


# VCT in State and Nongovernmental services – a comparative research

Ivo Prochazka  
Czech AIDS Help Society  
Institute of Sexology



# Background of Institute of Sexology

- Institute of Sexology – part of the 1st Medical Faculty and General University Hospital
- Founded in 1921
- Care for sexual dysfunctions, infertile men, sexual deviants, transsexuals, etc.
- Research in these issues, sexual behavior

# Background of VCT ctr at the Institute

- 1981 – founded psychotherapeutic support group for egodystonic gay men
- Two impulses for VCT center
  - 1. interest of patients from pst group
  - 2. interest of National AIDS reference lab (founded in 1985) to have blood samples from MSM
- It has resulted to the first VCT ctr in the country in 1985

# VCT at the Institute since 1985

- Once a week (Thu 8-11)
- Except short period (at the end of 80') offered free and anonymous (choice of client) HIV counselling and testing
- Results available after one week (if needed – confirmed by NRL AIDS)
- Usually contact with one person only (3 counsellors – 2 MD and one nurse)
- Chief doctor – gay (me since 1996, the first not openly gay)

# Background of Czech AIDS Help Society

- Founded in 1989
- Main aim – support PLWHA, prevention – secondary
- Lighthouse was opened in August 1999
- VCT ctr has been opened in October 1999
- At first once a week, since 2003 twice a week (Mon 16-19, Wed 9-12)
- Counsellor + nurse

# VCT at the Lighthouse

- Increase number of clients every year up to 3 500 clients per year in 2007
- Increase number of counsellors and nurses (4 pretest counsellor (1-MD, 2-social workers, 1-director of Lighthouse), 1 posttest counsellor for HIV+ result, 3 posttest counsellor for HIV- results, 3 nurses)

## VCT in the Lighthouse

období: 31. říjen 1999 - 30. duben 2008

Rok	Počet návštěv		Celkem návštěv	Celkem odběry	Sledované skupiny					Věková struktura			HI V+	Neodebráno		Opakované kontroly	% neodebráných klientů	počet nevyzvednutých výsledků	% nevyzvednutých výsledků
	Muži	Ženy			H	T	K	P	Ost.	do 18 let	19-25 let	nad 25 let		Muži	Ženy				
1999	37	37	74	66	12	1	3	0	58	4	41	29	0	3	5	0	10,81	2	3,03
2000	351	262	613	561	123	19	13	6	452	63	296	254	1	30	22	0	8,48	44	7,84
2001	382	307	689	644	148	26	11	8	496	81	359	249	1	25	20	83	6,53	23	3,57
2002	413	333	746	675	161	16	12	7	550	45	397	304	5	41	30	107	9,53	36	5,33
2003	685	604	1289	1197	252	27	15	11	984	109	642	538	5	44	48	168	7,14	64	5,35
2004	1020	905	1925	1816	379	31	34	13	1468	144	985	796	2	54	55	228	5,66	65	3,58
2005	1366	1192	2558	2413	489	39	71	14	1945	213	1177	1168	18	76	69	275	5,67	89	3,69
2006	1755	1573	3328	3190	572	52	52	15	2637	138	1531	1659	12	65	73	346	4,15	142	4,45
2007	2078	1736	3814	3723	663	44	65	27	3015	234	1636	1944	22	37	54	427	2,39	145	3,89
2008	906	754	1660	1622	308	10	41	7	1294	51	711	898	7	19	19	196	2,29		
ÚHRNEM	8993	7703	16696	15907	3107	265	317	108	12899	1082	7775	7839	73	394	395	1830	4,73	465	2,92

# Advantages in the Lighthouse

- Increasing number of clients (from 600 to 3 800 clients in the Lighthouse, stable around 500 in the Institute)
- - connection with preventive activities (campaigns, leaflets, PLWHA discussion)
- - effective promotion (leaflets)
- - role of volunteers (MSM)
- - afternoon hours



# Advantages in the Lighthouse

- Higher proportion of vulnerable groups (MSM 17-20% in the Lighthouse, 10-12% at the Institute, K 2% in the Lighthouse and less than 1% in the Institute)
- - better contact with MSM communities
- - better contact with PLWHA
- - lower threshold VCT
- - positive and less discriminative attitudes toward PLWHA (who also work there), decrease of fears from social contacts with PLWHA

# Advantages in the Lighthouse

- Financial flexibility
- - better access to sponsorship (not only money, but also equipment, tests)
- - more effective distribution of money according the needs of VCT
- Better support of new HIV+ (offer to guide into AIDS treatment center, contact with other PLWHA)

# Advantages in the Lighthouse

- Better informed clients (why ?, previous phone and internet consultation ?, peer education ?), more informed about the window period and less consultation without HIV test
- Better statistical evaluation (volunteers from IT, students)
- Offer of free condoms
- New volunteers and sponsors

# Advantages at the Institute

- Offer of other sexual health and mental health services (for example confidential tests on hepatitis, syphilis)
- Offer of HIV tests to the patients with risk behavior
- The choice of clients among anonymous and confidential HIV test
- Better availability of results (every working day), but „not pick-up results“ low (2-5%)

# Which groups prefer anonymous HIV tests

- MSM (if they don't accept offer for non-anonymous tests for other STIs)
- Sexual partners of PLWHA
- Clients from „rural areas“ - outside Prague

➤ Thank you for your attention

