

KEY FACTS ON HIV EPIDEMIC IN SERBIA AND PROGRESS IN 2011

(pop. 7 306 677)

The HIV epidemic in Republic of Serbia is considered to be at low level and stable/well controlled. By the end of 2011, Serbia had reported a cumulative total of 2 725 HIV cases to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC); 1 591 of the infected individuals had developed AIDS, including 1 029 who had died. For the year 2011, the country reported 127 new HIV cases, 52 new AIDS cases and 31 deaths among AIDS cases. The rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections in 2011 was 1.7 per 100 000 population. The majority (87%) of newly diagnosed cases were male. Of the newly reported infections with information about transmission mode in 2011 (89%), 33% were infected through heterosexual contact, 58% through sex between men and 8% through injecting drug use. In total, 39 mother-to-child transmission cases have been reported in Serbia, including 1 in 2011.

Out of the total of 1 591 reported AIDS cases in the period 1985 -2011, 75% were males, 75% lived in Belgrade, 42% were injecting drug users and 43% were aged 30-39, followed by age group 40-49 (25%).

Taking undiagnosed infections into account, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO estimate that 3 500 (2 400 – 5 100) people were living with HIV in Serbia in 2011 and that less than 200 people died from AIDS-related causes during 2011.

In 2010, approximately 51 727 people were reported to be tested for HIV. Since 1987, HIV testing has been mandatory by law for all blood, organ, tissue, semen and egg cell donors. It is also recommended for pregnant women in the first trimester of pregnancy if indicated epidemiologically. As of 2010, HIV testing was free of charge at 56 testing facilities across the country and is voluntary, confidential and anonymous.

In 2010, 1 268 people living with HIV received medical care in Serbia. The entire cost of the ARV treatment is covered by Republican Health Insurance Fund.

By the end of 2003, 300 people were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART); a number that increased to 995 by the end of November 2011.

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; Serbia country report 2012*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2012.

European Commission: Eurostat [web site]. European Union, 2011
(<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/>, accessed 12 October 2011).