

# Impact of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic and wartime migration on the number of clients at testing sites in Poland.

Szczepański Adrian<sup>1,4</sup>

Magdalena Ankiersztein-Bartczak<sup>2</sup>

Bartosz Szetela<sup>3</sup>

Monika Brzychczy-Włoch<sup>1</sup>

1. Jagiellonian University Medical College, Department of Molecular Medical Microbiology, Cracow, Poland,

2. Foundation for Social Education, Warsaw, Poland

3. Wrocław Medical University, Infectious Diseases, Liver Disease and Acquired Immune Deficiencies, Wrocław, Poland

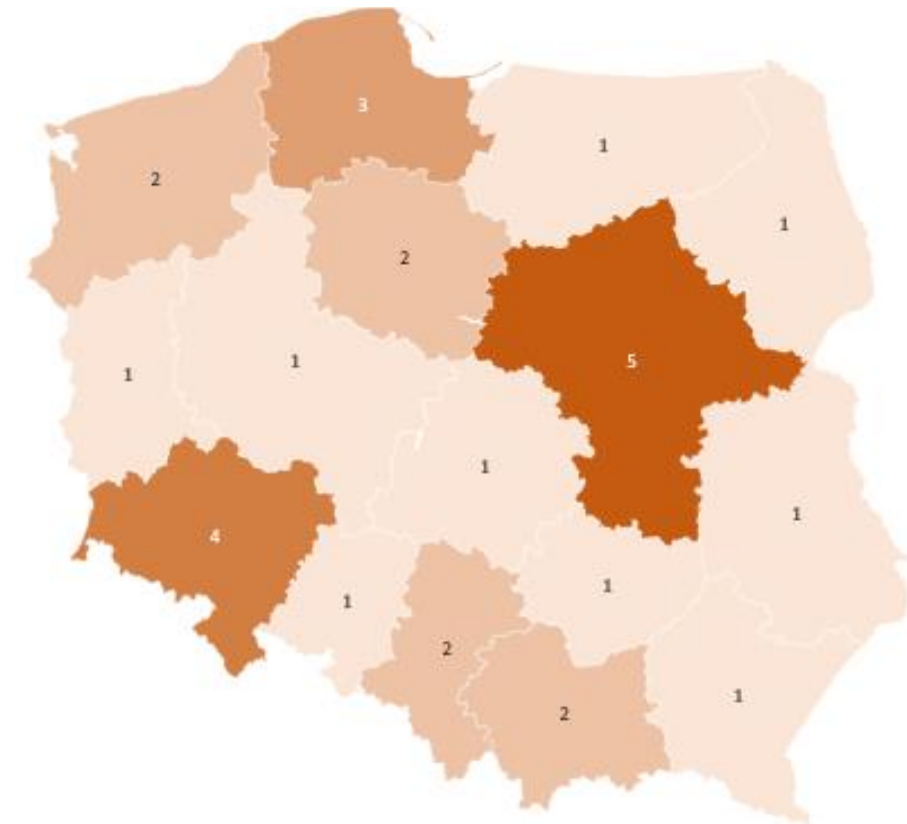
4. Association of Health Prevention "One World" , Miłkowskiego 5 , 30-349 Kraków, Poland



## Impact of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic and wartime migration on the number of clients at testing sites in Poland.

Szczepański Adrian  
Magdalena Ankersztejn-Bartczak  
Bartosz Szetela  
Monika Brzychczy-Włoch

Jagiellonian University Medical College, Department of Molecular Medical Microbiology, Cracow, Poland,  
Foundation for Social Education, Warsaw, Poland  
Wroclaw Medical University, Infectious Diseases, Liver Disease and Acquired Immune Deficiencies, Wroclaw, Poland



Prevalence of VCTs in Poland

Rates of HIV late diagnoses in Poland are one of the highest in Europe and only 10% of adults have been tested at least once in their lifetime.

HIV tests can be performed free of charge and anonymously at 29 testing sites (VCTs) located in 26 cities, in all 16 provinces of Poland.

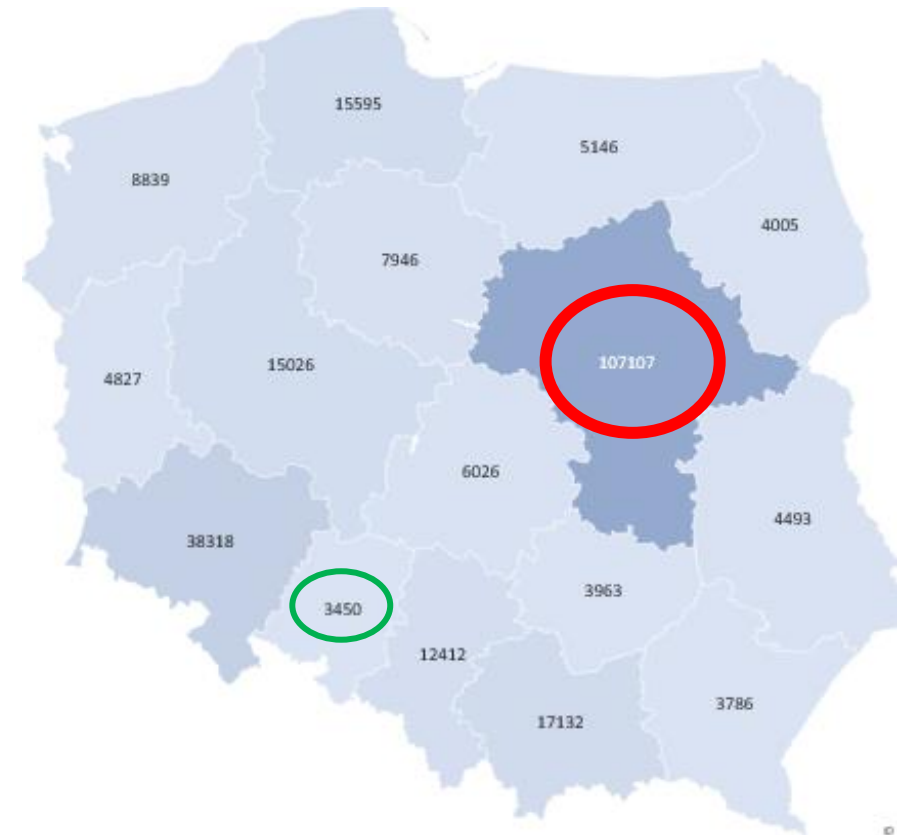
# Impact of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic and wartime migration on the number of clients at testing sites in Poland.

Szczepański Adrian  
Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak  
Bartosz Szetela  
Monika Brzychczy-Włoch  
Jagiellonian University Medical College, Department of Molecular Medical Microbiology, Cracow, Poland,  
Foundation for Social Education, Warsaw, Poland  
Wroclaw Medical University, Infectious Diseases, Liver Disease and Acquired Immune Deficiencies, Wroclaw, Poland



From 2015 to 2022, a total of **258 071** patients visited VCTs in Poland (an average of **32 259** visits per year).

The largest number of people testing was in the Mazowieckie Province – **107107 (41.5%)** and the lowest in the Opolskie Province - **3,450 (1.34%)**.



Number of people testing in VCTs 2015-2022 in Poland

## Impact of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic and wartime migration on the number of clients at testing sites in Poland.

Szczepański Adrian  
Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak  
Bartosz Szetela

Monika Brzychczy-Włoch  
Jagiellonian University Medical College, Department of Molecular Medical Microbiology, Cracow, Poland,  
Foundation for Social Education, Warsaw, Poland  
Wroclaw Medical University, Infectious Diseases, Liver Disease and Acquired Immune Deficiencies, Wroclaw, Poland

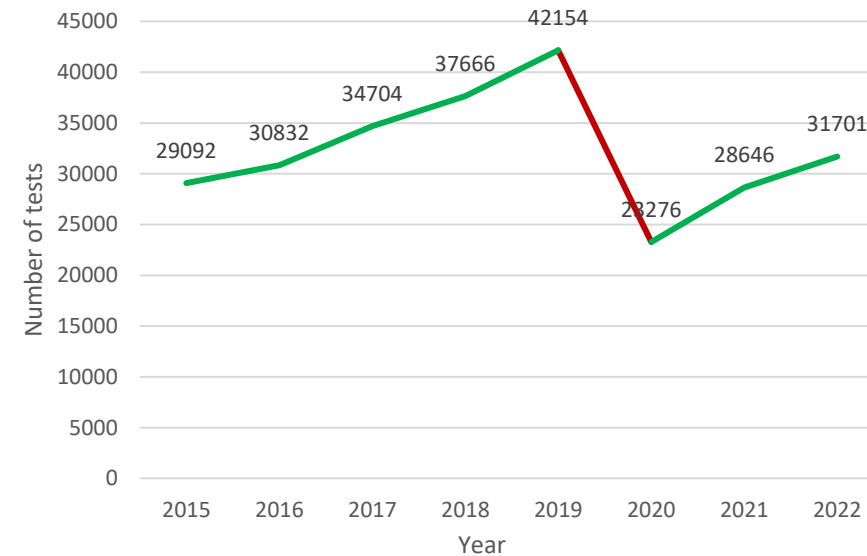


With the development and promotion of testing in 2015-2019, the number of people getting tested gradually increased and over these 5 years it increased by **31%** (from 29,092 tests in 2015 to 42,154 tests in 2019).

In 2020, the number of tests decreased by **45%** (from 42,154 tests to 23,276 tests).

Lockdown in Poland resulted in the closure or limitation of the activities of most VCTs.

In the next years, the number of tests increased, but still did not reach numbers from 2019.



Number of VCT tests by year 2015-2022 in Poland

# Impact of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic and wartime migration on the number of clients at testing sites in Poland.

Szczepański Adrian  
 Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak  
 Bartosz Szetela  
 Monika Brzychczy-Włoch

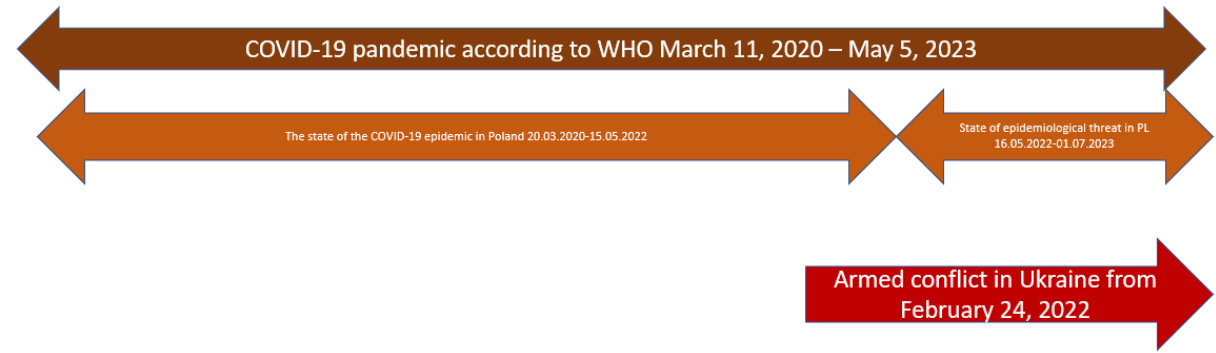
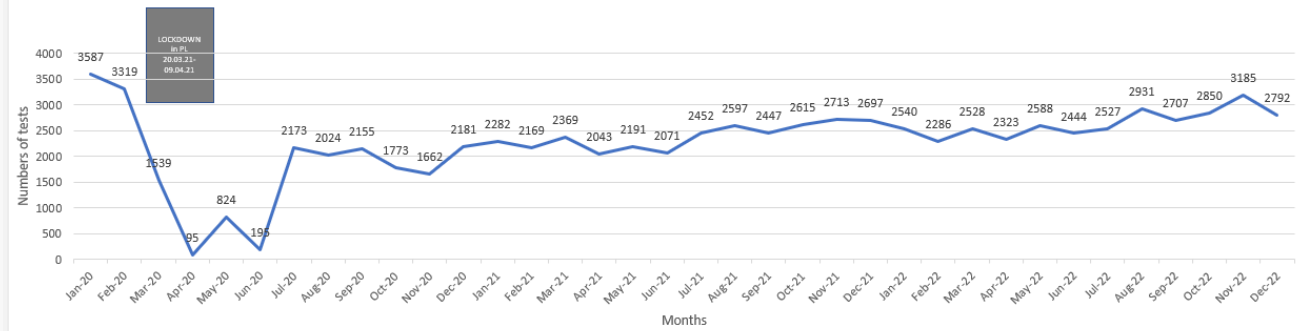
Jagiellonian University Medical College, Department of Molecular Medical Microbiology, Cracow, Poland,  
 Foundation for Social Education, Warsaw, Poland  
 Wrocław Medical University, Infectious Diseases, Liver Disease and Acquired Immune Deficiencies, Wrocław, Poland



In 2020, testing was significantly impacted by the **Covid-19 pandemic**. In the following years, the number of tests increased, but still did not reach pre-pandemic numbers.

After Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 more than 2 million war migrants fled to Poland.

However, the number of tests did not increase significantly, but it had a significant impact on the number of HIV infections detected.



Number of tests per month during SARS-CoV-2 and the conflict in Ukraine

Figure based on data from the National AIDS Center

# Impact of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic and wartime migration on the number of clients at testing sites in Poland.

Szczepański Adrian  
 Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak  
 Bartosz Szetela  
 Monika Brzychczy-Włoch  
 Jagiellonian University Medical College, Department of Molecular Medical Microbiology, Cracow, Poland,  
 Foundation for Social Education, Warsaw, Poland  
 Wrocław Medical University, Infectious Diseases, Liver Disease and Acquired Immune Deficiencies, Wrocław, Poland



In the analyzed period of 2015-2022, a total of **258,071** people who came to VCTs, **3576 (1.39%) had a positive result (WB)** and **149 (0.06%) had an indeterminate result in the confirmation test (WB)**.

Among people with a positive confirmed result of infection (WB) in 2015-2022, **440 results belonged to foreigners**, the percentage of positive results was (12.30%).

Year	number of tests	number of positive results	%of positive results
<b>2015</b>			
ALL	29092	421	1.44%
Polish	28636	410	1.43%
Other nationality	456	11	2.41%
<b>2016</b>			
ALL	30832	444	1.44%
Polish	30219	419	1.39%
Other nationality	613	25	4.08%
<b>2017</b>			
ALL	34704	492	1.42%
Polish	33897	466	1.37%
Other nationality	807	26	3.22%
<b>2018</b>			
ALL	37666	405	1.08%
Polish	36589	378	1.03%
Other nationality	1077	27	2.51%
<b>2019</b>			
ALL	42154	537	1.27%
Polish	40602	478	1.78%
Other nationality	1552	59	3.80%
<b>2020</b>			
ALL	23276	309	1.33%
Polish	22064	259	1.17%
Other nationality	1213	50	4.12%
<b>2021</b>			
ALL	28646	448	1.56%
Polish	26856	368	1.37%
Other nationality	1790	80	4.47%
<b>2022</b>			
ALL	31701	520	2.40%
Polish	28905	358	1.24%
Other nationality	2796	162	5.79%

Number of tests to the number of positive results and the percentage of positive results divided into Poles and foreigners in 2015-2022

## Impact of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic and wartime migration on the number of clients at testing sites in Poland.

Szczepański Adrian  
Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak  
Bartosz Szetela

Monika Brzychczy-Włoch

Jagiellonian University Medical College, Department of Molecular Medical Microbiology, Cracow, Poland,  
Foundation for Social Education, Warsaw, Poland  
Wrocław Medical University, Infectious Diseases, Liver Disease and Acquired Immune Deficiencies, Wrocław, Poland

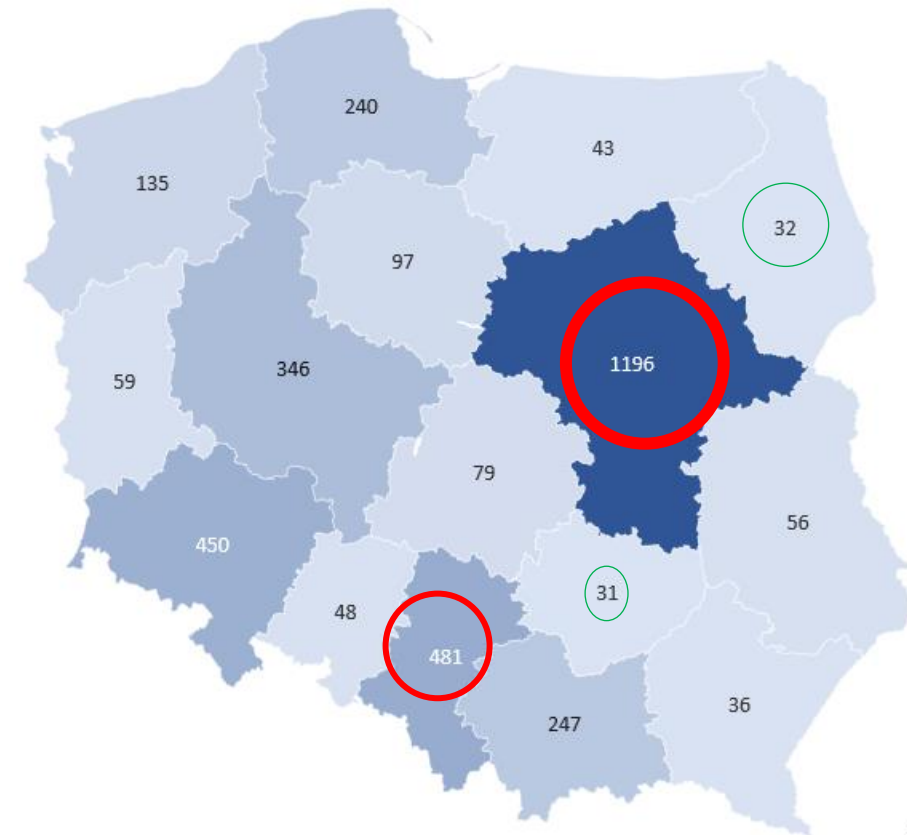


The biggest number of positive results (confirmed by WB) in the years 2015-2022 were recorded in the:

- Mazowieckie Province **1,196** (22.45%)
- Silesian Province **481** (13.45%)

The lowest number of positive results were in the:

- Podlaskie Province **32** (0.89%)
- Świętokrzyskie Province **31** (0.87%)



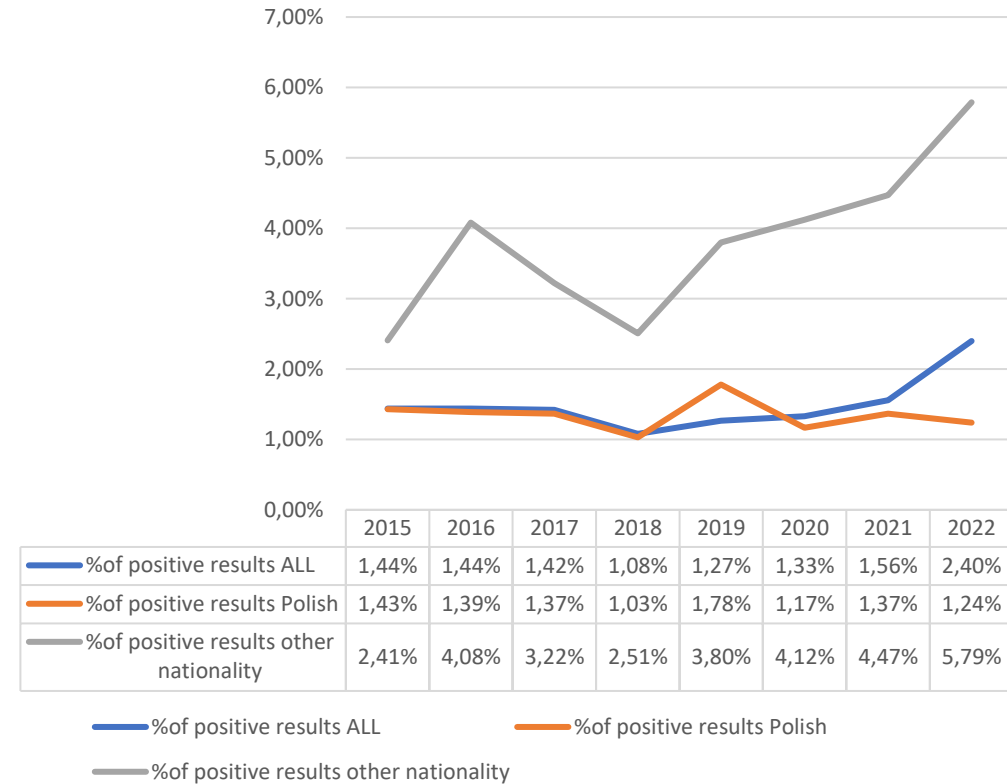
Number of confirmed positive results (WB) in 2015-2022 by province

# Impact of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic and wartime migration on the number of clients at testing sites in Poland.

**Szczepański Adrian**  
**Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak**  
**Bartosz Szetela**  
**Monika Brzychczy-Włoch**  
 Jagiellonian University Medical College, Department of Molecular Medical Microbiology, Cracow, Poland,  
 Foundation for Social Education, Warsaw, Poland  
 Wrocław Medical University, Infectious Diseases, Liver Disease and Acquired Immune Deficiencies, Wrocław, Poland



The percentage of confirmed HIV infections in the group of foreigners was higher than in the group of tested Poles and this trend continued in the following years.



The numbers and percentages of positive HIV results in the group of Poles and foreigners in 2015-2022 in Poland

Figure based on data from the National AIDS Center



# Impact of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic and wartime migration on the number of clients at testing sites in Poland.

Szczepański Adrian  
 Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak  
 Bartosz Szetela  
 Monika Brzychczy-Włoch

Jagiellonian University Medical College, Department of Molecular Medical Microbiology, Cracow, Poland,  
 Foundation for Social Education, Warsaw, Poland  
 Wrocław Medical University, Infectious Diseases, Liver Disease and Acquired Immune Deficiencies, Wrocław, Poland



Our research shows that the average customer of VCTs is:

- men
- aged 25-34

The highest percentage of positive results is in the Homosexual group of patients 52.71%

Age	no	% no	Women	% Women	Men	% Men	Other	% Other
<=18	4760	1.84%	1980	0.77%	2778	1.08%	2	0.00%
19-24	66812	25.89%	26626	10.32%	40154	15.56%	32	0.01%
25-34	115245	44.66%	40826	15.82%	74399	28.83%	20	0.01%
35-44	50118	19.42%	15608	6.05%	34509	13.37%	1	0.00%
45-54	14533	5.63%	4510	1.75%	10020	3.88%	3	0.00%
55-64	4655	1.80%	1468	0.57%	3187	1.23%	0	0.00%
65+	1948	0.75%	591	0.23%	1357	0.53%	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>258071</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>91609</b>	<b>35.50%</b>	<b>166404</b>	<b>64.48%</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0.02%</b>

Analysis of VCTs in Poland clients - age and gender diversity

Row Labels	Count of Positive Results	%
BISEXUAL	344	9.62%
HETEROSEXUAL	920	25.73%
HOMOSEXUAL	1885	52.71%
REFUSAL TO ANSWER	427	11.94%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3576</b>	<b>100%</b>

Sexual orientation vs positive results in VCTs in Poland 2015-2022

# Impact of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic and wartime migration on the number of clients at testing sites in Poland.

Szczepański Adrian  
Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak  
Bartosz Szetela

Monika Brzychczy-Włoch  
Jagiellonian University Medical College, Department of Molecular Medical Microbiology, Cracow, Poland,  
Foundation for Social Education, Warsaw, Poland  
Wroclaw Medical University, Infectious Diseases, Liver Disease and Acquired Immune Deficiencies, Wroclaw, Poland



Comparing the data obtained from the National Institute of Hygiene, which contains documented patient results (name, surname, PESEL) with anonymous data collected from VCT's points, it can be assumed that approximately **32% of these infections could have been detected at anonymous testing points.**

## CONCLUSIONS

It is necessary to disseminate **knowledge about the risk of HIV infection** and **increase the availability of tests**, especially in environments with an increased risk of infection, where access to health care system services is significantly limited. The number of people reporting to PKD confirms **the need** for free, anonymous testing.



# Impact of the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic and wartime migration on the number of clients at testing sites in Poland.

**Szczepański Adrian**

**Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak**

**Bartosz Szetela**

**Monika Brzychczy-Włoch**

Jagiellonian University Medical College, Department of Molecular Medical Microbiology, Cracow, Poland,

Foundation for Social Education, Warsaw, Poland

Wroclaw Medical University, Infectious Diseases, Liver Disease and Acquired Immune Deficiencies, Wroclaw, Poland



**Thank you for your attention**

Thanks to the National AIDS Center in Poland for sharing the data