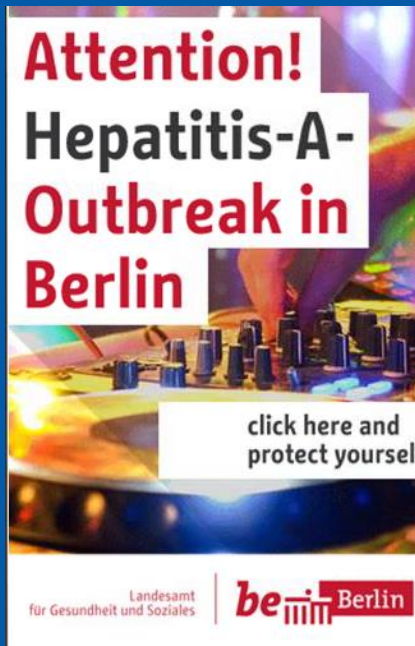




Hepatitis A outbreak among MSM in Berlin 2016-2018

From outbreak detection to community response

Ruth Zimmermann

on behalf of the outbreak investigation & control team

M Faber, S Dudareva, P Ingiliz, H Jessen, J Koch, U Marcus, K Michaelis,
C Ruscher, B Schilling, D Sissolak, J Thoullass, D Werber, D Sagebiel

Viral Hepatitis Prevention Board Technical Meeting

14.10.2026

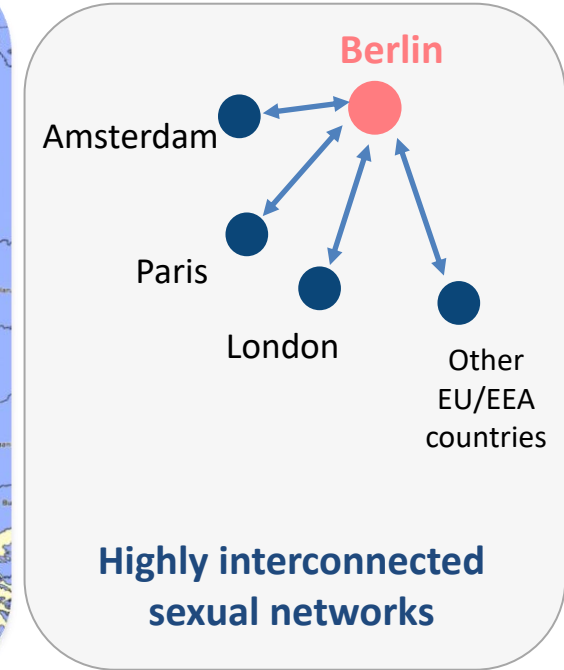
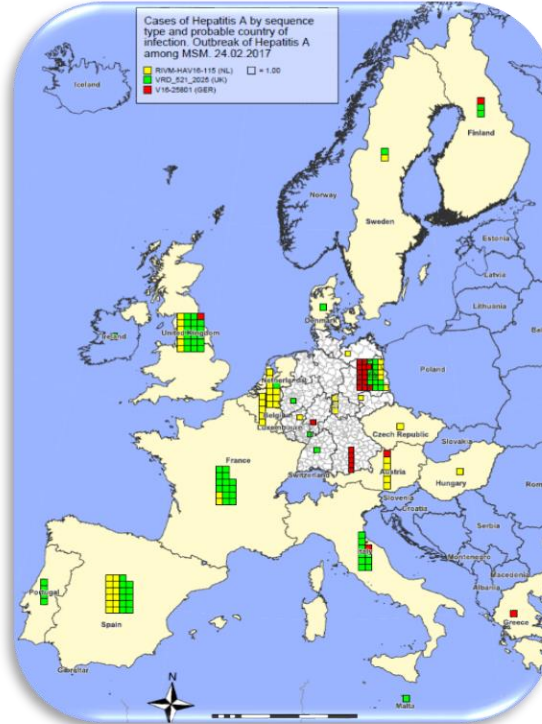
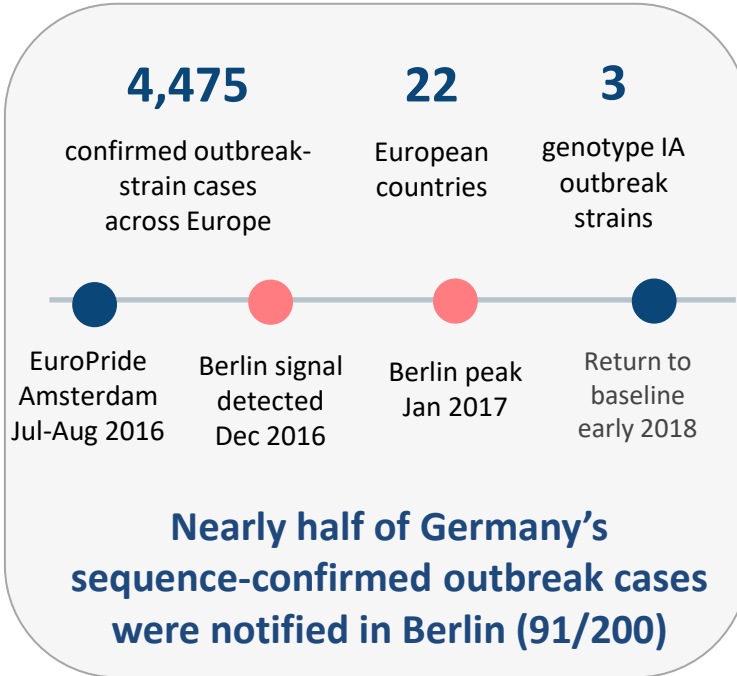


Disclosure

- No conflict of interest
- ChatGPT (OpenAI) was used for visual design of selected slides. All scientific content was reviewed and validated by myself.
- Photographs included in this presentation were taken by members of the outbreak investigation team.

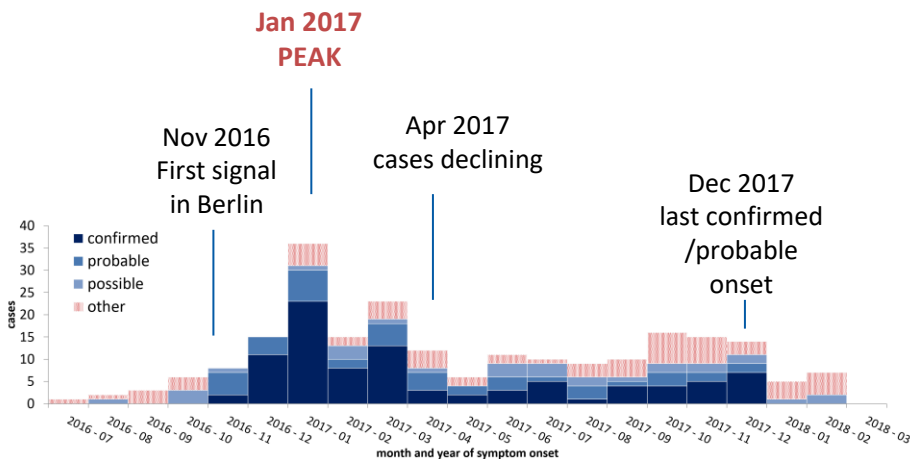


A local outbreak embedded in a European transmission network



Enhanced surveillance

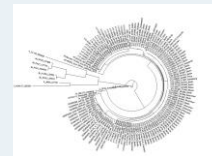
Routine notification gave the signal; interviews and sequencing revealed the transmission context.

**222**HAV cases notified
Aug 2016-Feb 2018**91**sequence-confirmed
outbreak cases**96 %**male among
confirmed cases**83 %**Not HAV
vaccinated*

Enhanced case Interviews (N=72)

85 % MSM / sex with men
66 % sex in venues**

Molecular typing



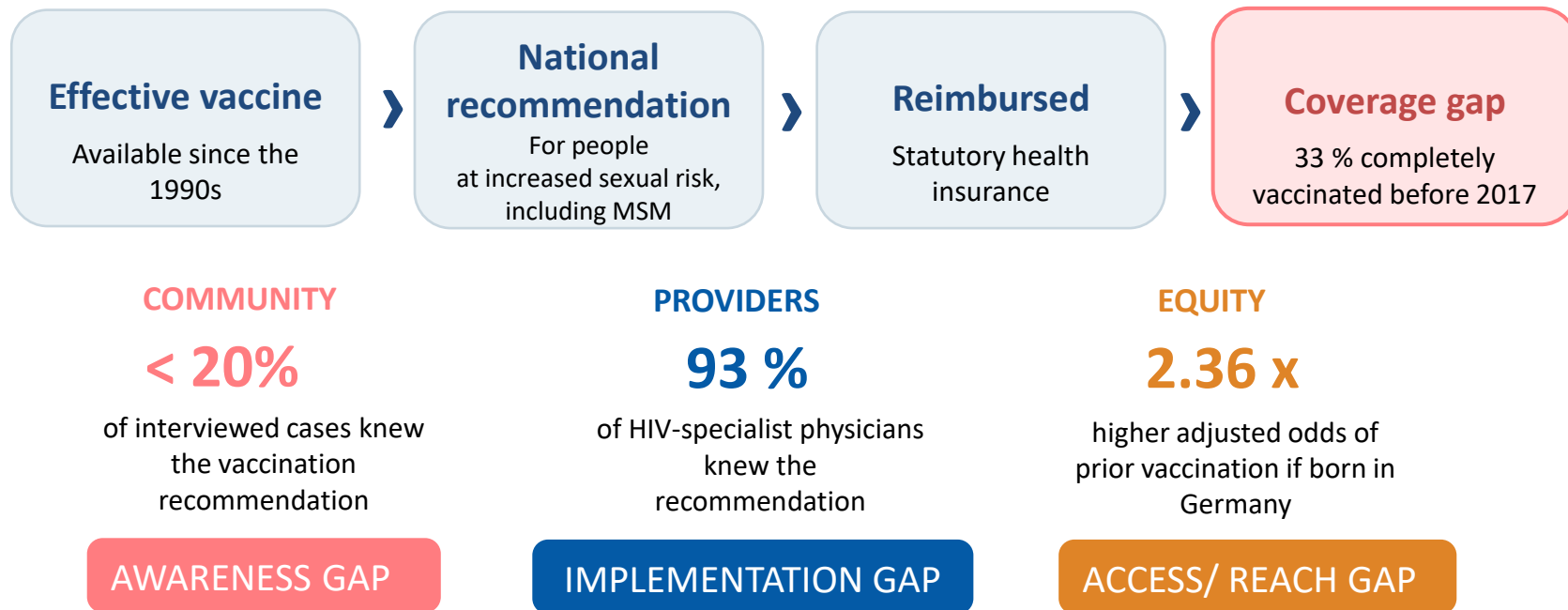
V16-25801 44 %
VRD_521 33 %
RIVM-HAV16-090 23%

* 69/83 with vaccination information

**25/38 with available venue information



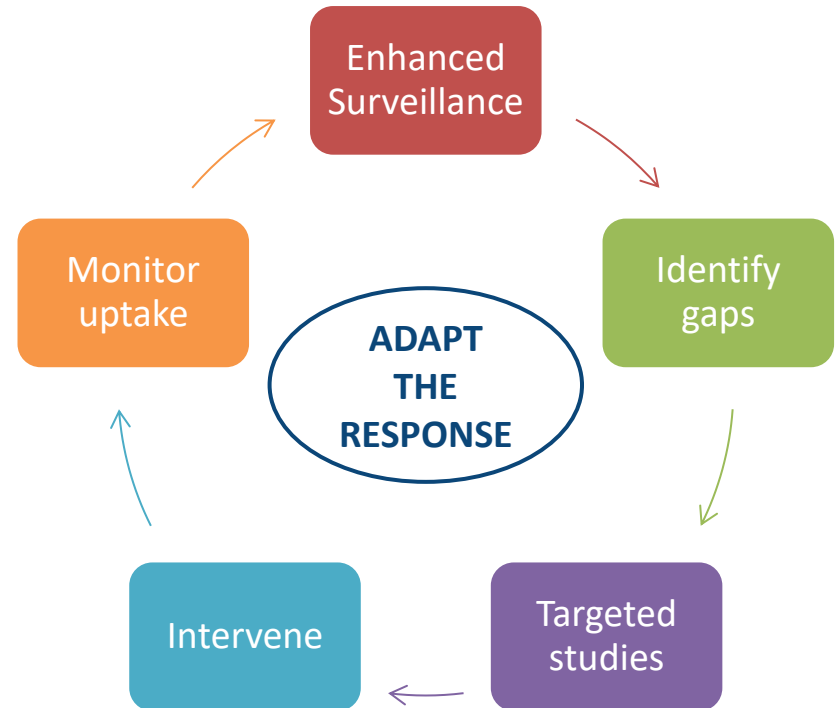
The key question: why was vaccination coverage low?



Investigation itself became an intervention

- **Case interviews**
 - identify knowledge and vaccination gaps
- **Physician KAP survey**
 - identify provider barriers
- **Vaccination coverage study**
 - identify under-vaccinated subgroups
- **Claims data**
 - assess population-level vaccination response

The two studies among physicians likely also increased vaccination activity - some doses were given on the survey day.



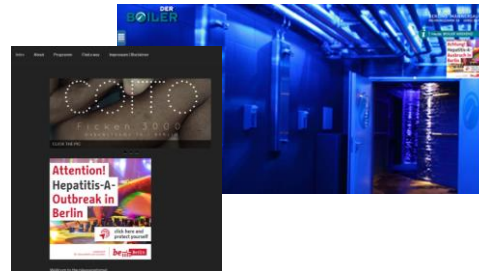
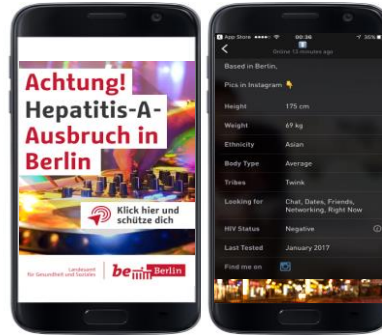
Rising awareness among the affected community

■ 3 Dating Apps



■ 8 mobile Websites

- Siegessäule Website
- GayRomeo Website
- Gay.de Website
- Blu Website
- Queerpride Website
- Queer.de Website
- Slamr.de Website
- Dbna.de Website



■ Poster/postcard campaign in Berlin gay shops, saunas, clubs



■ Information of and in clubs, gay bars and saunas

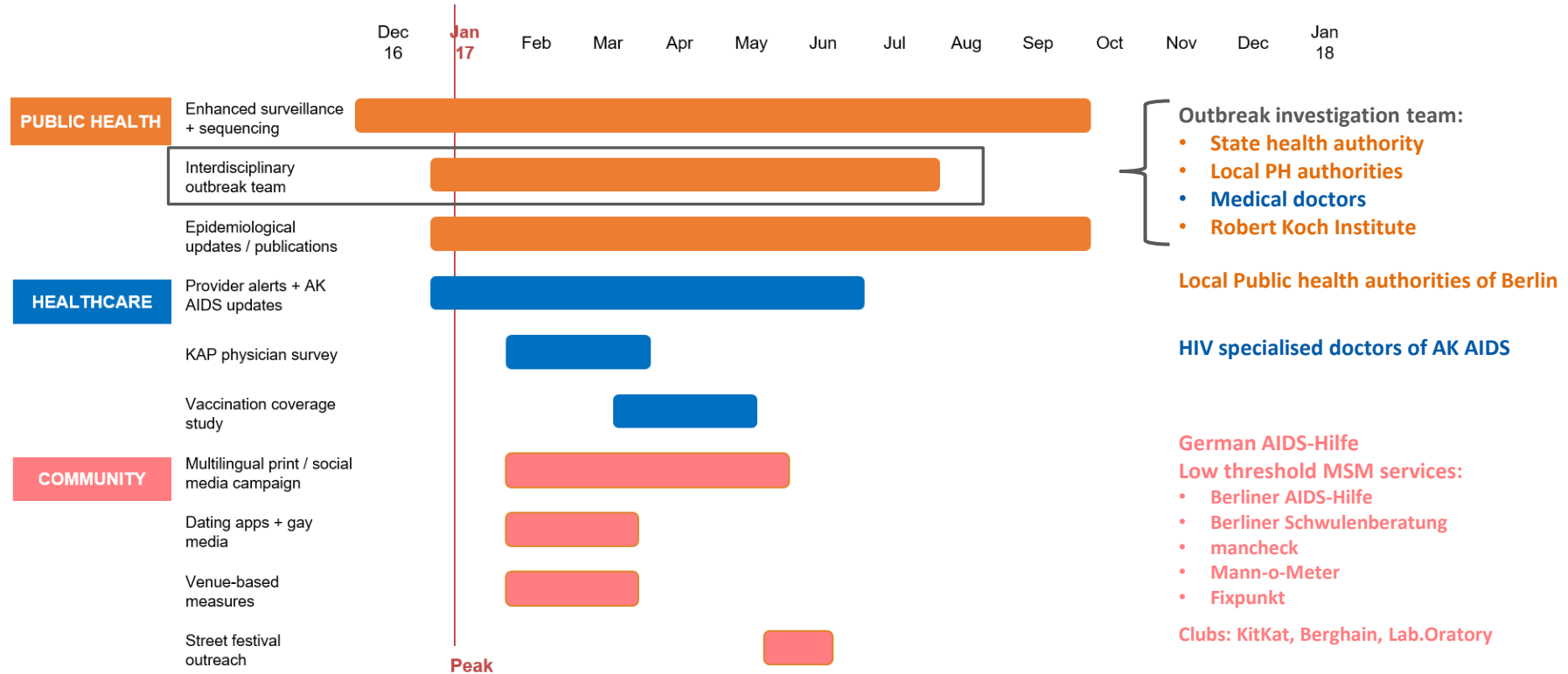


■ Outreach during gay street festival July 2017





Interdisciplinary outbreak team to act on several levels at once



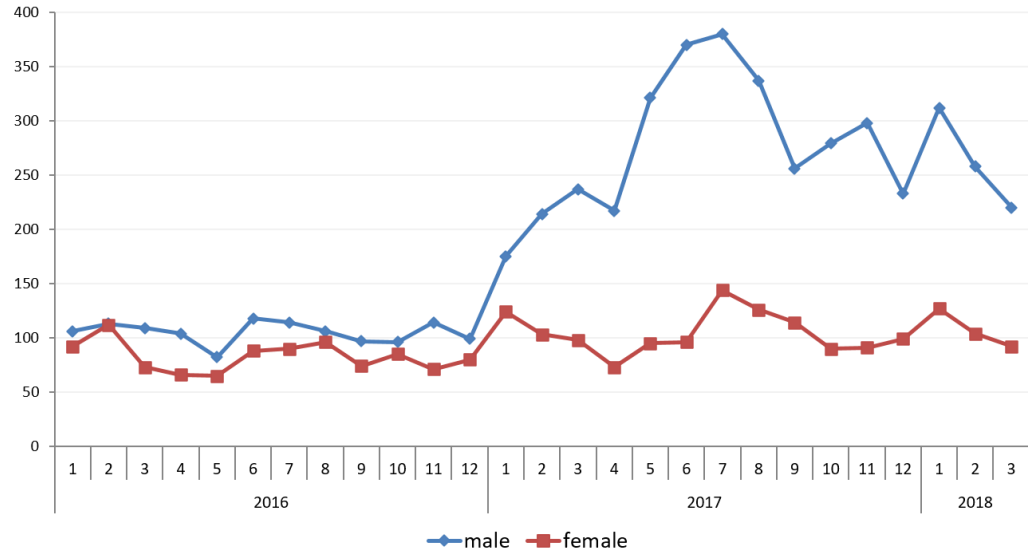


Vaccination uptake rose sharply among adult men in Berlin

+ 163.8 %

monovalent HAV
vaccinations
among Berlin men,
2016 → 2017

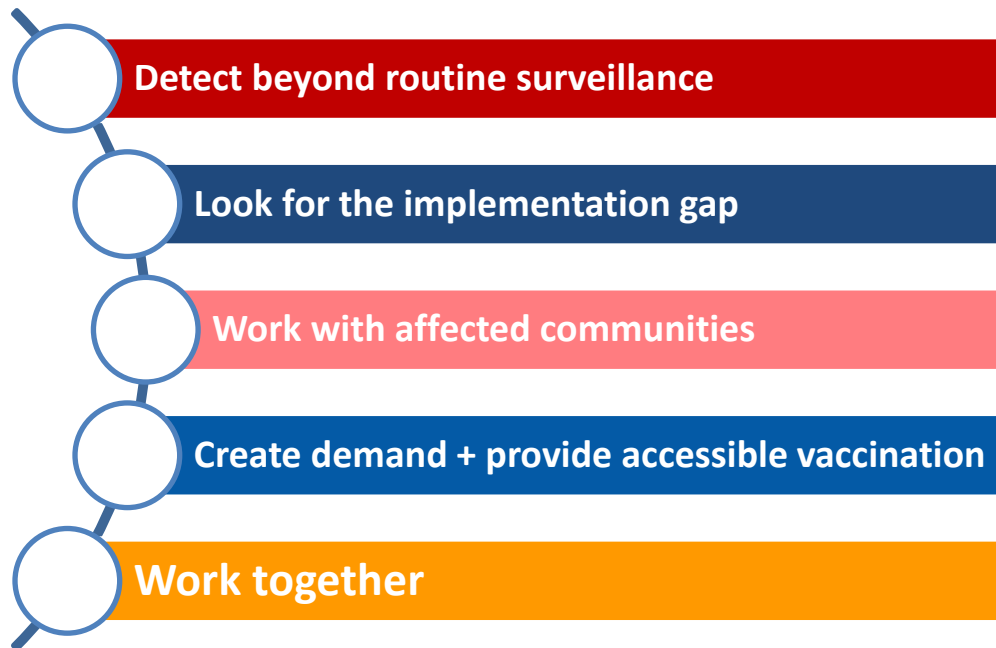
Cases were already declining by April 2017;
incidence returned to baseline at the
beginning of 2018.



Number of HAV monovalent vaccination doses in adults by sex,
Berlin 01/2016-03/2018



Effective outbreak management required epidemiology, healthcare and community action to work together



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Hepatitis A outbreak among MSM in Berlin due to low vaccination coverage: Epidemiology, management, and successful interventions



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Medical doctors and GPs of AK AIDS

Patients participating in the study

National Reference Laboratory for Hepatitis A Virus and Hepatitis E Virus

KitKat club , Berhain, Lab.Oratory

German AIDS-Hilfe

Low threshold facilities

Berliner AIDS-Hilfe
Berliner Schwulenberatung
mancheck
Mann-o-Meter
Fixpunkt

**Thank you
for
your attention!**

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