

PO1/12 Results of HIV, HCV and HBV rapid testing program among key populations in Lviv Region, Ukraine.

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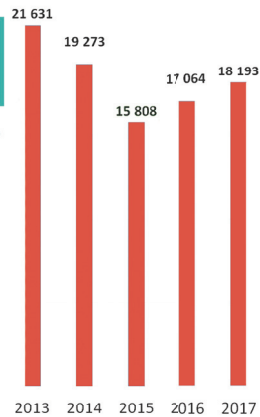


HIV Testing



Background:

The HIV epidemic observed in Ukraine is the second biggest epidemic among the Eastern European and Central Asian countries. In 2017, the number of newly diagnosed persons with HIV increased to 0.6%. In 2017, there were 18193 cases of new HIV infections, and 3364 people died of AIDS-related illnesses. There are also approximately 2 million people living with Hepatitis C. PWIDs (people who inject drugs) and CSW (commercial sex workers) still remain one of the most HIV affected populations in the country. PWIDs represent approximately 1% of the Ukrainian population, and female sex workers are approximately 0.5%.



Materials & Methods:



The Charitable Salus Foundation is one of the largest NGOs in the western region of Ukraine that is dealing with prevention, diagnostics and linkage to care for people living with HIV, HCV and HBV. The Mobile Health Clinic (MHC) is one of the activities performed by Salus where HIV, HBV, HCV rapid tests are performed. MHC provides testing directly at the place where it is needed and flexibly adapts its services based to the target community needs. During 2017 HIV, HCV, HBV testing were carried out using CITO TEST HIV 1/2, CITO TEST HBsAg, and rapid Anti-HCV Test.

Results:



Testing was performed for people who inject drugs and commercial sex workers. Socio-demographic characteristics of PWIDs are as follows: 75% are male, ages range from 14 to 54 years. Between January 1 and December 31, 2017, 9267 rapid HIV tests were carried out with 69 positive results (0.7%) and 4163 Rapid Anti-HCV Test were performed with 590 positive results (14%). All clients with HIV positive results were put under medical care at Lviv Regional Public Health Center and 32 of them (46%) are already receiving ART.

Tested CSW ages ranged from 17 to 45 years and all were female. Of the 1602 rapid HIV tests, two were positive (0.1%) and one was linked to medical care at Lviv Regional Public Health Center. Rapid HBV tests were also performed on 319 CSW, with 2 positive results (0.6%).

Conclusion:

Based on this intervention involving the Mobile Health Clinic, we diagnosed numerous cases of HIV and viral hepatitis among risk populations not currently seeking medical care, namely PWID and CSW. This allowed for earlier referral to medical care, where the diagnosis could be verified and treatment initiated. Our intervention demonstrates the necessity of developing an algorithm for diagnosis of patients outside of medical facilities and then supporting patients with positive tests for HIV and viral hepatitis. Such interventions are highly needed in Ukraine.

