

# Mobile Harm Reduction and BBV Testing - An Experience in Warsaw

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Inequality and inequity within our health systems is perpetuated by barriers to healthcare access and retention in care for marginalized groups in our society. Without focused interventions to reach these individuals and deconstruct the structural violence they experience within health systems, the cycle of adversity continues. I present an experience of a mobile harm reduction and point of care HIV testing unit in Warsaw.

Warsaw is home to 7% (2'516 people) of all Poland's homeless individuals. Lack of affordable housing, substance misuse and addiction are primary contributors to homelessness. The Foundation for Social Education (FES) has been working in Warsaw for 20 years with the aim of broadening societal knowledge regarding substance misuse, sexually transmitted infection and sexual health as well as offering free, anonymous blood borne virus testing and counseling. A Mobile Harm Reduction & Testing Unit has been in operation since 2017. It involves three weekly visits by the mobile unit and team to an economically deprived area of the city. Clients self-present, provide their date of birth are offered point of care HIV, Hepatitis C and syphilis testing. If an individual's test is positive, staff provide counseling, education and advice about how to access confirmatory testing and seek appropriate medical care. The team also operate a needle exchange service and clean ups of the area.



Derelict building inhabited by homeless individuals in Praga, Warsaw



Collecting used needles and syringes in the area



Mobile Harm Reduction & Testing Unit



Point of care testing kit

2021	HIV	HCV	Syphilis
819 presented to service (208 (25.3%) female, 611 (74.6%) male)	352 (42.9%) tested 0 new diagnoses 11 existing	258 (31.5%) tested 26 new diagnoses	358 (43.7%) tested 2 new diagnoses
2022			
1'463 presented to service (289 (19.75%) female, 1'174 (80.2%) male)	161 (11%) tested 1 new diagnosis	137 (16.7%) tested 9 new diagnoses	169 (11.55%) tested 0 new diagnoses