

KEY FACTS ON HIV EPIDEMIC IN BELGIUM AND PROGRESS IN 2011

(pop. 11 094 850)

By the end of 2011, Belgium had reported a cumulative total of 24 506 HIV cases to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), including 4 181 who had developed AIDS and 1 953 who had died. For the year 2011, 1 177 new HIV cases, 54 new AIDS cases and 30 deaths among AIDS cases were reported. The rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections was 10.7 per 100 000 population in 2011. Among the newly diagnosed infections with known transmission mode (71%), 49.6% were infected through heterosexual contact, 46.6% through sex between men, 1.3% through injecting drug use and 1.0% through mother-to-child transmission. Men comprised 66% of the newly diagnosed cases in 2011. Up to 2011, a cumulative total of 408 mother-to-child transmission cases have been reported, including 8 in 2011.

Taking undiagnosed infections into account, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO estimate that 20 000 (16 000 – 26 000) people were living with HIV in Belgium in 2011 and that less than 100 people died from AIDS-related causes during 2011.

As of 2010, HIV testing was offered by all general practitioners, clinics, hospitals and student services (60 tests per 1000 population). Tests are free of charge at a few sites, but generally there is a fee with reimbursement of 80% of the cost by the social security system. According to national HIV testing policies, partner notification was not mandatory, nor was there a requirement or systematic testing of any particular individuals/groups.

By December 2009, 8 690 people were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Sources:

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