

HSH and Safe



A participatory sexual health project for Afro-Latino-Caribbean men who have sex with men in Brussels.

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INTRODUCTION

In 2018, Plateforme Prévention Sida initiated a program to improve the implementation of the PrEP among the Afro-Latino-Caribbean MSM in Brussels. Our project highlighted that this audience is not being reached by sexual health promotion programs aimed at the MSM, nor by those aimed at Afro-Latino-Caribbean publics, too often thought of in a heteronormative way.

Afro-Latino-Caribbean MSM: an audience at the intersection of two priority audiences targeted by HIV prevention programs. In Belgium, the number of new HIV cases among MSM of non-Belgian origin is increasing. In 2018, 13% of MSM have a Latin American nationality and 10% have an asian one¹. This public also accumulates fragilities linked to the management of its sexual health.

¹réf: Sasse A., Deblonde J., De Rouck M., Montourcy M., Van Beckhoven D. Epidemiology of AIDS and HIV infection in Belgium, situation on 31 December 2019, Sciensano, November 2019, Brussels)

GOALS OF THE HSH AND SAFE PROJECT

- To identify the needs of the Afro-Latino-Caribbean MSM audience ;
- To improve their sexual health through the creation of a participatory campaign ;
- To increase the visibility of Afro-Latino-Caribbean MSM in the LGBTQIA+ community and in the Afro-Latino-Caribbean community in Brussels.

METHODOLOGY

- **Participatory approach** inspired by health literacy. Recruitment of participants following the "snowball effect". Meeting once a month of the working group composed of about ten people from the target audience.
- **Qualitative and quantitative study of the target audience's needs** : semi-directive individual interviews, focus group and online survey.

RESULTS

The project was well received by the audience, demonstrating that it met a real need. The participants show a high degree of motivation throughout the process.

Study about the needs :

- 15 people met in group (M=9) and individual (M=6) interviews ;
- 55 respondents to the online survey.

Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents to the online survey :

Age N=55	n (%)	Gender pronouns N=55	n (%)
18-24	11 (21%)	he (man)	46 (84,6%)
25-34	24 (43%)	she (woman)	7 (13,7%)
35-50	11 (21%)	they (gender neutral)	2 (3,6%)
>50	9 (15%)	Sexual orientation N=55	n (%)
Origin N=55	n (%)	homosexual	41 (75%)
Africa	31 (56%)	heterosexual	4 (7%)
Europe	17 (31%)	bisexual	6 (11%)
Latin America and the Caribbean	4 (7%)	pansexual	4 (7%)
Others	3 (5%)	Coming out N=53	n (%)
Duration of stay in Belgium N=55	n (%)	yes	38 (72%)
always	16 (29%)	no	15 (28%)
< 5 years	19 (35%)		
> 5 years	20 (36%)		

First results of interviews and focus groups :

- Difficulties to make their coming out, "double life", impossibility to express their homosexuality ;
- Need for visibility and safe space ;
- Multiple discriminations, violences, psychological and social pressures ;
- Rupture with the family, relationship with the diaspora of origin ;
- Experiences in the countries of origin and migratory journeys generating traumatic experiences ;
- Risk-taking situations: escorts and sex workers, chemsex, ...

Creation of tools :

- Closed Facebook group ;
- 200 posters and flyers about combined prevention ;
- Video clips of testimonials.

To see the tools of our campaign scan the QR code :



Broadcasting of the campaign :

- In venues specific to the Afro-Latino-Caribbean MSM community ;
- In public places frequented by Afro-Latino-Caribbean people.
- The videos received an average of 8,455 views on social networks.

DISCUSSION

This project has allowed us to highlight the importance for minority populations to be visible and to have their specificities recognized in the sexual health promotion's programs. This is even more important when they are victims of multiple discriminations.

It also showed intersectoral approaches which promote the empowerment of vulnerable groups. Another important element is to take into account the diversity of sub-audiences existing within the LGBTQIA+ community and to increase their participation when pursuing the campaign.