

HIV Cascade of Care in Luhansk Region of Ukraine

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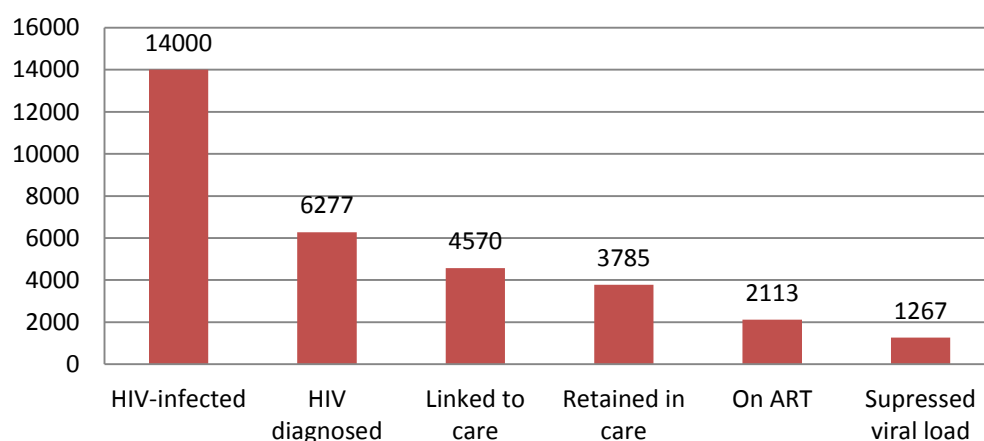
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Introduction: Decrease of HIV transmission depends on successful engagement and retention of HIV-positive people in care. The aim of this this research was to investigate the HIV cascade of care in Luhansk region of Ukraine and find gaps in current decentralized model of care.

Methods: AHF Europe Bureau team together with Luhansk AIDS Center performed a retrospective analysis of medical records of HIV positive patients. Data was extracted from Luhansk Regional AIDS Center database as of April 1, 2014. We have assessed the following stages of cascade of care: number of HIV positive patients linked to care, number of HIV positive people retained in care, number of patients on ART, number of patients with suppressed viral load. Number of HIV diagnosed in Luhansk region has been taken from bulletin no. 41 of Ukrainian Center for Disease Control and number of estimated HIV positive people was calculated by local department of health.

Results: The estimated number of HIV positive people in Luhansk region was 14000 as of April 1, 2014. 4570 patients were linked to care in Luhansk region, which represent 78,9% of all HIV diagnosed in the region (6277 people). Out of 3785 patients retained in care 2113 were on ART and 1267 had an undetectable viral load.

HIV cascade of care, Luhansk oblast, Ukraine



Conclusion: Luhansk region cascade of care shows that only 45% of HIV positive people are diagnosed and only 20% of those who were diagnosed have undetectable viral load. It shows AHF and Luhansk AIDS Center teams that HIV testing activities need to be expanded and ART coverage should be increased.