

## Comprehensive approach to testing: Legebitra CBVCT

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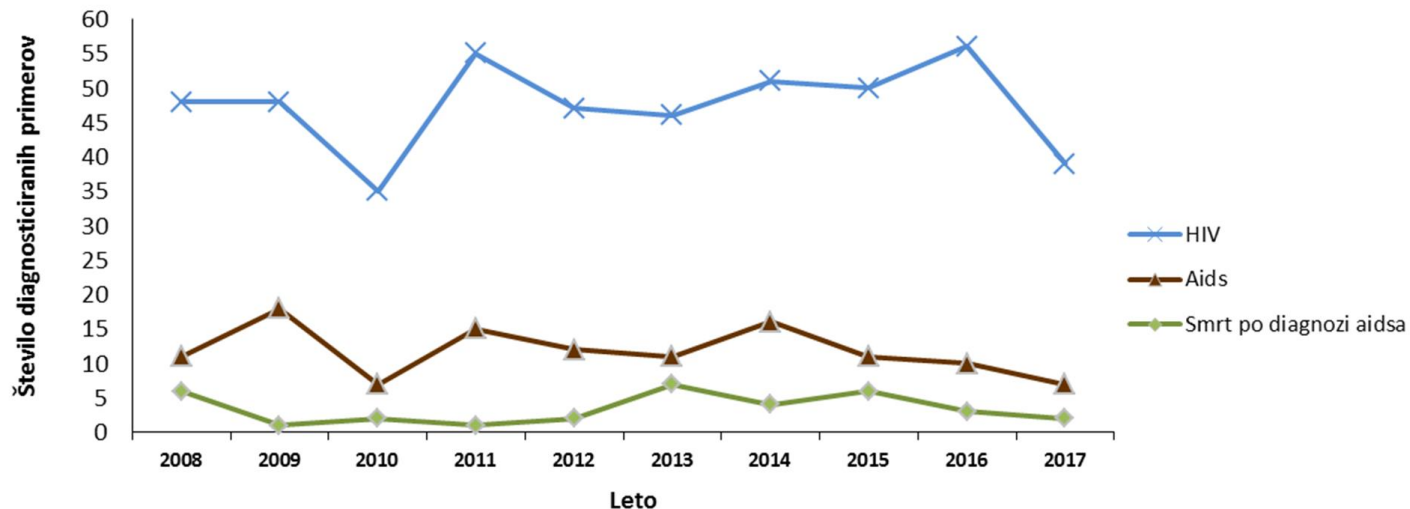
Croatian Institute of Public Health

Zagreb, Croatia

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# HIV in Slovenia

- Prevalence estimate <1 person/1000
- Most cases seen in men who have sex in men (2/3 of all cases)
- Cca 50% late diagnoses (<350 CD4/mm<sup>3</sup>), half of which concurrent HIV and aids diagnoses



- Source: National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia

# HIV testing in Slovenia

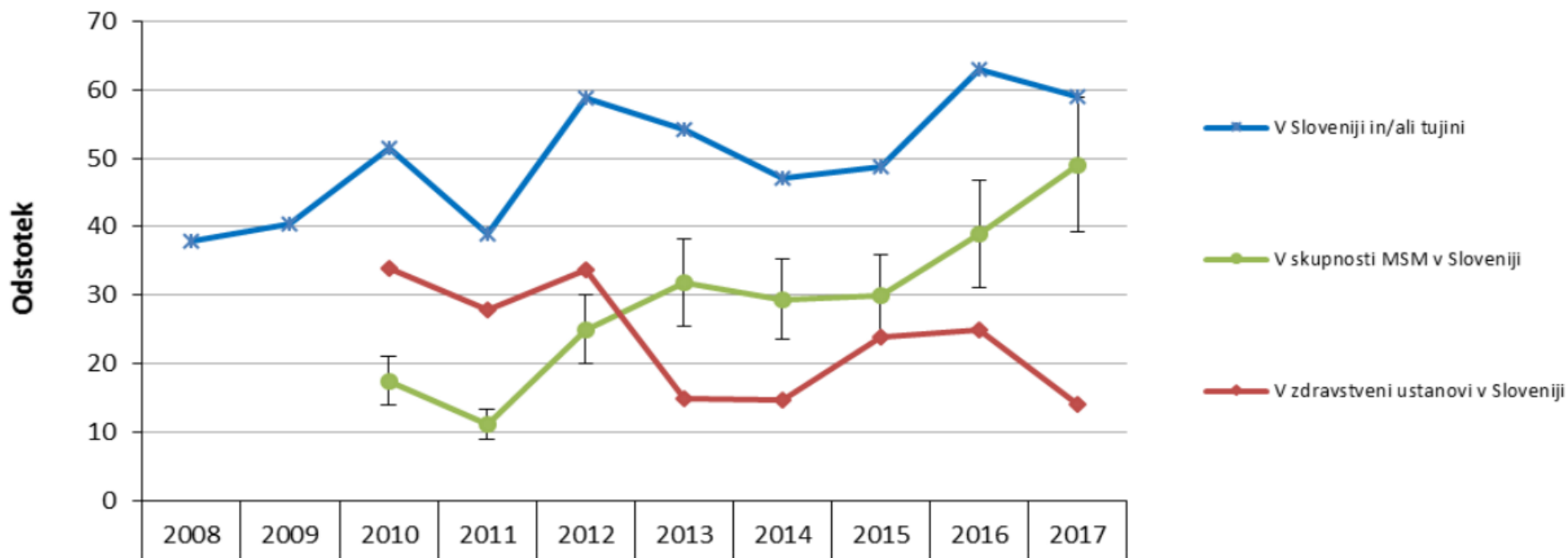
- Low rate of people tested for HIV (1.6 - 1.8 /100)
- Easy access to free, anonymous or confidential HIV test in healthcare settings
- But stigma and lack of awareness prevent access to testing for most at-risk persons

# Community-based testing in Slovenia

- National HIV Strategy 2017-2025 stipulates provision of community-based testing for men who have sex with men
- CBVCT currently provided only by one organisation - Legebitra
- Funded by the government and the city of Ljubljana
- Testing in most Slovenian regions
- Partnership with the Institute of Microbiology and Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, and cooperation with the Department of Infectious Diseases, Ljubljana University Medical Centre

# Percentage of MSM tested in community-based service compared to HC settings

**Slika 9: Odstotek moških, ki imajo spolne odnose z moškimi, in so poročali o testiranju na okužbo s HIV v preteklem letu (s pripadajočimi 95% intervali zaupanja), priložnostni vzorci, Ljubljana, 2008–2017**



Source: National Institute of public Health, Slovenia

# The team



# Our principles

- Cultural competence
- Peer-to-peer approach
- Non-judgemental approach
- Empathy
- Client wellbeing is our first priority
- Flexibility
- Professionalism

# What we test for...

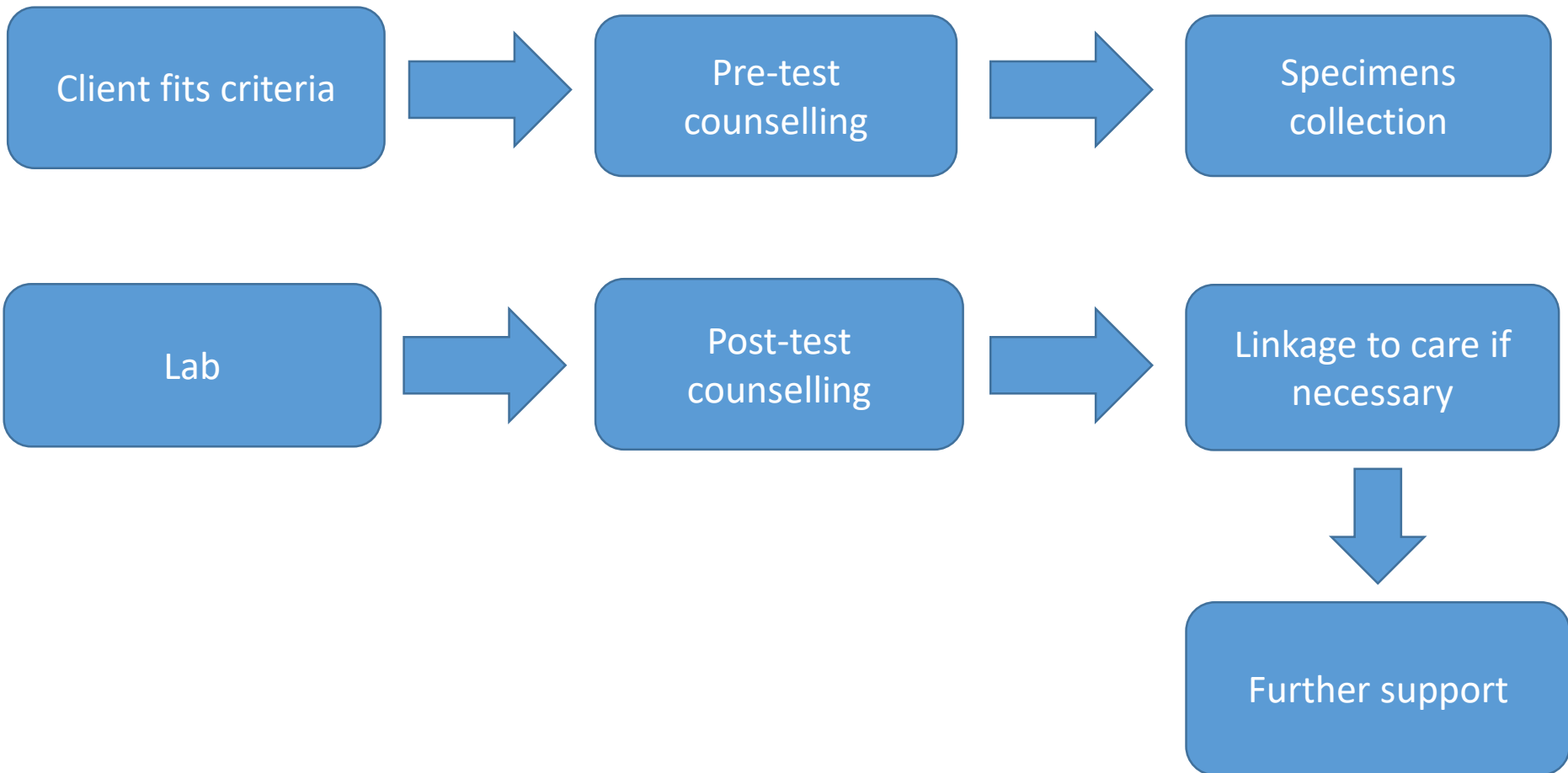
- **HIV**
- **Hepatitis B**
- **Hepatitis C**
- **Syphilis**
- **Oral and rectal gonorrhoea**



# Who we test for...

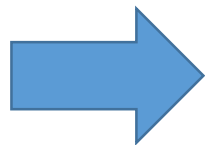
- ***HIV – all***
- ***Hepatitis B – all unvaccinated (+ aHBs titer post-vaccination)***
- ***Hepatitis C – all***
- ***Syphilis – all without prior diagnosis***
- ***Oral and rectal gonorrhoea – all***

# Testing process

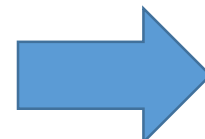


# Barriers

Client fits  
criteria



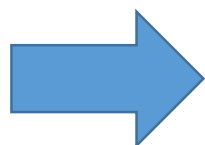
Pre-test  
counselling



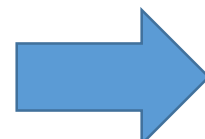
Specimens  
collection

Only MSM

Lab



Post-test  
counselling



Linkage to  
care if  
necessary

Returning  
the results  
by  
telephone



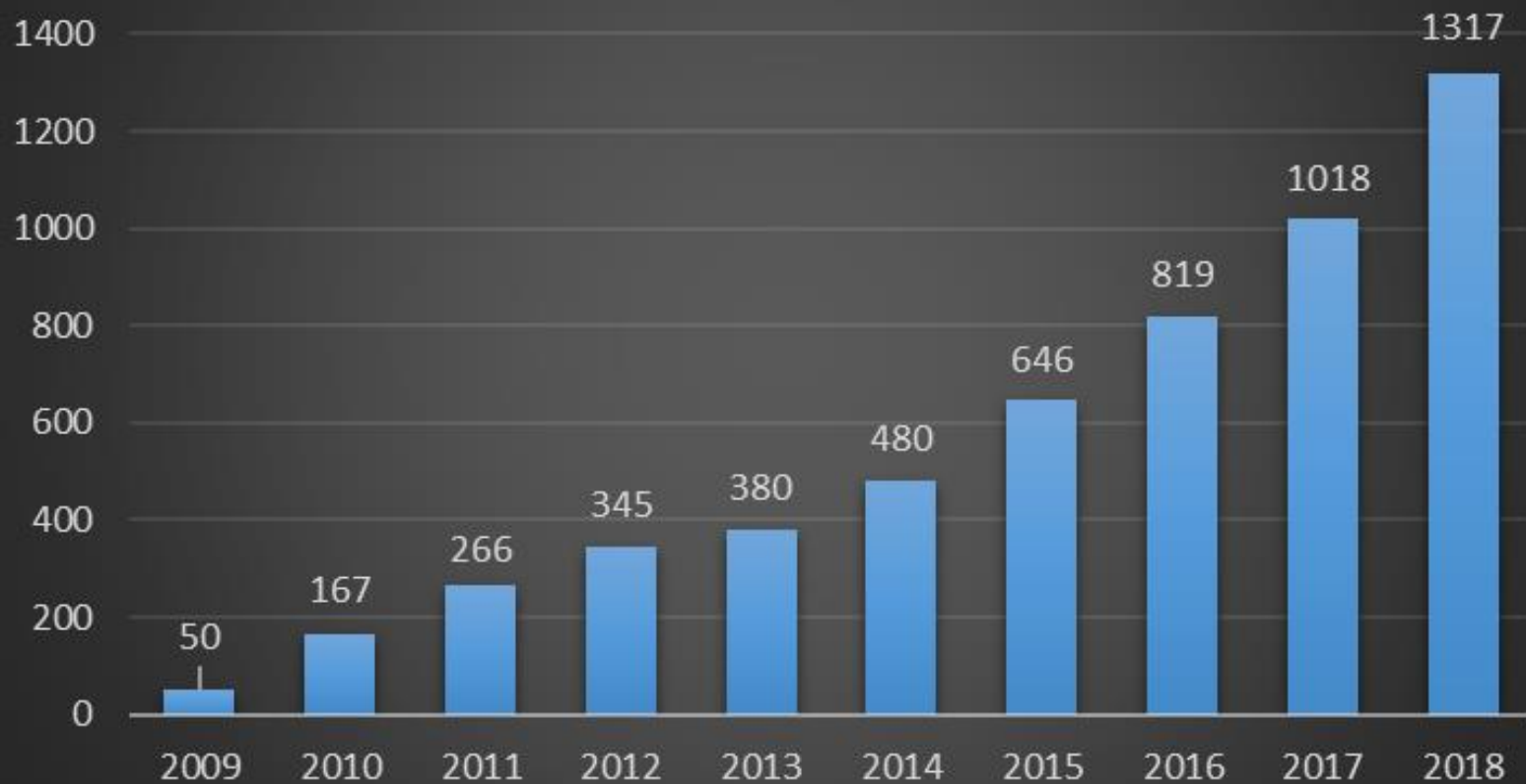
Access to  
treatment

Further  
support

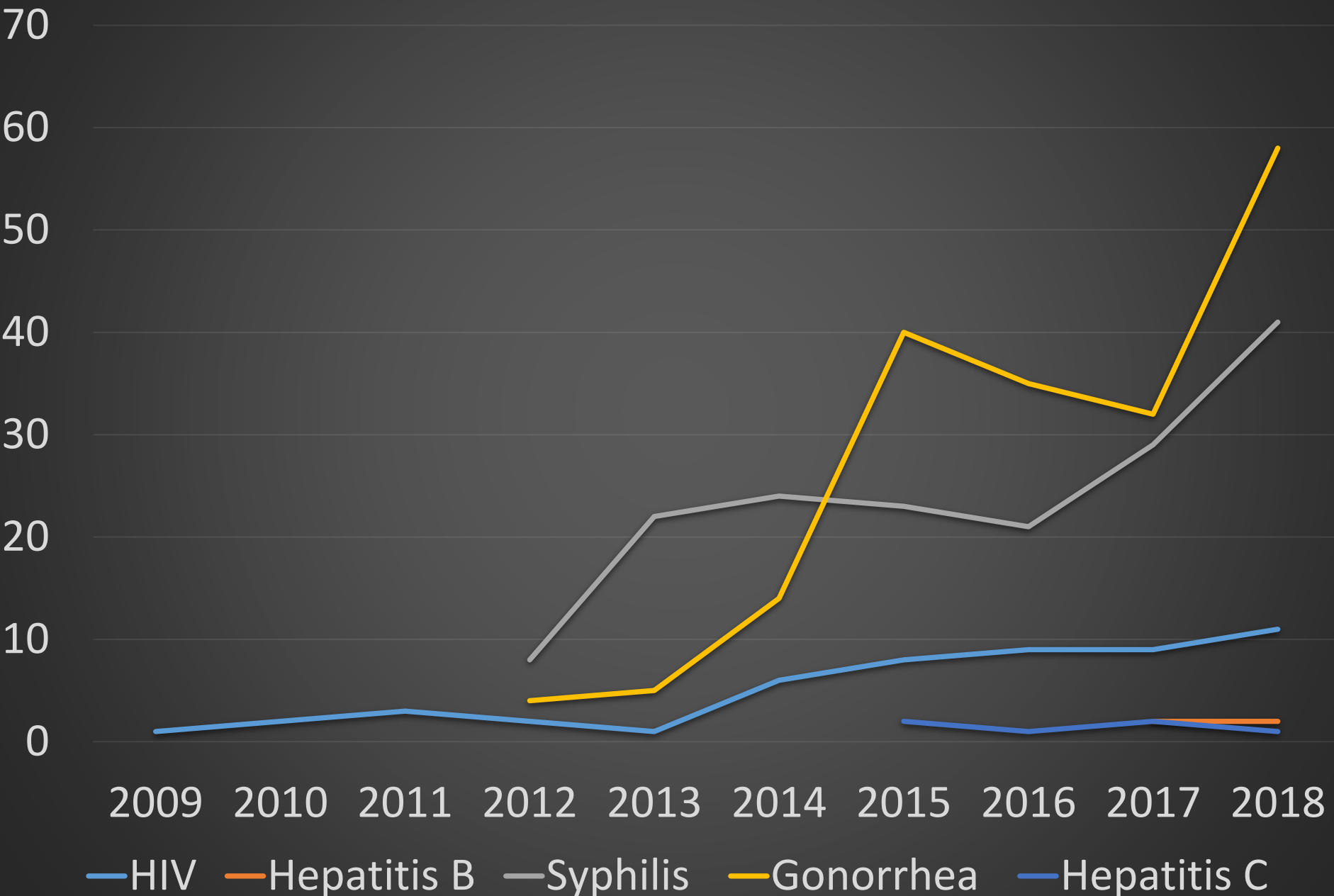
# When and where...

- Once per week in Ljubljana
- Once per month in Maribor
- Once every 3 to 4 months in other towns
- Once per month in each of the two gay saunas
  
- Clients can pick up results in person (twice a week) or by phone

## Number of clients 2009-2018



# Reactive / positive test results 2009 - 2018



# Test/results 2018

HIV	1258	11	0,87%
Syphilis	1157	41	3,50%
Gonorrhoea	2024	58	2,90%
Hepatitis B (HBsAg)	495	2	0,40%
Hepatitis C	1270	1	0,10%

<b>Clients by age (in 2018)</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Under 20</b>	5,0 %
<b>21 - 30</b>	43,0 %
<b>31 - 40</b>	30,4 %
<b>41 - 50</b>	14,1 %
<b>51 - 60</b>	6,2 %
<b>Over 60</b>	1,3 %



# Plans for the future

- New/additional tests (chlamydia, urethral gonorrhoea, HCV PCR, additional syphilis tests)
- Testing in Ljubljana several times a week
- Increasing frequency of testing events in other towns
- New premises
- PrEP support service

# Thank you for your attention



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