



Development of gender oriented services to increase the number of voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) among female drug users of Lviv region (Ukraine)





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- HIV voluntary testing and counseling (VCT) is key element for behavior change, entry to treatment, care, support.
- Gender oriented approach in HIV prevention programs for female drug users (FDU) is very important factor for the success of the intervention.



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- According to the Lviv Regional AIDS Center (LRAC) data in 2011 only 27% from all drug users who made VCT were females.

- Aim of initiative was to increase the number of HIV VCT among FDU of Lviv region.
- Intervention was implemented with the support of International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine, Lviv Regional AIDS Center, Charitable Salus Foundation



- Specially equipped mobile clinic was used for the intervention.



- Condoms, femidoms, shampoos, lipsticks, hand creams were distributed among FDU as a motivation for those clients who passed HIV test.



- FDU had an opportunity to pass gynecological examination, express testing for STI's along with HIV testing.



# Results

- During October 2010 - October 2011 189 FDU 16-47 years old passed VCT and HIV express test.
- All FDU were tested in mobile clinic in out reach routs.
- 29 HIV positive results of express tests were detected, 23 positive results of HIV express test were confirmed by LRAC lab.
- 91% of women mainly were interested in gynecological check up, free distribution materials and in process of medical consultations made a decision to pass HIV test





# Conclusions

- Gender oriented programs for FDU are different comparing to unisex approach widely used in Ukraine.
- Multisectoral services consisting of social medical and psychological parts, cost effective, specially developed for the target group are needed and should be implemented in Lviv region for increasing the HIV VCT rate among FDU.

Thank you for attention !!!

