

KEY FACTS ON HIV EPIDEMIC IN CROATIA AND PROGRESS IN 2011

(pop. 4 398 150)

The HIV/AIDS situation has been monitored in Croatia since 1985, when the first AIDS cases were documented. By the end of 2011, Croatia had reported a cumulative total of 938 HIV cases to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), including 342 AIDS cases of which 151 had died. For the year 2011, the country reported 76 new HIV cases, 22 AIDS cases and 2 deaths among AIDS cases. The rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections for 2011 was 1.7 per 100 000 population and has remained relatively stable over the past years. Of the newly diagnosed HIV infections, 86% were male and of the infections with information about transmission mode (98.7%), 65.3% were attributed to sex between men, 29.3% to heterosexual contact and 4% to injecting drug use. The tendency since 2003 has been a steadily increasing proportion of transmissions reported to be related to sex between men.

Taking undiagnosed infections into account, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO estimate that 1 200 (<1 000 – 1 500) people were living with HIV in Croatia in 2011 and that less than 100 people died from AIDS-related causes during 2011.

As of 2010, ten facilities in Croatia provided HIV testing and testing and the service is free of charge. According to national HIV testing policy as of 2010, neither partner notification nor testing for any particular circumstance, group or individual was mandatory. All blood donations and blood products have been tested since the mid-1980s.

The system of care in Croatia is a centralized one; hence all HIV infected patients are treated at the HIV/AIDS centre at University Hospital for Infectious Diseases UHID. In 2010, the reported number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) was 510. The ART coverage in 2010, based on 2010 WHO guidelines, was 89% (range 70%-95%).

Sources:

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control/WHO Regional Office for Europe. *HIV/AIDS surveillance in Europe 2011*. Stockholm, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, 2012

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). *UNAIDS report on the global AIDS epidemic*. Geneva, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, 2012

WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF. *Global HIV/AIDS response – Epidemic update and health sector progress towards universal access: progress report 2011*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2011

WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF. *Monitoring and reporting on the health sector response to HIV/AIDS; Croatia country report 2010*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2012.

European Commission: Eurostat [web site]. European Union, 2013

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&language=en&pcode=tps00001&tableSelection=1&footnotes=yes&labeling=labels&plugin=1> (accessed 31 May 2013)