

KEY FACTS ON HIV EPIDEMIC IN BULGARIA AND PROGRESS IN 2011

(pop. 7 327 224)

By the end of 2011, Bulgaria had reported a cumulative total of 1 473 HIV cases to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), including 334 AIDS cases and 113 deaths among AIDS cases. For the year 2011, 201 HIV cases, 40 AIDS cases and 17 deaths among AIDS cases were reported. The rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections in 2011 was 2.7 per 100 000 population.

Among the newly reported HIV infections with information about transmission mode (100%), 44.3% were transmitted through heterosexual contact, 23.4% through sex between men and 31.3% through injecting drug use. The majority (81%) of newly diagnosed cases were male. Since the start of reporting, 14 mother-to-child transmission cases have been reported, including 2 cases in 2011.

Bulgaria is still a country with low HIV prevalence in the general population. However, the country faces a challenge related to the possibility of rapid development of concentrated epidemics in separate groups identified as most-at-risk. There is already such epidemiological and behavioural evidence for the groups of people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men and sex workers. The risk is also related to the possibility of transmission of the infection to the general population, where the main mode of transmission is the heterosexual one, and where a generalized epidemic can develop.

Taking undiagnosed infections into account, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO estimate that 3 900 (2 700 – 5 700) people were living with HIV in Bulgaria in 2011 and that less than 500 people died from AIDS-related causes during 2011.

By the end of 2011, 383 people were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) in the country, an increase from 327 in 2009. The estimated ART coverage in 2010, based on 2010 WHO guidelines, was 24% (19%-30%).

Sources:

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