

KEY FACTS ON HIV EPIDEMIC IN ESTONIA AND PROGRESS IN 2011

(pop. 1 339 662)

By the end of 2011, Estonia had reported a cumulative total of 8 062 HIV cases, 354 AIDS cases and 99 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, the country reported 366 HIV cases, 38 AIDS cases and 7 deaths among AIDS cases. The rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections in 2011 was 27.3 per 100 000 population, which is one of the highest rates reported in the Region. Of the newly diagnosed infections with information about transmission mode in 2011 (only 34.7% of cases), 54.3% infections were due to injecting drug use, 44.1% to heterosexual contact and 1.6% to mother-to-child transmission. The country counted the most cases with unknown transmission mode in Europe (65.3%). Data on new cases among men who have sex with men are not available and were reported to be zero. In cumulative total, 40 mother-to-child transmission cases have been reported, including 2 in 2011.

Current evidence based on available data of newly diagnosed HIV cases and prevalence rates among vulnerable populations (especially injecting drug users) shows that HIV transmission is slowly but steadily decreasing on the national level.

Taking undiagnosed infections into account, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO estimate that 9 900 (8 200 – 12 000) people were living with HIV in Estonia in 2011 and that less than 500 people died from AIDS-related causes during 2011.

HIV testing is provided only in health care institutions (including family medicine centres and prison health services). Testing and counselling is free of charge for patients with health insurance by family physicians or specialists when there is an indication for testing. For people who are not insured there are other free testing options.

The number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) increased from 47 in 2002 to 1 793 in 2010. Five facilities were providing ART as of December 2010.

Sources:

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