

How can we test for HIV, HCV and syphilis - experience from Polish NGO

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Background

- ✓ Poland is one of European country with very low HIV prevalence – 1% and high level of late presenters – more than 50%. In general population only 5% have ever HIV test in their life. HIV testing is available in community-based voluntary counselling and free of charge testing service. In 2016 only 23% of clients were MSM and only 1,5% were PWID.

Methods

- ✓ Data from community-based voluntary counselling and testing that occurred between 2015–2017 coordinating by Foundation in Warsaw. In 2017 we started Mobile Harm Reduction Service offering testing for STD in PWID population. In bought places testing is free and anonymous with pre and post counselling. In Mobile testing is finger rapid testing in VCT finger rapid testing and laboratory testing.

Results

- ✓ A total of 13229 persons were tested between 2015-2017 - 3170 were men who have sex with men MSM (23,96%). Diagnosed as HIV-positive: 1,12% in all clients, in MSM group 3,19%. From all positive results in VCT 68,64% were in MSM key population. In the testing centers PWID were constituted less than 1% off all clients.
- ✓ In 2017 in **Mobile Harm Reduction Service** 223 people were tested. 9 (4%) have positive HIV result and neither 4% know about their status before. 8% prevalence in PWID population is quite high level. In this group of people most of them didn't have a HIV test before. Twenty eight percent have HCV positive result, 1,9% syphilis.

Conclusions

- ✓ HIV and STD testing in key population should be one of the main strategy for prevention. It is very important to adapt the HIV service to the main group. Especially in Poland where the fear and discrimination is so high we should started thinking of new way of testing, easy and acceptable– self testing.

References

- ✓ Public health guidance on HIV, hepatitis B and C testing in the EU/EEA: An integrated approach. <https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/public-health-guidance-hiv-hepatitis-b-and-c-testing-eueea> (22 Jan 2019)

