

# HIV TESTING AMONG MSM IN PORTUGAL: RESULTS FROM THE EMIS SURVEY

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## INTRODUCTION

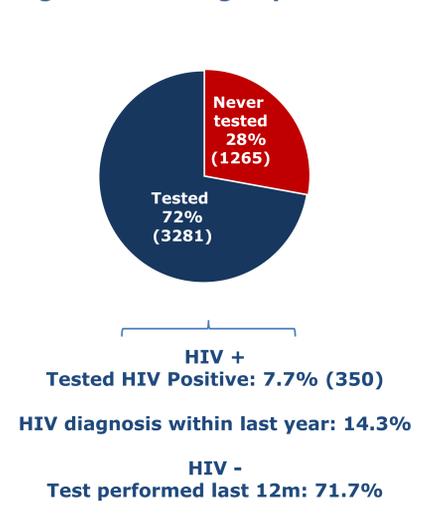
Sexually active MSM are at increased risk for HIV infection. HIV testing is an important tool to prevent further transmission and to enable early diagnosis and timely referral to treatment and care. Surveys conducted among this group are important to find out about HIV testing uptake and to provide relevant knowledge about attitudes and behaviour, in order to inform interventions.

## METHODS

The European MSM Internet Survey-EMIS, the largest international study ever conducted on homosexually active men, took place in 2010, from June 4th to August 31st. An anonymous questionnaire was provided online in 38 European countries and 25 languages. Data from the Portuguese sample was extracted and analyzed (SPSS 19). A total of 4584 participants were included.

## RESULTS

**Fig.1 HIV testing experience**

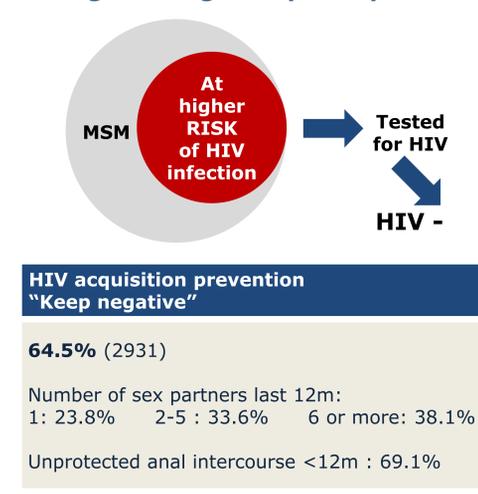


**Table1. HIV testing context**

HIV Testing Context	Tested and positive n (350) %	Tested and negative n (2931) %
GP/family doctor	28.7	37.4
Private doctor	21.5	15.1
Hospital	27.5 (7.4 inpatient)	16.6 (2.3 inpatient)
Community HIV testing service	13.8	19.4
Blood bank	4.3	6.8
Confidentiality*	79.3	90.1
Respect*	80.3	91.6
No counselling	11.2	37.8
Dissatisfied with counselling	15.5	3.7

\* Very satisfied or satisfied

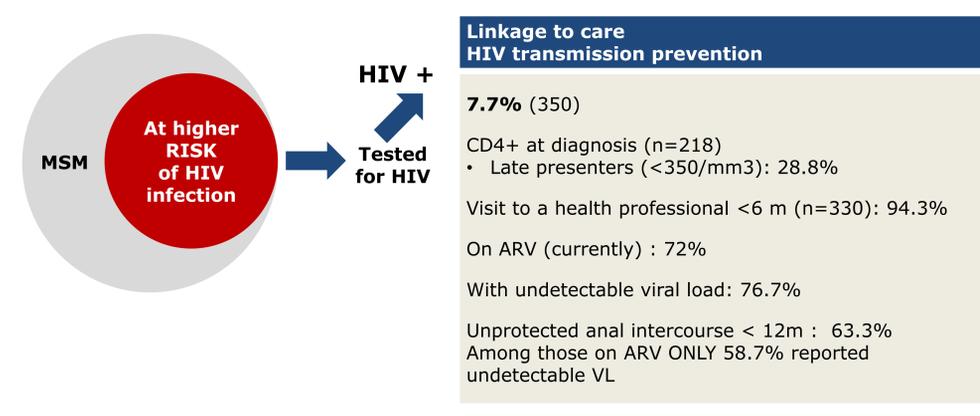
**Fig 4. Risk taking behaviour among HIV negative participants**



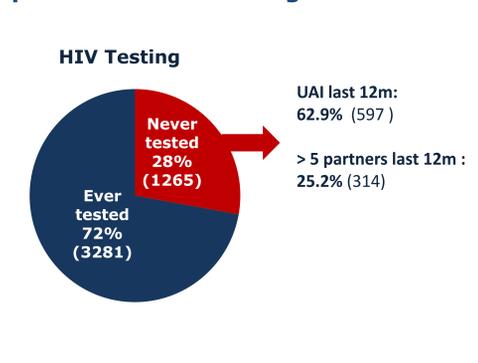
**Table 2. Characteristics of participants according to HIV testing uptake**

	Ever tested	Never tested	OR [IC95%]	ORa [IC95%]
Age				
< 25	665 (20.3)	623 (49.2)	1	
25-39	1828 (55.7)	468 (37.0)	2.01 [1.67-2.43]	
>= 40	788 (24.0)	174 (13.8)	2.14 [1.65-2.78]	
Country of birth				
Other	622 (19.3)	195 (15.7)	1	1
Portugal	2603 (80.7)	1049 (84.3)	1.03 [0.83-1.29]	0.95 [0.77-1.18]
Educational level				
Low/medium	1328 (38.1)	670 (53.7)	1	1
High	2014 (61.9)	578 (46.3)	1.53 [1.30-1.80]	1.56 [1.33-1.82]
Sexual identity				
Bi/Hetero	847 (25.9)	518 (41.1)	1	1
Gay	2423 (74.1)	743 (58.9)	1.31 [1.09-1.58]	1.63 [1.35-1.96]
Disclosure				
"out of the closet"	1894 (58.0)	504 (40.1)	1	1
"in the closet"	1370 (42.0)	754 (59.9)	0.73 [0.61-0.87]	0.57 [0.49-0.67]
UAI <12m				
No	926 (31.5)	352 (37.1)	1	1
Yes	2015 (68.5)	597 (62.9)	1.28 [1.08-1.51]	1.33 [1.13-1.57]
Sex partners last 12m				
0	153 (4.7)	234 (18.8)	1	1
1	743 (23.0)	280 (22.5)	2.12 [1.35-3.34]	2.07 [1.33-3.21]
2-5	1054 (32.7)	418 (33.5)	2.04 [1.31-3.17]	2.07 [1.35-3.18]
6-10	533 (16.5)	163 (13.1)	2.07 [1.30-3.30]	2.34 [1.49-3.67]
>10	743 (23.0)	151 (12.1)	2.15 [1.34-3.43]	2.92 [1.86-4.59]
Sex abroad				
No	1527 (47.1)	917 (73.2)	1	1
yes	1715 (52.9)	336 (26.8)	1.61 [1.34-1.94]	1.91 [1.60-2.27]
Sex venues				
Never	888 (27.1)	661 (52.5)	1	1
At least once	2383 (72.9)	597 (47.5)	1.53 [1.28-1.84]	1.85 [1.56-2.21]
Syphilis hx				
No	2883 (88.6)	1232 (97.9)	1	1
Yes	371 (11.4)	26 (2.1)	3.84 [2.40-6.15]	4.53 [2.84-7.22]
IDU				
Never	3070 (95.0)	1201 (96.9)	1	1
At least once	161 (5.0)	38 (3.1)	1.14 [0.73-1.79]	1.40 [0.91-2.15]

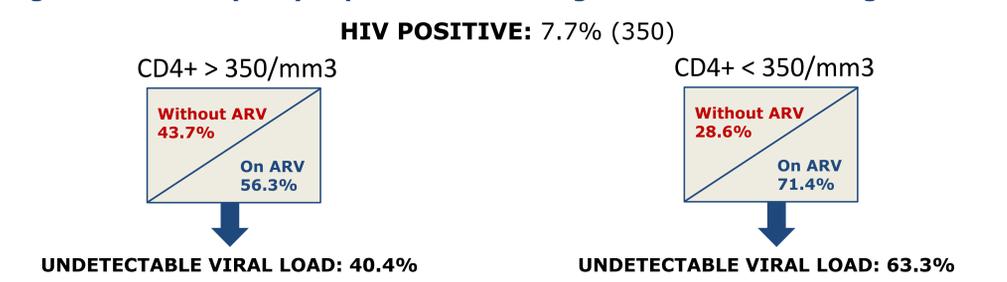
**Fig 2. Characteristics of HIV positive participants**



**Fig 5. Risk taking behaviour among participants who have never performed HIV testing**



**Fig 3. Treatment (ARV) experience according to CD4+ count at diagnosis**



## CONCLUSIONS

HIV testing uptake in our sample was high: 72% but not enough (among those never tested, 62.9% reported risk behaviour within last 12m). The ARV unmet need should be tackled (28.6% of those diagnosed with <350/mm3 are not currently on ARV) and efforts to reach and maintain undetectable viral load should be encouraged. Among those tested positive or negative a significant proportion reported engaging in high risk behaviours. Additional effort is needed to decrease the number of men at continuous risk.