

Results of a pilot intervention on HIV and HCV infections in Lviv's regional police officers during the European HIV/Hepatitis Testing week

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Introduction

As of May 2018, 143 766 people have been diagnosed with HIV in Ukraine and about 2 millions people with HCV. In WHO data, police officers are not included in the group at high risk of infection by HIV or HCV. However, Ukrainian police officers frequently interact with key populations, such as PWID and CSW, without necessary personal protective equipment provided to them. Thus they are thought to be at higher risk for infection than in other nations. HIV and HCV testing is not widely available for Ukrainian police officers. Charitable Salus Foundation started a HIV and hepatitis testing project during the European HIV/Hepatitis Testing week in November 2017



Objectives

HIV and HCV rapid testing among police officers in Lviv region of Ukraine



Methods

The Charitable Salus Foundation is one of the largest public health organizations in Western Ukraine. Salus focuses its attention on the prevention of viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections. We used the Mobile Clinic (MC) to check police officers for HIV and HCV infections in Lviv's police station without interrupting their working process. We used «Rapid Anti-HCV Test» and «CITO TEST HIV 1/2».

Results

Two hundred police officers were tested (164 males and 36 females). Age range was from 25 to 38 years old and all they had experience of more than two years working as police. We received three positive HIV results (2 men and one woman) and no positive HCV results. Policemen with positive tests were provided advanced counseling and referral to Lviv Regional Public Health Center for result confirmation and initiation of antiretroviral treatment.

Conclusion

Police in Ukraine are at higher risk of HIV and viral hepatitis infection than the general public, and the challenges of working as public servants often limit the time they have for routine medical examinations, in particular for HIV and HCV testing. This study demonstrates that outreach infectious disease testing services of police officers are needed among this group and should be continued in the future.