

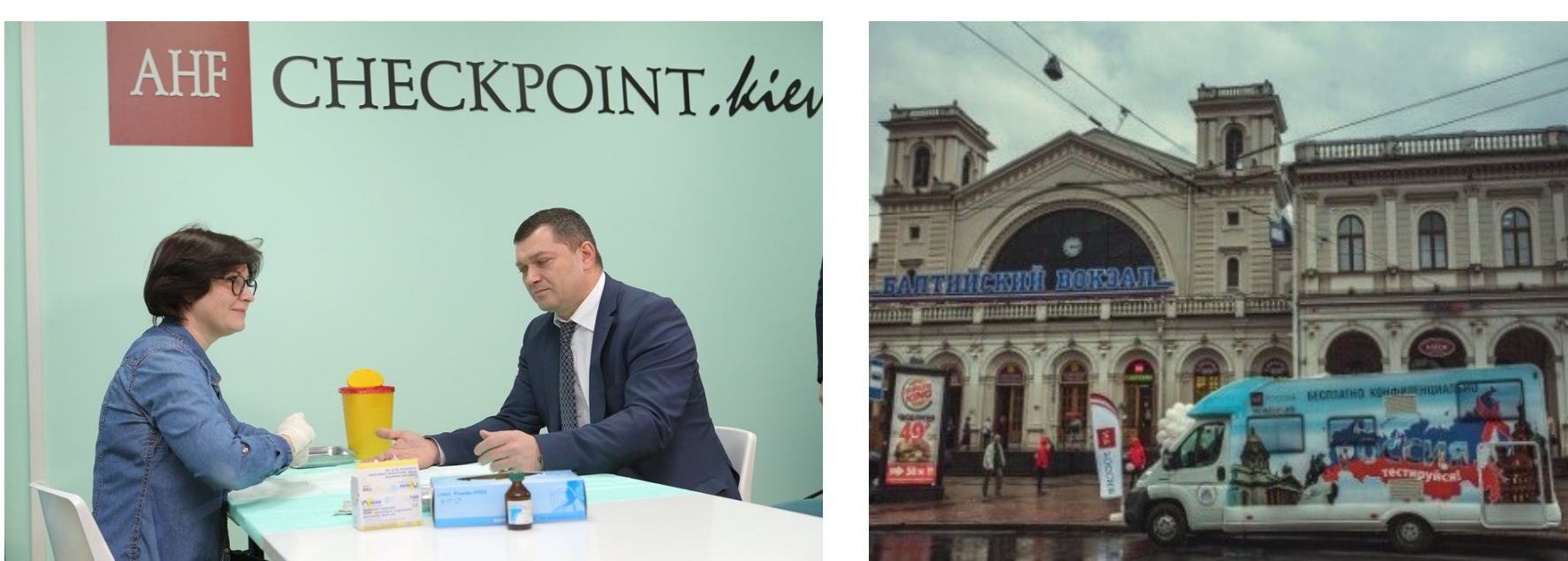
1 million rapid HIV tests: results of innovative AHF testing and linkage to care programs across Europe

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Background

HIV testing and early detection remain a challenge in Europe. According to UNAIDS 75% of people living with HIV know their status and in Eastern Europe number of new infections is rising. Innovative approaches are needed to increase awareness of HIV status and effectively link to care.



Deputy Mayor of the City of Kyiv at AHF Checkpoint Kyiv

Testing at the railway station, St.Petersburg, Russia

Description

In the years 2010-2017 AHF's Rapid Testing Program (RTP), an initiative that delivers accessible and free rapid HIV testing was implemented jointly with partners by AHF Europe in 7 European countries: Ukraine, Russia, Estonia, the Netherlands, Greece, Lithuania and Portugal. The testing was done at different settings: medical (clinics and hospitals, using indicator diseases testing), non-medical at Checkpoints, other community settings, outreach (mobile units, clubs, events), utilizing medical and trained non-medical testers. Data was collected in unified way in all settings.

Results

1,052,265 tests were performed and 41,676 people learnt about the HIV status (4% seropositivity). 72% of the tests were performed in non-EU countries and 88% of reactive results were found there. Seropositivity in non-EU countries was 4.8%, while in EU 1.7%. In years 2013-2017 linkage to care was on average at 66%. In 2015-2017 across all the countries the highest seropositivity was in the age group 25-49 years- 5%, 3% among people older than 50 and 2% among 15-24 year old. Analysis for Ukraine in 2017 shows high efficacy of testing in medical facilities where indicator disease testing was used. Total 117,278 tests were performed of which 80% was done in medical settings, 5,694 people learn about their HIV status there (6.1% seropositivity).

	2010-2017			
	total tests	HIV+	Seropositivity (%)	Linkage* (%)
Ukraine	432,921	21,172	4.89%	13,722
Russia	325,041	15,488	4.76%	10,939
Estonia	68,560	1,386	2.02%	468
Netherlands	15,454	164	1.06%	87
Lithuania	85,093	1,161	1.36%	827
Greece	56,405	818	1.45%	716
Portugal	47,753	875	1.83%	513
ETW	21,038	612	2.91%	84
Totals	1,052,265	41,676	3.96%	27,356

* The Linkage to care is shown for the years 2013-2017

Fig. 1 Results of AHF Rapid testing program in Europe 2010-2017

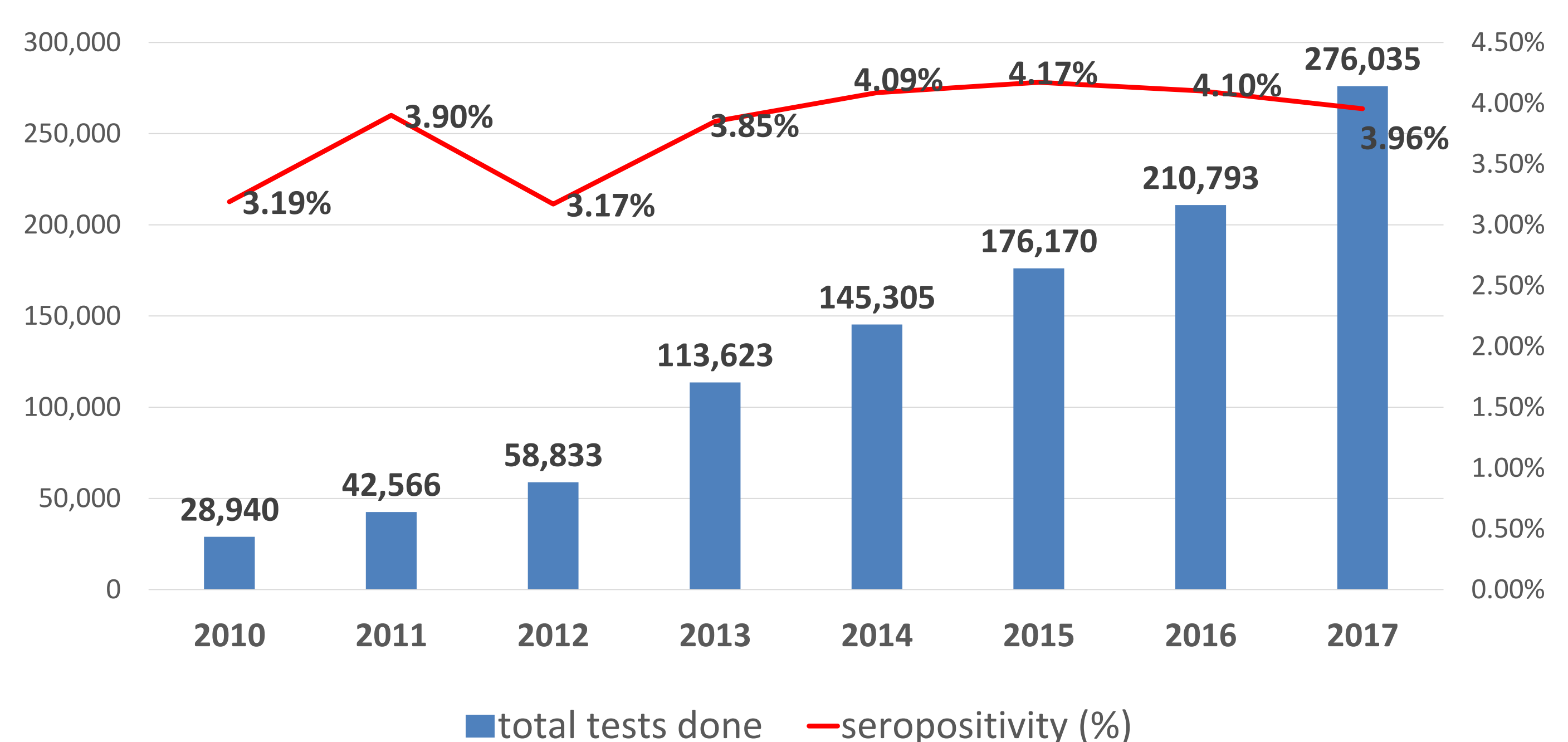


Fig.2 AHF Rapid testing program in Europe growth 2010-2017

Conclusions

The RTP model with free, accessible rapid testing, same day result and linkage to care at both medical and non-medical settings is an effective approach across Europe. In non-EU countries rapid testing at medical settings was more effective with higher positivity rate and reach to those who never tested before.