



Monitoring Implementation of HIV-Testing Guidelines in Estonia

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OBJECTIVE

In 2012, national HIV testing guidelines were issued, which recommend HIV-indicator condition and risk-behaviour based testing. **In two HIV epidemic regions** (Harju county (capital region) and Ida-Viru county in North-Eastern Estonia) **HIV testing is recommended to all patients aged 16–49**. The aim of this analysis was to assess HIV testing in epidemic regions using data from Estonian Health Insurance Fund (EHIF) database.

METHODS

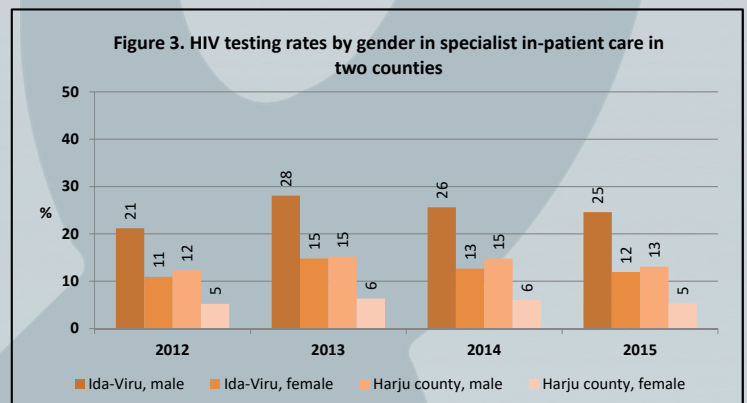
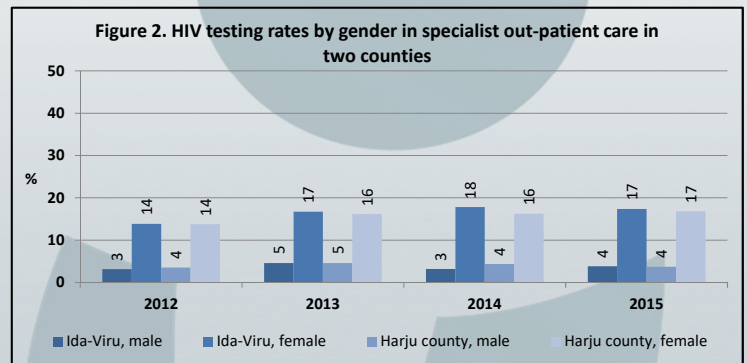
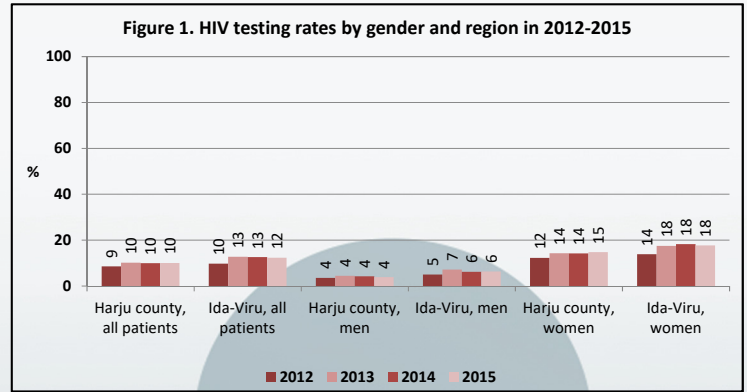
EHIF is the core purchaser of health care services in Estonia, covering health care costs for insured people (94% of the total population). After health care services' provision, the provider sends a bill to EHIF, which includes patient information (e.g. age, gender) and services provided (e.g. which tests were performed). We derived cumulative data on people aged 15–49 years to assess the proportion of people tested for HIV among those using in- and out-patient primary (general practitioner) and specialist care (excluding palliative care and dentistry) services in 2012–2015.

RESULTS

Figure 1 shows HIV testing rates among all patients by gender and region in 2012–2015. Figures 2–3 show HIV testing rates among men and women accessing specialist in- and out-patient care in the two counties. Among men and women accessing primary care, HIV testing rates remained below 2% during the study period.

CONCLUSIONS

1. In HIV epidemic regions, **HIV-testing rates are low and have not increased** much in the last four years.
2. Rates are somewhat higher in the county with highest burden of HIV (Ida-Viru county).
3. **Testing rates are especially low in primary care.**
4. Out-patient specialist care HIV-testing rates are higher among women, most likely because of screening among pregnant women.



OptTEST PARTNERS