

## OptTEST PARTNERS



# Experiences of country meetings in OPTEST

Valerie Delpuch  
Sara Croxford  
Public Health England

# Workshops & Country leads

- Athens (May 2016) Nikkos Dedes, Sophocles Chanos
- Warsaw (Oct 2016) Justyna Kowalska
- United Kingdom – PHE/SSA/BHIVA conference
- Catalonia – Jordi Casabona
- Lisbon (June 2017)
  - Luís Manuel Penim Mendão and
  - João Rui Lampreia de Brito
- Madrid (Sept 2017)
  - Julia del Amo

## Antecedents

El projecte Optimization testing and linkage to care for HIV across Europe (OptTEST), cofinançat per l'Agència Executiva de Consumidors, Salut i Alimentació (CHAFEA), sota el 2n Programa de Salut Pública de la UE, té l'objectiu general de contribuir a la reducció del nombre de persones no diagnosticades del VIH a Europa i de promoure l'assistència i l'accés al tractament en el moment òptim. El projecte consta de 7 paquets de treball (WP), d'entre els quals el WP5 es centra en el desenvolupament i la implementació d'eines i estratègies d'oferta de la prova del VIH basades en malalties indicadores (pneumònia greu o recurrent, síndrome de mononucleosi infecciosa i hepatitis B i C) definides pel projecte OptTEST per tal de millorar les actuacions a l'atenció primària.

L'objectiu de la jornada és presentar les iniciatives proposades pel projecte OptTEST per tal de millorar l'oferta de la prova del VIH a l'atenció primària, així com els resultats de la seva implementació als centres catalans participants, i contextualitzar l'oferta de la prova a Catalunya, descrivint les barreres existents i les iniciatives actuals que s'estan duent a terme i com afrontar el repte de l'enllaç entre atenció primària i atenció hospitalària.

L'aforament és limitat per la qual cosa us preguem que per reservar plaça envieu un correu electrònic a:  
[ceeiscat@iconcologia.net](mailto:ceeiscat@iconcologia.net)

Per a més informació: 93 497 88 91 (CEEISCAT)

## Organitza:



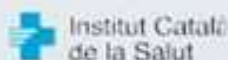
 Generalitat de Catalunya  
Agència de Salut Pública de Catalunya



## Col·labora:



Chelsea and Westminster Hospital   
NHS Foundation Trust



# Projecte OptTEST Millorant el diagnòstic precoç del VIH a l'atenció primària a Catalunya i Europa

10 de juliol de 2017

Palau Macaya

Obra Social "la Caixa"

Passeig de Sant Joan, 108

Barcelona

# Agenda – Greece

## *Linkage to and retention in care: experiences from Europe and Greece and challenges for the future*

<b>Session 1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>09.15 - 09.30</b>	Opening: PV (Nikos Dedes) – HCDCP (Rosenberg)
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Part I What's going on around Europe</b>
<b>09.30 – 10:00</b>	HIV epidemiology in Europe- Skype Presentation. Anastasia Pharris
<b>10.00 – 10:30</b>	Who benefits from monitoring HIV epidemic and quality of care: Example from England Valerie Delpech
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	Linkage to care and retention in care as national quality of care measures- analysis of TESSy Data. Sara Croxford
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	Linkage to care from CBVCTs / Checkpoints among MSM in Europe Anders Dahl
<b>11.30 – 11.45</b>	Coffee Break
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Part II What's going on in Greece</b>
<b>11.45 – 12.15</b>	Know your epidemic - Know your response and quality of care. Where we are and where we want to be in 2020. Analysis from the national M&E system. Vasileia Konte
<b>12.15 – 12.45</b>	AMACS Greek HIV Cohort . Nikos Pantazis
<b>12:45 -13:15</b>	"Retrospective analysis of data from the registry of PWID +HIV linked to Infectious Medical Units" Magdalini Pylli
<b>13.15 – 14:15</b>	Lunch
<b>14.15 – 14.45</b>	Community based testing experience/barriers faced in linkage to care from the Ath & Thess Checkpoints. Sophocles Chanos
<b>14.45 – 15.15</b>	OKANA barriers/challenges for linkage to and retention in care (TBD)
<b>15.15– 15:45</b>	Presentation by 1 or 2 Greek MDs/HIV specialists on hinders they face in their HIV clinics on linkage and retention issues (TBD)
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Next steps</b>
<b>15.45– 16.45</b>	Future goals and action points - Plenary discussion
<b>16.45 – 17:00</b>	Closure

Statistics, Medical School, National & Kapodistrian Uni. of Athens,  
"AMACS" Greek HIV Cohort)



# Meeting Participants: Greece

## Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP):

- Mr. Rosenberg (Head - HCDCP)
- Mrs. Giannopoulou (HCDCP – Office for Psychosocial Support and Psychotherapeutic Interventions)
- Ms. Issari (HCDCP - HIV office)
- Mrs. Konte (HCDCP - HIV office)
- Mrs. Nikolopoulou (HCDCP – Counselling Center and Hotline for HIV/AIDS)
- Mrs. Paraskeva (HCDCP – HIV Office & Member of the Hellenic Society for the study and control of AIDS)
- Mrs. Pavlopoulou (HCDCP – Community Interventions Office)
- Ms. Pylfi (HCDCP - HIV office)
- Mr. Raftopoulos (HCDCP - HIV office)

## Positive Voice

- Mr. Atzemis (Harm reduction, the Greek Association of PLWHA "Positive Voice")
- Mr. Chanos (Head, Checkpoint)
- Mr. Dedes (Head, the Greek Association of PLWHA "Positive Voice")

## International Invitees & Speakers

- Ms. Ankierstejn-Bartczak (Chair – Foundation of Social Education - Poland)
- Ms. Croxford (Public Health England, optTEST, UK)
- Mr. Dahl (WP6 EURO HIV EDAT - AIDS Fondet - Denmark)
- Dr. Delpech (Public Health England, optTEST, UK)
- Mr. Mameletzis (WHO – HIV Office, Switzerland)
- Dr. Pharris (ECDC, Sweden)
- Ms. Raben (CHIP, HIV in Europe, Denmark)
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## HIV National Experts

- Mrs. Anagnostou (OKANA: National Organisation Against Drug Use, Substitution Treatment Units)
- Mrs. Kakalou (Euaggelismos Hospital - Athens)
- Mr. Tsiodras (Attikon University Hospital - Athens)
- Mrs. Mpotsi (Siggros Hospital - Athens)
- Mr. Pantazis (Department of Hygiene, Epidemiology & Medical Statistics, Medical School, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, "AMACS" Greek HIV Cohort)
- Mr. Paraskevis (Department of Hygiene, Epidemiology & Medical Statistics, Medical School, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens)
- Ms. Touloumi (Department of Hygiene, Epidemiology & Medical

# Conclusions: Greece



PositiveVoice  
people+HIV

OptTEST  
OPTIMISING TESTING AND LINKAGE  
TO CARE FOR HIV ACROSS EUROPE

- improvement in linking newly diagnosed patients to infectious disease units to start ART. It was suggested that interventions to improve linkage to and retention in care should be focused mainly on PWID and migrants, as these already high among MSM.
- Participants highlighted the need for regular meetings (two per year) hosted by the HCDCP with relevant stakeholders in prevention and care including infectious disease units, OKANA, community groups etc. In these meetings, in-house HIV data could be reviewed.
- A database for recording and registering of experiences between HIV clinics, HCDCP experts, Civil Society, specialists and OKANA medical doctors was proposed to better share information. OptTEST partners suggested that HIV data collection could be further improved, particularly the collection of first CD4 data used to monitor linkage to care. Improved data collection mechanisms would allow Greece to better monitor the quality of HIV patient care following diagnosis.
- A detailed data algorithm describing the current data flow and how data are communicated from different HIV clinics to the HCDCP would also aid in monitoring the ability to assess patient outcomes. PHE volunteered to send their current HIV surveillance data algorithm to share best practice from the UK. It was also argued among meeting participants that there is a need for clearer definitions of linkage to and retention in care, which would require consensus from a number of stakeholders from different levels.
- Needs of HIV units and that a case should be made to the Ministry of Health to increase funding.
- New, young and aspiring HIV clinicians need to be trained and be motivated to stay and work in Greece. It was highlighted that STIs, HIV and hepatitis are top priorities for the director of the HCDCP.
- The OptTEST meeting on linkage to and retention in care issues in Athens, Greece, provided an opportunity to bring together key HIV stakeholders such as experts and people from the community to openly communicate in an effort to improve linkage to care and to also diminish lost to follow up cases in Greece in future.

# Shaping the HIV epidemic in Poland from surveillance to pragmatic data and back again

1st Polish Workshop on Cascade of Care in HIV

14 – 15 October 2016  
Warsaw, Poland

**Officially endorsed by:**

Second Faculty of Medical University of Warsaw  
Optimising testing and linkage to care for HIV  
(OptTEST)

**Meeting sponsor:**

2nd Health Programme of the European Union  
Work Packages 4 and 5

**Organising Committee:**

Justyna D. Kowalska  
Dorthe Raben  
Valerie Delpech  
Stine Finne Jakobsen  
Sara Croxford  
Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak

**Meeting venue:**

Hotel Ibis  
Aleja Solidarności 165  
00-876 Warsaw  
Tel: 22 520 30 00

**Aim:**

To create the platform for discussion on further  
strengthening the Cascade of Care in HIV in Poland

**Contact e-mail:**  
jdkowalska@gmail.com



# Warsaw Meeting

## Workshop participants:

- Ministry of Health  
(AIDS Centre)
- Epidemiological surveillance
- VTCs representatives
- Medical University
- ID Clinicians
- Other specialties
- NGOs
- Laboratory personnel
- Health managers
- Faculty (OptTEST)



**Day 1 - meeting in English**  
**What is going on and around in Europe?**

- 9:00 - 17:00 **Hands on data parallel workshop (pre-registration required)**  
*Dr Janusz Wątroba (STATISTICA)*
- 14:00 - 14:45 **Lunch and networking ☕☕☕**
- Chairs: Andrzej Horban, Valerie Delpech, Justyna D. Kowalska**
- 15:00 - 15:15 **Meeting opening and welcome notice**  
*Andrzej Horban (National Consultant in Infectious Diseases)*
- 15:15 - 15:45 **Overview of current European initiatives on HIV testing and linkage to care**  
*Stine Finne Jakobsen (Centre for Health & Infectious Disease Research, Copenhagen, Denmark)*
- 15:45 - 16:15 **Increasing HIV testing in medical settings - HIV in Europe proof of concept**  
*Caroline Rea (Saint Stephen's AIDS Trust, London, United Kingdom)*
- 16:15 - 16:45 **Monitoring CBVCT in Europe: the COBATEST network**  
*Jordi Casabona (Euro HIV EDAT, Center of Epidemiological Studies on HIV and STI in Catalonia)*
- 16:45 - 17:00 **Coffee break ☕☕☕**
- 17:00 - 17:30 **Who benefits from monitoring HIV epidemic and quality of care? - example from England**  
*Valerie Delpech (Public Health England, London, United Kingdom)*
- 17:30 - 18:00 **Cascade of care in EuroSIDA**  
*Kamilla Gronborg Laut (Centre for Health & Infectious Disease Research, Copenhagen, Denmark)*
- 18:00 - 18:30 **Cascade of care - meeting two edges in Europe**  
*Lara Tavaschi (ECDC, Stockholm, Sweden)*
- 19:00 **Dinner and networking ☕☕☕**

**Day 2 meeting in English&Polish**  
**What is going on and around in Poland?**

**Chairs: Andrzej Horban, Anna Marzec-Bogustawska, Magdalena Rosińska**

**Cascade of Care - Left side**

- 9.00 - 9.30 **Current surveillance system in Poland - where are we and where do we want to be in 5 years?**  
*Magdalena Rosińska (National Institute of Public Health, Poland)*
- 9.30 - 10.00 **HIV testing in Polish CBVCTs - a wish list for this Christmas**  
*Anna Marzec-Bogustawska (National AIDS Centre, Ministry of Health, Poland)*
- 10.00 - 10.30 **Optimisation of indicator condition HIV testing in Polish settings**  
*Karolina Pyziak-Kowalska (Hospital for Infectious Diseases in Warsaw, Poland)*
- 10.30 - 11.00 **HIV in Europe - experience from Polish participation**  
*Anna Grzeszczuk (Medical University of Białystok, Poland)*
- 11.00 - 11.30 **Coffee break ☕☕☕**

**Cascade of Care - Right side**

- 11.30 - 12.00 **Antiretroviral treatment in Poland and Europe**  
*Andrzej Horban (National Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Poland)*
- 12.00 - 12.45 **Test and keep in care - what does it take**  
*Magdalena Ankersztejn-Bartczak (Foundation of Social Education, Poland)*
- 12.45-13.30 **Future goals and action points - round table discussion**  
*All participants*
- 13.30 - 13.45 **Closing remarks from chairs**
- 14.00 - 14:45 **Lunch and networking ☕☕☕**
- 9.00 - 17.00 **Hands-on data parallel workshop (pre-registration required)**  
*Dr Janusz Wątroba (STATISTICA)*

## MEETING - AGENDA

5th of June 2017

### Knowledge about HIV and implementation of HIV test in Primary Care

14:00 Introduction

14:15 Session objectives:

- Daniel Simões

14:45 Presentation of the intermediate results of the study RESPECT Portugal:-

- Ana Duarte

15:15 Spanish case: obstacles to generalization of HIV testing in Primary care; sharing of tech administrative or legal solutions:

- Rossie Lugo (CEEISCAT)

15:30 Coffee-break

16:00 Roundtable discussion:

Consensuating, selecting and/or approving most relevant solutions and/or identification of ways to remove existing barriers.

6th of June 2017

### Linkage to care: Current perspectives on data collection, barriers to linkage to care and retention with focus on key groups

10:00 Introduction and session objectives:

- Daniel Simões

10:30 Perspectives and current discussion on Linkage to care data:

- Valerie Delpeche (Public Health England)
- Sara Crawford (Public Health England)

11:00 The Portuguese case: Current status and future challenges:

- Ricardo Mestre (ACS5)\*
- Isabel Aldir (PNVIH)

11:45 Roundtable discussion:

- Challenges and facilitators for the improvement of linkage to care data
- Future steps

13:00 Lunch break

14:30 Introduction and session objectives:

- Daniel Simões

14:45 Administrative and financial barriers for an effective linkage to care of key groups:

- Community perspective
- João Brito (GAT)
- The perspective of the health system:
- António Diniz (HPVI)\*

15:30 Roundtable discussion:

- Opportunities for the improvement of linkage to care processes among key groups



# Portugal Meeting June 2017





# UNITED KINGDOM

## HIV Clinical Dashboard – Clinical Review

### British HIV Association Conference April 2017

Indicator	Specification	2012	2015
<b>Late diagnosis</b>	To monitor timeliness of diagnosis <i>CD4 cell count &lt;350 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> within 3 months of diagnosis</i>	<b>47%</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Link to care</b>	To monitor prompt integration into care following HIV diagnosis: <i>CD4 cell count taken within 1 month of diagnosis</i>	<b>88%</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Retention in care - new patients</b>	To monitor the retention in care among newly-diagnosed adults: <i>New diagnoses seen for care in the next survey year</i>	<b>86%</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>Retention in care - all patients</b>	To monitor the retention in care among adults seen for care in the last 12 months <i>Adults seen for HIV care and also seen in the net survey year</i>	<b>96%</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Viral load suppression</b>	To monitor the effectiveness of ART after initiating treatment <i>Viral load &lt;200 copies/ml at 12 months of starting ART (window period 3 – 15 months)</i>	<b>92%</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>CD4 response</b>	To monitor immune status of adults regardless of treatment status <i>CD4 cell count ≥350 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> after at least 12 months in HIV care</i>	<b>83%</b>	<b>86%</b>



# People accessing HIV care, England



**168**

Clinics submitted 4  
consecutive quarters of HARS  
data



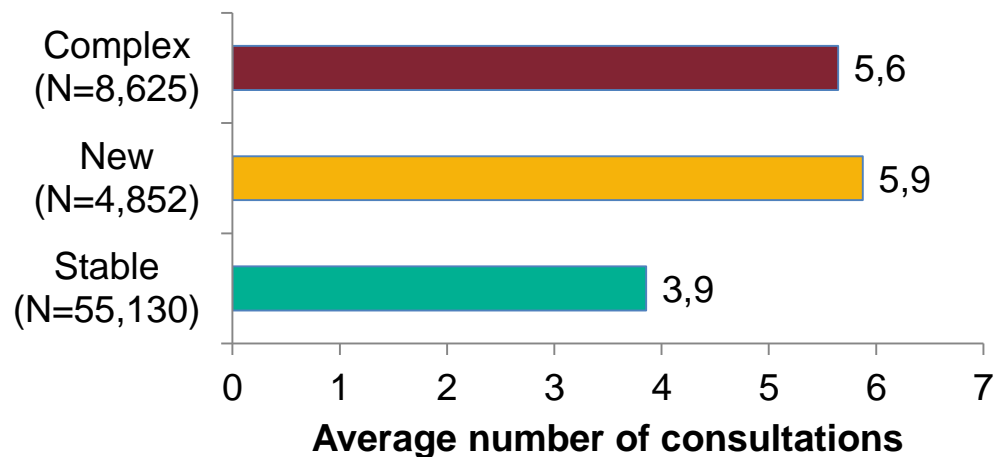
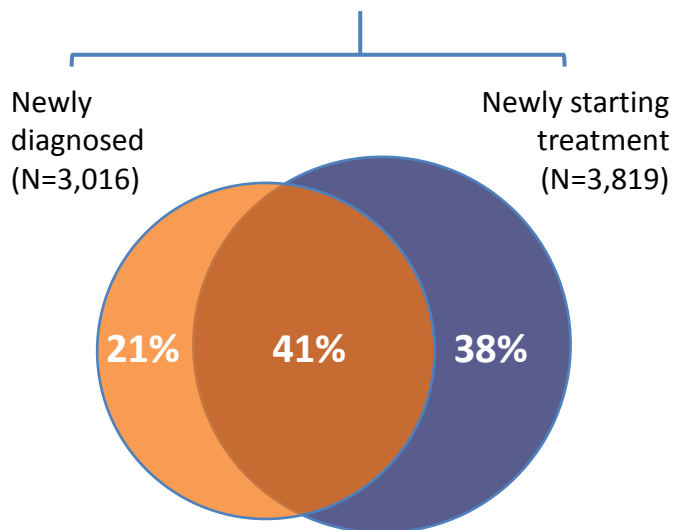
**68,607**

Patients in 2016 (85% of  
patients in 2015)



**4.2**

Average annual number  
of consultations



Workshop  
proceedings and  
action points  
published in the  
official journal of  
Polish Scientific  
AIDS Society

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

## Shaping the HIV epidemic in Poland – proceedings from the first Polish workshop on cascade of care in HIV

Justyna D. Kowalska<sup>1,2</sup>, Anna Grzeszczuk<sup>3</sup>, Karolina Pyziak-Kowalska<sup>1,2</sup>, Anna Marzec-Bogusławska<sup>4</sup>,  
Magdalena Rosińska<sup>5</sup>, Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak<sup>6</sup>, Andrzej Horban<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Medical University of Warsaw, Poland

<sup>2</sup>Hospital for Infectious Diseases in Warsaw, Poland

<sup>3</sup>Medical University of Białystok, Poland

<sup>4</sup>National AIDS Centre, Ministry of Health, Poland

<sup>5</sup>National Institute of Public Health, Poland

<sup>6</sup>Foundation of Social Education, Poland

### Abstract

In October 2016, a workshop was held in Warsaw gathering experts and activists involved in different areas of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) response. The purpose of this meeting was to reassess current needs in controlling the HIV epidemic in Poland in relation to recently launched UNAIDS goal of 90-90-90. During the meeting, several points of action were established to be considered as key factors to improve the response to HIV epidemic in Poland. Those were estimating the number of people living with HIV in Poland using mathematical modelling based on real data sampling, expanding new testing options in non-medical settings, i.e. rapid testing, co-testing (HIV, HCV, STI), strengthening linkage to care after establishing the HIV diagnosis in non-medical settings, expanding HIV testing in medical settings, starting with introducing routine HIV testing for indicator conditions as a standard procedure across different medical specialties, knowing the number of HIV persons already in care, and on effective cART, continuing to fight stigma and discrimination through the means of social education and counselling.

HIV AIDS Rev 2017; 16  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5114/hivar.2017.68804>

**Key words:** HIV, Poland, cascade of care, testing, antiretroviral therapy.

# Workshop recommendations

## Poland

- Prioritising the estimation of the number of people living with HIV in Poland using mathematical models and improved data sampling techniques
- Expanding new testing options in non-medical settings (eg rapid test and co-testing HCV etc)
- Strengthening linkage to care after establishing the HIV diagnosis in non-medical settings,
- Expanding HIV testing in medical settings, starting with introducing routine HIV testing for indicator conditions as a standard procedure across different medical specialties,
- Quantifying the number of HIV persons already in care, and on effective cART,
- Continue to fight stigma and discrimination through the means of social education and counselling.

# Main policy actors in Spain

Head of HIV surveillance in Spain  
(Asunción Díaz)

Head of HIV Prevention at the Plan on  
AIDS at the Ministry of Health; Olivia  
Castillo

Coordinator of Spanish Interdisciplinary  
AIDS Society (SESIDA): M<sup>a</sup> José Fuster and  
its president Josefa Galindo

Apologies from the Presidents of the Spanish  
Clinical AIDS Society (GeSIDA) but GeSIDA  
members were present

Apologies from the Coordinators of the  
Spanish Excellence Network on HIV: José  
Alcamí and Santi Moreno but members of  
Network were present





# National Stakeholder Meeting: Optimizing HIV testing and Linkage to care in Spain



**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**Place:** Library Alicia Llácer at National Center for Epidemiology, C/ Monforte de Lemos 5, 28029 ISCIII

**Time:**

Lunch 13.00 – 14.00h

Meeting 14.00 – 17.30

**Purpose of the meeting:** To discuss how findings from the Opt-test project can help curving the HIV epidemic in Spain

**Agenda topics:**

14.00 – 14.15 Elimination of HIV in the United Kingdom – we are on the way!- Valerie Delpech, Public Health England

14.15 – 14.30 Presentation of Spanish data - Asunción Díaz, CNE, ISCIII

14.30 – 15.00 Questions

15.00 – 15.15 Presentation of Spanish Guidelines for HIV testing – Olivia Castillo, National Plan on AIDS, Ministry of Health

15.15-15.30 Presentation of cost-effectiveness analyses data from Spain – Julia del Amo, CNE, ISCIII

15.30 – 15.45 Presentation of guidelines revision Spanish specialty guidelines - Vicky Hernando CNE, ISCIII

15.45- 16.00 IC-guided testing in Madrid - Susi Pérez-Elías, Hospital Ramón y Cajal Madrid

16.00 – 16.15 IC guiding testing & routine offer in Madrid – Myrian Pichiule, Health Department of the Comunidad de Madrid

16.00 – 17.17 Discussion



# Impact on HIV testing policies in Spain

Gua de  
recomendaciones  
para el diagnóstico  
precoz del VIH en  
el ámbito sanitario

INFORMES, ESTUDIOS E INVESTIGACIÓN 2014  
MINISTERIO DE SANIDAD, POLÍTICA SOCIAL Y CONSUMO

- MoH part of the Opt-test research team from the start
- Results presented at:
  - Special session within the National Spanish HIV Congress SEISIDA, Seville March 2017
  - Opt-test policy meeting Madrid September 2017
- Revision of Spanish Guidelines will incorporate Opt-test findings

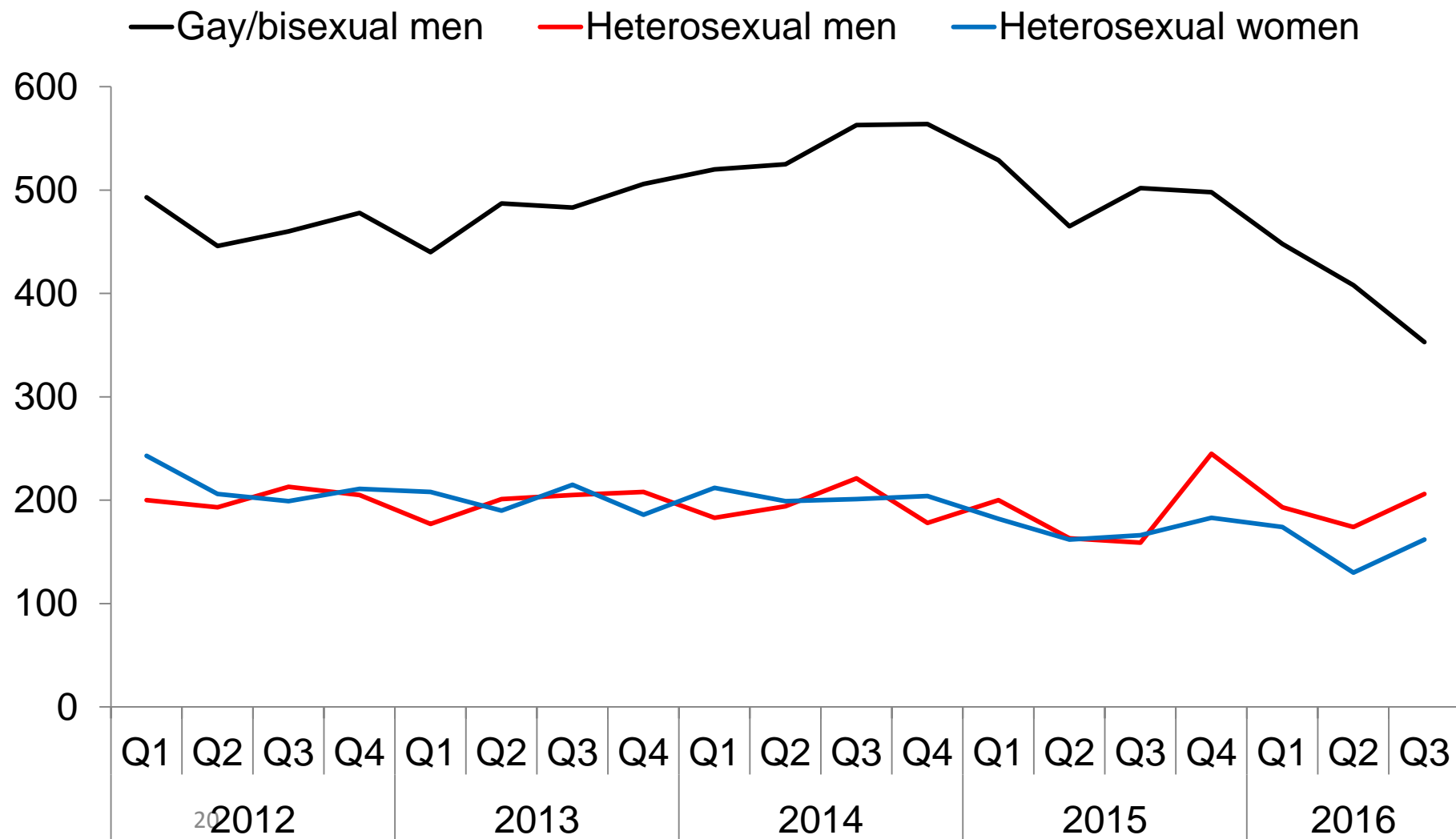
# Outcomes & Going forward



- Enabling a process of collaboration
- Must be flexible and practical for country
- Successful in linking key players together
- Identification of key surveillance gaps and wider issues
- Documented outcomes with evidence of follow up
- Model to be used in INTEGRATE
  - Inclusion of wider range of players
  - May require greater focus
  - ensure sustainability and follow-up

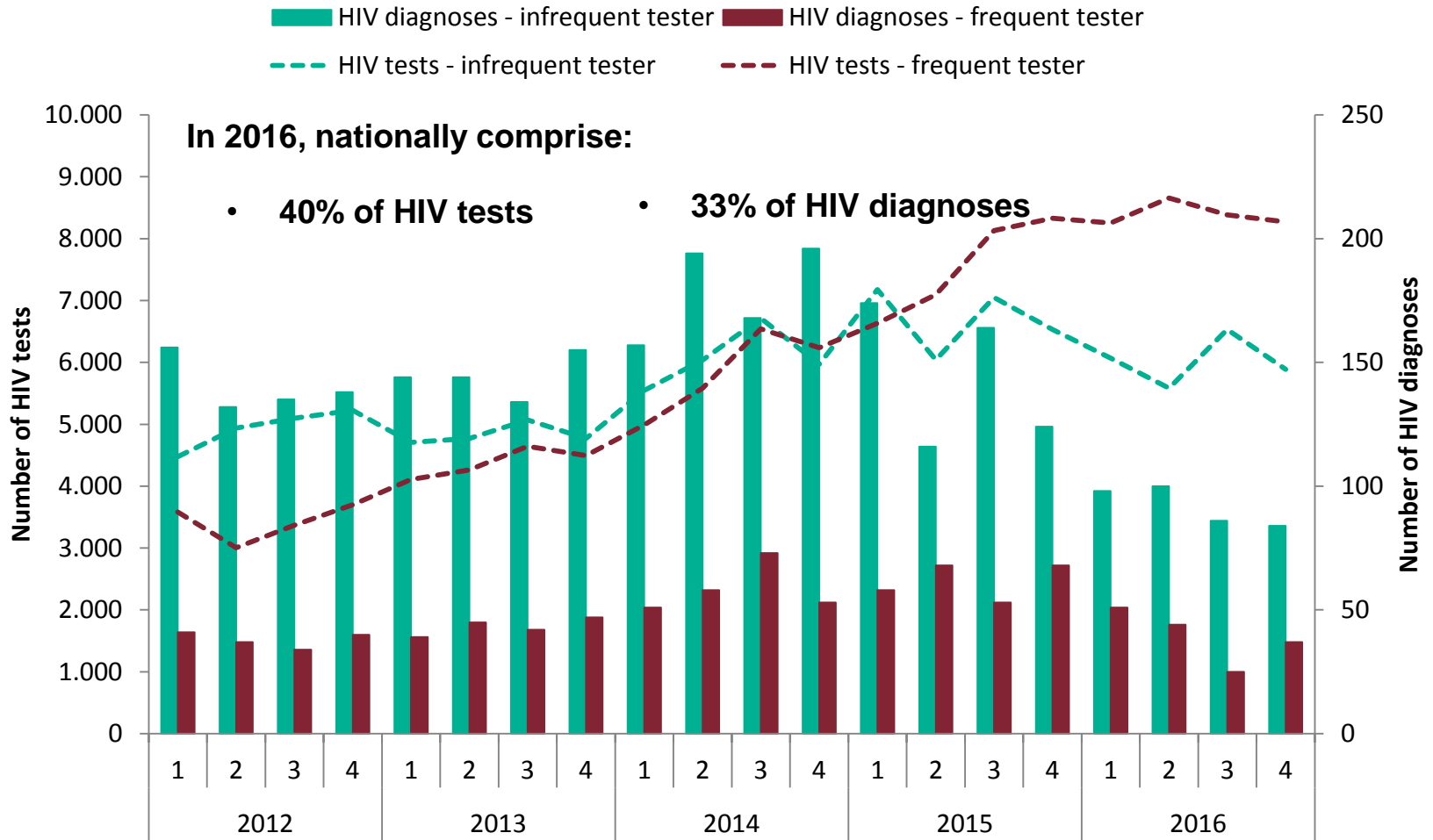
# Recent trends in HIV diagnoses and HIV testing among MSM attending GUM clinics in England

AE Brown, H Mohammed, D Ogaz, PD Kirwan, M Yung, SG Nash, M Furegato, G Hughes, N Connor, VC Delpech, ON Gill, 2017 (in press)





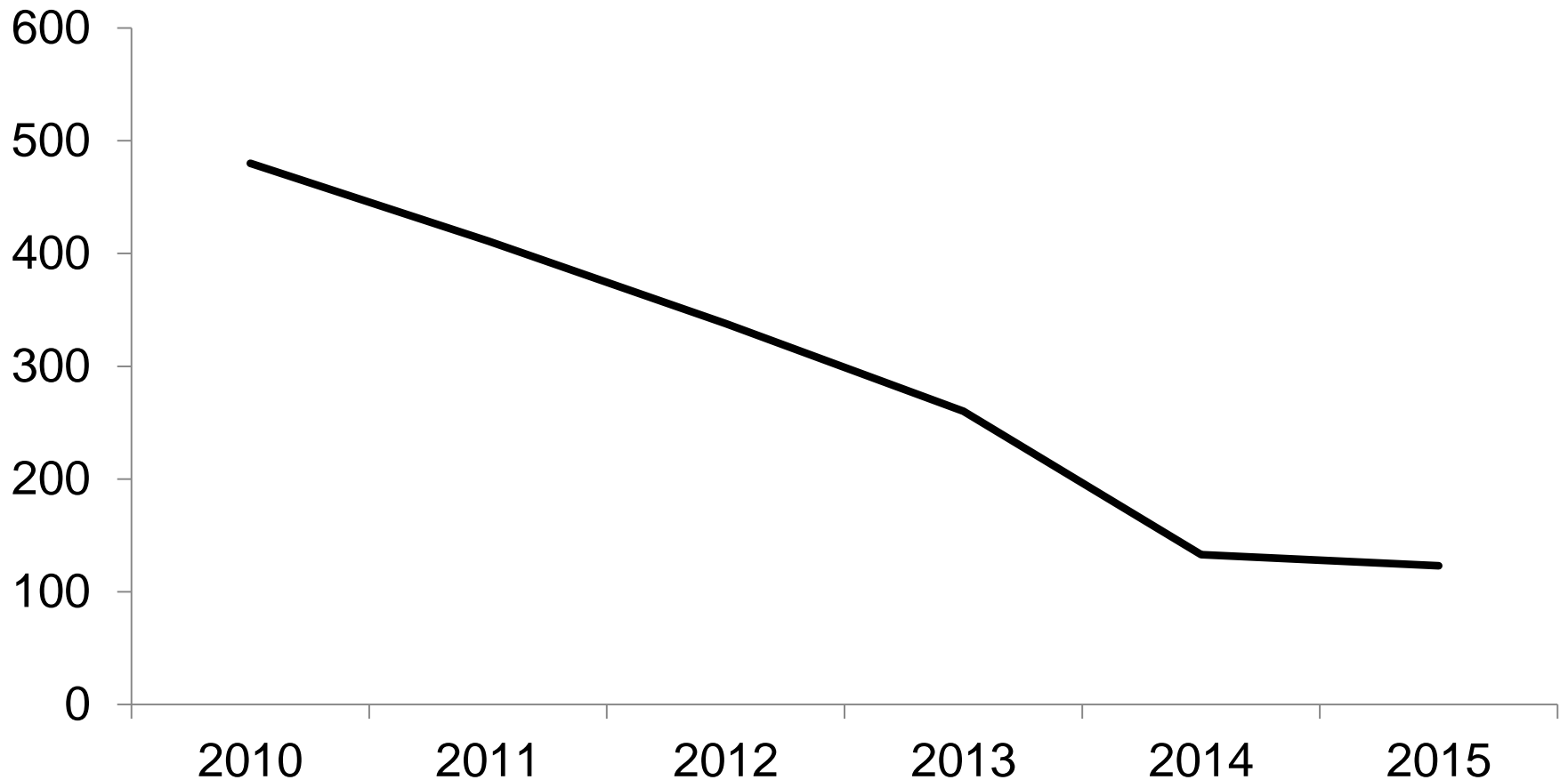
# Number of HIV tests and diagnoses among MSM attending London Large Fall clinics by quarter and HIV test history, England 2012-2016





# Median days from HIV diagnosis to ART initiation among gay men in England

## Overall



## OptTEST PARTNERS



Thank YOU