

KEY FACTS ON HIV EPIDEMIC IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA AND PROGRESS IN 2011

(pop. 2 059 794)

By the end of 2011, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had reported a cumulative total of 41 HIV cases, 113 AIDS cases and 67 deaths among AIDS cases to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Once a person registered as infected with HIV is diagnosed with AIDS, the reporting system removes the case from the HIV dataset, which explains why the number of reported HIV infections is lower than the number of AIDS cases. For the year 2011, 1 HIV cases (reported to be transmitted through men having sex with men), 8 AIDS cases, and 4 deaths among AIDS cases were reported. The first case of HIV in the republic was reported in 1987, the first case of AIDS in 1989 and the first three AIDS deaths in 1990. By the end of 2011, a cumulative total of 2 cases of mother-to-child transmission were reported (0 cases in 2011).

HIV testing is offered at 24 testing facilities all of which offer testing free of charge. According to national HIV testing policies, partner notification was not mandatory and blood donors were tested systematically.

The number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) increased from 2 in 2002 to 45 by the end of 2011.

By the end of 2010, 13 Harm Reduction services, 12 centres for opioid substitution therapy, 10 stationary VCT centres and 2 outreach VCT mobile units operated in different regions of the country. By the end of 2011, 13 needle and syringe exchange programmes were operational.

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; Republic of Macedonia country report 2012*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2012.

European Commission: Eurostat [web site]. European Union, 2013
<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/tgm/table.do?tab=table&language=en&pcode=tps00001&tableSelection=1&footnotes=yes&labeling=labels&plugin=1> (accessed 31 May 2013)