

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the diagnosis of HIV, viral hepatitis and STI and TB – Situation in Poland



Magdalena Ankiersztejn-Bartczak – PhD

Third wave of Covid-19

Nowe przypadki ▼



Polska ▼

Cały okres ▼

40 000

30 000

20 000

10 000

0

29 maj

4 sie

10 paź

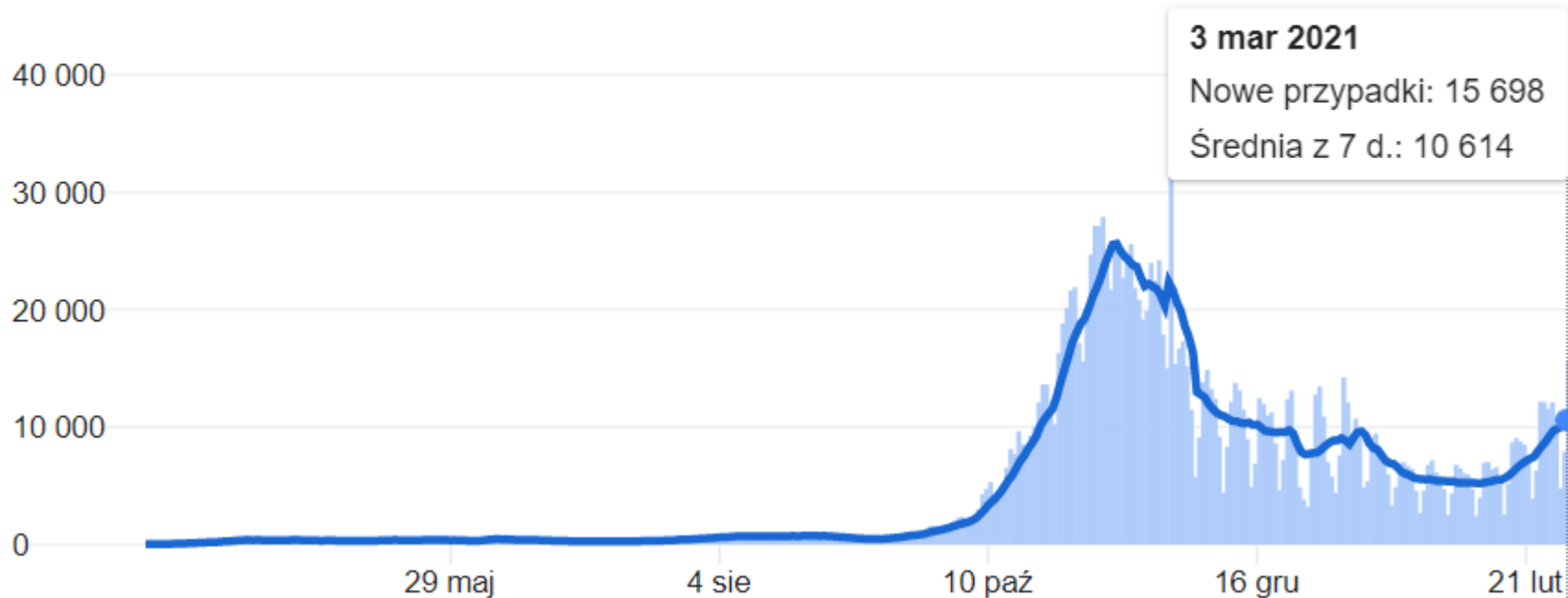
16 gru

21 lut

3 mar 2021

Nowe przypadki: 15 698

Średnia z 7 d.: 10 614





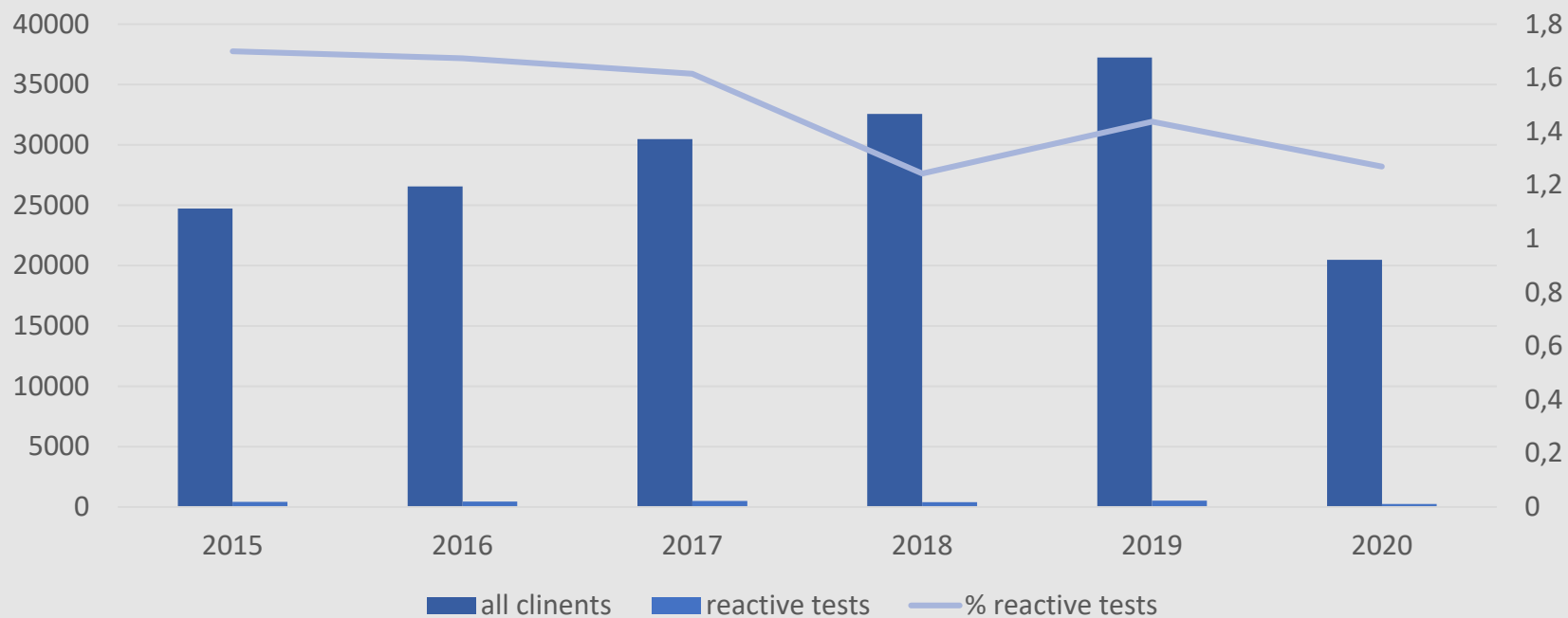
05.03.2021

Background information: HIV testing

- Lockdown for VCTs from 16.03 – 30.05
- From 1.06 special restrictions: on-line or phone appointment to VCTs
- From 14.04. FES Testing Helpline (1700 calls/ 2020; 528/ 2021)
- Free self HIV testing- order to home

HIV testing in VCT's in Poland 2015-2020

Source: National AIDS Centre, Anna Nastały-Ratusińska, HIV conference 30.11.2020



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The first all-in-one self-test designed to make your testing experience easier

The Simplitude™ ByMe™ rapid diagnostic test enables you to accurately test yourself for HIV, at your convenience.





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#ENDAIDS social campaign 2020

www.projekttest.pl

Agata Stola - coordinator



Bezpieczny seks, czyli wszystko o prezerwatywach. - HIVcasty
Wszystko co chcecie wiedzieć na temat prezer...

PROJEKT
TE

#HIVcasty

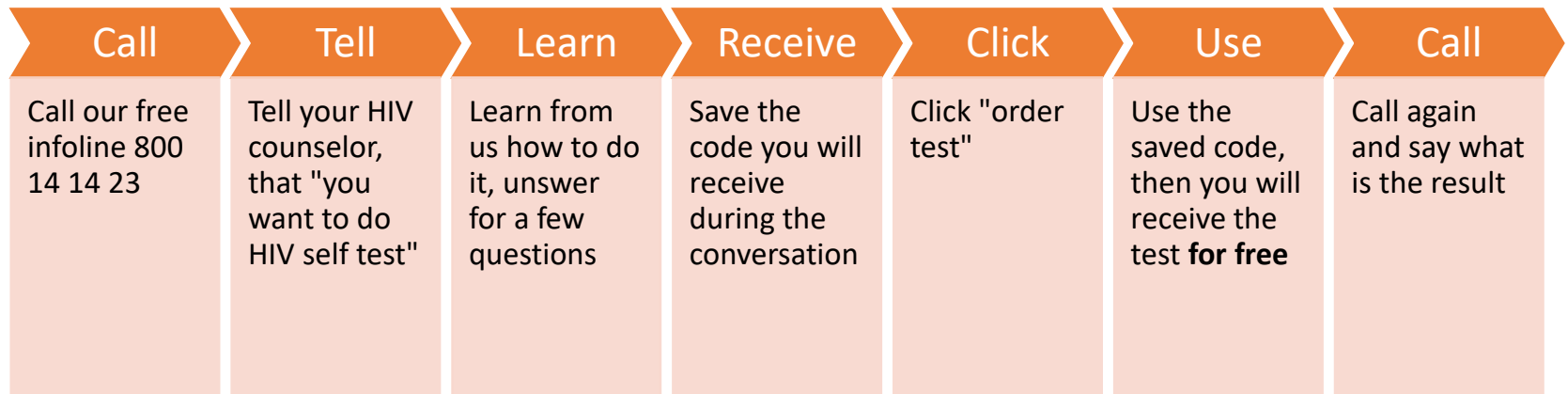
Rozmowy
nie tylko
O HIV.

Bezpieczny seks, czyli wszystko o prezerwatywach. - HIVcasty
Wszystko co chcecie wiedzieć na temat prezer...

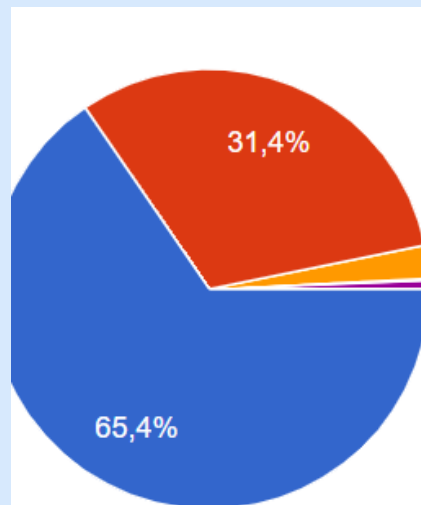
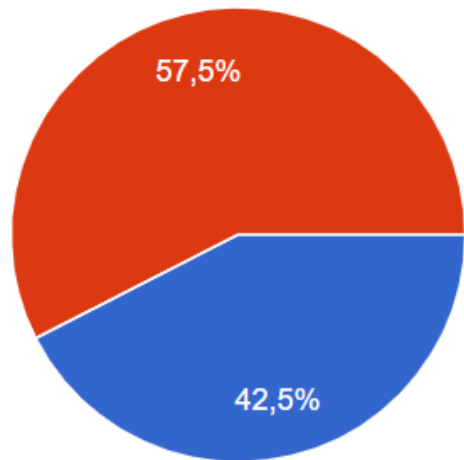


Testing at home during COVID-19

If you want to do HIV self test ...

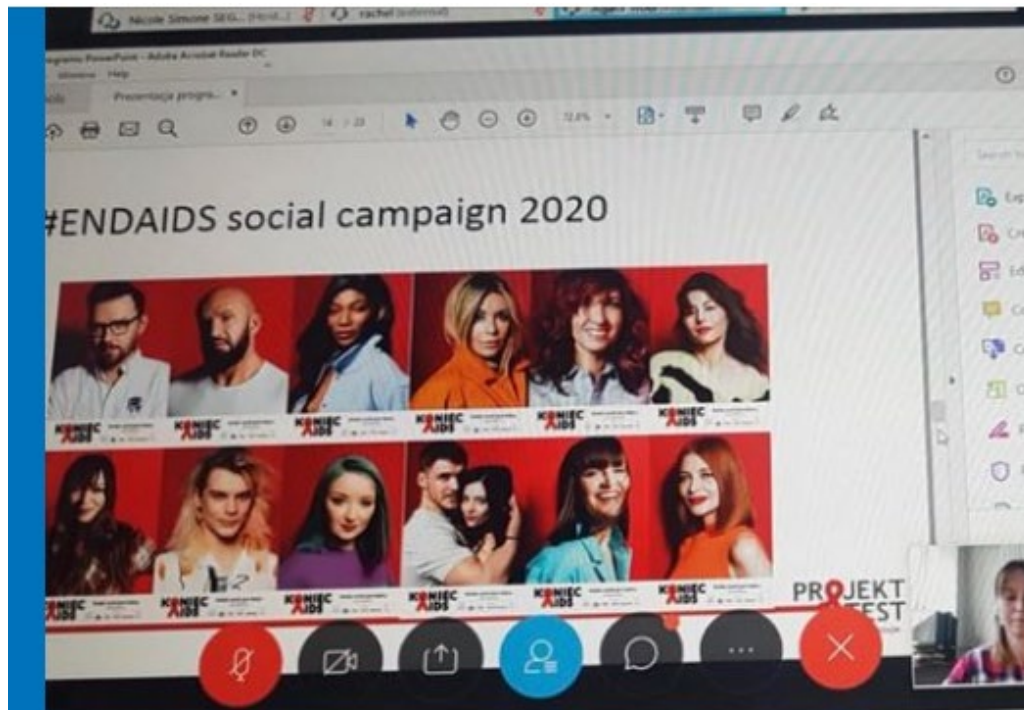


14.04–04.03.2021: after 11 month's experience
(data from anonymous consultations - not published)



- Heteroseksualna
- Homoseksualna
- Biseksualna
- Inna
- Trudno powiedzieć

- 1062 orders for free tests: 57.5 % men; 42.5% women
- 65,5% heterosexual orientation
- 52.6% never had a test before



- WHO - good practice
- Zoom presentation



World Health
Organization

NOVEMBER 2020

Harm reduction service delivery to people who use drugs during a public health emergency:

Examples from the COVID-19 pandemic

Downloaded from <https://www.cambridge.org/core>. University of Twente, on 02 Nov 2020 at 10:00:00, subject to the Cambridge Core terms of use, available at <https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms>. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1446788720000000>

JND

No message promoting HIV self-test¹ which has been used in a variety of environments (United Kingdom, Poland, The Netherlands) involving self-administering (SANT) kits such as HIV-1 self-test kits.

RESTRICTIONS

Under a strict of unrelenting COVID-19 cases introduced by Poland on 2 March 2020, all foreign tourists entering the country² have to wear masks from leaving to the essential activities to reduce their face contact in a few people from the same city began to be tested from their own work places to reduce the number of people in the workplace. The introduction of the self-test kits was a response to the requirement for a maximum of 1.5 metres³ of being maintained in public places. The maximum number of people allowed to be present in public places is 20 people per room⁴.

Footnote

¹ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms>. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1446788720000000>

² <https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms>. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1446788720000000>

³ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms>. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1446788720000000>

⁴ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms>. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1446788720000000>

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How to deliver services to people who use drugs during a public health emergency: Examples from the COVID-19 pandemic in selected countries

RESPONSES TO COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant regulatory restrictions, all 50 NGOs in Poland were closed in April 2020. In response, 'Project Safe' introduced a new self-based service entitled, 'Self of AIDS. Every result is good', in which individuals can order a free HIV self-test¹ funded by Warsaw City Hall, MAC AIDS Fund and private companies – which are delivered to the individual's address. The free HIV self-test kits made available for this purpose – HIV-1 self-test kits² and <https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms>. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1446788720000000> – are recognised by the Ministry of Health Organisation (MHOZ) and are intended for use by people who have no training or medical background.

Individuals wishing to receive a HIV self-test kit must phone the 190 helpline and talk with a HIV counsellor who will provide a password that allows the individual to order a HIV self-test kit which is delivered to their home. This approach ensures that an individual has the opportunity to speak with a HIV counsellor prior to receiving the self-test.

In the first six weeks of lockdown, 450 HIV self-test kits were distributed by 190, with more than half ordered by women. This compares with an average of 1000 VCT visits being by women. Furthermore, based on feedback sent to 190 by around 70% of recipients, over half of individuals who ordered a HIV self-test were undergoing HIV testing.

In the first six weeks:
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms>. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1446788720000000>

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CHALLENGES

Unfortunately, the service is not available to those people who do not have an address to which a HIV self-test can be posted. Challenges also exist with regards to the availability of this approach as the HIV self-test kits currently provided are free of charge to the recipient, with the costs covered partly by the Government and the rest by several donors.

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES/ NEXT STEPS

The availability of self-test kits is changing the relation of many people within being outside of large cities. Many women have expressed their gratitude to the project for making it possible for them to receive HIV testing during pregnancy. Being able to get the self-test kits for free not only allows women to check for HIV, but it also improves their mental health and well-being during pregnancy owing to the support provided by 190 in terms of treatment and psychological assistance.

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CONCLUSIONS

- COVID-19 has a huge impact for HIV and STIS testing
- Continuing to remind that European community that HIV, viral hepatitis and STI prevention, testing, care and support service are essential services and must continue to be supported, especially during times of crisis

CONTACT:

Foundation for Social Education

Sewerynów 4/ 100

00-331 Warsaw

Poland

www.fes.edu.pl

FB: FundacjaEdukacjiSpołecznej

mail: m.bartczak@fes.edu.pl

