

Sexual orientation and high risk behaviors are not associated with being lost-to-care after HIV diagnosis: data from Test and Keep in Care (TAK) project.

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Background

- TAK project aims to identify factors related to being lost to care after HIV diagnosis in central region of Poland.

Methods

- Data from community-based voluntary counselling and testing (CBVCT) and HIV clinics (HCS) were linked using Western-Blot number. Persons not registered in HCS were considered lost to care (LTC).
- High risk sexual behavior included 5 of :
 - alcohol, drugs use during sex
 - receptive sex, bisexual partner
 - >20 partners
 - being diagnosed with STI
 - not using condom in occasional sex
- Protective sexual behavior included :
 - using condom in stable relation
 - using condom in occasional relation
 - partner testing
- A multivariable logistic regression model investigated factors associated with being LTC including variables with $p < 0.1$ in univariable models.

Results

- 110 persons were diagnosed HIV-positive in 2010 and 2011
- 90.9% living in central Poland, 4.6% female, 78 (70.9%) MSM
- 47 (42.3%) persons were LTC. (Figure 1)
- Baseline characteristics comparing MSM to other sexual orientations are shown in table 1
- In univariable logistic regression MSM, having HIV-positive partner, history of CBVCT testing and high risk sexual behavior decreased the odds of being lost to care, however none of this factors remained statistically significant in multivariable model (Figure 2).

Conclusions

- Sexual orientation and high risk behaviors had no significant effect on linkage to care, however our data suggest that persons at higher risk of HIV infection might be less likely to be LTC.
- Educational interventions during HIV testing may improve future linkage to professional healthcare.

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Figure 2. The stage of care at which patients were lost

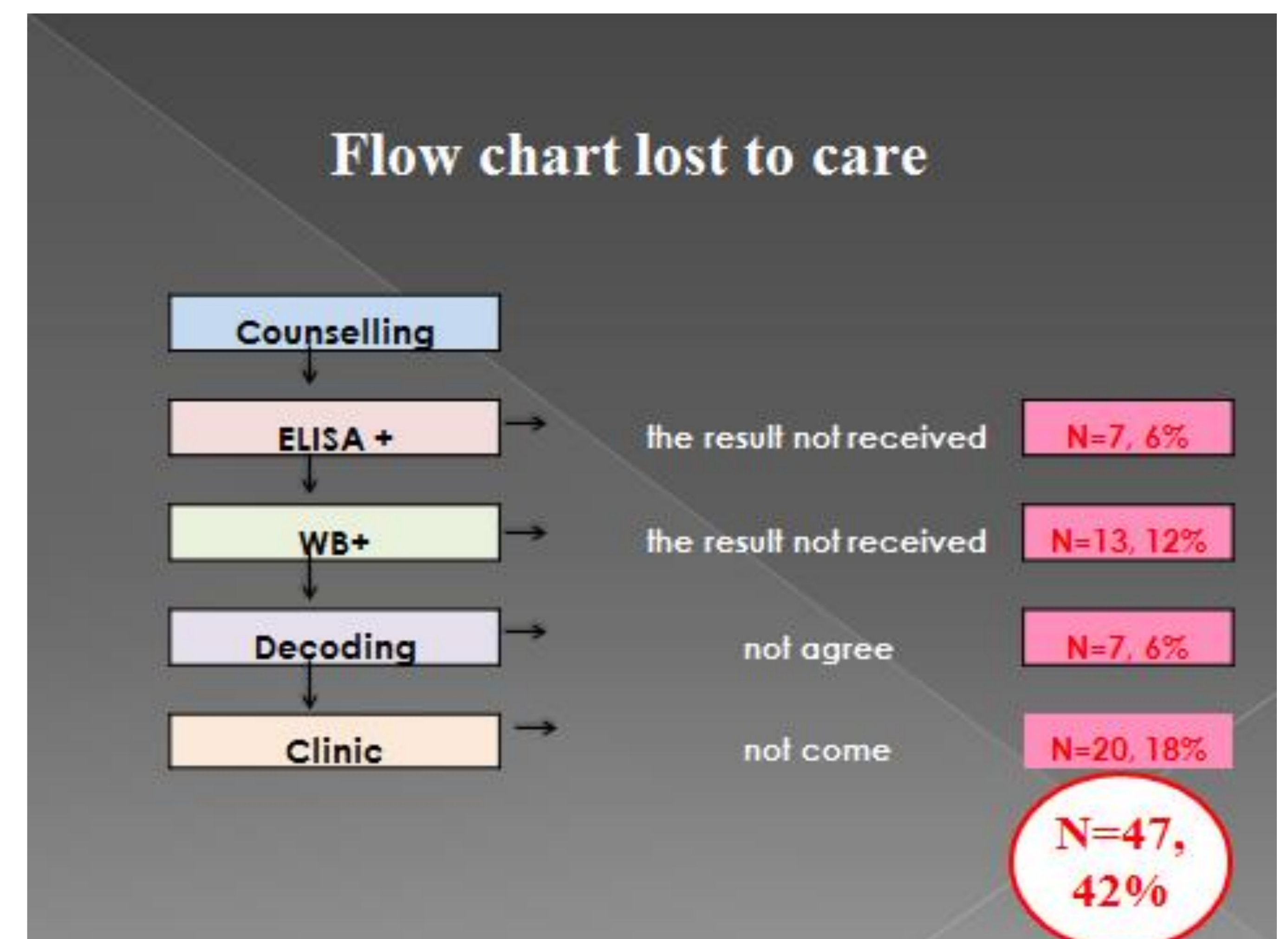


Table 1. Baseline characteristics

	MSM N=78	Other N=32	P value
Age in years *	27.8 (23.7-32.2)	29 (22.5-34.8)	0.60
Higher education **	62 (79.5)	25 (78.1)	0.87
HIV (+) partner **	26 (33.3)	2 (6.25)	0.03
High risk behaviors **	61 (78.2)	17 (53.1)	0.01
Protective behaviors**	15 (19.2)	6 (18.75)	0.95
Test in past (count) *	2 (1-4)	1 (0-1)	0.0005
Test in CBVCT **	50 (64.1)	12 (37.5)	0.01
Lost to care **	27 (34.6)	20 (62.5)	0.01
For persons integrated into HIV care			
Time to registration *	17 (14-36)	12 (8-14)	0.004
Late to care (>15 days) *	25 (49)	2 (16.7)	0.05
CD4 at diagnosis *	397 (306-496)	484 (395-599)	0.08
Latest CD4 *	457 (339-550)	540 (431-624)	0.14
HIV RNA at diagnosis *	4.6 (3.9-5.0)	4.4 (3.8-4.8)	0.30
Latest HIV RNA *	3.6 (1.9-4.5)	2.6 (1.6- 3.8)	0.11

* Number or value (IQR) ** Number (%)
CD4 in cells/ul HIV RNA in log copies/ml

Figure 1. Univariable and multivariable logistic regression models for factors related to being lost to care

