

Impact of PreTest Counseling Sessions on Increasing
Knowledge About HIV and
Hepatitis Among the Beneficiaries of a Free of Charge,
Voluntary Counseling and
Testing Program (VCT) in Constanta, Romania

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Overview

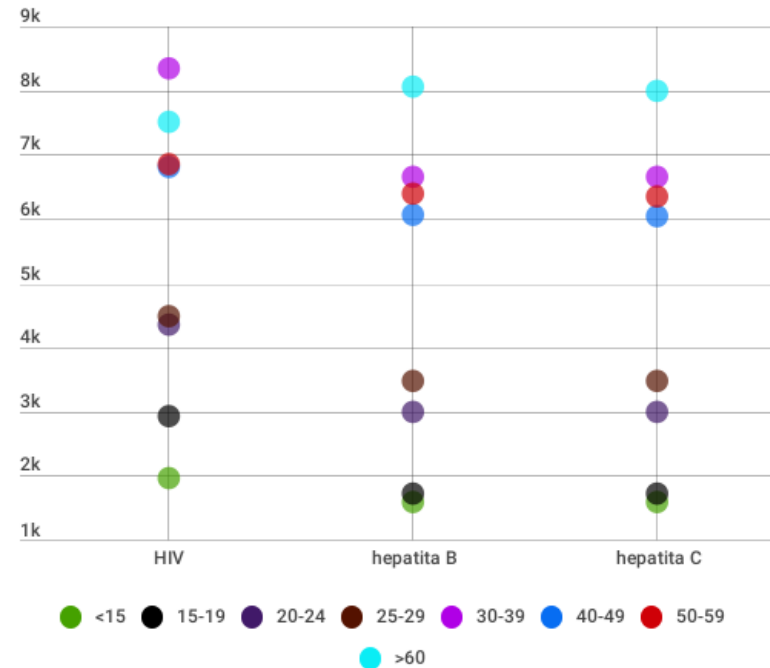
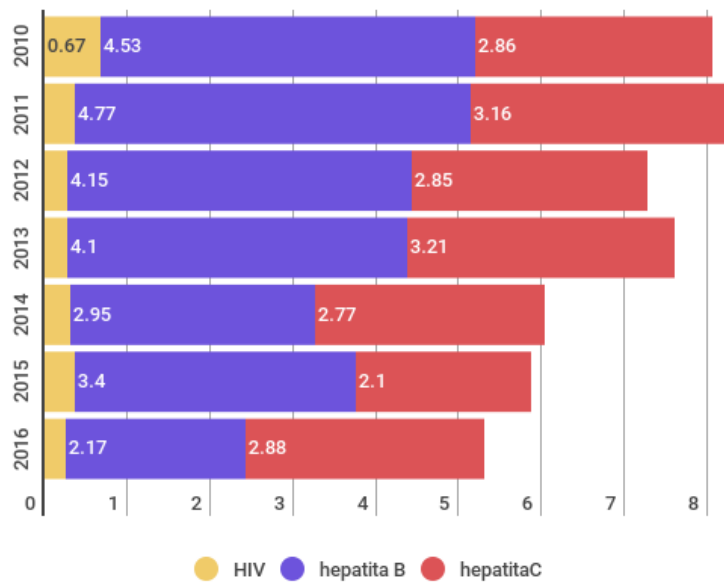
- Baylor Romania delivers services for HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C in Dobrogea region
- Prevention, treatment and care





Baylor Clinic in Constanta, Romania

Program results (n= 55k)





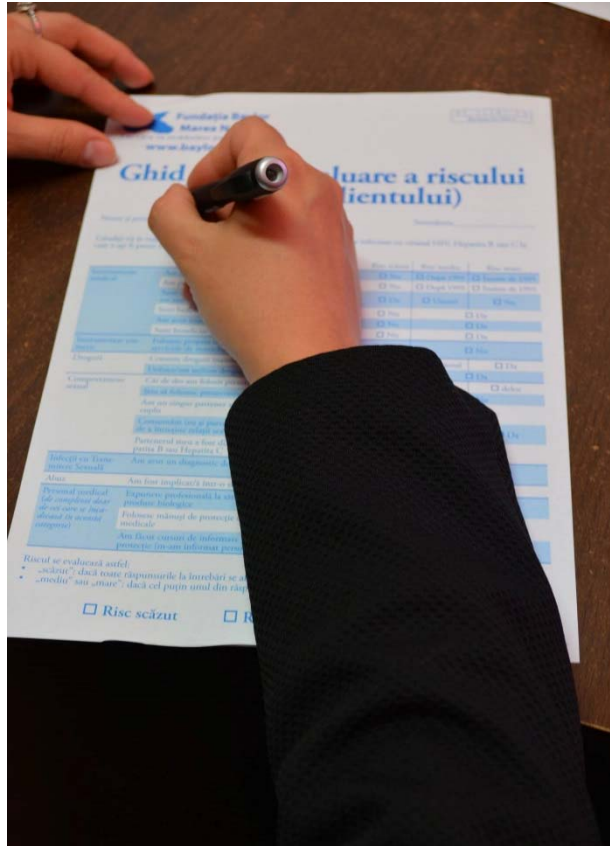
Objectives

- To check the content relevance of the session
- To identify the utility of the pre-test counseling sessions in increasing the level of knowledge about HepHIV

- Informed consent for data collection and confidentiality issues
- Transmission ways of the 3 infections
- Prevention, including HBV vaccination
- Assessment and self-assessment of risk factors (antecedents)
- Basic information about cure versus treatment for each infection
- Medical specialties that are responsible for treatment and care
- Explanation about rapid testing procedures



Methods



- After the blood sample was collected, during the break, clients were asked to assess the impact of the pre-test session regarding the knowledge they gained
- Focus on prevention behavior

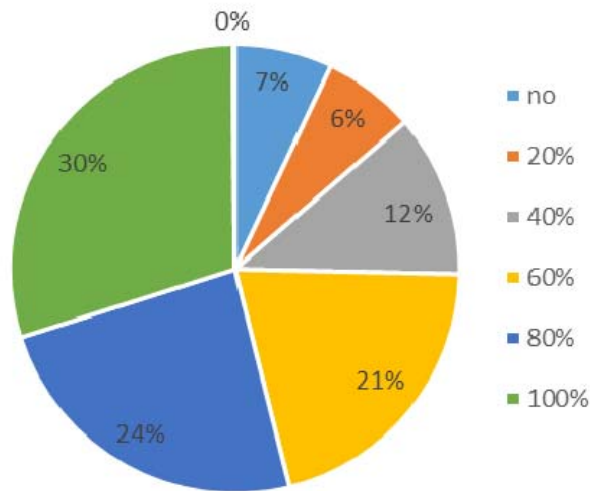
- September 2015 to August 2016
- 4 item questionnaire
 - At the end of the discussion with the counselor, did you know more things about what to do not to get HIV (hepatitis B and C)? Yes/no/ I don't know
 - If your response was “YES” by how much do you appreciate your knowledge increased on a scale from 0% to 100%? (0 -20 -40-60-80-100)



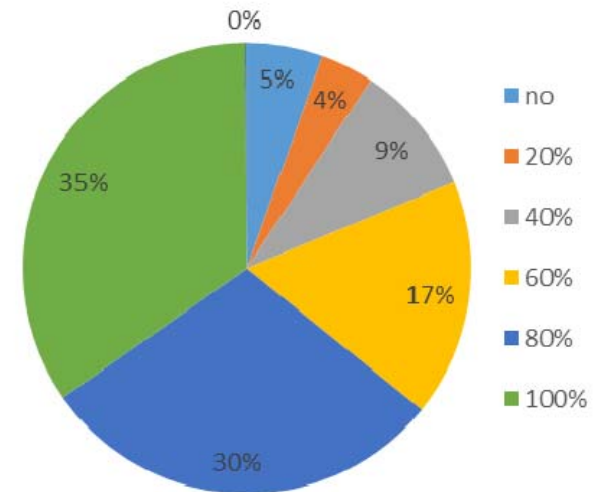
Results

- N = 3065 persons (52% of those tested)
- acceptance of testing for all three infections was high (95%)
- average age of respondents 45
- 59% women
- 64% with urban residence
- 67% had medical insurance
- half of them with high risks for exposure in their antecedents
- previously tested for HIV = 4%
 - HBV= 2%
 - HCV= 1%

Information improvement regarding HIV



Information Improvement regarding Hepatitis



Mean 1: 67.449

Mean 2: 73.03

N1: 3065

N2: 3065

Std Dev.1: 30.402

Std Dev.2: 28.26

M1-M2=67.449-73.03=-5.581
sd=58.536; se=0.7497

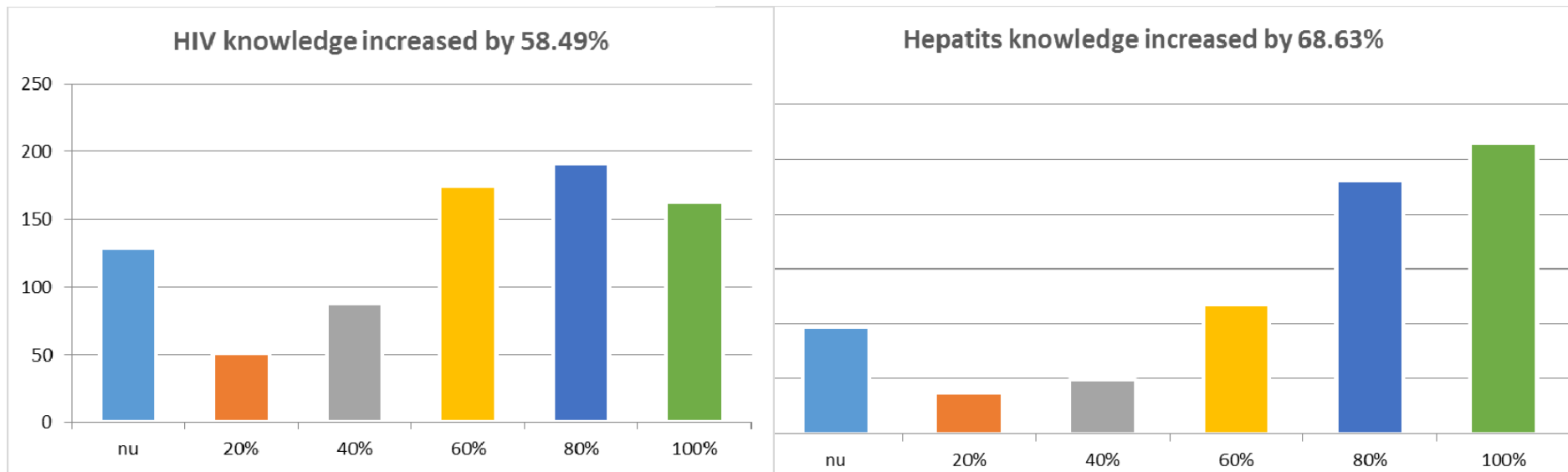
95% CI of difference:
-7.0505 < -5.581 < -4.1115 (Wald)
t-difference: -7.444
df-t: 6095.1; p= 0

Clients considered they gained more information about hepatitis compared with HIV during the pre-test session.

This evaluation was introduced as standard practice in our program.



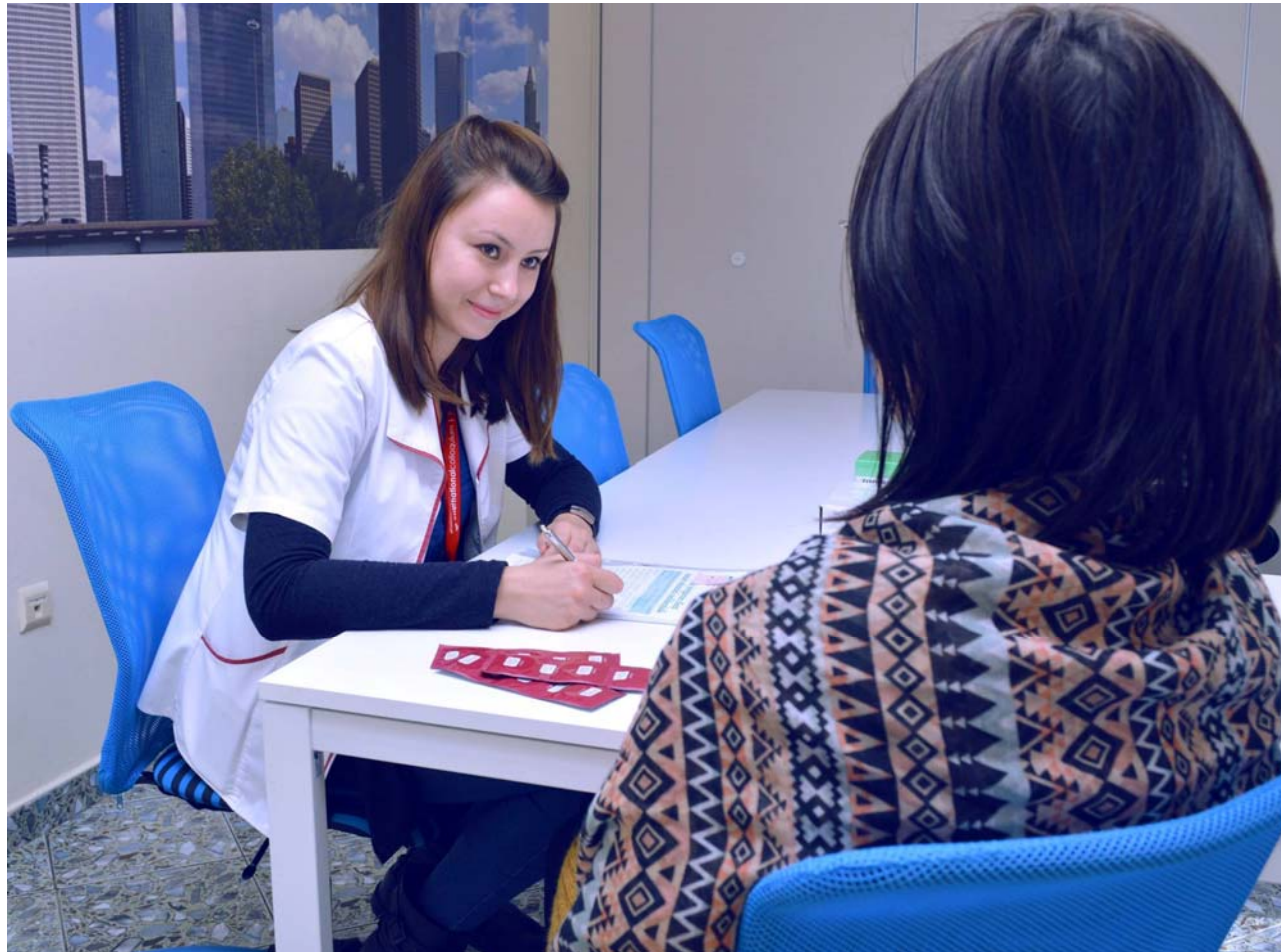
Results at the end of 2016



“ I heard about HIV and sex and blood transmission, but the things I learned about hepatitis were shocking for me. I only knew about hepatitis and dirty hands.”

“I have to admit, I’ve have never associated hepatitis with sex. And even more, I never thought that there might be a risk of getting hepatitis at the manicure saloon.”

“More people should hear about what I learned today. You might think you know how to stay safe, but it is not so self-explanatory.”



Conclusions

- In our community, people that attend VCT are more knowledgeable about HIV than about viral hepatitis.
- Hepatitis pre-test counseling is not compulsory by law, but our data shows the information about prevention, transmission and vaccination of infectious diseases is relevant.

Contact data

www.baylor.ro

www.bipai.org

