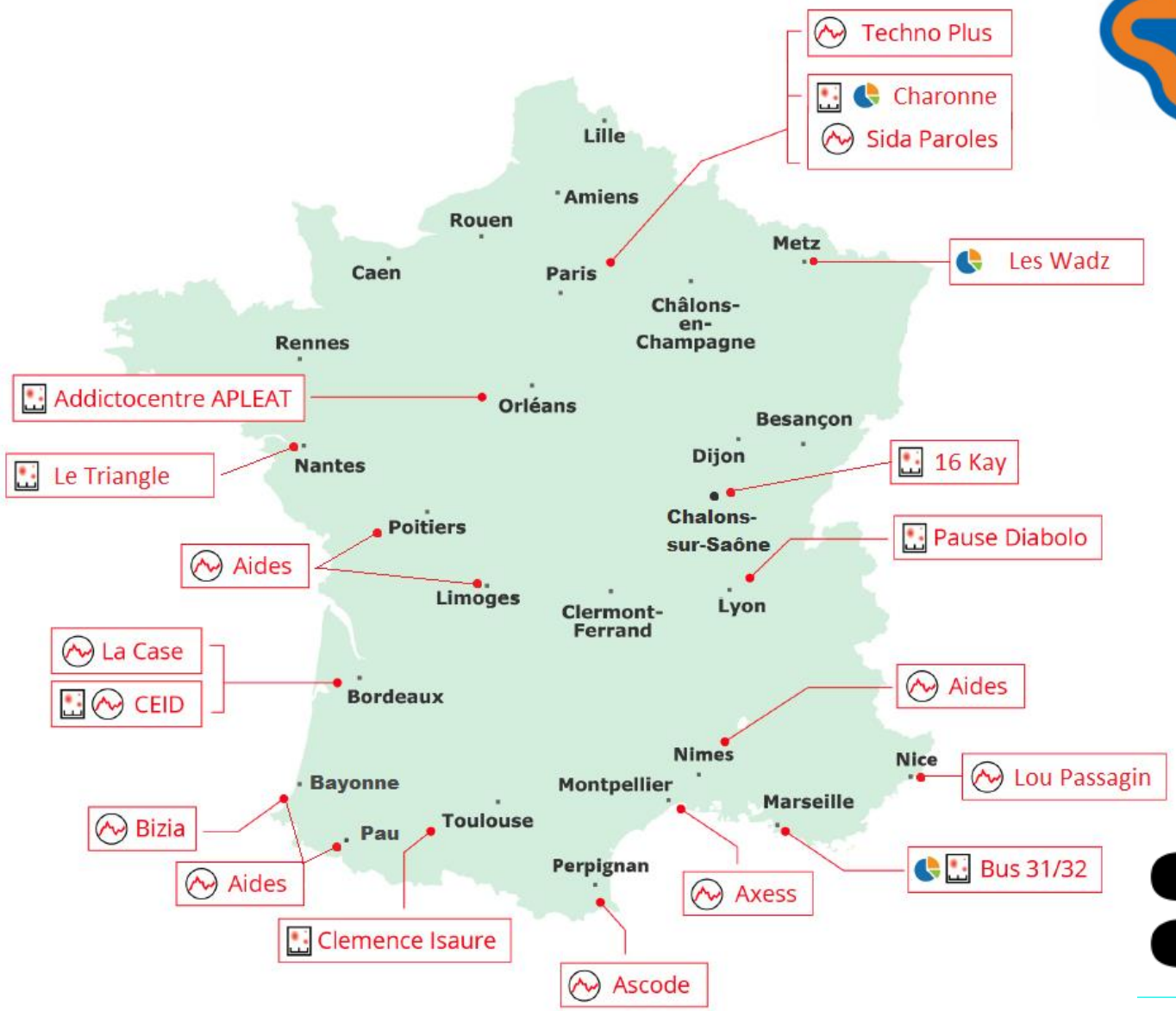
Factors associated with the use of drug checking in France: results from the Checknow e-cohort*

Perrine ROUX, Public health research director, INSERM, SESSTIM, Marseille, France / coordinator of the Harm Reduction Research Network (HARENE network)

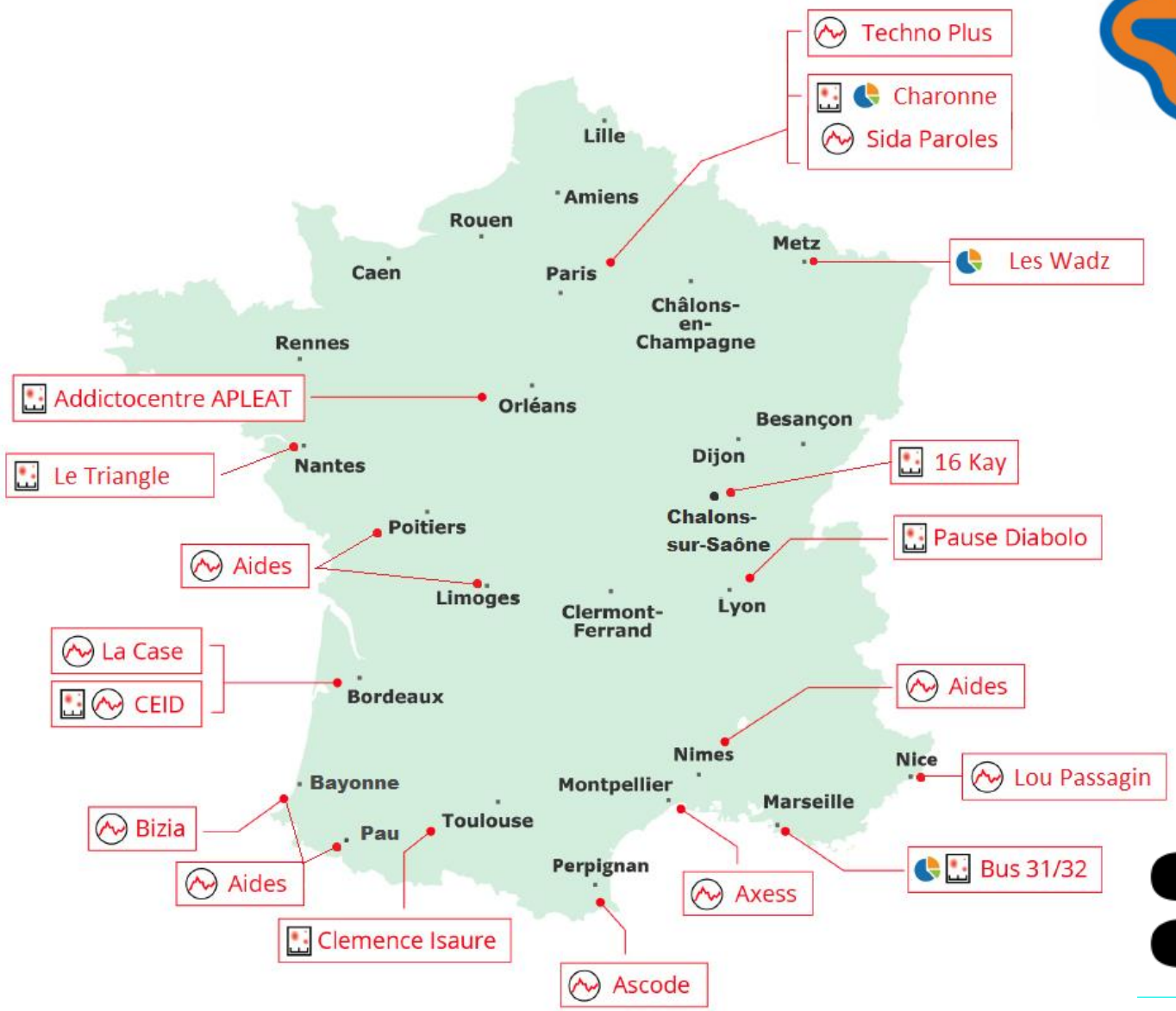
Del Amo J, Chappard P, Albert S, Zerrari A, Lopez C, Aubert M, Dècle P, Mora M, Ti L, Sagaon-Teyssier L, Roux P

SESSTIM, Faculté des Sciences Médicales et Paramédicales, Aix-Marseille Université, Marseille, France
http://sesstim.univ-amu.fr/

National situation in France



National situation in France



- Face-to-face drug checking
- Remote drug checking

Remote (postal) drug checking is a system that enables PWUD to have their drugs analyzed free of charge and anonymously by

E-mail request to the Psychoactif team (www.psychoactive.org)

Feasibility checking and sending of instructions, online form, ATP-IdF laboratory address, and packaging tutorials

Filling in the form, obtaining a unique ID number, drug sample packaging and sending it to the ATP-IDF analysis laboratory's postbox

Drug analysis by ATP IdF (using HPLC) and results entered in the database

Public publication of the results on the Psychoactif.org website, accessible confidentially for the person using the ID number + possible discussion of their results with the Psychoactif PWUD community.

Objectives

- Primary objective : **to assess effectiveness of DC** among PWUD in terms of risk reduction behaviors, health complications decrease, empowerment and knowledge sharing among PWUD

- One of the secondary objectives:

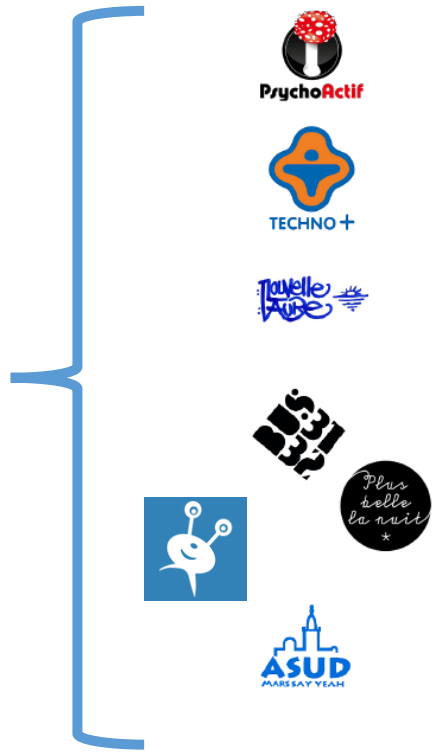
  → **To understand the impact of PWUD characteristics on drug checking uptake,** including the different modalities of DC : *face to face* or *remote*

Material and methods

- Community-based participatory research with the participation of PsychoActif

www.psychoactif.org

and the presence of a **community-based committee**

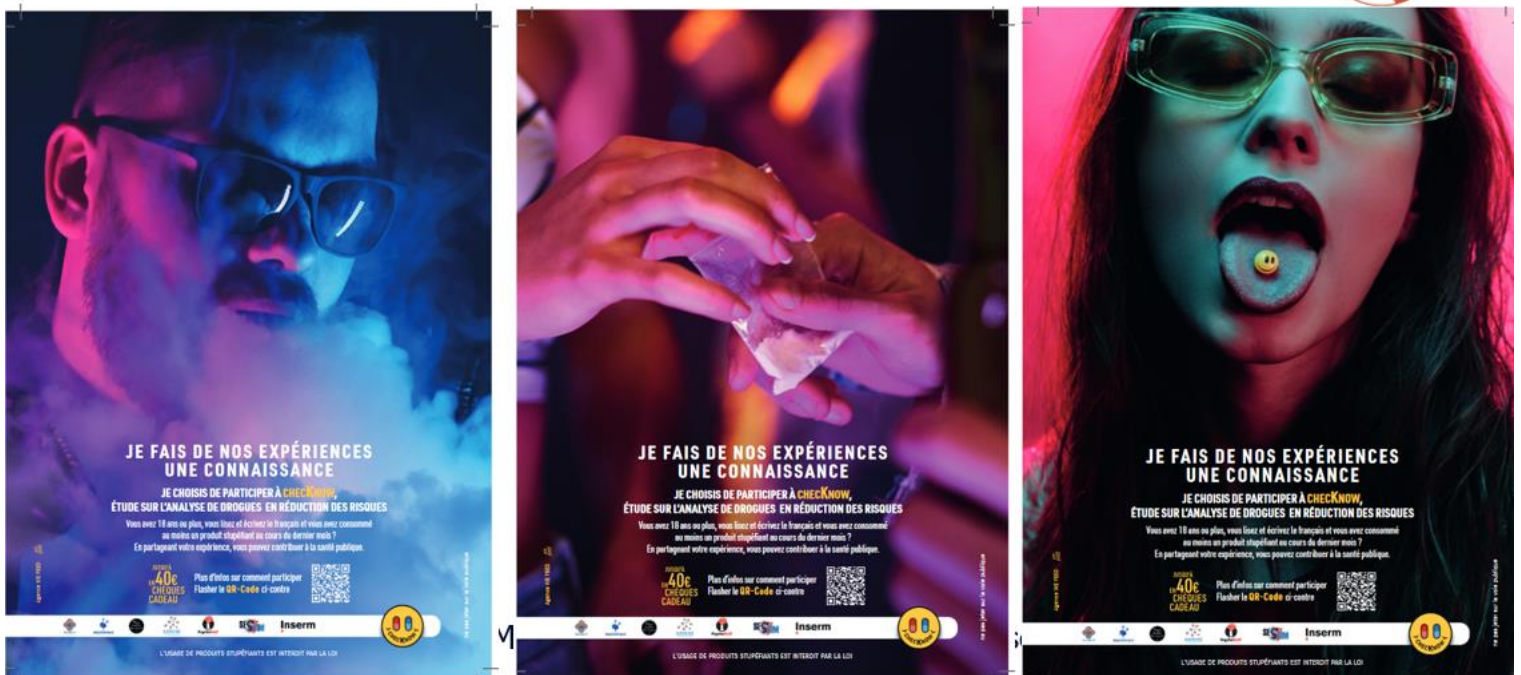


Material and methods

- Community-based participatory research with the participation of PsychoActif

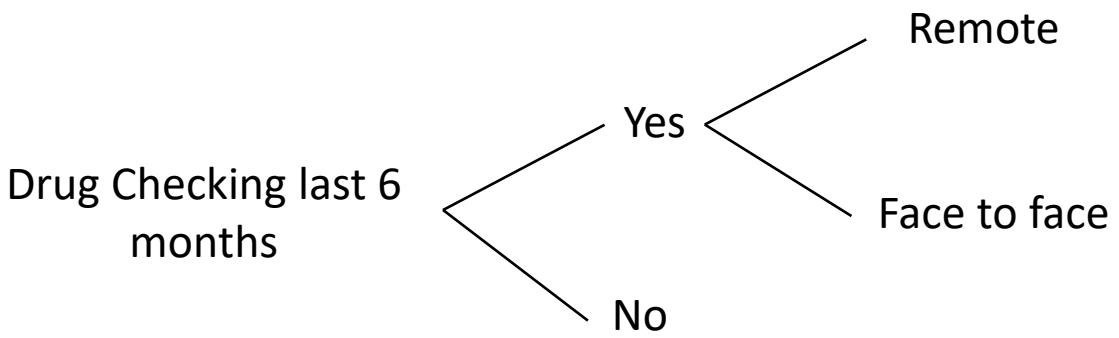
- Study design : e-cohort among PWUD with questionnaires at M0, M6 and M12

" I'm turning our experiences into knowledge "
I choose to participate in the Checknow study...

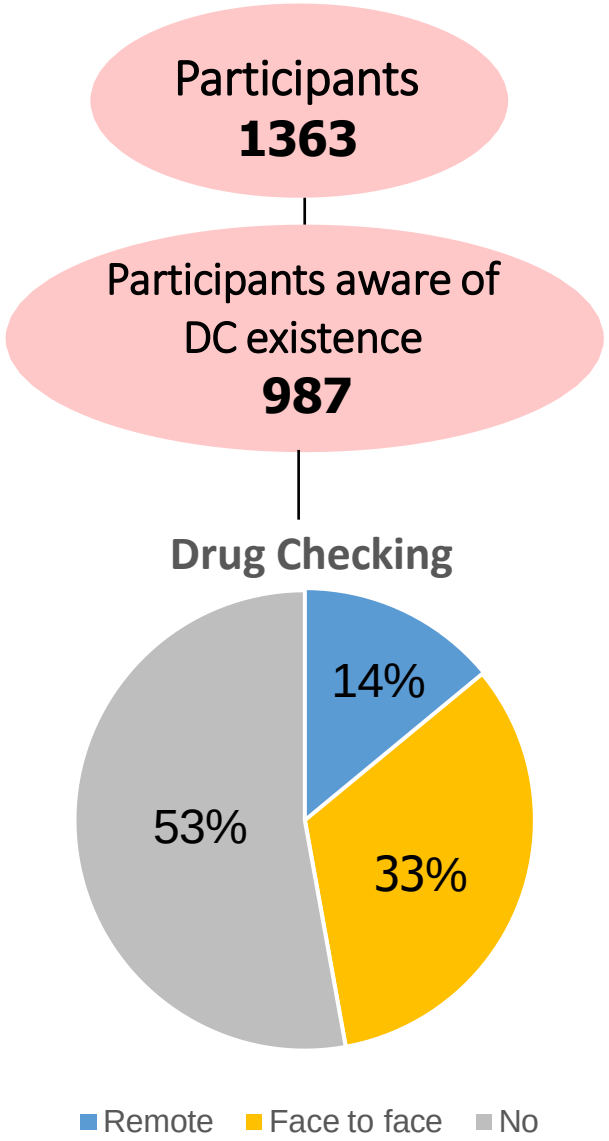


Material and methods

- Community-based participatory research with the participation of PsychoActif
- Study design : e-cohort among PWUD with questionnaires at M0, M6 and M12
- Statistical analysis : nested logistic regression on baseline data (n=1363) to understand
  - ✓ Factors associated with the use of DC
  - ✓ Among DC users : remote versus face-to-face DC users



Cohort description



Variables	% or Median[Q1;Q3]
Age	27 [22;36]
Gender	
Cis-men	58%
Cis-women	32%
Trans/NB	10%
Housing	
Stable	66%
Unstable	34%
Geographic context	
Rural	18%
Urban	82%
Employment	55%
Ever injected a drug	17%
Cocaine (last month)	46%
Speed (last month)	20%

Results (1)

Table 1. Comparison between PWUD who have used DC versus those who did not, n=934

Drug checking (vs no drug checking) n=934		
	Multivariate model	
	OR [IC 95%]	p-value
Age (Continous)	1.05 [1.03;1.06]	<0.001
Employment (ref=No employment)	1.43 [1.11;1.86]	0.007
Speed	2.01 [1.46;2.77]	<0.001
Research chemicals	2.98 [1.29;3.06]	0.002
Drug injection (ref= never injected drugs)	3.14 [2.20;4.54]	<0.001
General Self-Efficacy Scale (Continous)	1.02 [1.00;1.04]	0.029

Results (2)

Table 2. Comparison between PWUD who have used remote DC versus face to face DC, n=414

Postal checking (vs face to face checking) n=414		
	Multivariate model	
	OR [IC 95%]	p-value
Age (Continous)	1.03 [1.01;1.05]	0.012
Gender (ref=Male)	ref	
Female	0.38 [0.21;0.68]	0.001
Trans/Non binary	0.40 [0.24;0.78]	0.047
Stable housing situation	0.44 [0.24;0.78]	0.006
Cocaine use	0.32 [0.20;0.51]	<0.001
Urban area (>3000 hab) (ref=rural area).	0.34 [0.19;0.60]	<0.001

Conclusions

- A very encouraging start for DC deployment in France as :
  - ✓ People knows it (72%)
  - ✓ People uses it (47%)

- Regarding DC in general, a more important uptake among specific sub-populations (older and high socio-economic level) : **importance of adapting DC to under-respresented populations**

- Finally, **remote DC** is a **complementary approach** to face to face DC to reach PWUD in rural area but less used by women, gender minorities and young PWUD

THANKS !