

## DIGITAL EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE CONSULTATION BEHAVIOR OF UKRAINIANS LIVING WITH HIV IN EUROPE

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### CONCLUSIONS

- **HIV management related digital health consultation** comes from **across Europa** and is mostly on **antiretroviral therapy**
- This type of healthcare seems **feasible** within professional HIV networks and can be a **useful aid for PLWHIV** and HIV care providers wanting to provide emergency HIV care
- We are setting up **#aware.hiv clinical** and **mobile checkpoints** in Lviv to provide **test and treat** services to help the displaced population

### BACKGROUND

- **Ukraine** is one of the European countries that is **hardest-hit by HIV**
- To **stop** the HIV epidemic, **widespread** and **well-accessible care** for people living with HIV (PLWHIV) is **necessary**
- The **Russian invasion** (February 2022) **hit PLWHIV hard** with **HIV care services** being abruptly **interrupted**
- Several professional **HIV networks** started **remote digital counselling platforms** for displaced Ukrainians living with HIV
- An **overview** of **digital healthcare seeking behavior** can help to **adapt** these platforms to the **needs of PLWHIV**

### METHODS

- **February 28, 2022**, we launched the **#awarehivUkraine project** to raise **awareness** and **support** for Ukrainians living with HIV
- **The project** and **website** ([www.awarehiv.com/Ukraine](http://www.awarehiv.com/Ukraine)) were **widely distributed**
- People could **contact HIV physicians** directly for help by filling in a **digital form**
- **Demographical data** and **healthcare information** provided were anonymously analyzed
- Main endpoints: **evolution of digital healthcare seeking behavior**, **number of people seeking contact**, **country** where they needed help, and **the needs** asked for

Figure 1: Countries where Ukrainian people living with HIV seek care



### RESULTS

- Since its start, the website has been visited **1,251 times**
- **22%** found the website by **social media** and **14%** by **search engines**
- Until November 9, we were contacted **104 times** (range 1-9 / week, peak mid/end June) with questions for a total of **114 PLWHIV**
- 4 individuals **could not be answered** due to incorrect or missing contact details
- Most were **women (75/114)**, 33 were men and did not disclose their sex
- All but 6 contact topics were on **antiretroviral therapy related questions (92/104)** and 6 topics were unknown
- About half (52) sought contact from **Eastern Europe**, most from **Poland (35/114)**
- **Germany** hosted most people who sought contact from **Western Europe (13/114)** (*Figure 1*)
- Over time, a **decrease** was seen in the **number of people** contacting from **Eastern Europe** along with an **increase** from **Western Europe** (*Table 1*)

Table 1

	Eastern Europe	Western Europe	Not Europe	Unknown	Total
	Number of people (%)	Number of people (%)	Number of people (%)	Number of people (%)	Number of people (%)
Week 1-5	13 (62)	6 (29)	-	2 (10)	21 (18)
Week 6-10	23 (52)	14 (32)	-	7 (16)	44 (39)
Week 11-15	6 (33)	6 (33)	3 (17)	3 (17)	18 (16)
Week 16-20	3 (25)	5 (42)	-	4 (33)	12 (11)
Week 20-25	6 (38)	4 (25)	-	6 (38)	16 (14)
Week 26-27	1 (33)	2 (67)	-	-	3 (3)

