

3rd Steering Committee Meeting, 9th-10th November 2006, Berlin
Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviour (KAB) towards HIV/STIs

Survey among HIV-positive Men
Sample, Recruitment, Administration

MRI	Planned	Achieved
Germany	45	26 (36,6%)
Poland	45	45(63,4%)
Total	90	71

Location: Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Rostock, Anklam, Schwerin), DE
Zahopdniopomorskiewo (Stettin), PL

Recruitment: AIDS-Hilfe, Infectious Clinic Departments, HIV ambulance

KAB Survey among HIV+ Men First Results

Age

- The biggest group is 31-40 years old (43,7%), followed by 41-50 (25.4%);
- *Mean age – 39 years (range 20 to 59);*
- Germans are older – 2/3 (69,3%) are above 41 years), 3/4 of the Polish are up to 40 years (75,6%)

Education

- The biggest group has vocational qualification (35,2% equal proportions DE/PL),
- Secondary school (19,7%) and primary school (14,1%) - mainly Polish;
- University (9,9%) – mainly German

Work situation

- Above 60% are not occupied:
 - Pensioners – 32,4% (mainly Polish between 30-50 years);
 - Unemployed – 25% (mainly German);
 - Students, housemen, social support – about 7%
- Among the occupied, the biggest group is of full-time employed (23,5%, equal proportions DE/PL)

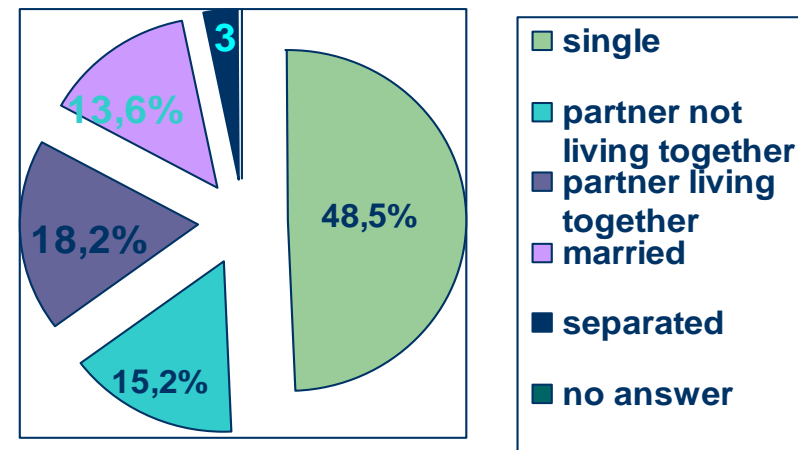
Health insurance

- Almost all (97.2%) are insured, the only 2 uninsured are Polish

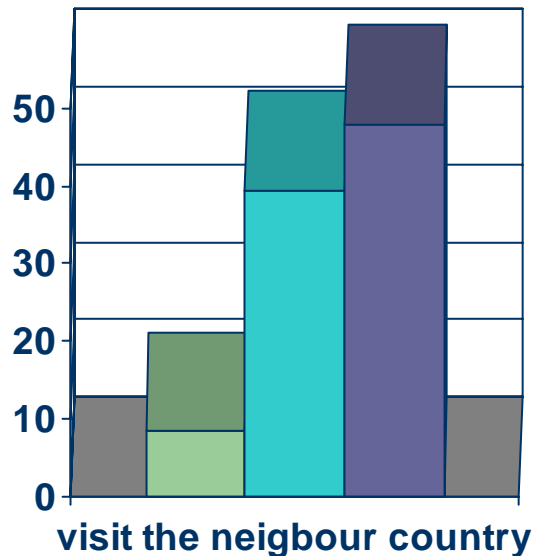
KAB Survey among HIV+ Men First Results

Family/Living situation

- Almost ½ (48,5%) are singles, good 1/3 is either married (mainly Polish) or live together (31,8%), 15,2% have partner, but do not live together;
- About ¼ (25,4%) have children, (66,7% of the *Polish*, 88,5% of the *Germans*)
 - 2/3 (66,7%)- 1 child;
 - ¼ (27,8%)- 2 children
- 1/3 (34,8%, equal proportions DE/PL) live with a partner, a good 1/3 (33,3%)- alone (*Germans*), 17,4% - with parents (only *Polish*)



KAB Survey among HIV+ Men First Results



■ daily-monthly ■ 1-2 to 3-4 times/year
■ < 1 time/year or never

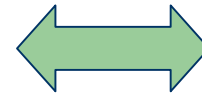
Mobility across border

- 35 respondents live in a border area (82,9%/29 are Polish, 17,1%/6 are German)
- The Polish visit Germany quite oftener as vice versa;
- The biggest group (39,4%) is of the moderate travellers (1-2 to 3-4 times/year)
- Almost 1/3 have though never travelled in the neighbour country (mainly Germans);
- The frequent travellers (7% , monthly) are almost all Polish;
- Main purpose of travel is in more than 40% of the cases leisure time
- Other countries are visited mainly by the Germans (most often Spain)



KAB Survey among HIV+ Men First Results

Knowledge about HIV/AIDS



Facts and believes

- The majority (85,9%) state that they know very much or much about HIV;
 - Almost same proportion(84,3%) answers correct that AIDS can be treated but not cured, **BUT**:
 - 96,2% Germans;
 - 77,3% Polish
 - The majority answers correct (80 to 95%) the HIV transmission routes questions:
 - 98,5% - by sex without a condom with an unknown person;..... **BUT**:
 - 76,7% only answer correct the MTCT route
- ¼ (25%) have high biases (up to 2 correct answers to the 9 believes questions), considerably more among the Polish;
 - 81,5% know that the contraceptive pill does not protect from HIV;
 - 62,1% know that there is no vaccination against AIDS,.. **BUT**:
 - 90,5% of the Germans answer correct, while only 45,9 % of Polish do so;

KAB Survey among HIV+ Men First Results

HIV Test

- The majority (87,1%) has access to an anonymous, free-of-charge HIV Test (without health insurance) in their country;
- For 10% there is a higher access threshold (health insurance – 5,7%, or paid test – 4,3%)
- More than 1/3 (34,6%) of the Germans and 1/5 of the Polish (20,1%) have learned their HIV+ status more than 10 years ago;
- A good 1/4 (26,9%) Germans and almost a 1/5 (17,6%) Polish have become HIV+ in the last 3 years (2003-2006)
- 52,9 % did not get pre-test and 38,1% - post-test counselling by the HIV+ result,
BUT:
 - *Only 32% Germany vs. 42 % Polish were not counselled after the test*

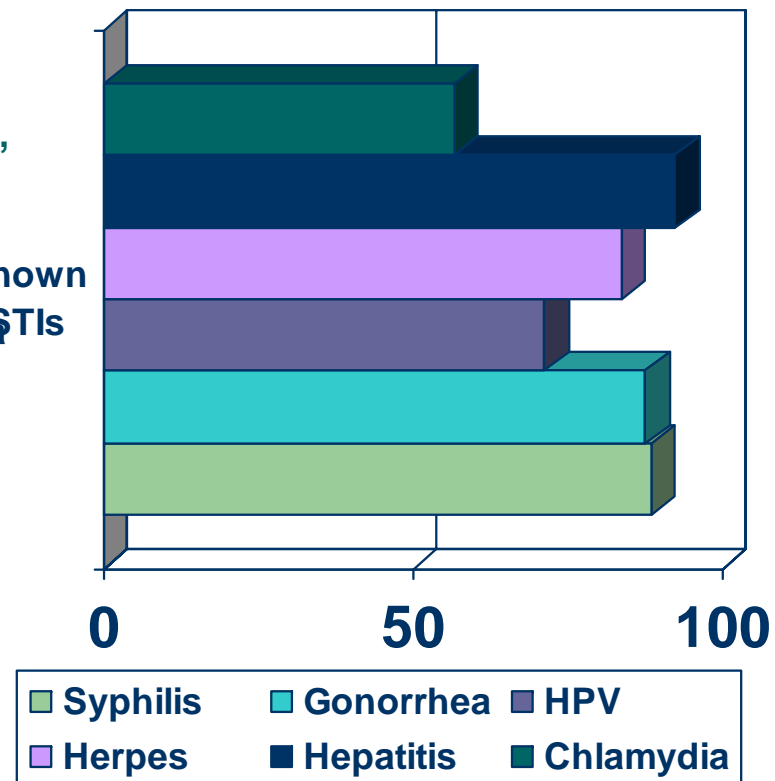
HIV Infection stage

- Equal parts (36,8%) are HIV + with and without symptoms;
- Another 10,3% have already had or currently have an AIDS-related disease;
- 16,2% do not know their stage or do not like to answer (n=11,25% of the Polish);
- 80,9% are currently treated with ART (bigger group in Poland, n=39 vs. 16 Germans));
- For another 13,2% ART has not yet been recommended (bigger group in Germany, n=6 vs. 3 Polish)

KAB Survey among HIV+ Men First Results

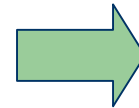
STIs knowledge and practice

- The most known STIs are hepatitis (92,3%), syphilis (88,5%), gonorrhoea (87,5%),
- The least known is Chlamydia – 56,7%
- 60% Germans vs. 30 % Polish have made a test for STI in the last 2 years (54,4 % have not been tested);
- More than the half (54,9%, n=39) reported a diagnosed STI:
 - Hepatitis – n=15 (13 out of whom Polish);
 - Herpes- n=7 (5 out of whom Polish);
 - Syphilis – n=5, all Germans



KAB Survey among HIV+ Men First Results

Sexual partners

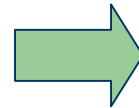


Sexual behaviour

- More than the half have a steady partner (56,8%, n=38), whereas sexual orientation differs:
 - With a man – 28,4 % (60,9% of the Germans, n=14 vs. 11,4% of the Polish, n=5);
 - 44,9% prefer sex only or especially with men (88% of the Germans, n=22 vs.20,4% of the Polish);
 - With a woman – 28,4% (n=19, only Polish);
 - 39,1% prefer sex only or especially with women (56,9% of the Polish)
- More than 40% have no partner
- From the 38 respondents with a steady partner, by 97% the partner knows about the HIV+ status:
 - *The majority has HIV-negative or unknown (not tested) status (73%)*
 - *27% of the steady partners are also HIV + (more among the Polish);*
- More than 2/3 (69,7%) report to have changed their sexual behaviour, **BUT:**
 - *81,8 % German vs. 63,6% Polish*
- 9,1% have no more sexual contacts (equal proportions DE/PL);
- 78,3% (from only 46 valid cases) started to use condoms more, 13% - less;
- No differentiated evaluation possible due to lot of missing statements;

KAB Survey among HIV+ Men First Results

Risky sexual practices



Risk management (multiple choice, 66 valid cases)

- Anal sex with steady male partner:
n=29(MSM and bisexual Men):
 - 51% of them had used condom the last time;
 - 59,1% say they use „always“
- Anal sex with another men (n=26):
 - 53,8% had used condom the last time;
 - 60,9% say they use „always“
- Vaginal sex with a woman (n=49):
 - 44,9% have had no sex with a woman
 - 34,7% had used condom the last time;
 - 51,6% say they use „always“
- No sexual contacts – 14,1%
(whereas only 9,1% have stated that earlier);
- Safer sex strategies – 84,5%:
(make safer sex, use condoms always);
- Risk reduction – 31 % *(oral sex only, sex without penetration, ejaculate outside)*
- Risk susceptibility – 9,8% *(forget the risk, unrestrained sex without condoms, “bare backing”)*



KAB Survey among HIV+ Men First Results

Substance use

Too many missing cases

- Heroin (40 valid cases):
 - 13 Polish HIV+ men out of 26 had used regularly to sometimes before,
 - 6 out of 23 Polish HIV+ men still use now;

Safer Sex

- Forget about condoms while, “on substance”:
 - Never – 59,3%;
 - Seldom/once-twice – 32,2%;
 - Often/always – 8,5%

KAB Survey among HIV+ Men Conclusions

- **Insufficiently big data base for a profound evaluation;**
- **Too many missing by some questions (too personal questions?, appropriate administration modes?);**
- **Because the two national groups differ in size (26 vs. 45), first comparison should be made rather carefully and be taken as a point of departure for a further exploration of the context of HIV + persons (related to knowledge, attitudes and risk taking);**

Thanks

to Dieter Oremus and Gernot Brehm for the
assistance by the statistical analysis!

Thank you for your attention !!!!

Funded by the EU Commission

The sole responsibility of any use that may be made of the information lies
with the author (SPI Research gGmbH)

