

# Informal PrEP use in a cohort of MSM in Southern Spain



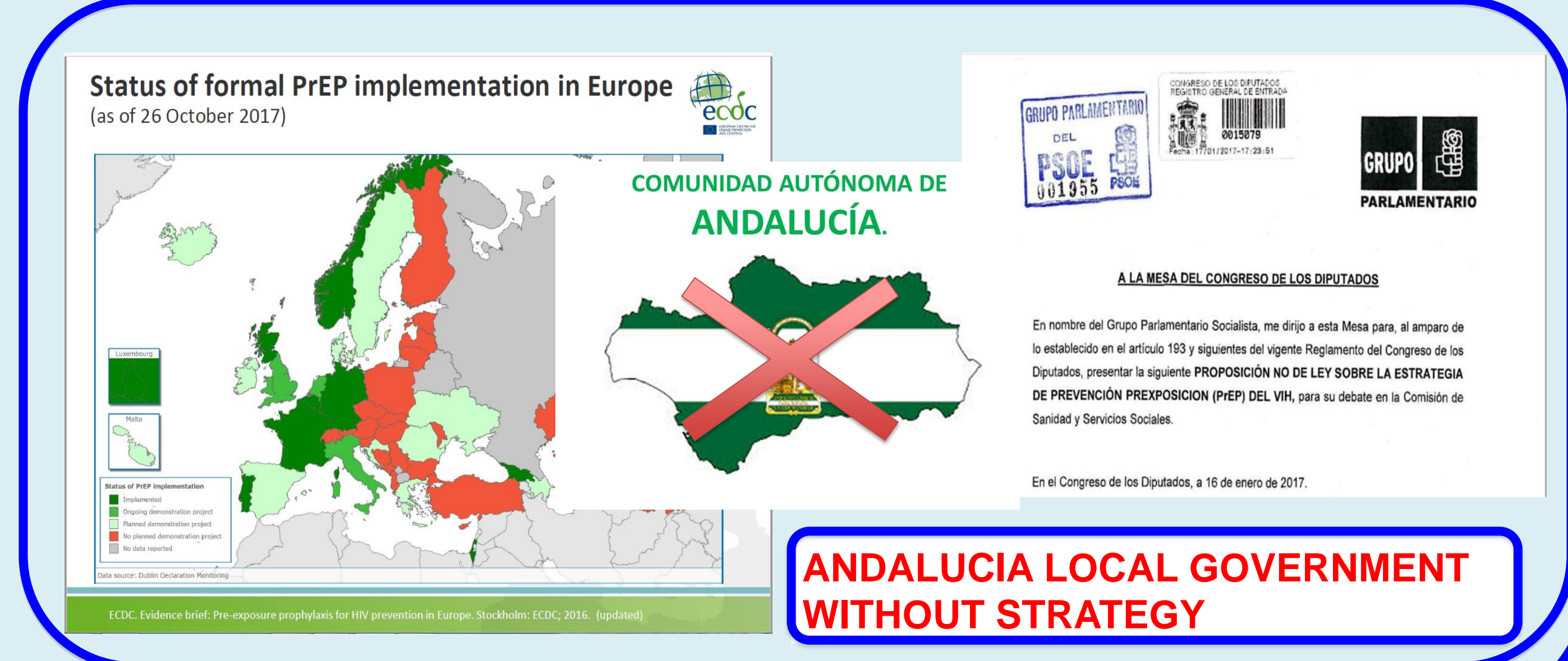
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## INTRODUCTION

Southern Spain has similar HIV incidences than Eastern Europe and Central Asia [1]. Despite this, PrEP use is blocked. In this context, some MSM in Spain are using informal PrEP without medical follow up. For this reason, Sevilla Checkpoint has started a new program – PrevenPrEP- to offer information, counselling and follow up to this MSM cohort to make their use of informal PrEP safer.

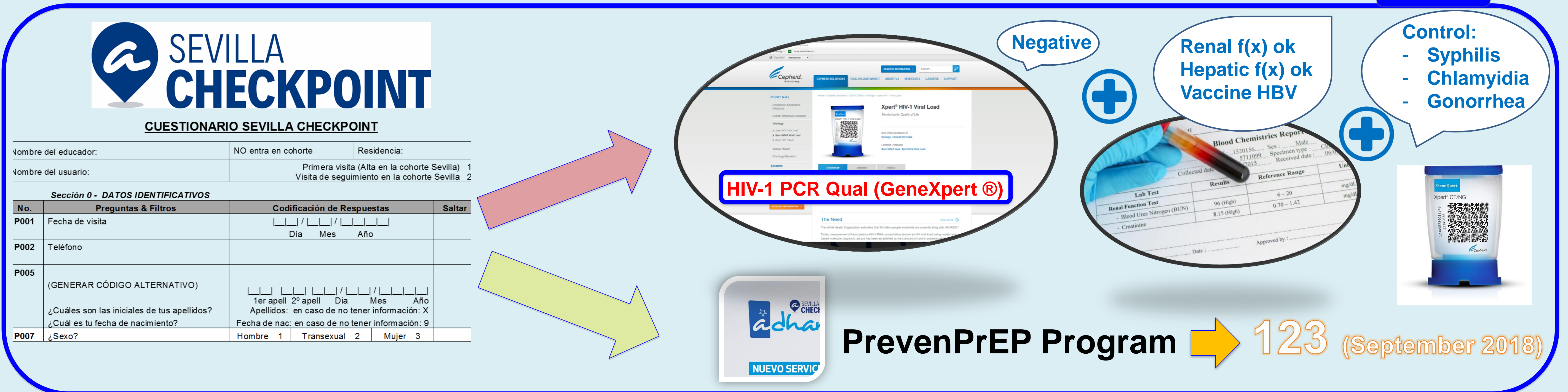
Figure 1



## MATERIAL & METHODS

From January to March 2018, 419 MSM in Sevilla Checkpoint showed interest in the use of PrEP. Furthermore, 67% of them, had unprotected anal sex and 61 of them were chemsex users. The educators offer prevention methods counselling to help users to make informed decisions regarding their potential PrEP use (Figure 2).

Figure 2



## RESULTS & DISCUSSION

	HIV	SYPHILIS	HCV	CHLAMYDIA	GONORRHEA
TESTS PERFORMED	Total: 1.839	Total: 1.062	Total: 0	Total: 343	Total: 343
	PCR: 276	-			
REACTIVE	38	44	0	44	36

Figure 3

Results of HIV/STIs tests performed in Sevilla Checkpoint between January and September 2018. A total of 12 PrEP users from the PrevenPrEP program have been tested after the first 6 months. 3 of them were reactive to Syphilis, 4 to Chlamydia and 3 to Gonorrhea. Most of them were asymptomatic infections showing the importance of this monitoring in PrEP users to reduce STIs transmissions [2,3].

A total of 103 MSM were included in the program; 95 of them use daily PrEP and 8 event-driven. The user type was similar to those shown by previous studies [4,5]; a MSM of 34 years of age, 58% of them with a university degree and the rest -42%- secondary studies. 91% of users showed previous HIV tests, with an average of 12 times per user. Regarding anal sex, 85,47% never used condoms during sexual intercourse with an average of 22 different sexual partners in the last 6 months. 65% of them referred insertive anal practices. Moreover, 4 of them, presented use GHB/GBL, 7 mephedrone and 3 cristal meth during their sexual practices.

## CONCLUSION

These results show that there is a cohort of MSM in Seville who are interested in PrEP and whose sexual practices justify the use of it to protect themselves of HIV infections. The community centers as Sevilla Checkpoint have the capacity to offer professional advise and monitoring services to informal PrEP users and prove to be strong candidates to offer these services when PrEP will be implemented by the Spanish Government.

## References

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- 3- Grulich, A, et al. (2018) Population-level effectiveness of rapid, targeted, high-coverage roll-out of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis in men who have sex with men: the EPIC-NSW prospective cohort study. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-3018\(18\)30215-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2352-3018(18)30215-7)
- 4- Rivierez, I et al. (2018). Lessons learned from the experiences of informal PrEP users in France: results from the ANRS-PrEPAGE study. AIDS Care 30: Issue 2.
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