



Львівський обласний центр
громадського здоров'я

HIV in context of women health in Ukraine. Access to services, challenges and needs

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WAVE Workshop «On track to improve health of women living with HIV – Ukraine»
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DISCLOSURE

- None

What HIV+ women want ???





CONTENT

- Introduction
- Current status
- Ukraine and Lviv Region
- Care for HIV+ women
- Availability of services in Ukraine
- Barriers to care in HIV+ women
- Areas for development services for HIV+ women in Ukraine



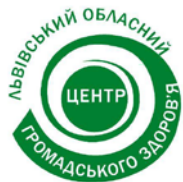
INTRODUCTION

- Women account for more than half the number of people living with HIV worldwide. Young women (10-24 years old) are twice as likely to acquire HIV as young men the same age
- HIV disproportionately affects women and adolescent girls because of vulnerabilities created by unequal cultural, social and economic status



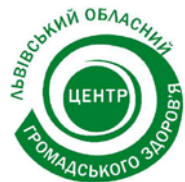
INTRODUCTION

- Unaccommodating attitudes towards sex outside of marriage and the restricted social autonomy of women and young girls can reduce their ability to access sexual health and HIV services
- Much has been done to reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV, but much more needs to be done to reduce the gender inequality and violence that women and young girls at risk of HIV often face



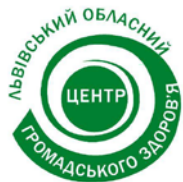
CURRENT STATUS

- Every week, around 7000 young women aged 15–24 years become infected with HIV
- In sub-Saharan Africa, three in four new infections among adolescents aged 15–19 years are in girls. Young women aged 15–24 years are twice as likely to be living with HIV than men
- More than one third (35%) of women around the world have experienced physical and/or sexual violence at some time in their lives
 - In some regions, women who experience violence are one and a half times more likely to become infected with HIV



CURRENT STATUS IN UKRAINE

- **65 932 (46%)** women living with HIV
- **17 869** women with AIDS
- **7 289** new HIV cases among women in 2018
- **46 952** women receive ART

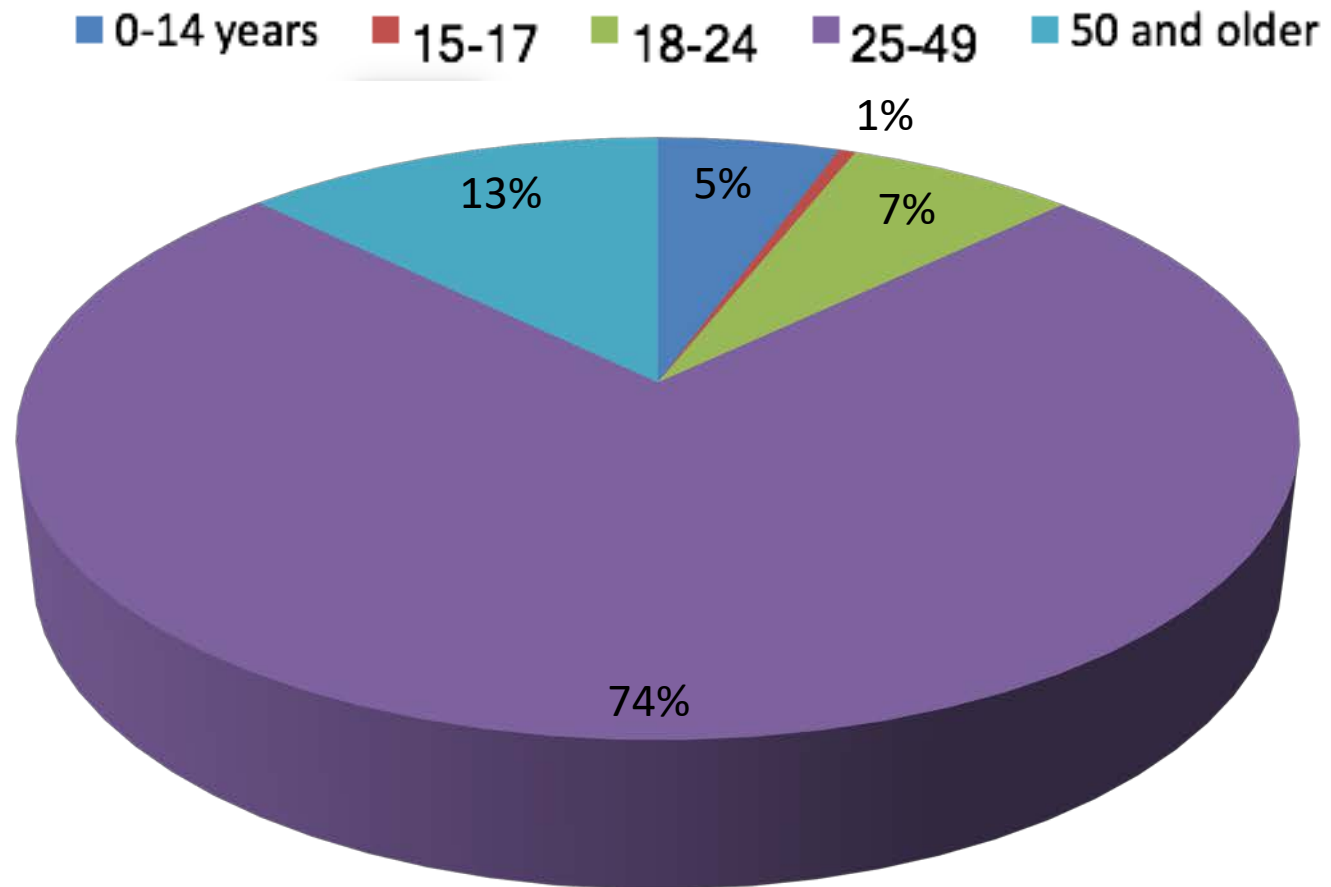


CURRENT STATUS IN UKRAINE

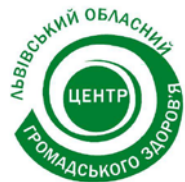
- **4 363** TB cases in 2017-2018
- **2 401** women died in 2018
- **2 414** HIV+ women got pregnant
- **2317** gave birth in 2018
- **2%** Vertical transmission rate



AGE OF HIV+ WOMEN IN UKRAINE



Centre of Public Health 2019



LVIV REGION (1.01.2019)

- 1 418 women (37,1%)
- AIDS – 363 (25,6%)

- 865 gynecological visits
- 129 cervical cytologies performed in 2018
- 46 pregnancy ultrasounds

SEX DIFFERENCES IN HIV PATHOGENESIS

- active innate immunity
- better anti viral immunity
- lower initial HIV viral load
- higher CD4
- better response to vaccines



- chronic immune activation
- higher autoimmunity
- faster HIV disease progression as the same viral load as men



REVIEWS IN ANTIRETROVIRAL RESEARCH

Promoting high standards of care for women living with HIV: position statement from the Women Against Viruses in Europe Working Group

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KEY AREAS TO OPTIMIZE CARE FOR WOMEN

- Psychosocial aspects of HIV diagnosis and care
- Mental health
- Pharmacokinetics, toxicity and tolerability of antiretroviral therapy
- Coinfections, comorbidities and menopause
- Sexual and reproductive health and pregnancy



AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES IN UKRAINE

- In most regional centres there are gynecologists
- The principle of double care in pregnancy
- All services are free
- Confidentiality



BARRIERS TO CARE IN HIV-POSITIVE WOMEN (INDIVIDUAL)

- Fear - skip appointments to avoid the possibility to meet people they know
- Lack of personal resources
 - Unemployment, lack of health insurance, unstable housing, poverty
- Care responsibilities for children and other family members
- Lack of HIV knowledge and education



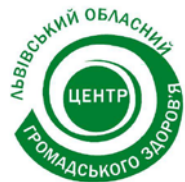
BARRIERS TO CARE IN HIV-POSITIVE WOMEN (HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS)

- Lack of psychological support and mental health services
- Lack of management in health care institutions
- Lack of family planning and contraception programs/ education
- Out of pocket expenses on diagnostics and treatment
- Lack of integrated HIV services



BARRIERS TO CARE IN HIV-POSITIVE WOMEN (SOCIAL OR CULTURAL)

- Lack of social support services
- Long distance and/or expensive transportation to the HIV clinic
- Insufficient harm reduction programs - lack of integrated opioid substitution services
- Emigration to western countries - loss of follow-up
- Limited resources



TOPICS TO THINK ABOUT....

- Pregnancy planning and contraception
- Drug interactions in HIV-infected women
- Mental health
- PrEP for women
- HPV screening and vaccination
- Aging with HIV, management of cardiovascular diseases, osteoporosis
- Menopause management
- Integration of services
- Involvement of women in clinical trials



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THANK YOU!

