

KEY FACTS ON HIV EPIDEMIC IN ITALY AND PROGRESS IN 2011

(pop. 60 820 696)

By the end of 2011, Italy had reported a cumulative total of 18 752 HIV cases and 63 888 AIDS cases, including 39 525 people who had died to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). For the year 2011, 3 461 HIV cases, 774 AIDS cases and 111 deaths among AIDS cases were reported. The rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections in 2011 was 5.8 per 100 000 population. In 2011, of the HIV infections with known transmission mode (84%), 55.4% of were infected through heterosexual contact, 38.1% through sex between men and 5.5% through injecting drug use. The majority (75%) of HIV cases in 2011 were male. Italy has reported a cumulative total of 97 mother-to-child transmission cases, including 19 in 2011.

While HIV case reporting was established in 1985 in Italy, current European level HIV data only covers the years 2004 – 2010. To adjust for the missing years and acknowledging that many people were diagnosed with HIV infection before 2004 but not captured in the current cumulative figure, approximately 53 500 AIDS cases reported up to 2004 could be added to the 18 752 reported HIV infections. The cumulative number of people ever diagnosed with HIV in Italy could therefore be adjusted upwards to about 72 000 cases.

Taking undiagnosed infections into account, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO estimate that 150 000 people were living with HIV in Italy in 2011 and that less than 1 000 people died from AIDS-related causes during 2011.

The total number of people tested for HIV is generally not reported but HIV testing is carried out at 150 testing facilities across the country. HIV testing is systematically offered to sexually transmitted infection patients and blood and tissue donors.

By December 2008 (latest number available), an estimated 95 000 people were receiving antiretroviral therapy in Italy.

Sources:

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