Quality of variables associated with migration in HIV/Aids' surveillance in Catalonia

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BACKGROUND:

Migrant populations represent a significant and growing proportion of HIV/Aids reported cases in Europe and Spain. ECDC states that information about the health of migrants in Europe is inadequate and incomplete. Good epidemiological and behavioural data are essential to interpret migrant health

OBJECTIVES:

To assess the quality of variables associated with migration in HIV/Aids surveillance information systems (IS) in Catalonia

METHODS:

A descriptive analysis of the following IS: a) HIV/Aids Individual mandatory notification of cases, since 1987, b) Multicenter prospective cohort study of HIV positive patients, since 1998 (PISCIS Cohort), c) Estimation of recent HIV infection, since 2006 (AERI-HIV), d) Community based voluntary counseling and testing, since 1994 (HIVDEVO), e) Prospective cohort study of HIV negative men who have sex with men, since 2008 (ITACA Cohort), f) Cross-sectional study of female sex workers,

since 2005 (HIVITS-TS), g) Online survey of men who have sex with men, since 2010 (EMIS), h) Cross-sectional study of people who inject drugs, since 2008 (REDAN).

RESULTS:

One IS (a) is population-based. Migration status is identified through country of origin in all IS. The completeness of migration status is 100% (d, e and f), 98% (a, g and h), 83% (b) and 70% (c). One IS (f) only includes countries of origin from Europe, Latin America and Africa. Seven IS collects year of arrival, six IS arrival in Spain (a, c, d, e, g, h) and one in Catalonia (f). The completeness of year of arrival is 99% (g and h), 95% (d and e), 91% (f) and 27.4% (c).

CONCLUSIONS:

All HIV/Aids surveillance information systems in Catalonia collect variables associated with migration. Completeness of migration status is good, with moderate variations. Year of arrival has the lowest completeness, depending on the aims of the IS.