

## KEY FACTS ON HIV EPIDEMIC IN GEORGIA AND PROGRESS IN 2011

(pop. 4 352 244)

By the end of 2011, Georgia had reported a cumulative total of 3 115 HIV cases, including 2 002 who had developed AIDS and 536 who had died to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and control (ECDC). For the year 2011, 424 new HIV cases, 395 new AIDS cases and 96 AIDS deaths were reported. The rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections in 2011 was 9.5 per 100 000 population; the rate has steadily increased since 2004 when it was 3.5 per 100 000 population. The majority of new HIV cases in 2011 were male (70%). Among the newly diagnosed HIV cases with information about transmission mode (99.5%), 44% were infected through injecting drug use, 47.9% through heterosexual contact, 5.9% through sex between men and 1.4% through mother-to-child transmission. In total, Georgia has reported 68 mother-to child-transmission cases, including 6 cases in 2011.

Despite its currently low HIV prevalence, Georgia is considered to be at a high risk for an expanding epidemic due to widespread injecting drug use and the population movement between Georgia and neighboring high-prevalence countries such as Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

Taking undiagnosed infections into account, the joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO estimate that 4 900 (2 300 – 7 800) people were living with HIV in Georgia at the end of 2011. In total, 21 799 HIV tests were performed in 2011. As of 2010, pregnant women, military recruits, TB and STI patients, people who inject drugs, sex workers and men who have sex with men are routinely tested, while testing of blood donors is mandatory. Partner notification of HIV infected persons is mandatory.

The number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) increased from 8 in 2002 to 1 122 by 2011. As of 2010, four facilities in the country provided ART and ART coverage, based on 2010 WHO guidelines, was 65% (20%-95%). In 2010, a reported 1 362 people living with HIV were seen for medical care, among which 49% were infected through injecting drug use. 13% of those enrolled in care as of 2010, tested positive for hepatitis C and 1% tested positive for hepatitis B.

### Sources:

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