

# E-PrEP: E-consultations and digital community counselling

In Centre-Val de Loire - France

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E-PrEP in CVL - European PrEP Summit, 10-12 October 2019



# PLAN:

1. AIDES
2. E-PrEP: why?
3. E-PrEP: how?
4. E-PrEP: perspectives and questions

# 1. AIDES:



A French Community-based and driven association fighting HIV and Hepatitis, member of Coalition Plus.

## AIDES in 2018 :

- 2,207 activists including 497 staff.
- 76 centres, in France and french caribbean islands.
- **30,023 actions of support and prevention:** 1 million condoms et 1,8 million de syringes distributed; 42 000 rapid tests (HIV and HCV) and 6 500 HIV self tests distributed.



## PrEP by AIDES :

**2,943 community counselling for 2372 people.**

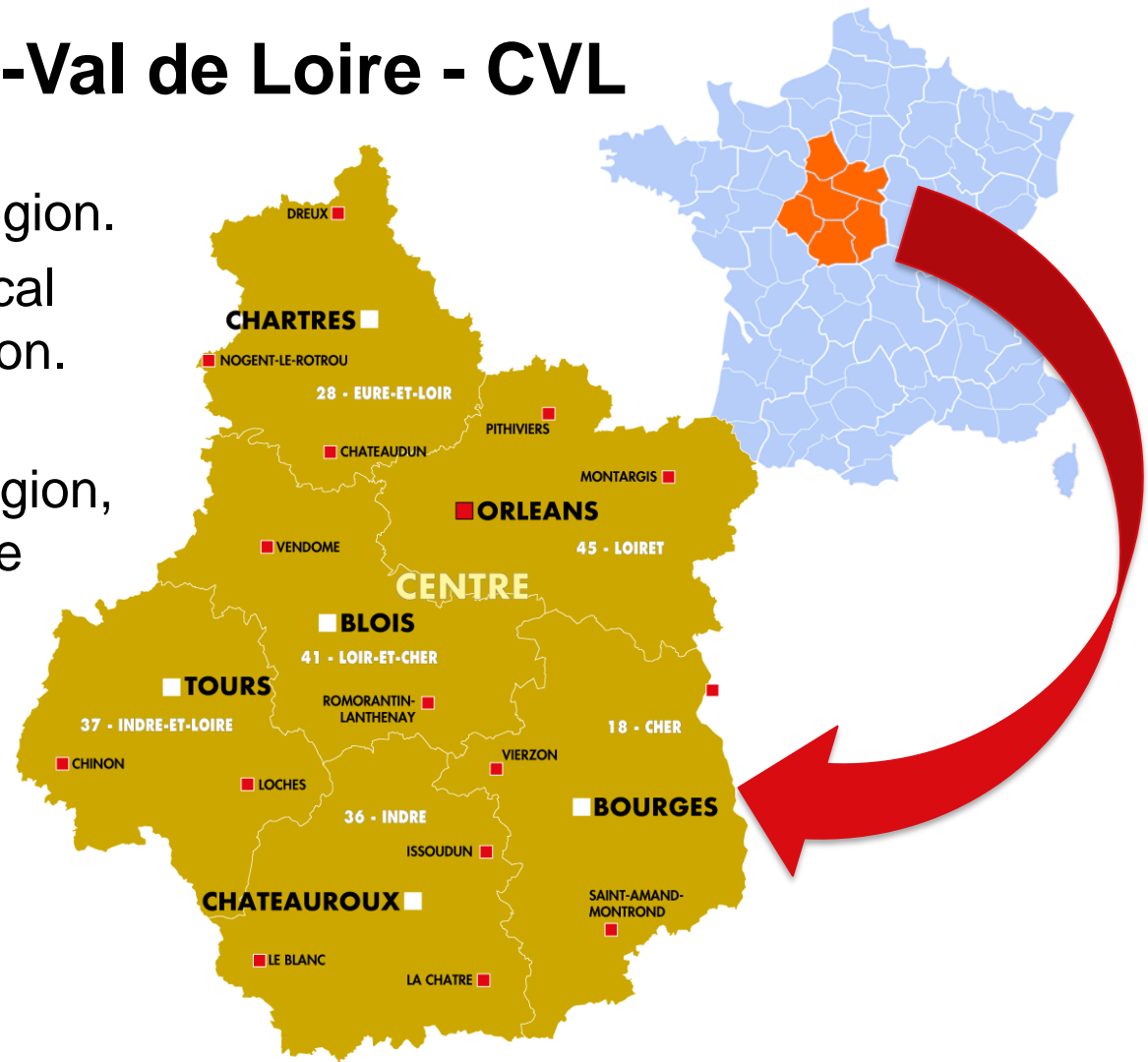
- Average: 36 years old
- 92% are MSM
- 36% of MSM have chemsex
- 54% have group sex
- 4% have sex in exchange for money or drugs



## 2. E-PrEP: Why?

### The region Centre-Val de Loire - CVL

- Rural and semi-rural region.
- Region with poor medical coverage - desertification.
- Hidden HIV epidemic: second only to Paris region, 900 don't know they are HIV-positive.



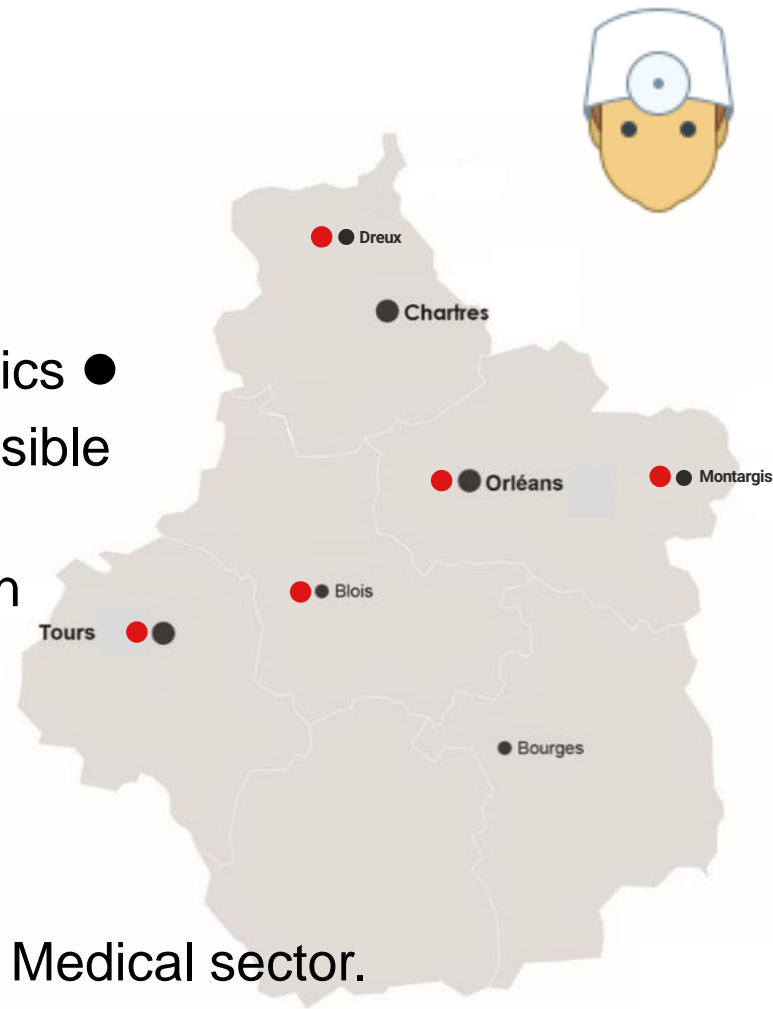
## 2. E-PrEP: Why?

### How to get PrEP in CVL?

- PrEP available on prescription in STI clinics ●
- PrEP renewal and follow up in theory possible with GP, family doctor, but not in practice
- Community counselling done by AIDES in nearly all STI Clinics ●

### Barriers to access:

- Access limited to larger urban areas.
- Ignorance about PrEP in Communities & Medical sector.
- Lengthy appointments in STI Clinics.
- Fear of judgement and stigmatization from medical staff and from within communities.



## 2. E-PrEP: Why?



### **We do have Internet!**

- Internet: MSM use it for sexual meetings.
- Internet also used by sexworkers through ads.

## **How can we improve PrEP acces?**

**In proposing a digital access to PrEP: E-PrEP!**

**Experiment from 2020 to 2022**





### 3. E-PrEP: How?



## B) Offer E-counselling on sexual health

- Community-based E-counselling: 5 salaried and 6 volunteers, issued from the communities.
- Tools adjusted to E-interviews:



Simple use, no app installation, no account creation



Also used.



E-PrEP (E-consultation and digital community counseling) – jan 2020

- Also postal dispatch: condoms, lubes, sniff and injection preventing material, HIV self tests (online order in 2020).
- Jan-Jun 2019: 346 E-counsellings (335 MSM & 11 Sexworkers):
  - Prevention and harm reduction, testing and health exams, vaccination, sayability, medical follow up, access to rights, etc.





## 3. E-PrEP: How?



### Qare: E-medical consultation platform

An innovating platform:

- A dedicated page on E-PrEP.
- Free.
- Easy access with a smartpone.
- Secured E-consultations.
- Schedule management: practitioners and community counsellors.
- Prescription dispatching.
- SMS reminders.
- Consolidation of biological results.
- Possibility to dispatch medicines.
- Moderate cost for AIDES.

**Needs adapted network and hardware.**



# 4. E-PrEP: Perspectives and questionings



**Perspectives:** E-PrEP available in january 2020

## Questions who need to be resolved:

- Biological results upstream the PrEP prescription: in laboratory or auto-taking at home?
- Digital access for testing all STIs: E-DEPIST?

## But also?

- How to cope with raising demand and lack of human resources?
- Will people navigate their PrEP pathway both physically and digitally?
- It works with MSM, will it work with sexworkers?
- When will this new modality of action scale up to all the AIDES network?



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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