

Hepatitis C cascade of care among people who inject drugs in Poland: gaps both at testing and linkage to care levels



Zakrzewska Karolina¹, Szmulik Katarzyna¹, Malczewski Artur², Rosińska Magdalena¹

¹ National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene, Department of Epidemiology of Infection Disease and Surveillance, Poland

² National Bureau for Drug Prevention, Poland

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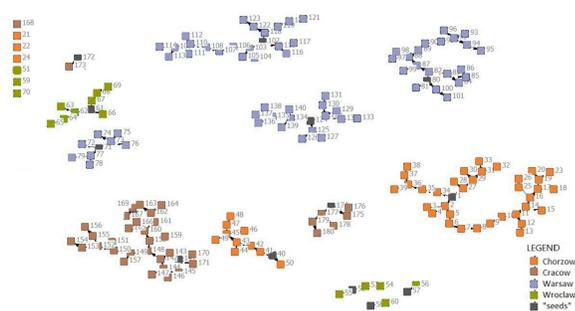
BACKGROUND

Previous studies among people who inject drugs (PWID) identified an undiagnosed fraction of hepatitis C (HCV) of 64% in 2004 and 30% in 2009. However, little is known about the current diagnosis rate and access to HCV treatment. We constructed the cascade of care, also describing the testing rate and the reasons for poor linkage to care.

METHODS

STUDY DESIGN: cross-sectional study:
laboratory testing for anti-HCV
and self-reported questionnaire

SAMPLING METHOD: *Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS)*



PARTICIPANTS: People who ever inject drugs (N=171)

TIME OF RECRUITMENT: September-November 2017

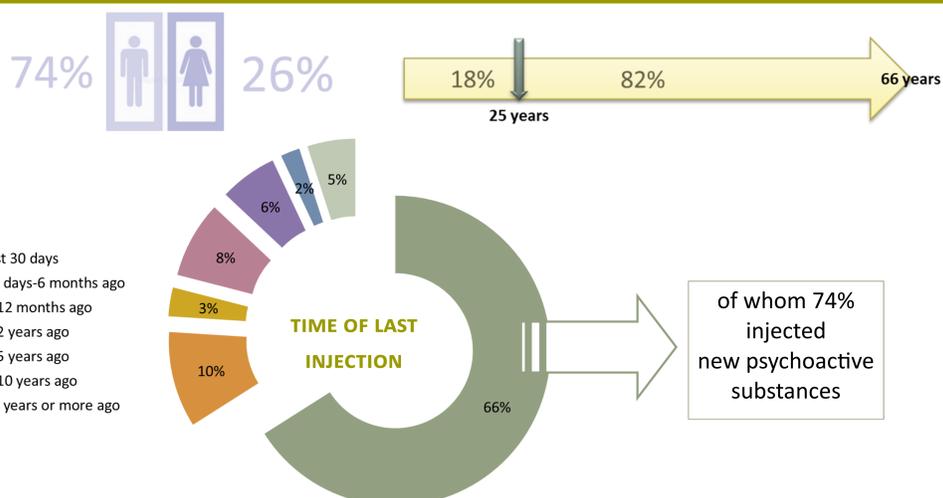
PLACE OF RECRUITMENT: four cities in Poland:

- Chorzow (n=50)
- Cracow (n=36)
- Warsaw (n=66)
- Wroclaw (n=19)



- INCLUSION CRITERIA:
1. valid RDS coupon
 2. age 18+
 3. injecting drugs at least once in life
 4. residing in the studied areas for at least 3 months

PARTICIPANTS CHARACTERISTICS

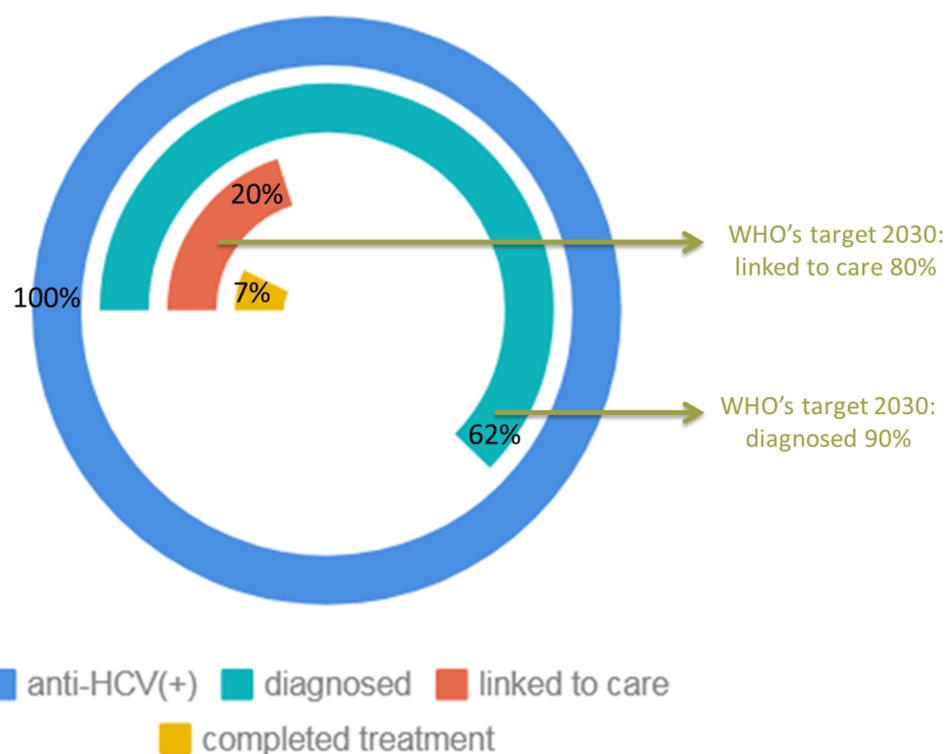


PREVALENCE OF ANTI-HCV

The 57.9% (95%CI: 50.1% -65.4%) of participants (99/171) were anti-HCV positive. By comparison, anti-HIV were detected in 18.7% participants (95%CI: 13.2% - 25.4%).

RESULTS

HEPATITIS C CASCADE OF CARE AMONG PWID



BARRIERS TO LINKAGE TO CARE

79% PERSONAL

I feel good, I do not need to visit the clinic.
I'm not interested such care.
I forgot about clinical appointment.
I was using the drugs and I could not make a clinical visit date/go to clinic.



not being linked care

21% INSTITUTIONAL & INFORMATIONAL

I do not have insurance.
I am afraid that abstinence is required.
I do not believe in the therapy.

I am afraid of the negative effects of treatment.

CONCLUSION

Although the diagnosed fraction improved more effort is needed to reach the WHO elimination target for 2030. Poor linkage to care underlines the necessity to strengthen individual support services that would increase knowledge about new effective therapies and motivation to treatment.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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