

KEY FACTS ON HIV EPIDEMIC IN FRANCE AND PROGRESS IN 2011

(pop. 65 327 724)

France began mandatory HIV case reporting at the national level in March 2003 and from March 2003 to December 2011, the authorities reported a total of 48 950 HIV cases, 67 386 AIDS cases and 35 941 deaths among AIDS cases to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). For the year 2011, 4 075 new HIV cases, 524 new AIDS cases and 101 deaths among AIDS cases were reported. The rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections in 2011 was 6.3 per 100 000 population; the rate has steadily decreased since 2005 when it was 9.5 per 100 000 population. Of the newly diagnosed infections with information about transmission mode in 2011 (61%) the transmission breakdown is as follows: 54.7% through heterosexual contact, 40.6% through sex between men, 3.5% through injecting drug use and 0.9% through mother-to-child transmission. The majority (67%) of new HIV cases were male. By the end of 2011, the cumulative number of reported mother-to-child transmission cases was 297, including 21 in 2011.

While in France the HIV epidemic started much earlier than 2003, HIV infections diagnosed before 2003 are not included in the cumulative 43 188 reported cases. AIDS reporting on the other hand was established in the early 1980s and during the years up to 2003, a total of 57 400 AIDS cases were diagnosed in France. To adjust for the missing HIV data and acknowledging that many HIV cases are not captured in the current cumulative figure, reported AIDS cases from before 2003 could theoretically be added to the HIV figure under which correction the cumulative number of people ever diagnosed with HIV infection in France could be adjusted upwards to about 100 000 cases.

Taking undiagnosed infections into account, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO estimate that 160 000 (130 000 – 200 000) people were living with HIV in France in 2011 and that 1 300 (1 000 – 1 600) people died from AIDS-related causes during 2011.

4 970 000 people over the age of 15 were tested for HIV in France in 2010. HIV testing is free of charge or almost fully reimbursed by health insurance and is offered by all general practitioners. HIV testing is done systematically for pregnant women and at entry into prison and is mandatory for blood donors.

Out of an estimated 107 000 people seen for HIV care at the end of 2010, 93 090 were on antiretroviral therapy (ART). The number of people living with HIV seen for care in France includes an increasing proportion of women (33% in 2010). 11% of those seen for care were people who inject drugs.

Sources:

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