INTRODUCTION
In France, the primary cause of HCV infection is still the sharing of infected material between people who use drugs (PWUD). According to the ANRS Coquelicot study in 2011, the HVC prevalence among PWUD is 44% at the national level. A lot of infected PWUD are not treated, being afraid of the treatment or of examinations or because they underestimate the severity of the disease. Gaia Paris focuses its work on innovative Harm reduction projects based on an outreach approach and a high threshold of tolerance. Gaia’s addiction centre and mobile units welcome a very precarious and unstable public.

ISSUES
• Mobilize and bring awareness among drug users on hepatitis C (screening, Fibroscan®)
• Mobilize and train harm reduction professionals on hepatitis C
• Improve linkage to care by implementing a network of care around each drop in and OST centers
• Optimize the hinge between professionals involved in healthcare trajectories.

SETTING AND METHOD
The mobile project, founded by the Paris Health Regional Agency, managed by Gaia is reaching on a quarterly basis 25 OST and drop in centers since June 2011. The project includes a bus set up with a Fibroscan® area, a consultation corner and a screening and counselling area. The team includes a physician, a nurse, a health counselor and a peer worker.

Since 2013, we have started screening HIV and HCV with rapid point-of-care tests (POCT) and HCV PCR with dried blood spot (DBS) for PWUD and social workers. From 2012 to 2014, 1342 examinations with Fibroscan® were done.

OUTCOMES
From 2012 to 2014, 1342 examinations with Fibroscan® were done. Most of the persons were males (82.2%). Many met housing difficulties (48.2%), were infected by HCV (41.6%), had a liver fibrosis (18.9% moderate fibrosis, 7.7% severe) and a harmful alcohol consumption (48.4% drank 4 glasses and more per day).

In a previous study with 307 persons, 61.1% were injectors and 68.4% were smokers. Among them, 34.4% declared sharing syringe, 45.2% paraphernalia and 53.6% crack pipes.

CONCLUSION
Fibroscan®, rapid tests and DBS are real new Harm Reduction tools, which are easily performed in mobile units, and allow access to very precarious population and improve their linkage to care. Through the work of Gaia’s team, hepatitis C took more space in general care of PWUD in Paris region and led to establish a care network around hepatitis: screening centers, OST and drop in centers, hospital reference consultation for hepatitis c.

Dr. Elisabeth Avril1, Dr. Ai Anh Vo Tran 2, Camille Jaouen 3, Johann Volant 4, Anne-Lise Dehée 5.


THE MOBILE HEPATITIS SCREENING PROGRAM: AN INNOVATIVE PROJECT AMONG PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS IN PARIS REGION

1 - SYNTHETIC SCHEME OF THE RESULTS

2 - MAIN SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

3 - RESULTS OF FIBROSCAN® MEASUREMENTS

4 - SUBJECTS DECLARING HCV SEROLOGY

5- MAIN INFECTIOUS RISKS USING DRUGS

n = 1367

St. Elisabeth Avril (Physician) in outreach’s practise, Gaia’s team on drop in center, 2015.

contact : elisabeth.avril@gaia-paris.fr

AWARENESS SESSION, GAIAS TEAM ON DROP IN CENTER, 2013.