

DIGITAL EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE SEEKING BEHAVIOR OF UKRAINIAN REFUGEES LIVING WITH HIV

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CONCLUSIONS

- **HIV management related digital health consultation** comes from **across Europa** and is mostly on **antiretroviral therapy**
- This type of healthcare seems **feasible** within professional HIV networks and can be a **useful aid for PLWHIV** and HIV care providers wanting to provide emergency HIV care

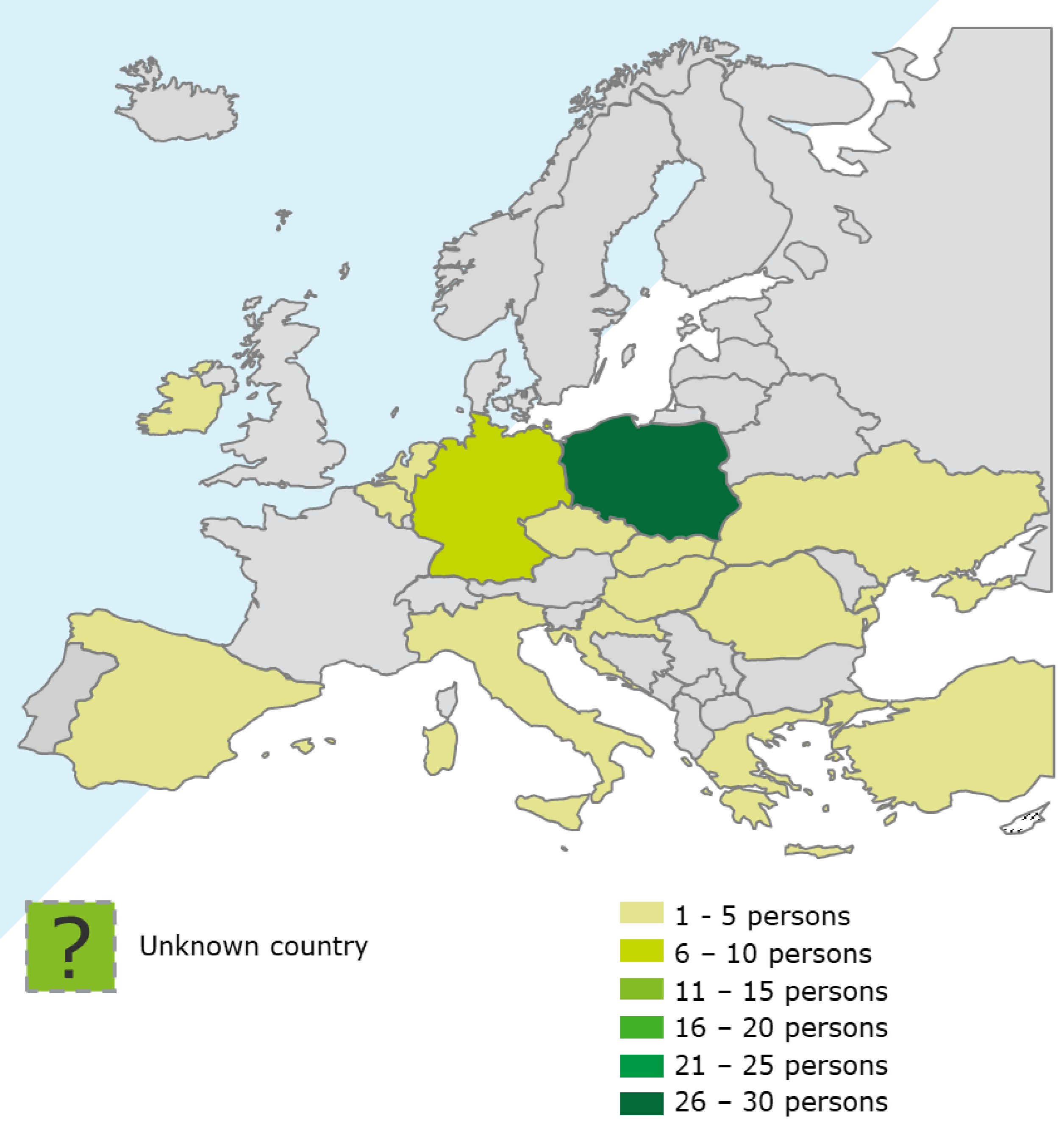
BACKGROUND

- **Ukraine** is one of the European countries that is **hardest-hit by HIV**
- To **stop** the HIV epidemic, **widespread** and **well-accessible care** for people living with HIV (PLWHIV) is **necessary**
- The **Russian invasion** (February 2022) **hit PLWHIV hard** with **HIV care services** being abruptly **interrupted**
- Several professional **HIV networks** started **remote digital counselling platforms** for displaced Ukrainians living with HIV
- An **overview** of **digital healthcare seeking behavior** can help to **adapt** these platforms to the **needs of PLWHIV**

METHODS

- **February 28, 2022**, we launched the **#awarehivUkraine project** to raise **awareness** and **support** for Ukrainians living with HIV
- **The project** and **website** (www.awarehiv.com/Ukraine) were **widely distributed**
- People could **contact HIV physicians** directly for help by **filling in a digital form**
- **Demographical data** and **healthcare information** provided were **anonymously analyzed**
- Main endpoints: **evolution of digital healthcare seeking behavior**, **number of people seeking contact**, **country** where they needed help, and the **needs** asked for

Figure 1: Countries where Ukrainian people living with HIV seek care



RESULTS

- Since its start, the website has been visited **1,197 times**
- **19%** found the website by **social media** and **15%** by **search engines**
- Until August 9, we were contacted **73 times** (range 1-9/week, peak mid/end June) with questions for a total of **82 PLWHIV**
- **3 individuals could not be answered** due to incorrect or missing contact details
- Most were **women (53/82)**, 23 were men and 6 did not disclose their sex.
- All but 4 contact topics were on **antiretroviral therapy related questions (69/73)**
- Over half (42) sought contact from **Eastern Europe**, most from **Poland (28/82)**
- **Germany** hosted most people who sought contact from **Western Europe (10/82)** (Figure 1)
- Over time, a **decrease** was seen in the **number of people** contacting from **Eastern Europe** along with an **increase** from **Western Europe** (Table 1)

Table 1

	Number of people seeking contact	Eastern European country, n (%)	Western European country, n (%)	Other country, n (%)	Unknown country, n (%)
Week 1-5	21	13 (62)	6 (29)	-	2 (9)
Week 6-10	44	23 (52)	14 (32)	-	7 (16)
Week 11-15	17	6 (35)	6 (35)	2 (12)	3 (18)

