

HepHIV 2014 Conference, Barcelona

HIV and Viral Hepatitis: Challenges of Timely Testing and Care

Migrants in Europe: a rising epidemic of undiagnosed?

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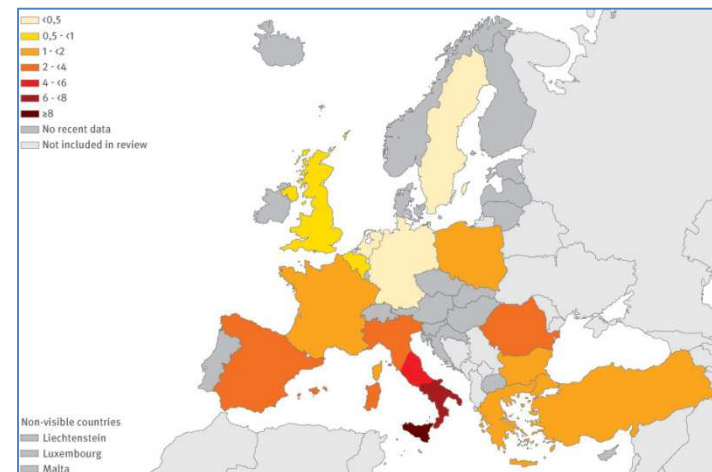
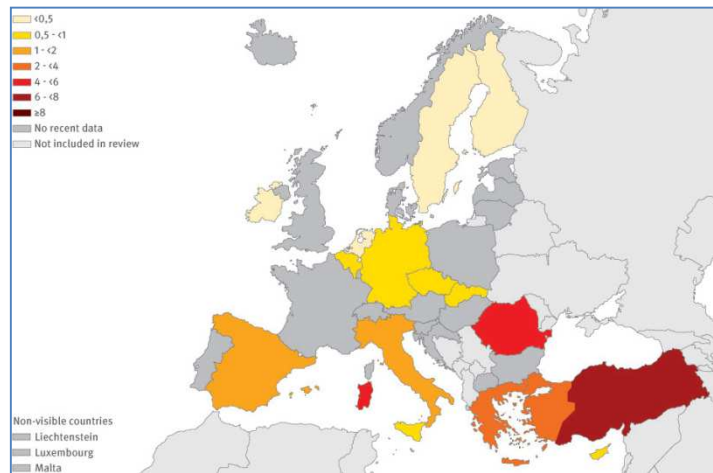
ICMHD



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HBV and HCV in Europe



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HBV and HCV in Europe:

- **ICMHD 2010**
- **ECDC 2010**
- **HBCPPA 2010, 2012**



concluded that based on current evidence: migrants constitute a significant contribution to HBV and HCV in Europe

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conference objectives:

- **learn from experiences in HIV and viral hepatitis**
- **consider innovative and best practices in testing and care**
- **discuss achievements and obstacles in both fields**
- **sustain and fuel the political discussion of testing policies**
- **provide opportunities for dialogue on creative solutions**
- **get commitment from policy makers on earlier treatment**
- **increase public awareness of late presentation problems**

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learn from experiences in HIV and viral hepatitis:

- in HIV, migration and migrants quickly received attention
- many assumptions were made on vulnerability, risk and reasons
- many, including patterns of sexuality, were unsubstantiated
- one size fits all idea characterized many early actions
- messaging on HIV often failed to reach migrants
- the idea that peer counselling might work was late in coming
- country of origin patterns of HIV have tended to persist
- few countries have developed migrant specific policies/programs

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learn from experiences in HIV and viral hepatitis:

Conclusion:

- **in the case of HBV and HCV the same is happening again**
- **but at an even slower pace**

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sustain and fuel the political discussion of testing policies

What are the policies?

...refugees, immigrants, and adoptees from countries where HBV infection is endemic should be tested (USCDC)

...countries with high prevalence rates ... should consider strengthening screening and immunisation programmes, including persons from high-endemic countries (ECDC)

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...at-risk groups, e.g. injecting drug users (half the countries), STI clinic patients (nine countries), prison inmates (11 countries) and people with multiple sex partners (two countries)... there is evidence that hepatitis B screening among injecting drug users is cost-effective... **evidence-base for screening migrants has been insufficiently studied**

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health care personnel?

**almost 40% of all healthcare workers
in UK, Scandiavia and Switzerland**

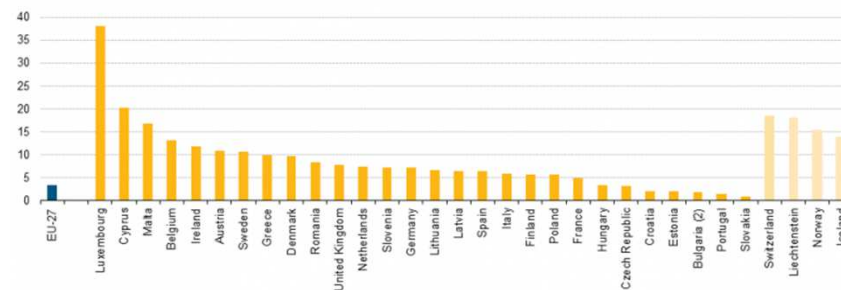
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skilled and unskilled workers?



(*) Data on the number of inhabitants refer to 1 January 2013.
(*) Provisional data.
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: migr_imm1ctz and migr_pop1ctz)

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seasonal workers?

approximately 100,000 per year

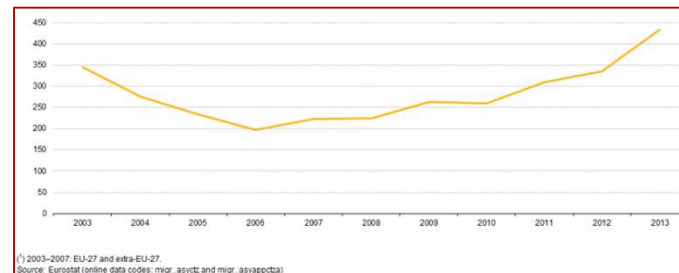
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asylum seekers /refugees?



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irregular/illegal migrants?

at least 3,000 died this year

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trafficked people?

[Albania](#)

[Bosnia-Herzegovina](#)

[Bulgaria](#)

[Croatia](#)

[Kosovo](#)

[Macedonia](#)

[Moldova](#)

[Montenegro](#)

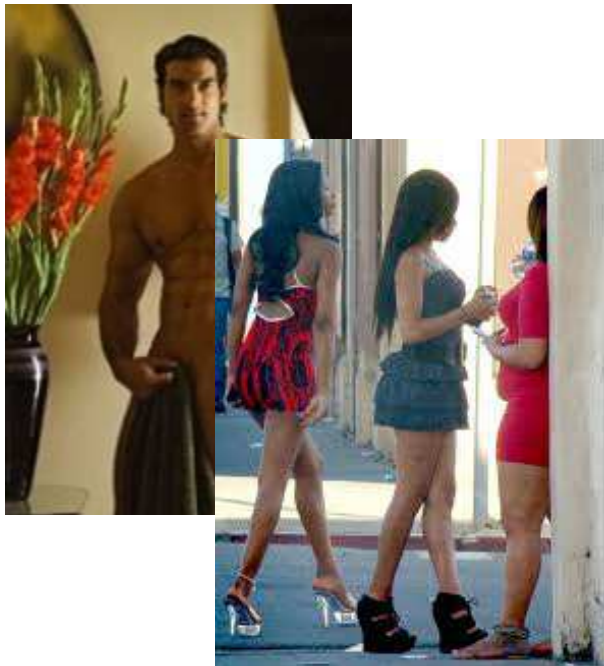
[Romania](#)

[Serbia](#)

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sex workers?

**TAMPEC European Network for HIV/STI
Prevention and Health Promotion among
Migrant Sex Workers : “Everyone has the right
to freedom of movement and residence
within the borders of each State...”**

Universal Declaration of Human Rights,1948, Article 13)

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people who move with families?

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people who move alone?

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young and healthy people?

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or people already unwell?

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homeless people?

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**people we are afraid of and
don't want?**

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16 million to Bangkok



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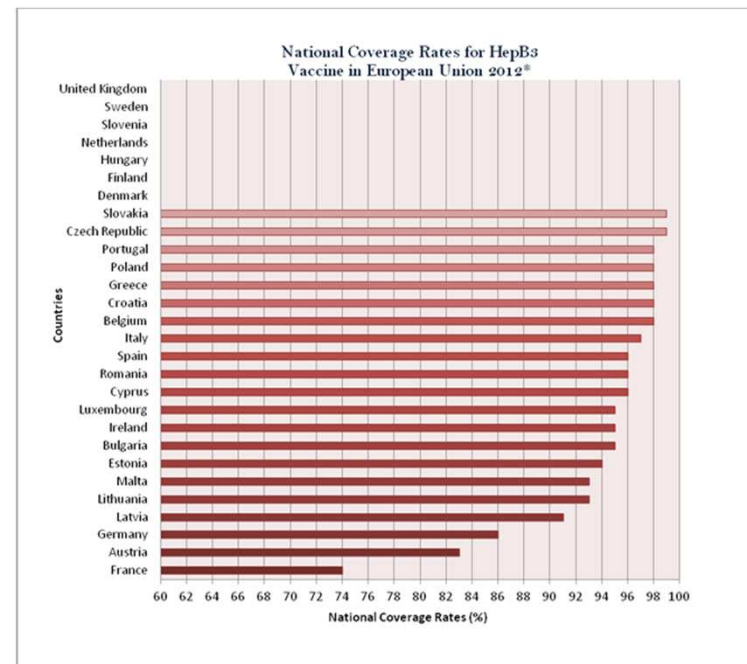
Conclusion:

- **migration remains a relatively neglected field for testing**
- **it presents important difficulties of overall definition**
- **it presents important difficulties of relative risk definition**
- **it presents important difficulties of logistics and cost**

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- **who needs it? will it be empirical or approximate**
- **why do they need it? their health or the public's health**
- **who will pay for it? county of origin, host country, GF**

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Conclusion:

- **we are faced with national policy dilemmas**
- **we are faced with national cost dilemmas**
- **we are faced with major evidence dilemmas**
- **we are faced with fundamental denial dilemmas**
- **we are probably faced with a rising epidemic of undiagnosed**