

INTRODUCTION

In France, the primary cause of HCV infection is still the sharing of infected material between people who use drugs (PWuD). According to the ANRS Coquelicot study¹ in 2011, the HCV prevalence among PWuD is 44% at the national level. A lot of infected PWuD are not treated, being afraid of the treatment or of examinations or because they underestimate the severity of the disease.

Gaïa Paris focuses its work on innovative Harm reduction projects based on an outreach approach and a high threshold of tolerance. Gaïa's addiction centre and mobile units welcome a very precarious and unstable public.

1 Jauffret-Roustide M, Pilonel J, Weill-Barillet L, Léon L, Le Strat Y, Brunet S, et al. Estimation de la séroprévalence du VIH et de l'hépatite C chez les usagers de drogues en France - Premiers résultats de l'enquête ANRS-Coquelicot 2011. Bull Epidemiol Hebd. 2013;(39-40):504-9.

ISSUES

- Mobilize and bring awareness among drug users on hepatitis C (screening, Fibrosan®)
- Mobilize and train harm reduction professionals on hepatitis C
- Improve linkage to care by implementing a network of care around each drop in and OST centers
- Optimize the hinge between professionals involved in healthcare trajectories.

SETTING AND METHOD

The mobile project, founded by the Paris Health Regional Agency, managed by Gaïa is reaching on a quarterly basis 25 OST and drop in centers since June 2011.

The project includes a bus set up with a Fibrosan® area, a consultation corner and a screening and counselling area. The team includes a physician, a nurse, a health counselor and a peer worker.

In each of the 25 centers, we propose medical exams and awareness activities on hepatitis for PWUD as well as capacity building for health and social workers.

Since 2013, we have started screening HIV and HCV with rapid point-of-care tests (POCT) and HCV PCR with dried blood spot (DBS) for PWuD with extreme damaged veins which can prevent from a classic blood sample. We use 2 different questionnaires for Fibrosan® examinations and for HIV and HCV screening. Therefore the samples in the following data are not the same.

OUTCOMES

From 2012 to 2014, 1342 examinations with Fibrosan® were done. Most of the persons were male (82.2%). Many met housing difficulties (48.2%), were infected by HCV (41.6%), had a liver fibrosis (18.9% moderate fibrosis ,7.7% severe) and a harmful alcohol consumption (48.4% drink 4 glasses and more per day).

In a previous study with 307 persons, 61.1% were injectors and 68.4% were smokers. Among them, 34.4% declared sharing syringue, 45.2% paraphernalia and 53.6% crack pipes.

CONCLUSION

Fibrosan®, rapid tests and DBS are real new Harm Reduction tools, which are easily performed in mobile units, and allow access to very precarious population and improve their linkage to care. Through the work of Gaïa's team, hepatitis C took more space in general care of PWuD in Paris region and led to establish a care network around hepatitis: screening centers, OST and drop in centers, hospital reference consultation for hepatitis c.

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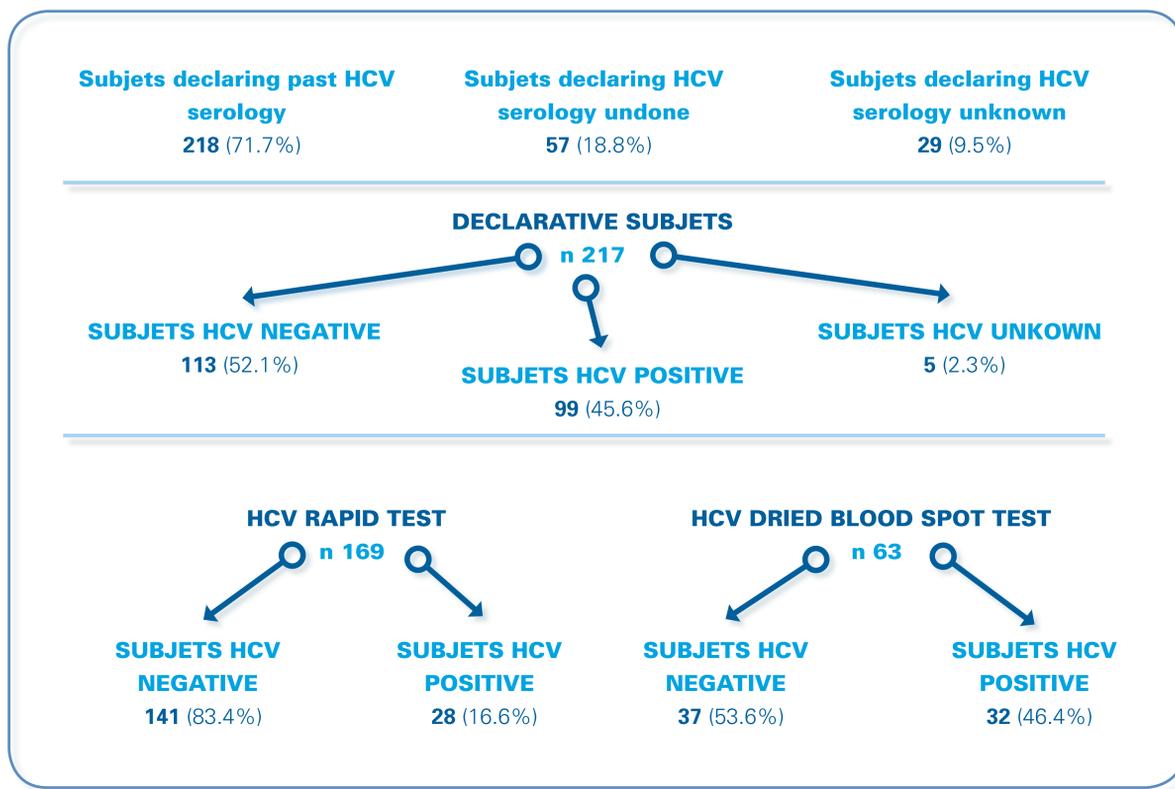
THE MOBILE HEPATITIS SCREENING PROGRAM : AN INNOVATIVE PROJECT AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS IN PARIS REGION



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Fibrosan Gaïa Paris 's team : (1) Manager (2) physician, (3) nurse, (4) coordinator, (5) health counselor.

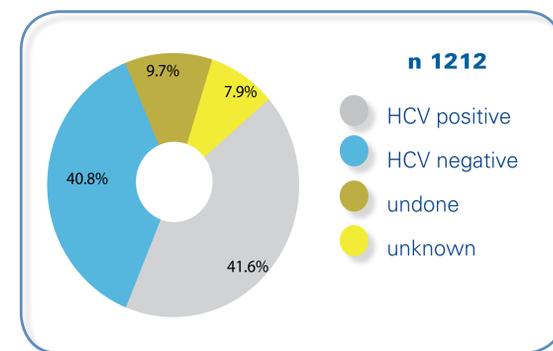
1 - SYNTHETIC SCHEME OF THE RESULTS



2 - MAIN SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

CHARACTERISTICS	n=1367	%
Average age (years)	40.2	82.2%
Male	1123	
HOUSING		
Stable	677	50.2%
Precarious	421	33.2%
Homeless	206	21.9%
HEALTH COVERAGE		
General social welfare	252	19%
Welfare plus private insurance	808	60.9%
No social welfare	268	20.2%
RESOURCES		
Incomes	326	25.3%
Welfare	679	52%
No resources	280	21.8%

4 - SUBJECTS DECLARING HCV SEROLOGY



5- MAIN INFECTIOUS RISKS USING DRUGS

CHARACTERISTICS	n=1367	%
Sharing syringue	163	34.4%
Paraphernalia	166	45.2%
Crack pipes	179	53.6%
Straw	188	33.0%
Sex without condoms	286	68.2%



Awareness session, Gaïa's team on drop in center, 2013.

3 - RESULTS OF FIBROSCAN® MEASUREMENTS

CHARACTERISTICS	n=1367
Valid Fibrosan® measurements	1342 (98.2%)
Medial Fibrosan® (KPa)	5.5
Average Fibrosan®	6.5
FibroScan® < 7 Kpa (F0F1)	1026 (76,3%)
7 > =Fibrosan® > =12 Kpa (F2F3)	213 (14,4%)
Fibrosan® > 12 Kpa (F4)	105 (7,8%)



Dr. Vo Tran (Physician) in outreach's practise, Gaïa's team on drop in center, 2015.