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Function: Epidemiologist

Main expertise:

- Data center for surveillance of communicable diseases in Slovakia (EPIS)**
- National Focal Point for HIV/AIDS, STI and hepatitis B/C (SBT Programme) - Alternate**

How is HCV screening organised in Slovakia

1

PHA screenings

Roma populations (within the projects, intervention activities)

HIV counseling centers (collect blood for hepatitis B and C, testing is on a voluntary basis)

PHA Collaboration with International Organizations: ECDC, to improve screening practices and reach special populations (sharing data, research, and best practices of HCV and HBV screening programs)

2

Healthcare Provider Efforts: play a crucial role in HCV screening, offering tests to:

- patients who may be at risk , including individuals with a history of intravenous drug use,
- migrant populations,
- people in prison,
- pregnant women (in case of VHB),
- blood donors and blood derivatives

3

Universities, NGOs – focused at risk groups PLHIV, PWID

How to reach special populations

1

Targeted Outreach Programs

Initiatives specifically designed for high-risk groups like people who inject drugs, the homeless and migrants.

2

NGO Collaboration

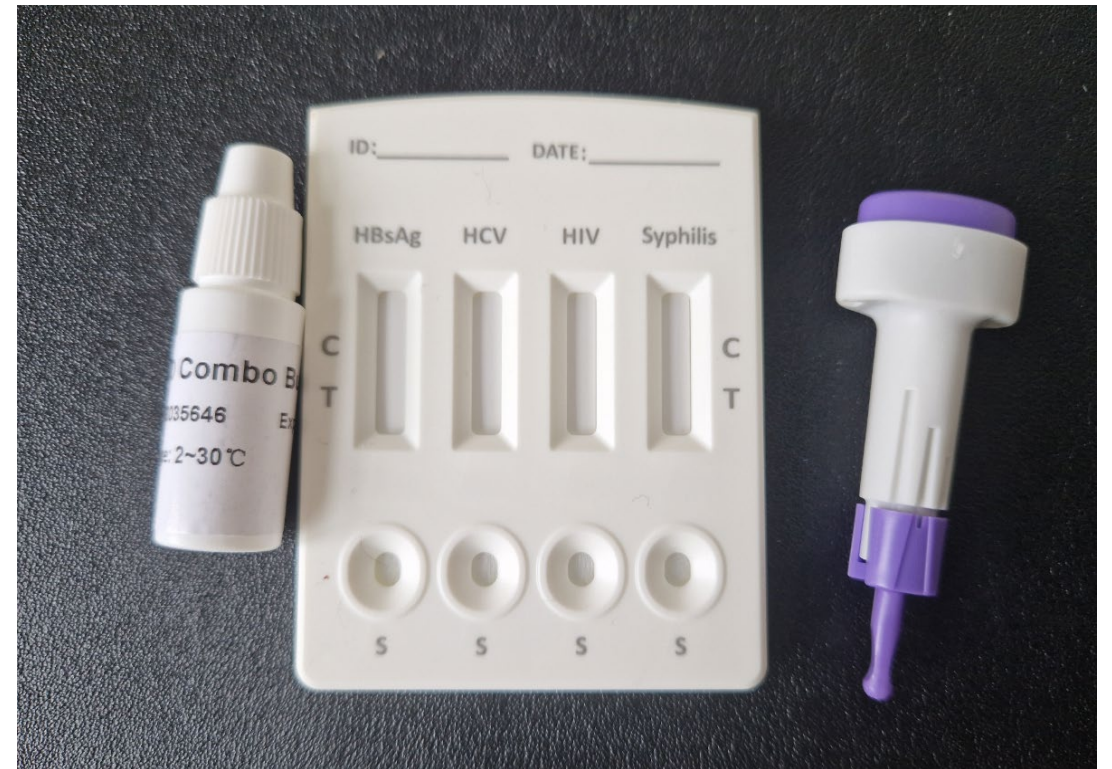
Partnerships with organisations having direct contact with special populations to facilitate screenings and provide support.

3

Policy and Funding Support

Ensuring policies and funding are in place to sustain widespread screening efforts.

EXAMPLES of screening in high-risk population, RPHA, Banská Bystrica



WHO Project : Ukrainian Citizens Screening

- Project duration 02.08 – 15.12.2023
- Participants 197 Ukrainian respondents
- Reactive cases 7
- Confirmed cases 7 (3.5% prevalence)
- HCV cases 6
- HBV + HCV cases 1
- EA..... 6x undergoing surgery in Ukraine and
1x using intravenous drugs

ECDC recommends screening in populations where the prevalence is:

For hepatitis 2% or more (UA prevalence of HCV 3% HBsAg 1%)

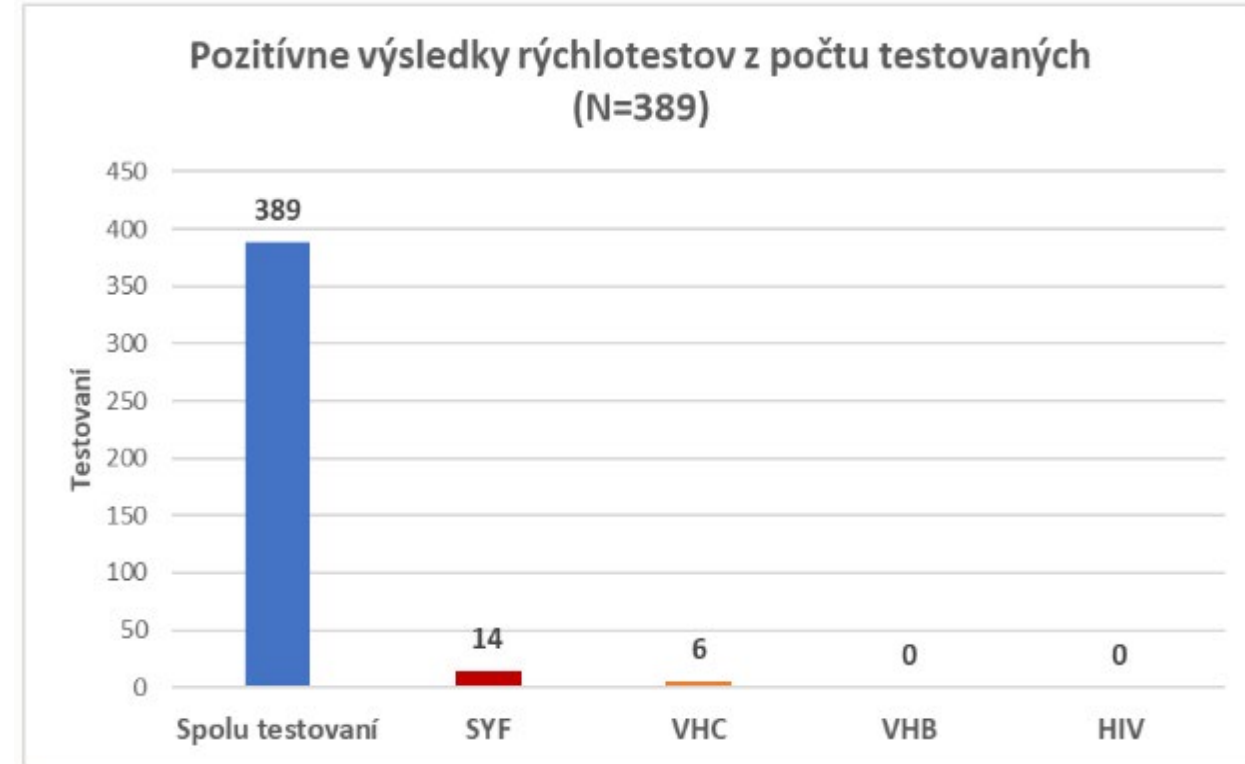
For HIV 1% or more (UA prevalence of HIV 1% ^{1, 2})

¹ <https://smw.ch/index.php/smw/article/view/3312/5630#:~:text=numerous%20affected%20Ukrainians,and%20cultural%20backgrounds>

² <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/public-health-guidance-screening-and-vaccination-infectious-diseases-newly>

Intervention activity : Roma population

- Used the same Ag tests, tests left over from the WHO project
- Results - 6x VHC, (14x syphilis)
- EA – homemade tattoos



- Continue testing in cooperation with the MoH (field assistants)
- Our activity is a pilot project for implementing adequate changes.

Thank you for your attention

Contact Information

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