

HIV in Europe Newsletter

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Today is World AIDS Day..

...and although there has been a lot of progress in the HIV response with ambitious strategies guiding further progress, as for example the [90-90-90 strategy](#) by UNAIDS, **earlier diagnosis for HIV remains a challenge.**

An article by Amanda Mocroft et al was published in Eurosurveillance last week with an update on late presentation for HIV across Europe. The study included 30,454 persons from 34 European countries from the COHERE Collaboration in EuroCoord. The original analysis from 2010 found that 47.5% were presenting late for care. The updated analysis, with patients enrolled after 1 January 2010, found that 48.7% were presenting late for care, reflecting no overall change in the late presentation across Europe. Further, the analysis showed that late presentation significantly increased in PWID, but decreased in Northern Europe compared to other regions of Europe. Read the full article [here](#).

European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week 2015

[The 2015 European HIV-Hepatitis Testing Week](#) took place from **November from 20 to 27** with 417 participants implementing testing week activities all across Europe. Lots of testing activities, awareness-raising and advocacy activities took place in Europe to ensure that more people are aware of the benefits of testing and aware of their status.

This year, to be able to see how many tests are performed, some organisations have agreed to collect data on these numbers before, during and after testing week. These and evaluation data will be available in early 2016.

What's next for HIV in Europe

Evaluation of the 2010 ECDC HIV testing guidance

A lot of responses have been received and the data analysis and report write up is on-going. Stay tuned for more information about this project in the new year.

We will be more social..

HIV in Europe has accounts on both [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). We are not yet as social as we want to be - but this will be our new year's resolution. Help motivate us by following us and/or give us a 'like' on Facebook.



OptTEST

The EU funded project [OptTEST by HiE](#) is now half way through the three year funding period. The annual report which was submitted to [Chafea](#) in August 2015 was approved paving way for activities to continue for all the work packages involved.

Some results from the activities carried out in the first 1,5 years of the project were presented at EACS in October. [Five poster presentations](#) outlined results on indicator condition guided testing and missed opportunities, costs of HIV care and linkage to care in Europe.



HIDES

The HIDES Study has had a significant impact on improving and normalising HIV testing, and the [guidance document](#) has been referenced all across Europe.

HIDES was extended to run in 2015 for infectious mononucleosis-like illness only, and results from this extension were presented at EACS (see poster [here](#)). Despite reference to and recommendation of indicator condition guided testing in Europe, adherence with this guidance across Europe remains low. Results were recently published in PlosOne: [Auditing HIV Testing Rates across Europe: Results from the HIDES 2 Study](#). The study shows that testing rates in well-established HIV ICs remains low across Europe, despite high prevalence rates, reflecting missed opportunities for earlier HIV diagnosis and care.

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