

Hepatitis C/HIV: prevalence and access, any changes?

Dirk Schäffer

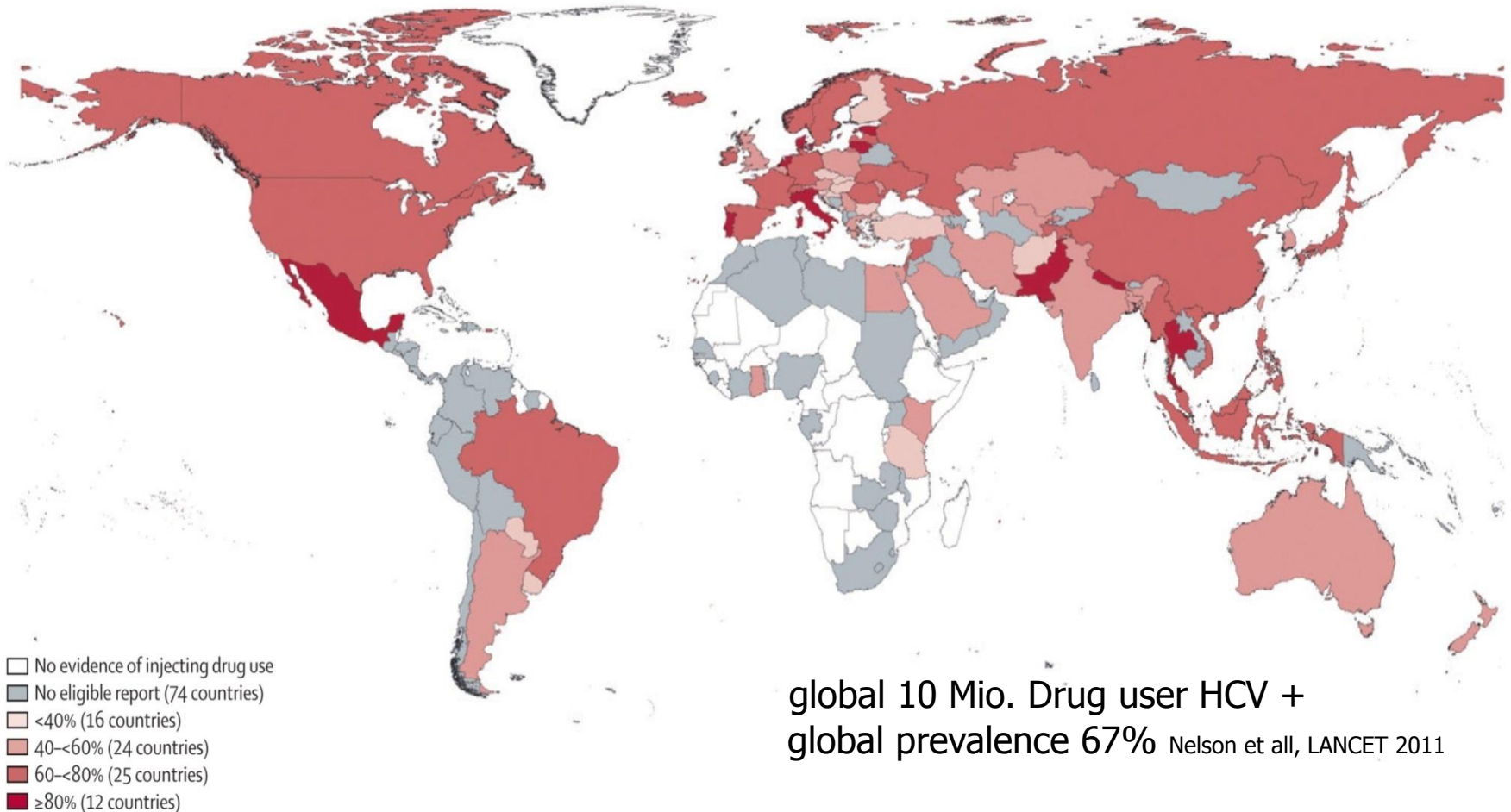
Department for drugs and prison

Hepatitis C/HIV: prevalence and access, any changes?

- Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C are estimated to have caused nearly 90,000 deaths in 2010 in the EU –
57.000 Hepatitis C
31.000 Hepatitis B

Press release European association of the study of the liver, April 2014

Hepatitis C/HIV: prevalence and access, any changes?



Hepatitis C/HIV: prevalence and access, any changes?

HCV in Europe

- The EU Drug Report shows different HCV prevalences among people who inject drugs
- Hungary, Finland, Slovenia low prevalence about 30% and less,
- Estonia; Lithuania, Denmark, Italy; Luxembourg, Portugal high prevalence more than 80%

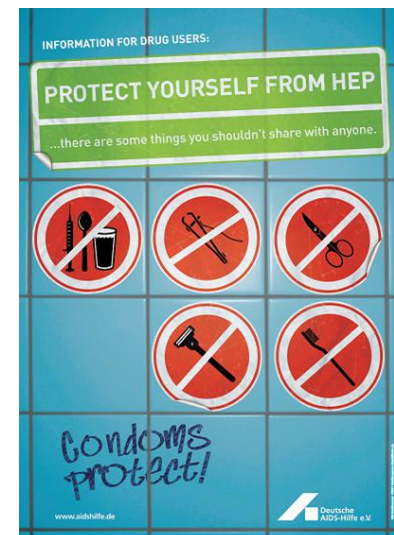
(ECDC, 2010; Nelson, et al., 2011)

Hepatitis C/HIV prevalence and access: any changes?

HIV in Europe

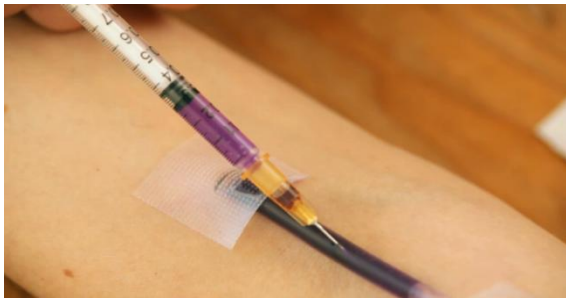
- moderate prevalence lower than 10% in most european countries

except Spain, Portugal, und Italy (HRI 2014)

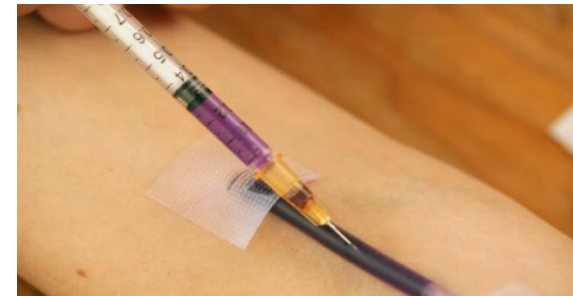


Hepatitis C/HIV prevalence and access: any changes?

HIV Prävention \neq HCV Prävention



HCV Prävention = HIV Prävention



Bildquelle: www.youtube.com/watch?v=H96_PMNC_eE

Hepatitis C/HIV prevalence and access: any changes?

Hepatitis C – new treatment options available
(DAA)

- But at first we have to do our Jobs in the fields of counseling, testing, and vaccination (HAV, HBV)
- Limited testing offers for PWUD e.g. in drop in centers
- Available testing offers in public health services are not well accepted

We need more community based testing offers in drop in centers and other low threshold services for people who use drugs

Hepatitis C/HIV prevalence and access: any changes?

TEST IT – Rapid Testing in low threshold

- We offered drug users access to rapid HIV and HCV testing and counseling in 3 cities.
- The aim is to raise HIV and HCV awareness among drug users and staff
- Nearly 400 drug users attend the project, 80% had been tested before, but 55% of them not in the last two years
- 6 HIV infections were firstly diagnosed, in Berlin 61 HCV Tests were offered, 17 of them were reactive (28%).

VCT (rapid tests) can low the barriers for drug user, short duration between test and result, no vein puncture, confidence to the counsellor is very important

Hepatitis C/HIV prevalence and access: any changes?

What about Hepatitis B vaccination?

- Test it and research projects like the DRUCK Studie in Germany have shown a very low prevalence of HBV vaccination
- Only 20% of people who use drugs got a HBV vaccination
- In Germany, like many other countries HBV vaccination is paid by health insurance or other social service

HBV vaccination campaigns have to be implemented to raise awareness and the prevalence of HBV Vaccinations

Hepatitis C/HIV prevalence and access: any changes?

What about access to HCV Treatment?

- New Guidelines in Germany and many other countries give recommendations to treat drug user with OST -treatment, but some projects show that also current drug users can be treated successfully.
- New medications (DAA) with and without interferon with higher rates of SVR; treatment need only 12 or 24 weeks,
- Now we need to assure access to treatment. This means GP and Hospitals who want to treat us without stigma.
- We need payable medications so that all people who use drugs and want to be treated can get access to treatment.

Hepatitis C/HIV prevalence and access: any changes?

What about prison?

- To decrease the HCV prevalence with prevention projects, community based counseling and testing , vaccination (HAV/HBV) and treatment it is indispensable that inmates get access to the same successful services
- **Otherwise prison can become the driving force of the HCV/HIV epidemic**

Hepatitis C/HIV prevalence and access: any changes?

Is drug use responsible for HCV and HIV?

- Is injecting drug use the main factor for the HCV and HIV epidemic?

It is definitely not

- The War on drugs and prohibition is the driving force for the HIV and HCV Epidemic in Europe and around the world

So, keep on fighting against the war on drugs!



Thanks for your attention!