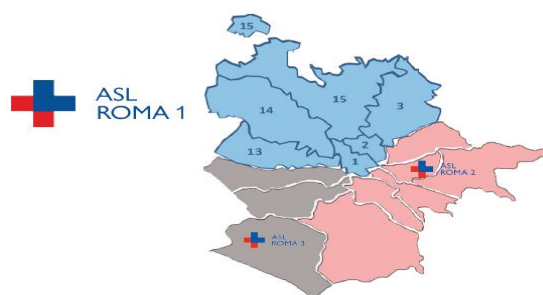


## HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK IN REGION OF LAZIO (ITALY) MOSTLY AFFECTING MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

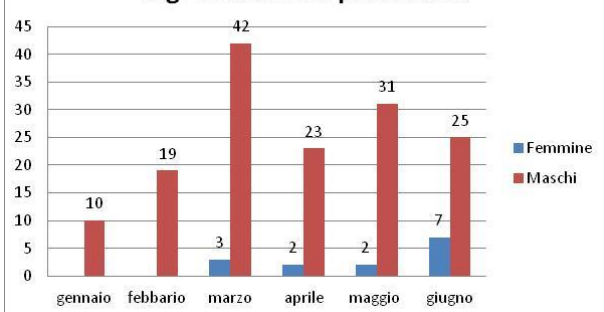
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Since September 2016, there has been an increase in cases of hepatitis A between men and women with sexual intercourse with men who have sexual relations with other men (MSM). The ECDC's Rapid Risk Assessment of 28 June 2017 reports in the last year 1500 confirmed cases of hepatitis A in 13 different countries, attributable to three distinct viral strains of the IA genotype. Most of them were involved MSM.

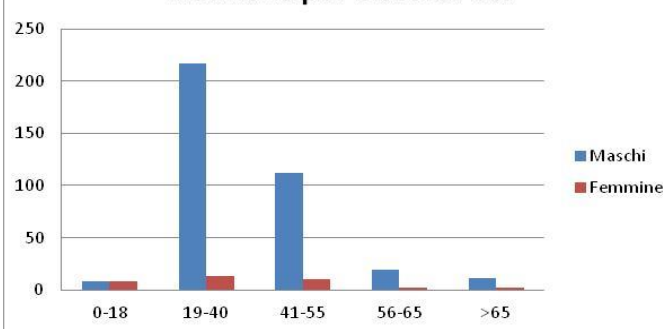


In the first 6 months of 2017 in the ASL Roma 1 (a Local Health Company that covers 524 km<sup>2</sup> in the northern area of the city of Rome with 1.046.862 local population) there were 155 notifications of acute hepatitis A (an increase of about 10 times compared to the average of previous years); the operators made 86 epidemiological survey on resident people using the SEIEVA questionnaire. (fig.1).

Fig. 1 Notifiche pervenute

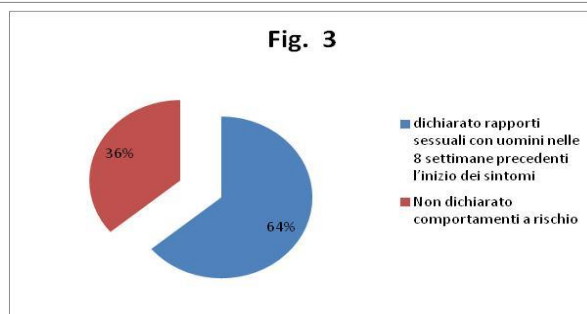


Notifiche per classi di età



The data confirm a considerable increase in cases of acute hepatitis A, presumably in relation to the circulations of viral strains due to outbreaks reported in Europe and in Italy between MSM, also in Rome. Of 155 notifications received, 142 (91%) were related to men; 55 (64%) people reported MSM in the 8 weeks preceding the onset of symptoms (fig.3).

Fig. 3



The age most involved was between 19 and 55 aa; only a few (5) said they had traveled abroad. The status of MSM is the most relevant and widespread risk factor of the Hepatitis A outbreak. The most effective prevention measures are health surveillance of cases and the vaccination of close contacts (including sexual partners) of probable and confirmed cases of hepatitis A. Preventive vaccination is strongly recommended. It was created a leaflet illustrating information on Hepatitis A and the opportunity to get vaccinated by turning to a dedicated toll-free number according in collaboration with LGBT associations of Rome.