

DRUCK-SURV – IMPLEMENTATION OF A NATIONWIDE MONITORING SYSTEM ON VIRAL HEPATITIS AND HIV AMONG PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS IN GERMANY

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Background

- Germany has committed to the WHO's goals of eliminating HIV and viral hepatitis B and C (HBV, HCV) as public health threats by 2030
- The cross-sectional pilot study DRUCK 2.0 conducted 2021/22 in Berlin and Bavaria showed especially high HCV prevalence (27% active HCV infections) and low treatment coverage (57% of anti-HCV positive participants reported previous treatment) among PWID
- The European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) has defined indicators to monitor progress towards elimination among PWID
- To report these indicators and tailor targeted measures, we currently implement DRUCK-Surv, a periodical monitoring on HBV, HCV and HIV among PWID in Germany

Methods

What is DRUCK-Surv?

– WHAT:

- Periodical multicentre cross-sectional integrated biobehavioural survey (IBBS) for HBV, HCV and HIV among PWID in German sentinel regions

– WHO:

- All 2-3 years 2000 PWID who injected drugs within last 12 months and 1000 PWID who ever injected drugs, age >16 years
- At least 200 participants per sentinel region and survey round

– WHERE:

- Recruitment by a local network of low threshold harm reduction facilities (contact cafés, consumption rooms, drug counselling centres) and practices with Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT) services
- Invitation of clients to participate and testing/ survey by facility/ practice staff during routine services

– HOW:

- Testing** for HBV (anti-HBc, Anti-HBs, HBs-Ag), HCV (Anti-HCV, HCV-RNA), and HIV (anti-HIV, HIV-RNA) from capillary dried blood spots
- Questionnaire** (self- or assisted-filled) regarding sociodemographics, prevention and risk behaviour, and access to testing/ treatment
- 15 Euro voucher as incentive for participation
- Return of individual test results/ linkage to care by recruiting facility/ practice
- Sequencing of samples with detected HCV-RNA

Results

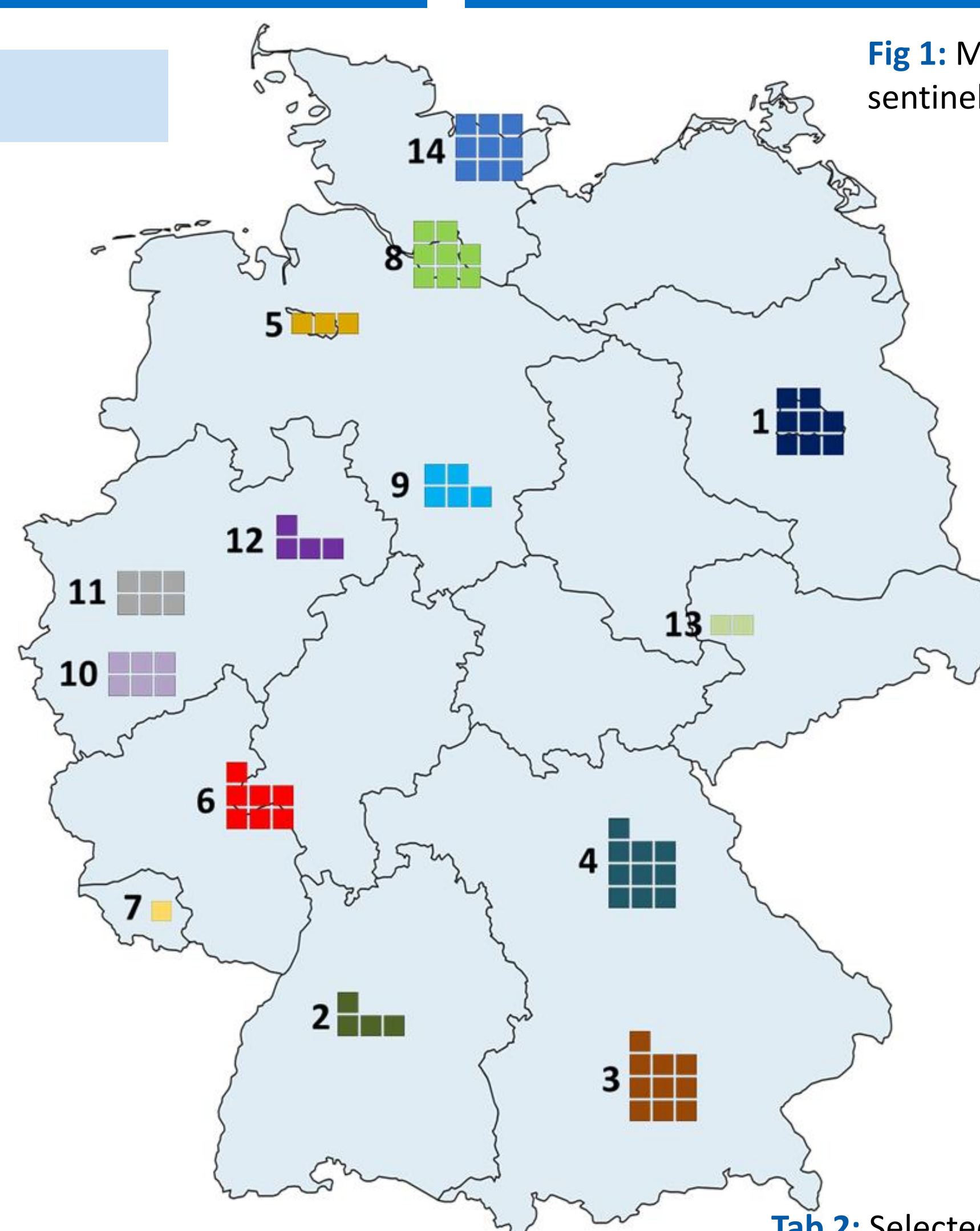


Fig 1: Map of Germany with number of recruiting facilities in DRUCK-Surv sentinel regions

Tab 1: Number of recruiting facilities/practices and of planned recruitments by sentinel region, data collection 2025

Sentinel region	Number of planned recruitments
1 Berlin	354
2 Stuttgart/ Freiburg	250
3 Augsburg/ Munich	381
4 Nuremberg/ Regensburg/ Neumarkt	561
5 Bremen	105
6 Frankfurt a.M./ Mainz	270
7 Saarbrücken	15
8 Hamburg	200
9 Hanover	227
10 Cologne/ Bonn	234
11 Duisburg/ Düsseldorf/ Essen	312
12 Bielefeld/Dortmund/ Paderborn	155
13 Dresden/ Leipzig/ Jena	130
14 Kiel/ Lübeck	260
TOTAL	3454

Tab 2: Selected EUDA indicators for PWID collected by DRUCK-Surv, data collection 2025

EUDA indicator	Data collection type
Prevalence of active/ resolved HBV/ HCV infection	tested
Prevalence of HIV infection	tested
Risk factors	
Injection in the last 30 days, by substance	self-reported
Injection with used needles/syringes, last 30 days	self-reported
Share of any other used injecting paraphernalia, last 30 days	self-reported
Injecting drugs < 2 years	self-reported
Experience of discrimination when accessing healthcare, last 12 months	self-reported
Homelessness, last 12 months	self-reported
Imprisonment, ever	self-reported
Protective factors	
Average number of sterile needles/syringes received, last 12 months	self-reported
Being vaccinated against HBV	self-reported
Receiving HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)	self-reported
Used a condom at last sexual intercourse	self-reported
Receiving OAT, currently	self-reported
Carrying Naloxone	self-reported
Access to care	
Tested for HBV/ HCV/HIV in the last 12 months	self-reported
Knowing about diagnosis with HBV/ HCV/HIV	self-reported
Diagnosed with active HBV/ HIV infection receiving treatment	tested/self-reported
Anti-HCV+ and/or HCV-RNA+ PWID who have ever received HCV antiviral treatment	tested/self-reported
Anti-HCV+ and/or HCV-RNA+ PWID who initiated HCV antiviral treatment in the last 12 months	tested/self-reported
Cured HCV infection among those who completed treatment	tested/self-reported

First data collection in 2025

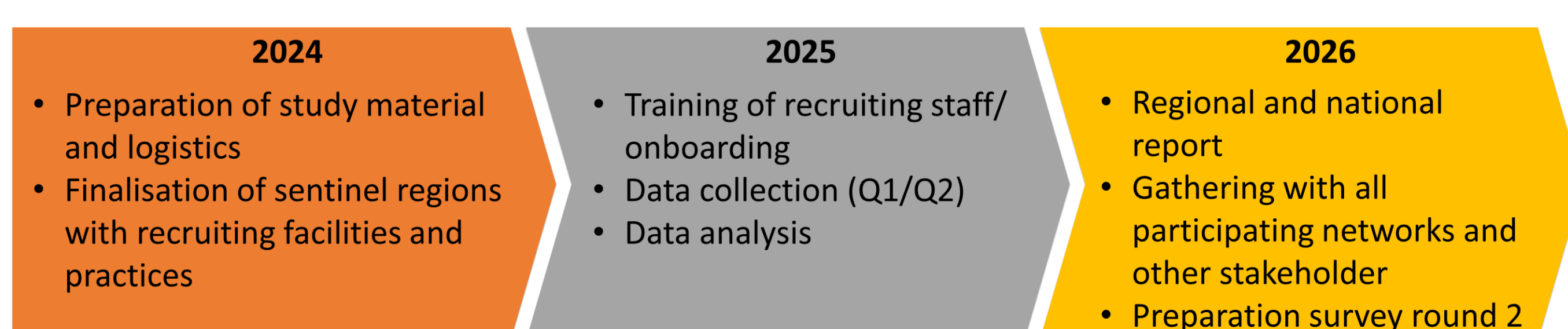


Fig 2: Timeline for the first round of DRUCK-Surv

Questionnaire:

- based on WHO and EUDA indicators

Sentinel region recruiting networks:

- Identification of 14 sentinel regions based on population size and geography of German cities and willingness to participate
- Identification of all low-threshold harm reduction facilities and practices with OAT-services in sentinel regions
- Invitation to online information meetings
- Personal invitation by mail and snowball system

Conclusions

- High willingness of low-threshold harm reduction facilities and practices with OAT-services to collect data as part of their routine work
- Recruitment capabilities vary by region and depend on structural factors
- With DRUCK-Surv, EUDA indicators can be collected periodically, allowing monitoring of elimination progress

