Hepatitis and HIV Co-Infection: Situation in Ukraine.

Pavlo Skala
Associate Director: Policy & Partnership
### Ukraine continues suffering from the HIV/AIDS and viral hepatitis epidemics, keeping the leading position in Europe in terms of new infections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prevalence</th>
<th>Annual Incidence</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIV</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(general population, adults 15-49)</td>
<td>0.9% in 2015</td>
<td><strong>0.07 [0.05 - 0.09]</strong> in 2015</td>
<td>290,606 HIV cases (^2) officially registered (1987- August 2016)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>0.8% in 2014 and 2013</td>
<td><strong>0.06 [0.04 - 0.07]</strong> in 2014</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>0.05 [0.04 - 0.06]</strong> in 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HBV</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(general population)</td>
<td>prevalence of HBsAg ranged</td>
<td>3 cases/100,000 people in 2014 (^4)</td>
<td>In Ukraine there is NO unified register of HBV and HCV statistics. According to the WHO European office data, the estimated prevalence of hepatitis B surface antigen carriage is 1%-5%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.45% (1.10–1.89) (^3)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HCV</strong></td>
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<td>(general population)</td>
<td>According to the WHO European office data, the estimated prevalence of HCV &gt; 5%</td>
<td>From 1.5% to 65% and higher among different groups of population (^5)</td>
<td>In Ukraine there is NO unified register of HBV and HCV statistics. National experts estimate the prevalence among general population at 8% to 10% (^6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIV/HBV</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>co-infection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In 2015, 76.8% of the patients with newly diagnosed HIV (age 15 and &gt;) were screened for hepatitis B, 8.4% were anti-HBV positive</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HIV/HCV</strong></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>co-infection</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Estimated data show that &lt; 10% of people with HCV infection are registered officially</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In 2015, 76.8% of the patients with newly diagnosed HIV (age 15 and &gt;) were screened for hepatitis C, 36.3% are anti-HCV positive</td>
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### Main Risk Factors for Transmission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>HIV</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>General population:</strong> routes of HIV transmission in 2015(^7)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 72.5% - sexual transmission</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 21.9% - drug use (estimated number of PWID is 310,000(^1))</td>
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<td><strong>PWID(^6):</strong></td>
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<td>28.4% of PWID shared injecting equipment during their last injection.</td>
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<td>44.4% sexual partners of PWID used condoms during their last sexual</td>
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<td></td>
<td>contact with the regular partner.</td>
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<td>50% of PWID partners used condoms during their last sexual contact</td>
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<td></td>
<td>with the casual partner.</td>
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<td>HIV prevalence among <strong>MSM in 2015</strong> is <strong>8.5%</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No official data for general population as there is no national</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>register of HBV-infected people.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Prevalence among PWID is <strong>5.4%(^6)</strong>.</td>
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<td>register of HCV infected people.</td>
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<td>Prevalence among PWID <strong>55.9%(^6)</strong>.</td>
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Harm Reduction in Ukraine

Alliance for Public Health implements the biggest harm reduction programs in the region:

- Coverage in 2015: >212,800 PWID, >36,900 SW, 33,000 MSM.
- Over 80 NGOs all over Ukraine involved

Key HR services:

1. Consultations by social/outreach workers
2. Preventive means: condoms (>13.6 million), alcohol wipes, IEC
3. Syringe and needle exchange programs (almost 19.4 million)
4. Opioid Substitution Therapy for over 8,600 people
5. Pharmacy-based prevention services
6. Screening for early TB detection provided to >137,500 members of KPs. 100% need in diagnostics covered
7. CITI - short-term intervention for PWID to start ART as soon as possible
8. Testing for STI (>29,000 people), HIV (> 202,800), HCV and HBV (>38,000)
9. HBV vaccination
10. HCV treatment (planned to reach over 2,000 people)
Map of prevention services for key populations provided by Alliance in 2015

Coverage of key populations from Jan. 1, 2015 to Dec. 31, 2015

HIV/AIDS Hotline:
0-800-500-451
## UKRAINE

### Antiviral treatment currently available in the frames of the national treatment programs

| **HIV** | **Timeline:** 2014-2018  
**Geographic scope:** all over Ukraine  
**Target populations:** general population, including key populations  
**Number of patients receiving treatment:** as of 1 September 2016, the number of people receiving ART in Ukraine is 68,313\(^2\), including:  
- 43,344 (63.4\%) from the state budget  
- 23,238 funded by GF and other donors  
**National treatment nomenclature** includes 28 ART medicines.  
In 2016, the Ministry of Health distributed among regions:  
- Tenofovir: 1,463,550 pills  
- Zidovudine: 1,265,520 pills  
**Funding:** about $160 million allocated from the state budget. Yet it is not enough to cover the ART needs. |
| **HBV** | **Timeline:** 2014-2016  
**Geographic scope:** all over Ukraine  
**Target populations:** general population, including key populations  
**Medicines procured for HBV treatment in 2016:**  
- Lamivudine  
- Tenofovir  
- PEG interferon  
National treatment guidelines also include: adefovir, entecavir, telbivudin, emtricitabin. Peginterferon still recommended for treatment in particular cases.   
**Funding:** National program is underfinanced by over 85\% |
Demand treatment! - HCV advocacy campaign launched in 2012

Goal – expanding access to hepC services (prevention, testing & treatment) in Ukraine

Key outcomes of the HCV advocacy campaign

- Multiple awareness-raising events conducted all over Ukraine.
- Network of NGOs, advocates, experts, patient groups developed by Alliance. Over 60 doctors acquired knowledge about most up-to-date treatment practices
- HCV diagnostic prices reduced twice in private laboratories
- National Hepatitis Program and 15 local hepC programs approved (around 1,500 patients annually)
- National Treatment Guidelines developed and include 2nd generation DAAs, PEG-IFN free regimes
- Alliance price ($900) became a benchmark for the first state procurements
- First treatment program for key populations (expected to reach over 2,000 people) implemented by Alliance. Alliance treatment model became an example for the MoH to follow.
## UKRAINE

### National treatment programs

| **HCV** | **Timeline:** 2014-2016  
**Geographic scope:** all over Ukraine  
**Target populations:** general population, including PWID  
**Number of patients treated:** as of the end of 2015, 4,755 people with HIV/HCV got access to treatment. Among them: people with HIV/HCV co-infection treated in the frames of the Alliance treatment program (500 people).  
**Need in treatment courses:** may exceed 90,000  
In 2016, government procured 4,736 vials of Sofosbuvir, which is equal to 1,578 12w standard courses.  
**National treatment guidelines:** include 2nd generation DAAs (edition 18.07.2016): sofosbuvir, sofosbuvir/ledipasvir, ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir with and without dasabuvir, simeprevir. Boceprevir and telaprevir are no longer recommended.  
Sofosbuvir generic was registered. Daclatasvir generic – registration pending.  
Peginterferon and Ribavirin are still recommended for treatment in particular cases.  
**Funding:** National program is underfinanced by over 82% |
|---|---|

### Alliance treatment programs for key populations

| **HCV** | **Timeline:** 2015-2017  
**Geographic scope:** 17 regions of Ukraine  
**Target populations:** key populations  
**Number of patients treated:** as of 1 September 2016 – 1,171 people received access to treatment, including 78% people with HIV/HCV co-infection  
93% sustained virologic response (12 weeks after treatment)  
**DAAs:** sofosbuvir and sofosbuvir/ledipasvir.  
Peginterferon and Ribavirin used for treatment in particular cases in combination with sofosbuvir.  
**Funding:** GF and other donors |
|---|---|
HCV testing of general population during events dedicated to World hepatitis day

17,427 people among general population were tested for HCV antibody during 2011-2016 in the frames of advocacy events

2013: 1422 people tested. 12.9% HCV positive

2014: 4535 people tested. 8.8 % HCV positive

2015: 4367 military servants tested. 3.9% HCV positive

2016: 3,844 people tested. 8.5% HCV positive
Alliance treatment program coverage 2015-2016
Alliance Treatment Program: Key Outcomes

- Overachieving patient enrolment indicators during two phases of program implementation (153%)
- **93% sustained virologic response** (12 weeks after treatment)
- **19 HCFs** involved into project implementation in 17 oblasts of Ukraine
- **13 NGOs** provide social support services
- **4 trainings for more than 60** medical and social workers
- **1,602 tests** for viral load provided free of charge within treatment monitoring
- Awareness-raising sessions launched to **prevent re-infections**

- **Monitoring visits** conducted in partnership with UCDC
- **Monitoring of the stock of drugs** carried out on a monthly basis
- **Patient register** maintained
- **The practice initiated to discuss complicated cases** with international clinical experts
- Data collection started within an **operating study**
- Together with the State Expert Center, a procedure was established to send notifications on **side effects** of drugs
- Sofosbuvir was included to the National Clinical Guidelines “Viral Hepatitis C”, version dd. 04/11/2015

![Graphs showing treatment outcomes by genotypes and regimens](image-url)
## UKRAINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent of patients on HAART</th>
<th>Percent of patients suppressed (&lt;50)</th>
<th>Number of people dying of AIDS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HIV</strong></td>
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<td>As of 1 September 2016²</td>
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<td>15% during the first 12 months of treatment ⁸</td>
<td>40,311 people (from 1987 to August 2016)², mortality rate in 2015 is 7.1 per 100,000 people</td>
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<td>- 68,313 receive ART</td>
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<td>- 4,485 need but don’t receive ART</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Percent of patients on therapy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HBV</strong></td>
<td>No official statistic data available. The number of pills distributed by the MoH in regions in 2016⁹: Lamivudine – 9,520 pills Peginterferon (different dosage) - 5,997 vials</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>6% of all deaths among people with HIV/AIDS in Ukraine as of 1 July 2016 were caused by HBV- and HCV-related diseases⁸</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Percent of patients who received therapy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HCV</strong></td>
<td>No official data available. Less than 5% of the estimated need covered by National Treatment Program</td>
<td>Alliance treatment program: 93% sustained virologic response (12 weeks after treatment)</td>
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² HIV-infection in Ukraine, newsletter №46
Further Steps for HIV & Hepatitis Elimination in Ukraine

**State**
- Increase of funding from state budget for integrated HR programs, which include prevention, OST, early detection, etc.
- Decriminalization of key populations and their empowerment for free access to HR services.
- Increase of funding from state budget for diagnostics and treatment. The project of state budget 2017 includes UAH 14 mln (up to USD 540,000) for hepatitis treatment and UAH 484 mln (up to USD 18.6 mln) for HIV/AIDS treatment.
- Development of the national HCV and HIV surveillance systems.

**Alliance**

**Advocacy:**
- Raising awareness
- Price reduction for diagnostics and treatment
- Access to diagnostics and treatment for key populations
- Partnership with state authorities to improve legislation, treatment guidelines and procurement nomenclatures, funding allocations, provision of harm reduction services at the national level, etc.
- Increasing the role of early diagnostics
- Community mobilization
- Advocacy against stigma and discrimination

**Treatment:**
- Extension of the Alliance treatment program (number of courses is expected to exceed 2,000). First in Ukraine peginterferon-free treatment regimens for key populations (sofosbuvir/ledipasvir).
- Trainings for doctors and social workers. Implementation of patient-oriented approach, as the most effective, at the national level.
- Integration of HCV services into harm reduction (simple service delivery model, peer support).

**Private sector**
- Providing diagnostics services in line with the national and WHO standards (level of accuracy, timeframes, components, etc.)
- Affordable prices for diagnostics and treatment.
- Current prices are out-of-pocket.
- Registration of medicines in Ukraine
- Access programs. Special prices for government procurement
- Voluntary license agreements (access to generics)
- Social responsibility (trainings for staff: prevention and routes of transmission)

2nd Central and Eastern European Meeting on Viral Hepatitis and Co-Infection with HIV
Acknowledgements

Dr. Olga Golubovska, chief infectious diseases specialist, Ministry of Health of Ukraine

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Tatyana Barnard, Project Manager: HCV Treatment

Kravchenko Natalia, Policy and Advocacy officer