

Testing for COVID-19 in Latvia: analysis of public - private partnerships.

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Actuality / The Goal

Collaboration between public and private sectors are essential in the health care system. It brings resources, knowledge and opportunities to each side (Yassanye, D. M., Anason, A. P., & Barrett, D. H., 2021).

During the COVID-19 pandemic partnerships between the public and private sectors in Latvia were realized in various types. Testing of the COVID-19 was one of first that kind of cooperation during pandemic.

The goal was to have public-private partnerships evaluated in health system during times of a pandemic.

Methods

The data from the Latvian National Health service about COVID-19 testing in 2020 in Latvia were collected, reviewed and analysed.

Firstly, literature review about public - private partnership and testing was done.

After was collecting data from National Health service, databases on government reports.

As a result, analyses and conclusions were made.

Conclusions

Public and private sector cooperation in the health care system, in particular, during a pandemic can be

- 1) efficient - the organization of the process may be quicker and more successful;
- 2) more global - involves private sector resources and covers larger areas;
- 3) faster - the pandemic "pressure" and uncertain factors boost public support - private partnerships and allow a bit of time to cover vast areas.

Results

The first testing for COVID-19 in Latvia was conducted through 4 tests on February 26 (by Emergency medical service). The first private laboratories were the Central Laboratory and the E. Gulbis Laboratory, which provided 13 test points for seven cities (on March 23).

The mean number of tests in 2020 was 2 355,99 (interval: 4,00 - 12 091,00) per day and 2141,73 (range: 7,67 – 7365,77) per month.

In an analysis of COVID-19 testing in 2020, 95,78% of each month was carried out by the private sector together (Central Laboratory, E. Gulbja Laboratory, MFD Laboratory and NMS Laboratory) from all tests (figure 1.).

Primarily thought private laboratories in the beginning of the third quarter COVID-19 were open 109 test points (few points operated by the public sector in Riga, Rezekne and Daugavpils)

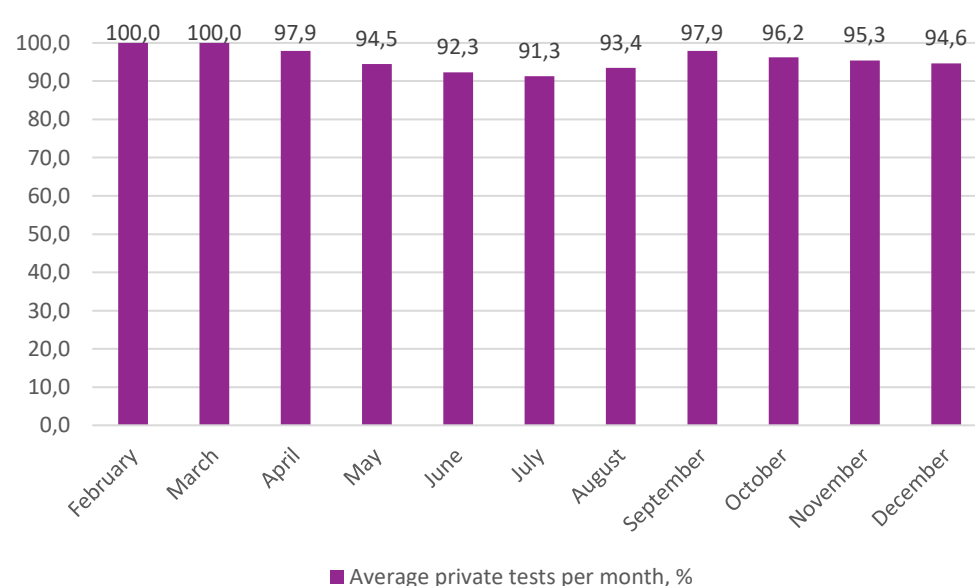


Figure 1. Average private tests from all tests per month.