

Program for early identification of HIV/AIDS

Harm Reduction

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Introduction

In Portugal, the VIH contagion between drug users (DU's) has given special attention by EMCDDA, OMS, the media and other identities. The DICAD of ARS Norte,IP developed the "Program of early identification of VIH/SIDA" through ADR methodology (advise, diagnosis and referencing) to drugs users since 2007. This program was implemented under the Harm Reduction structures, with the aim to detect, advice, reference and promote access to the health to people who used drugs, specially antiretroviral therapy. The objective of this program is ensure early identification and prevention of HIV/AIDS on drug users and their correct reference to hospital units to facilitate adherence to antiretroviral therapies. Furthermore the program sought to reinforce the importance of screening for VIH/Sida and advice for effective work to reduce the risks associated with intravenous drug use and other behaviors that contribute to the infection of HIV and others IDS. This studie summarizes the principal results of the implementation of the program above described applied during 7 year (2012-18).

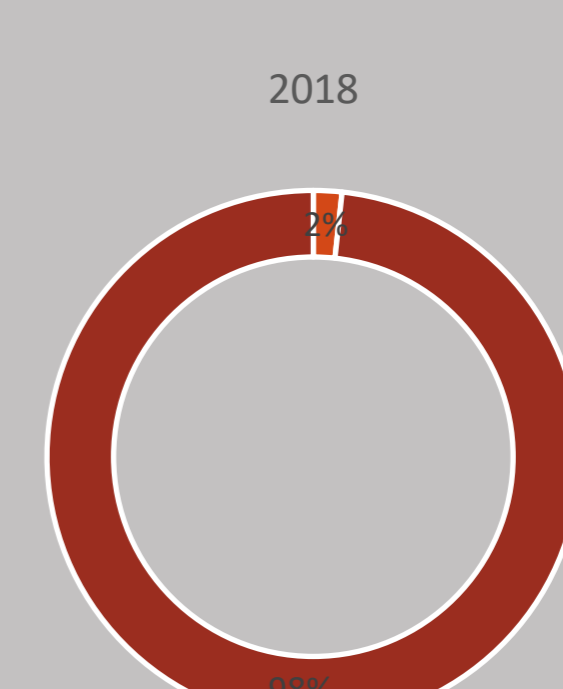
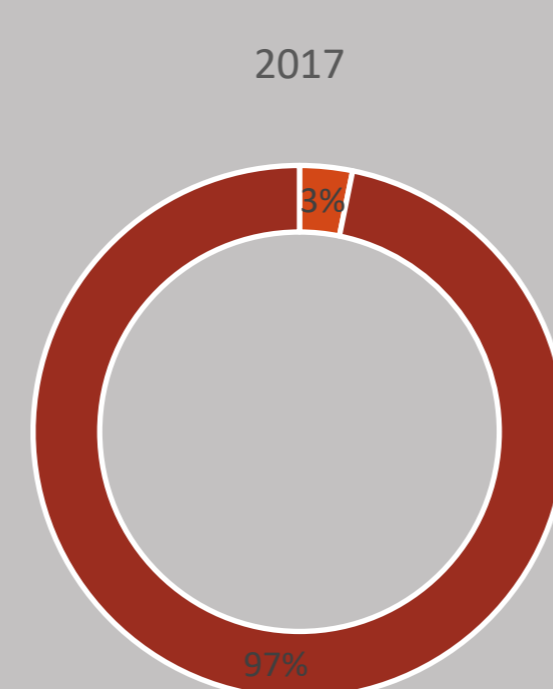
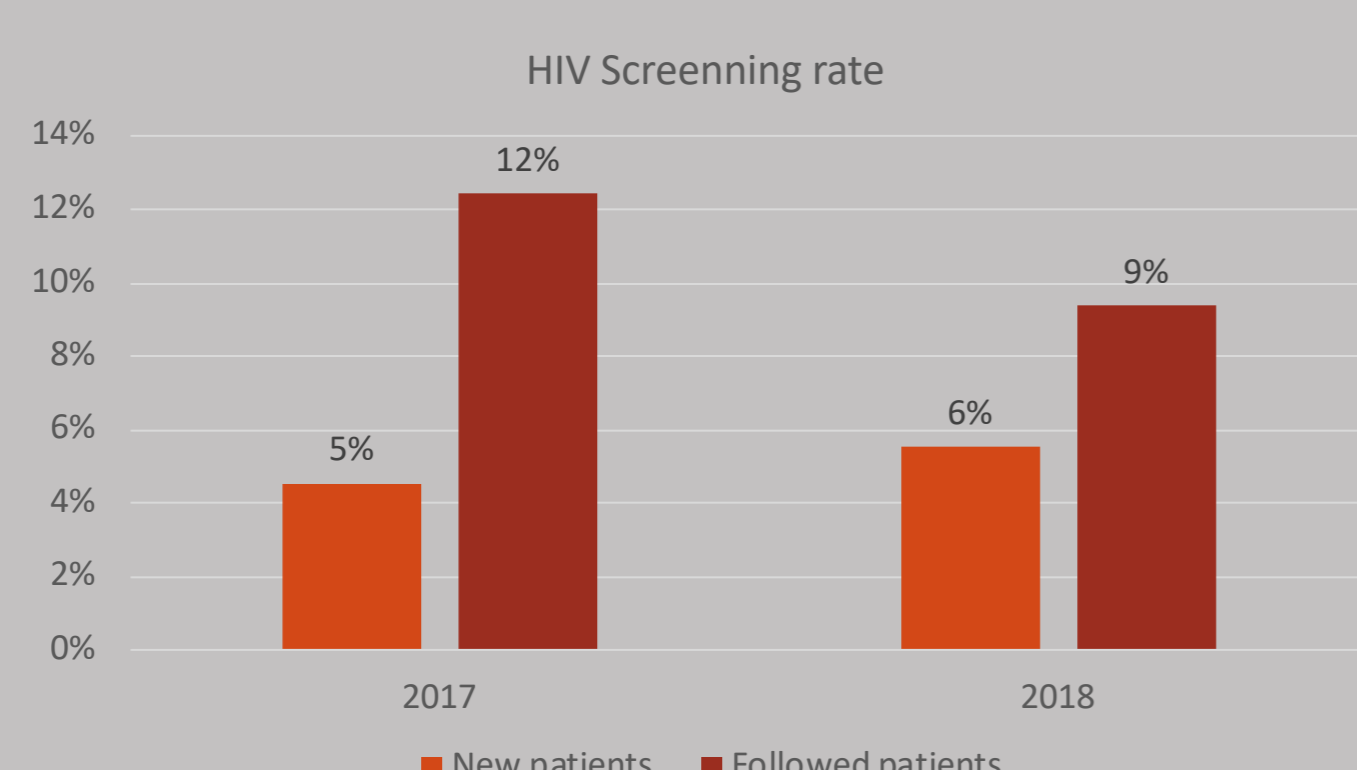
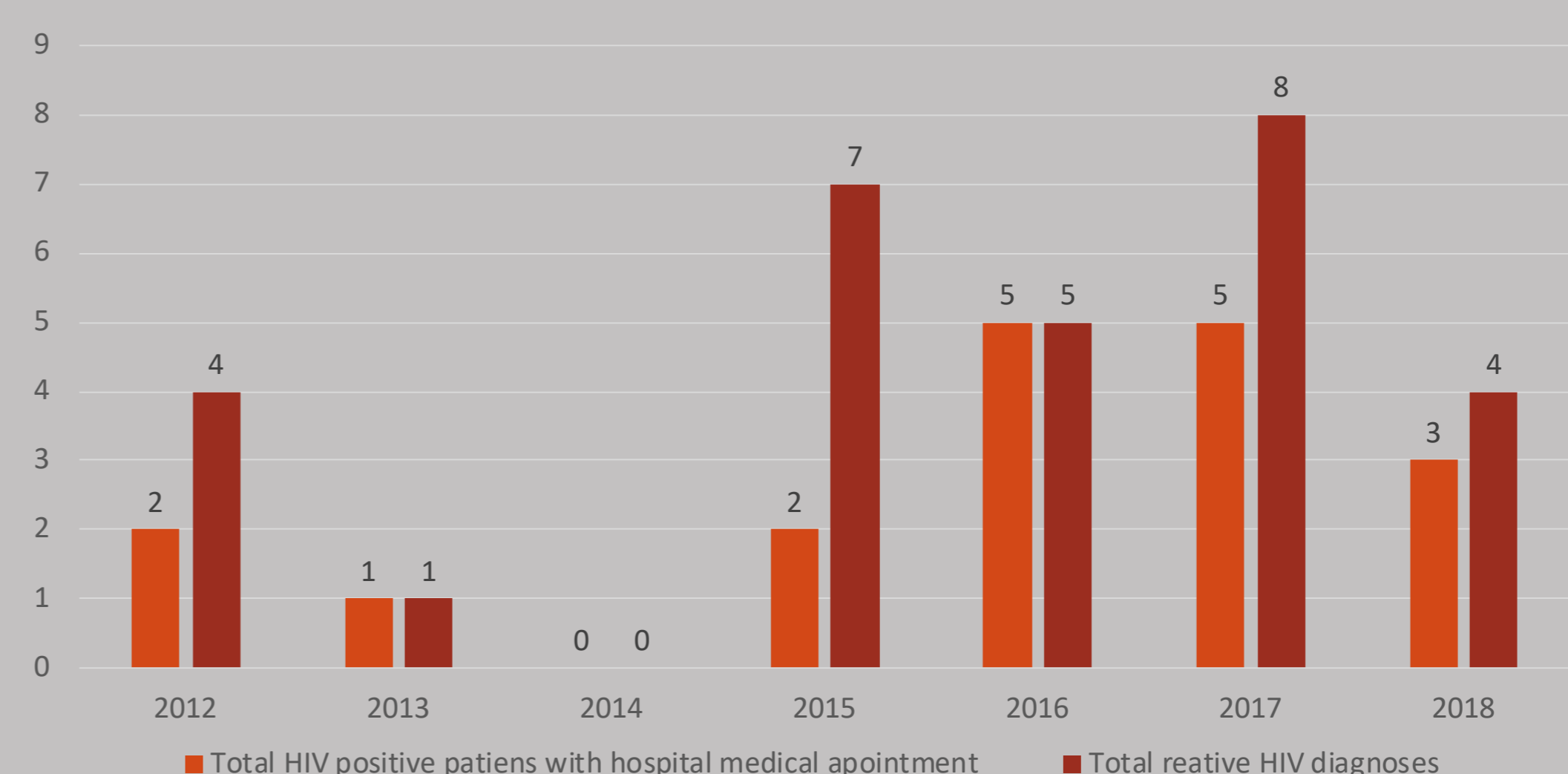
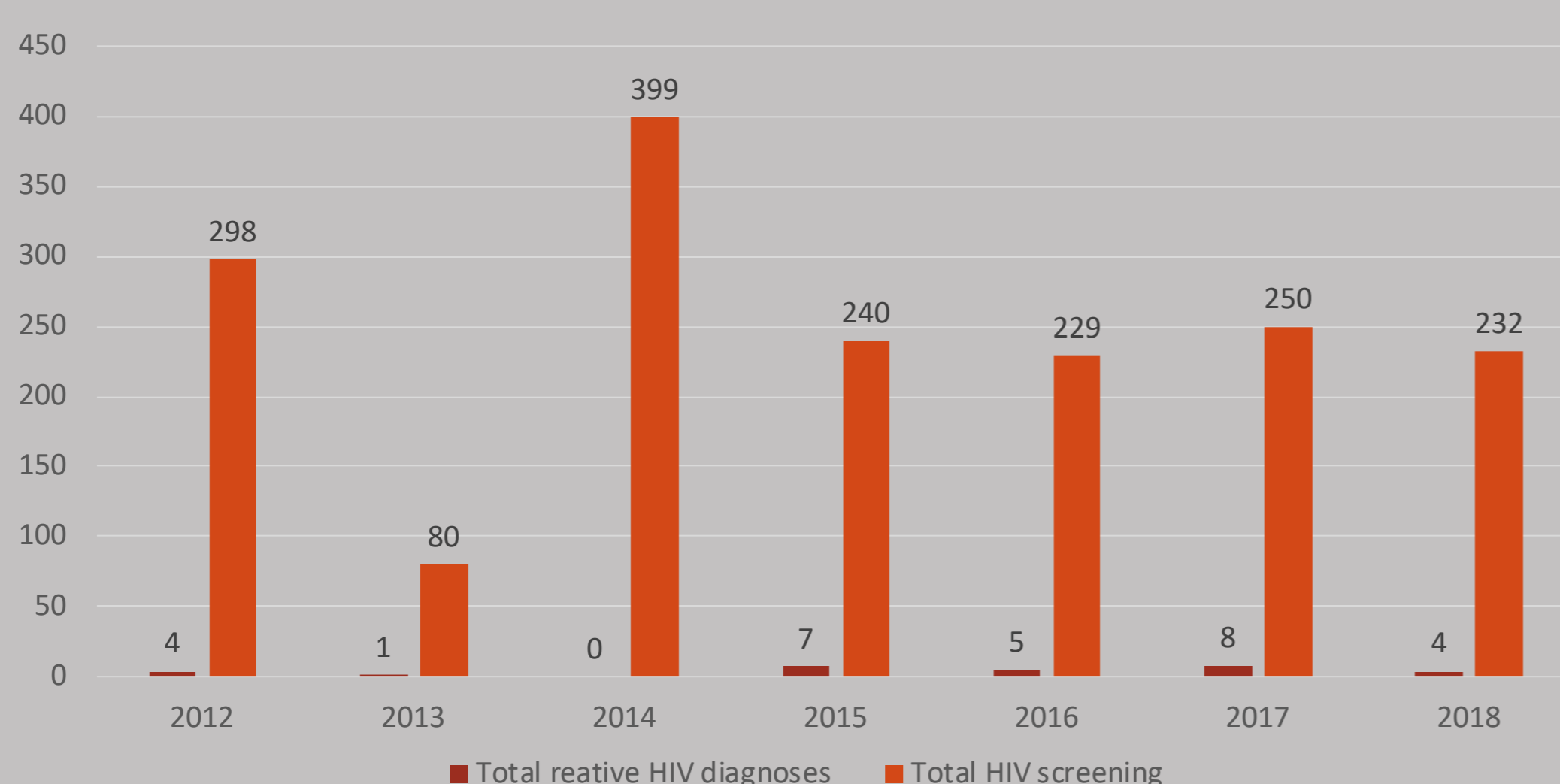
Objectives

The aim of this studie is analise the evolution of the program and consequently, understand the evolution of infection of HIV/AIDS in the harm reduction structures (outreach teams, drop-in, etc.). Knowing the evolution of the accessibility of these individuals to the support (infection diseases hospital units) when it concerns reference.

Methodology

The study was developed based on the annual reports of monthly indicators of the last seven years.

Results



Conclusion

Over the past 7 years of experience, this program has experienced some difficulties in homogeneous data collection. Both referrals, such as health care, have been effective; however, the average waiting time for health care is too long and without feedback for harm reduction projects. This may be due to the lack of articulation between hospital units and NGOs. New HIV cases have declined among drug users; however, the low screening rate shows that more investment is needed for this target group.

Message to take home

- Reflect on professional practices and procedures;
- Build a manual of procedures referencing in constantly update that includes: focal point, sheet connectors, flow user's.
- A record sheet complete filling;
- Define universal access coverage levels;
- Link a HIV and others infection diseases services (TB , HCV, HBV, etc.)

This will allow better understanding of the drug user population also knowledge of path individual, sharing of culture inter/intra institutional, better counseling and referencing, which can help improve access to screening and adherence to antiretroviral therapies.

Bibliography

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