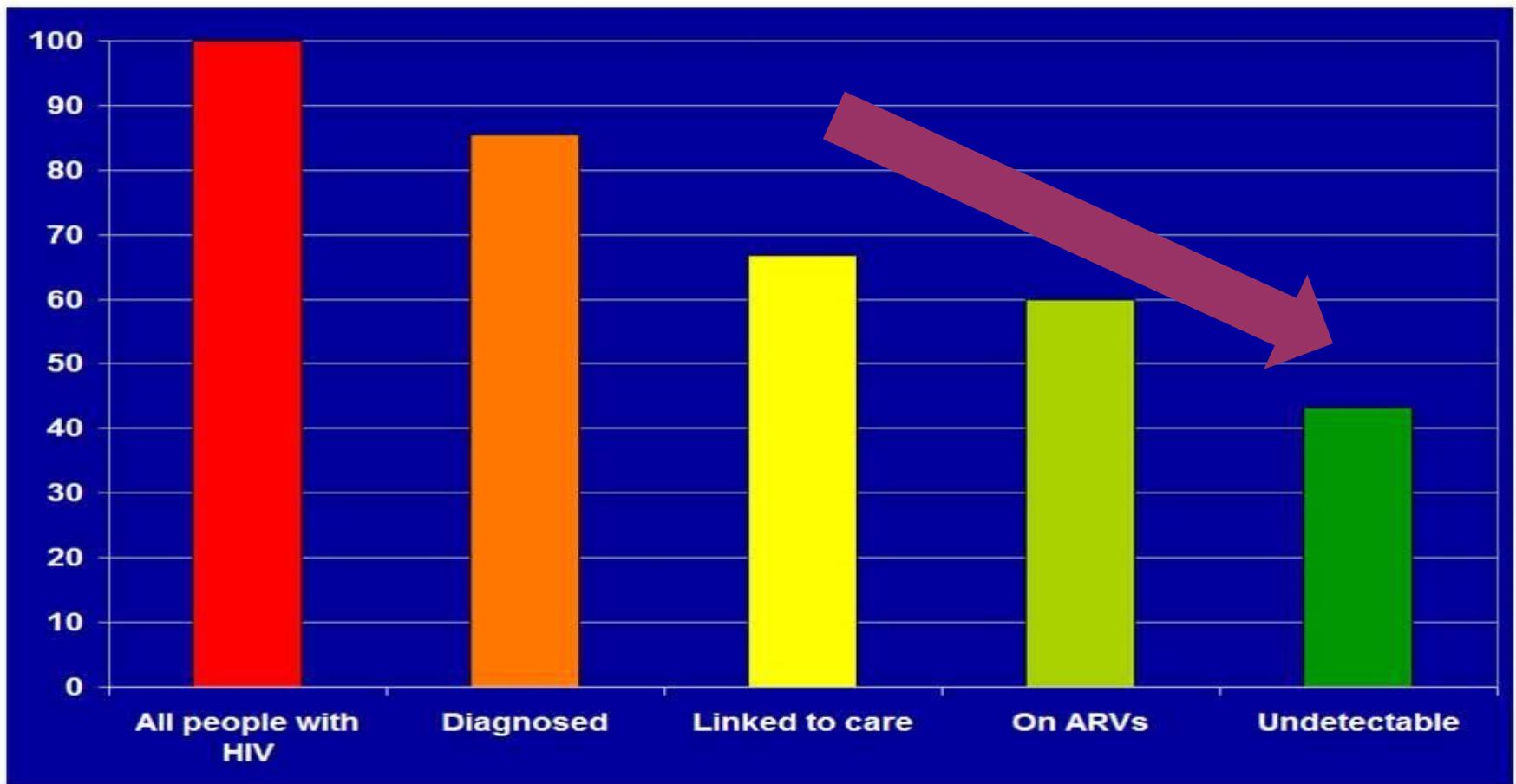
Australia, Colombia, Germany, Italy,  
Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Spain,  
Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom

# Linkage to HIV unit (2011-2012)

Time from detection to linkage	%
≤ 7 days	32 %
8 – 14 days	20 %
15 – 21 days	17 %
22 – 28 days	16 %
≥ 29 days	15 %
<b>Total: 226 cases</b>	<b>100%</b>

Linkage to care of 85 % in less than 4 weeks

# Treatment Cascade



# Treatment information and education

## INFOTRAT

- Individual treatment counseling
- “Positive Encounters”
- Annual Seminar for PLWHIV



# Community Research

- First and only HIV negative MSM cohort in Spain
- The Check-ear Study (commitment with the HIV vaccine research)



check-ear  
Perquè les ITS no sempre es deixen veure



check-ear és un projecte que es duu a terme a BCN Checkpoint i que ofereix cribatges periòdics i tractament de les ITS a més d'altres homes que tenen relacions sexuals amb homes, amb una vida sexual intensa i amb més probabilitats d'infectar-se.

Informació adicional personalment a BCN Checkpoint (Carrer Bonell 164-166, Barcelona) o trucant al telèfon: 933 182 056. Podrás beneficiar-te regularment de controls de les ITS de forma gratuïta i amb total confidencialitat.

**bcn** checkpoint  
Centre de Salut de la Vida Sexual  
[benckeckpoint.com](http://benckeckpoint.com)

Departament de Salut  
Institut Català d'Assalut

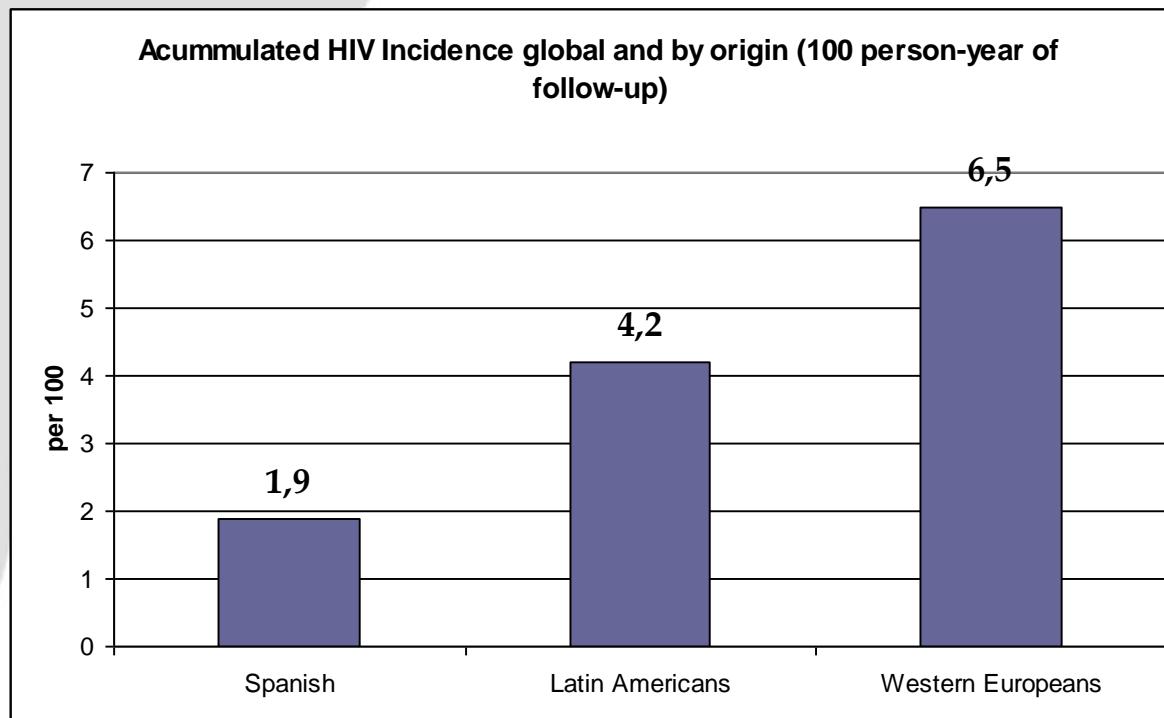
CLINIC

UPF

HIVACAT

HIV incidence rate:  $3.4 \times 100$  person-years

N= 3.228; persons-years of follow-up: 914,57; median time of follow-up: 13 months  
(27 seroconverters)



**268 individuals were recruited  
between 12/2010 and 08/2012  
44 lost of follow up.**

10 acute HIV infections were detected

**Prevalence of STI at baseline visit:**  
Syphilis: 8,2%,

*Chlamydia trachomatis* in penis 3%, in rectum 6,1%

*Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in penis 1,9%, in rectum 5%,

HPV in anus 65,6%, in mouth 3,7%.

Cytological abnormalities were detected in 42% of individuals.

No acute hepatitis diagnosed.

**check-ear**  
Perquè les ITS no sempre es deixen veure



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**bcn** checkpoint  
VINS&ITS-Sexualitat-Homes-Salut  
[bcncheckpoint.com](http://bcncheckpoint.com)

Generalitat de Catalunya  
Departament de Salut

IrsiCaixa

FLS

FUNDACIÓ CLÍNIC  
EXCELENCIA

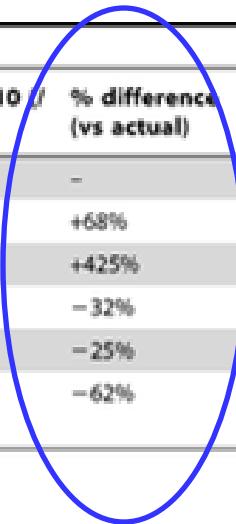
CEES Cat

HIVACAT

GB

# Increased HIV incidence in men who have sex with men despite high levels of ART use

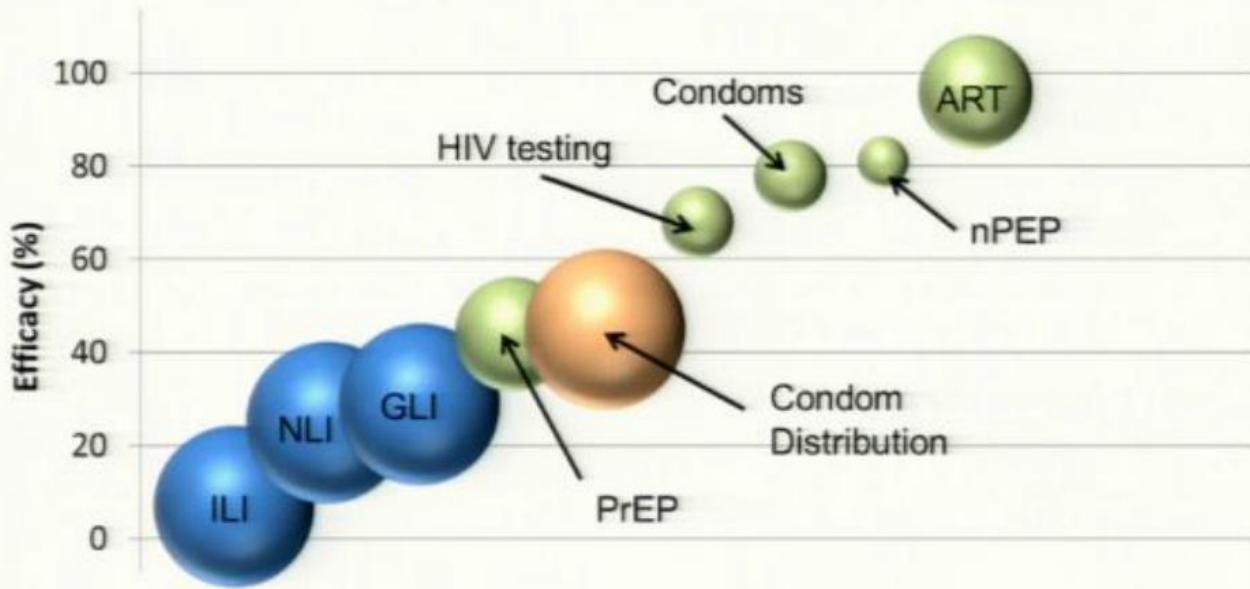
Scenario	Mean Incidence 2006-10 / 100 pts)	% difference (vs actual)	95% confidence interval	p-value
Actual	0.53	-	-	-
No ART*	0.89	+68%	+62%--74%	p<0.0001
No condoms**	2.78	+425%	+406%--442%	p<0.0001
ART at diagnosis***	0.36	-32%	-27%--37%	p<0.0001
Higher test rate****	0.40	-25%	-20%--28%	p<0.0001
Higher test rate and ART at diagnosis*****	0.20	-62%	-58%--66%	p<0.0001



Much more frequent HIV testing and better penetration of regular testing of all MSM is likely to have significant benefits for HIV incidence

Phillips AN, Cambiano V, Nakagawa F, Brown AE, et al. (2013) Increased HIV Incidence in Men Who Have Sex with Men Despite High Levels of ART-Induced Viral Suppression: Analysis of an Extensively Documented Epidemic. PLoS ONE 8(2): e55312. doi:10.1371

# Interventions, Efficacy, and Evidence



ILI: Individual-level behavior change intervention

NLI: Network-level behavior change Intervention

GLI: Group level Behavior change intervention

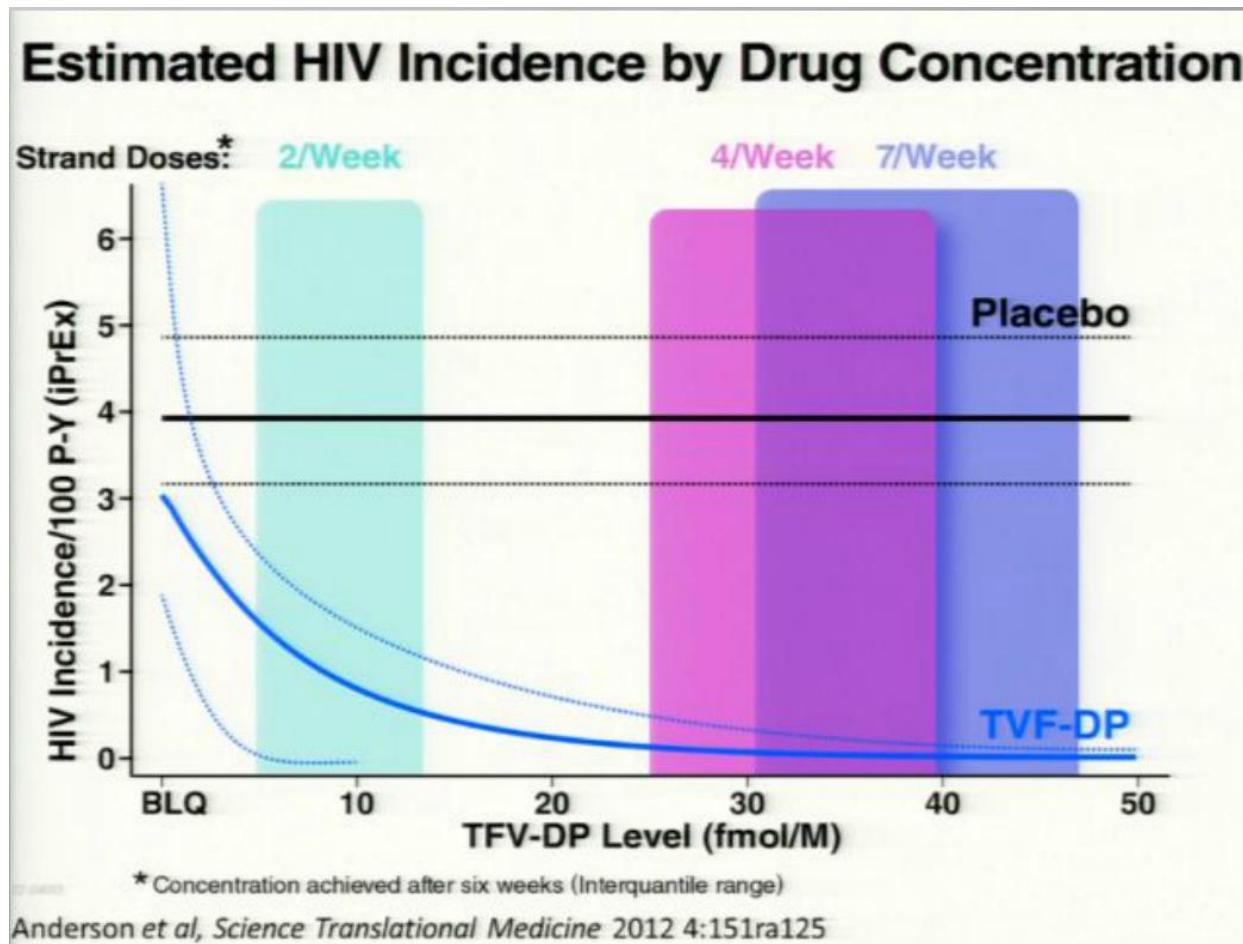
Size of bubble is proportional to strength of evidence

Blue: Behavior change; Green: Biomedical

Orange: Structural

Chris Beyrer, MD. The Global MSM HIV Epidemic: Time to Act.  
Session 21 – Plenary. CROI 2013. Atlanta, 5 March 2013.

# PrEP: The next step for Community Centres



Study/Phase	Investigation	Study Site(s)
<b>IPERGAY</b> Phase III	Efficacy of intermittent "on demand" TDF/FTC PREP for MSM	France, Quebec
<b>HPTN 069</b> Next PREP, Phase II	Safety and Tolerability of Maraviroc, Maraviroc + FTC, Maraviroc + TDF or TDF/FTC PREP in At-Risk MSM	USA
<b>HPTN 067</b> The ADAPT Study, Phase II	Intermittent Oral Truvada PREP in MSM and TGW	USA, Thailand, RSA
<b>HPTN 073</b>	PrEP Initiation and Adherence among Black MSM	Three U.S. Cities
<b>Proud Study</b> Phase II	Immediate vs deferred oral Truvada PREP	UK, multiple cities
<b>MTN 017</b> Phase II	Expanded Safety and Acceptability of Oral Truvada, Rectally-Applied Tenofovir Reduced-Glycerin 1% Gel.	USA, Thailand, RSA, PR
<b>HVTN 505</b> Phase IIb	Safety and effectiveness of HIV-1 DNA plasmid and HIV-1 r-ADV vaccine in MSM and Transgender	USA

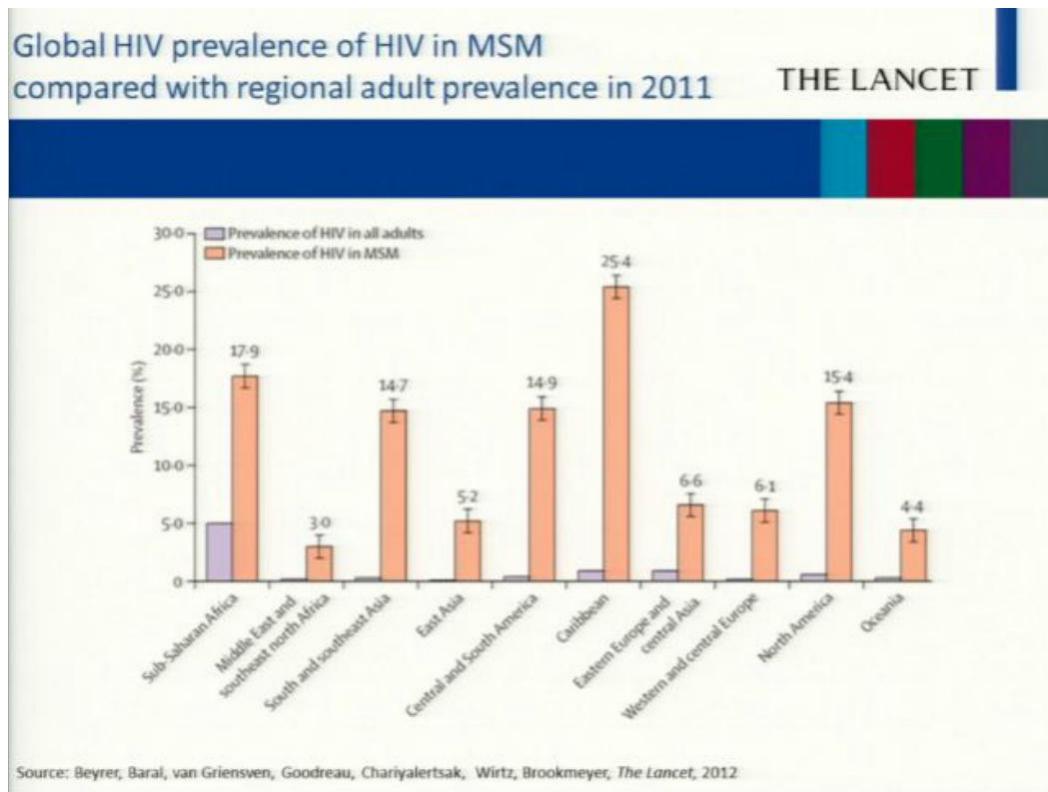
# Days of Desperation

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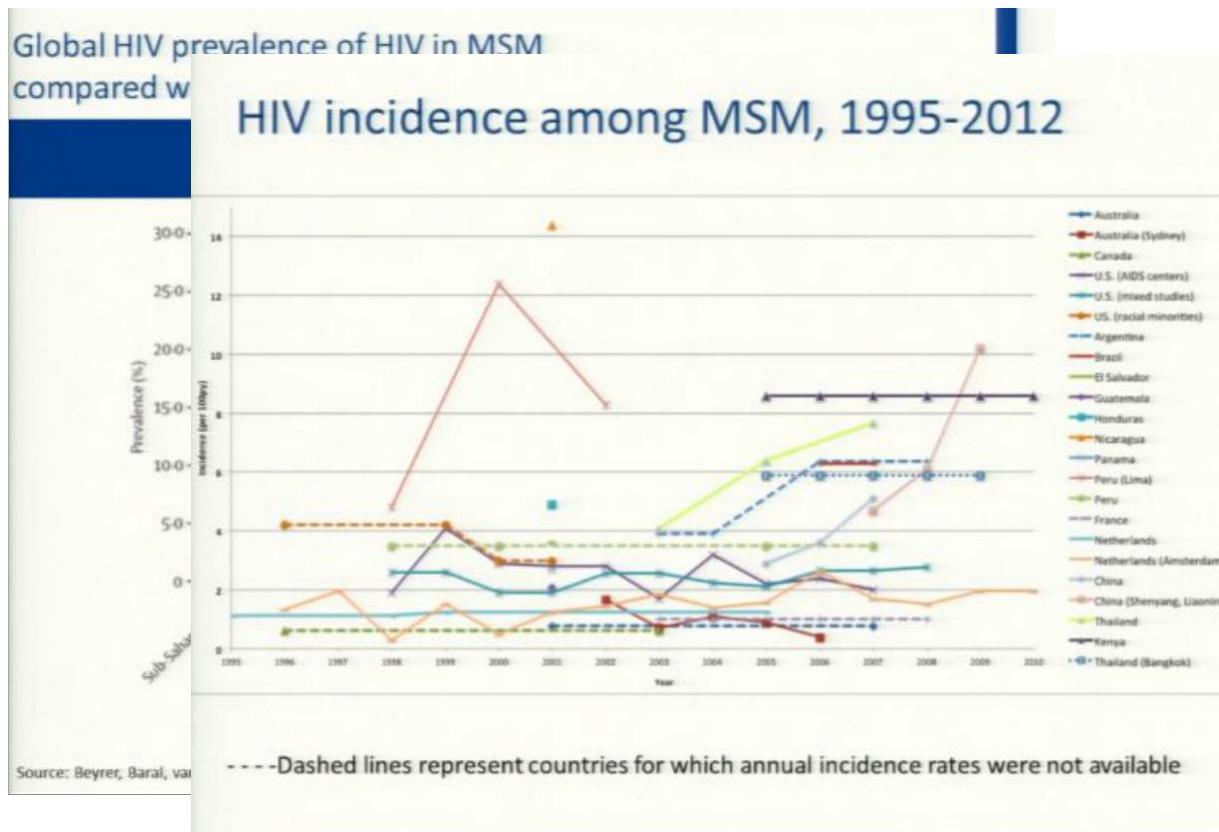
- No medications
- Smuggling drugs
- Guerilla trials
- Manufacturing drugs
- “Buyer’s Clubs”



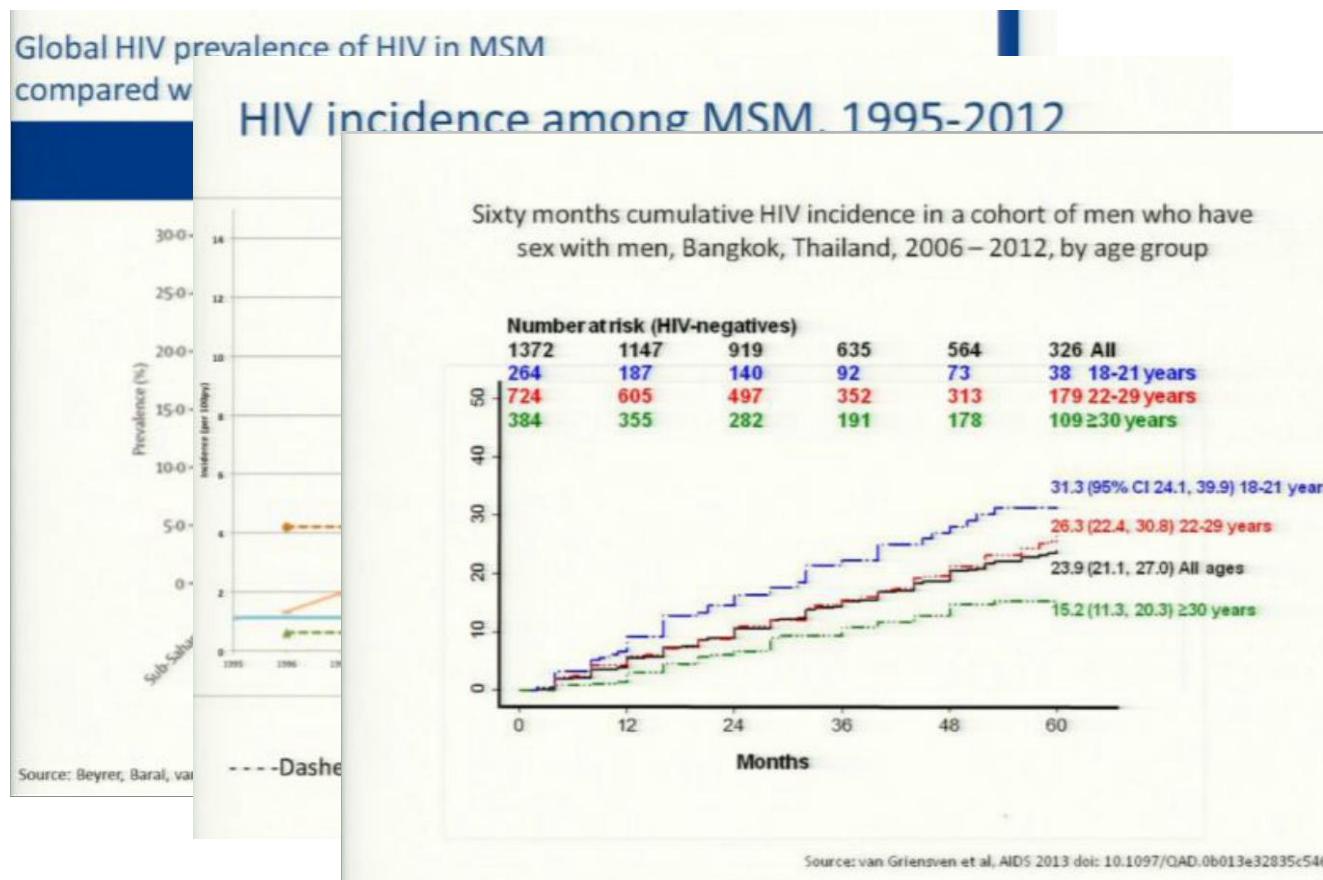
# Why do MSM have to bear with the HIV burden?



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## UN SG Ban Ki-moon

Human Rights Day, Dec. 11, 2012.



The very first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that, 'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.' All human beings – not some, not most, but all. No one gets to decide who is entitled to human rights and who is not.

Let me say this loud and clear: lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people are entitled to the same rights as everyone else. They, too, are born free and equal.