

Legal & Regulatory Barriers to HIV Healthcare

How legal and regulatory barriers
to HIV healthcare currently operate
(for migrants) in European countries

Top HIV service barriers for migrants

- Lack of targeted info on rights
- Lack of confidentiality/fear of deportation
- Stigma/criminalisation
- Failure to target appropriate key populations
- Charging for testing and/or treatment
- Lack of access to treatment
- Racism in service providers

Legal barriers to access for migrants

- Immigration laws/fears of links with health
- Criminalisation of exposure/transmission
- Criminalisation of sex work/homosexuality
- Legal barriers for trans people
- Lack of protective legislation

Regulatory barriers to access for migrants

- Services not provided to non-citizens
- Services charged for to non-citizens
- Lack of health insurance
- Lack of independent translators

The worst barrier of all – ignorance!

- * Migrants face some of the worst, most complex barriers to access
- * They also face the least understanding of their impact from NGOs and general patient groups
- * It isn't only the authorities that need educating
- * Alliances can work both ways for learning

How do we identify barriers?

Examine the evidence:

- ⤴ Is data collected on migrant health?
- ⤴ What are comparative late diagnoses like?
- ⤴ Ask people about the barriers they experience – which are concrete and which are fear-based?
- ⤴ Show how failure to test/treat and failure to target appropriate info costs lives and money

Creative responses

- Gathering your own data/stories
- Document/publicise what isn't working
- Finding/supporting champions and role models
- Collaboration with clinicians, public health and NGOs (infiltrate them too where you can)
- Getting national guidance updated
- Collaboration across borders

What tools do we have?

- Toolkits like OptTEST – steal and adapt
- Data – ECDC and much more
- Role models, case studies, storytelling
- Steal good ideas/campaigns from abroad
- Find/create champions in key places
(Parliament, top NGOs, human rights bodies, clinics)
- Lawyers, lawyers, lawyers