

A difference.

Specific (and different) needs of clients in two VCT centres in southern Poland (Krakow and Rzeszow)

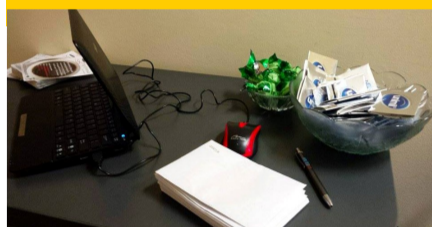
KRAKOW



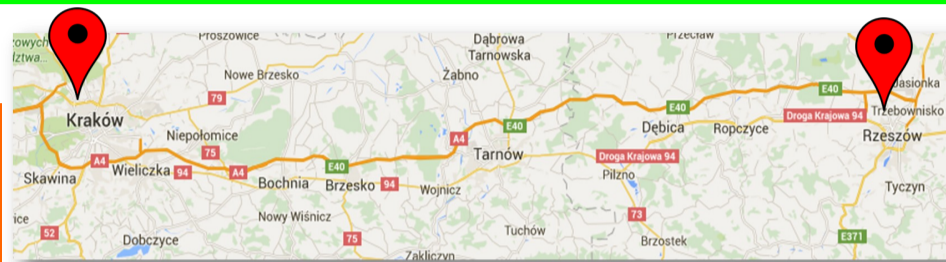
Fot. M. Marszałek (zatrzymanewobiektywie.pl).

Royal City of Krakow
 Population: 762,448 (metro: 1,725,000)
 Area: 326.8 km² (metro: 1,023.21 km²)
 Number of public universities: 12
 City rights: 1257 (a capital of Poland between 960-1795)

Krakow:
 -free of charge professional counseling
 -free of charge and anonymous laboratory HIV tests
 -paid and non-anonymous laboratory HCV tests
 -paid and non-anonymous tests for other STIs
 -telephone helpline
 -Volunteers' help on a corridor



Two VCT centers in southern Poland (placed in two different voivodeships) are led by the same organization with the same staff. It creates a chance to observe how such variables as a type of clients, number of clients, reaching key populations, circumstances and opportunities in environment as well as mentality of local community can influence on needs and possibilities of counselling and testing (HIV and HCV).



RZESZOW



Fot. DOMAR Rzeszow

Population: 188 309
Area: 120,4 km²
Number of public universities: 2
City rights: 1354

Rzeszow:
 -free of charge professional counseling
 -free of charge and anonymous laboratory HIV tests
 -free of charge and anonymous rapid HIV tests
 -free of charge and anonymous rapid HCV tests



Organization leading VCT Centres:
Association for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Social Support "One World"
(Stowarzyszenie Profilaktyki i Wsparcia w zakresie HIV/AIDS "Jeden Świat")



Address and opening hours:

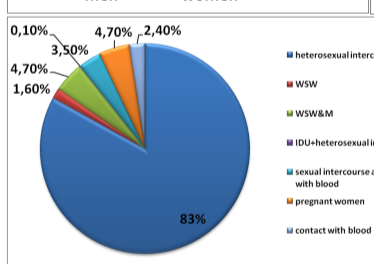
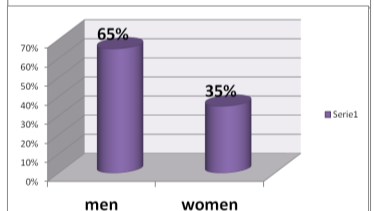
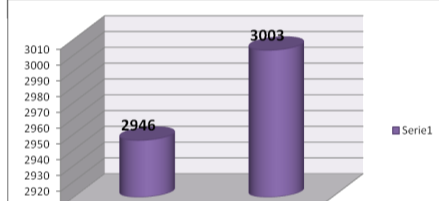
04.2015-04.2016:
 Podkarpacka st. 1
 Saturday 11.30 am. - 4.00 pm.

05.2016-12.2016
 Wierzbowa st. 16
 Wednesday 3.15-6.15 pm.
 Saturday 11.30 am. - 3.30 pm.

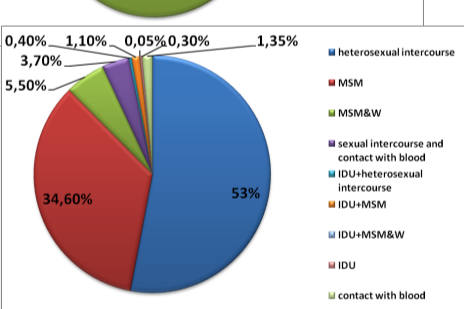
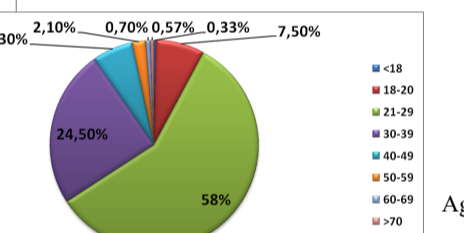
Kopernika st. 19, Krakow
 Tuesday 4-7 pm. (two consultants at the same time)
 Thursday 4-7 pm. (two consultants at the same time)

Data collected between 01.04.2015-31.12.2016

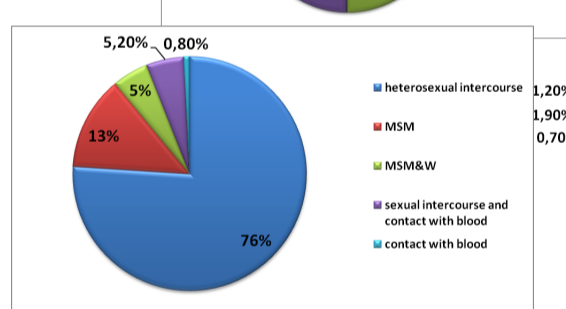
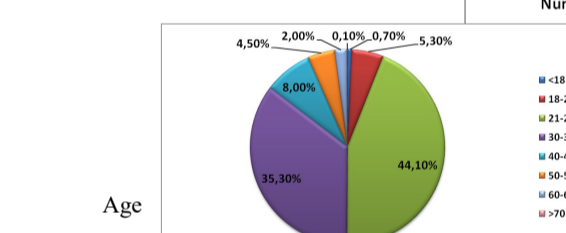
(source: information gained from registration questionnaires created by National AIDS Centre)



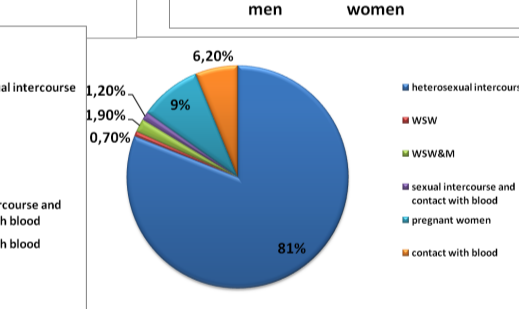
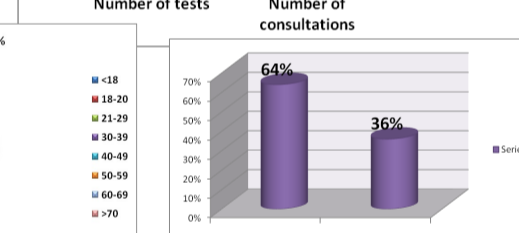
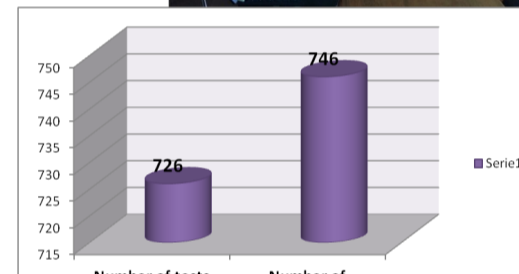
Potentially risky situations or type of clients - women



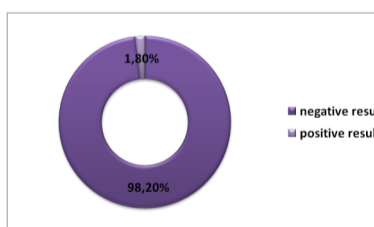
Potentially risky situations or type of clients - men



Potentially risky situations or type of clients - men

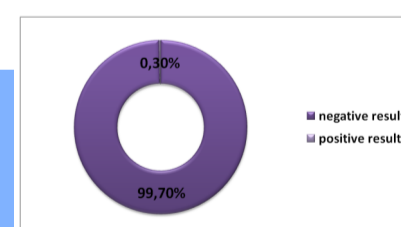


Potentially risky situations or type of clients - women



Positive results in VCT in Krakow: 52
 Heterosexual women - 2
 Heterosexual men - 3
 MSM - 36
 MSM&W - 7
 Men infected because of sexual intercourse OR contact with blood - 3
 Men infected because of contact with blood - 1

Positive results in VCT in Rzeszow: 2
 MSM&W - 1
 MSM - 1



CONCLUSIONS

The two centers differ completely. In Krakow a huge number of clients is observed when in Rzeszow there are still less people who would like to get tested. It gives a possibility to provide more emotional and educational support for clients in Rzeszow but on the other hand in consequence of low account of tests there are still too less people diagnosed with HIV compared to the actual amount of people living with HIV in podkarpackie voivodeship. Very important is that in both cases of positive results in VCT in Rzeszow, late diagnoses were observed.

In Krakow much more MSM use the opportunity of anonymous and free of charge testing than in Rzeszow (it is caused probably by higher stigma of LGBT+ people in this area) but in Rzeszow there are somewhat more women (especially pregnant women) coming to the center than in Krakow. Average age of clients is higher in Rzeszow than in Krakow (more universities and more students in Krakow can be a reason) and in Krakow there are more serodiscordant couples visiting the centre.

All of those circumstances create different needs and barriers. VCT centre in Krakow is open only twice a week because of a lack of funds. This huge number of clients could be higher - nearly 10 persons cannot be tested every working day although they want it, whereas in Rzeszow there is a need of providing promotion and striving for trust in LGBT community.

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