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

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Poster No. 142

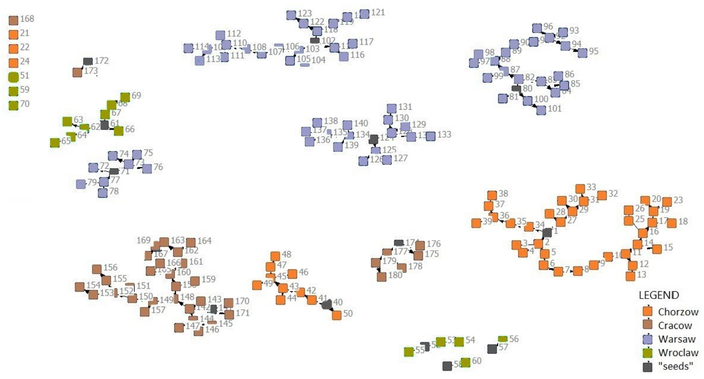
Background

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)*



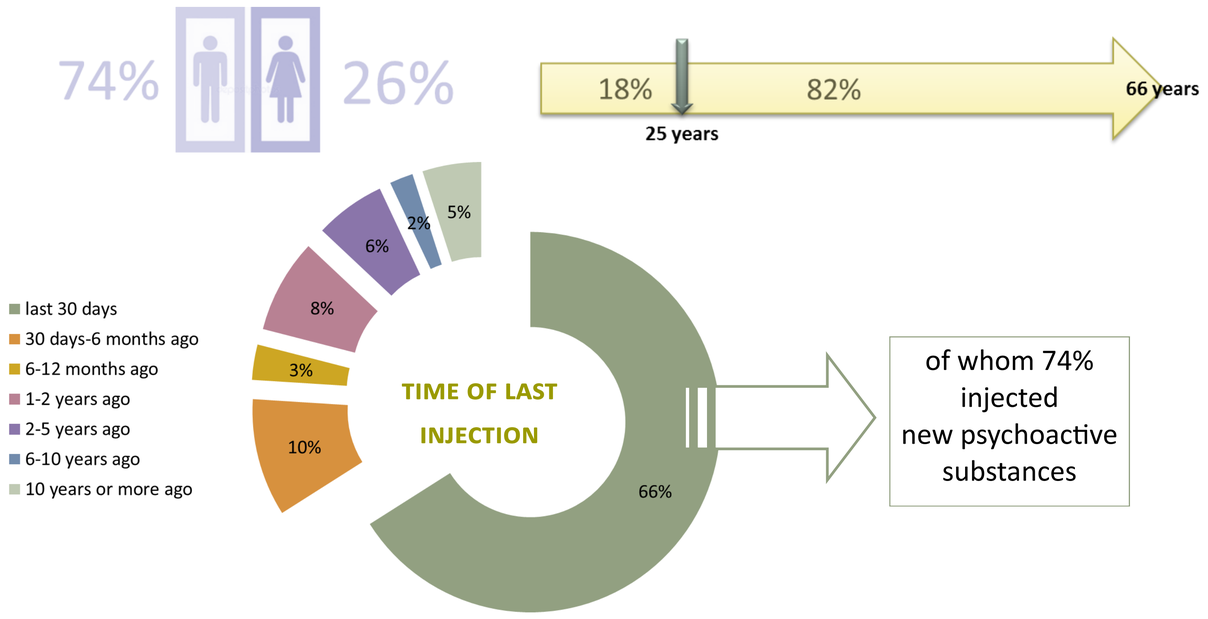
PARTICIPANTS: People who ever inject drugs (N=171)

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



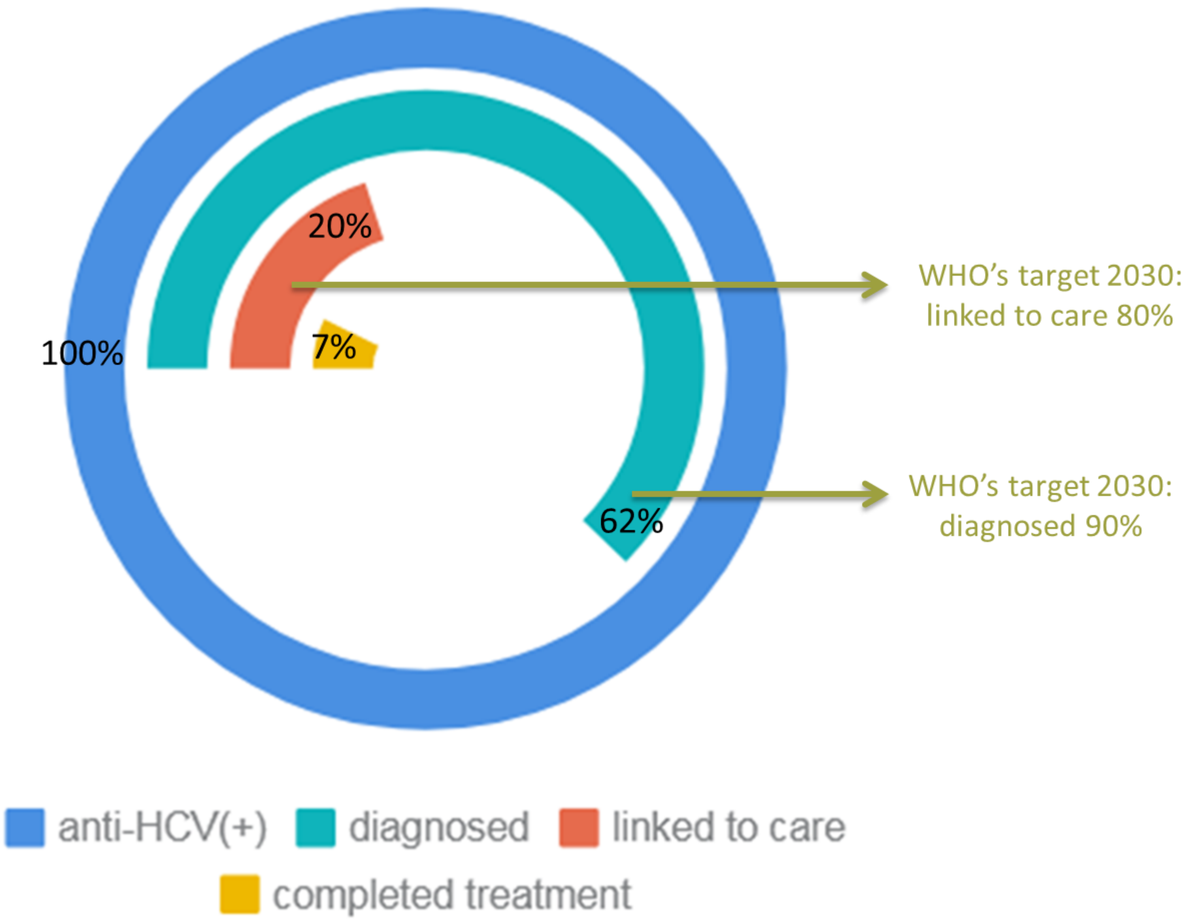
Prevalence of anti-HCV

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%).

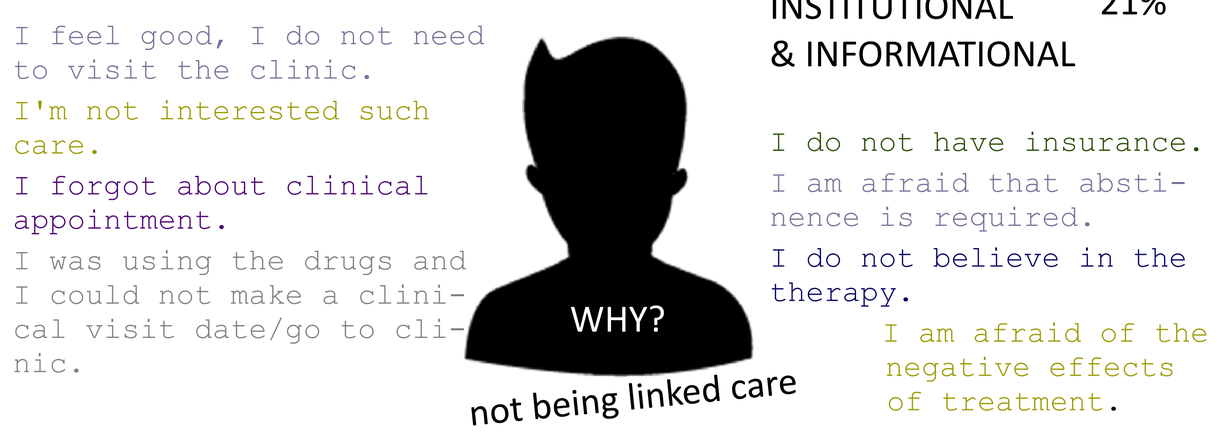
Questions? Please write to me: kzakrzewska@pzh.gov.pl

Results

Hepatitis C cascade of care among PWID



Barriers to linkage to care



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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