

## KEY FACTS ON HIV EPIDEMIC IN BELARUS AND PROGRESS IN 2011

(pop. 9 480 178)

By the end of 2011, Belarus had reported a cumulative total of 12 400 HIV cases, 2 925 AIDS cases and 1 087 deaths among AIDS cases to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). For the year 2011, 1 194 new HIV cases, 516 diagnosed AIDS cases and 153 deaths among AIDS cases were reported. The rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections was 12.6 per 100 000 population in 2011 and about half (51%) of the newly reported HIV cases in 2011 were male. Of the newly diagnosed HIV infections with information about transmission mode (100%), 74% were transmitted heterosexually, 21.8 % through injecting drug use, 2.3% through sex between men and 1.9 % through mother-to-child transmission. A cumulative total of 198 mother-to-child transmission cases have been reported, including 23 in 2011.

Taking undiagnosed infections into account, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO estimate that 20 000 (15 000 – 30 000) people were living with HIV in Belarus at the end of 2011 and that 1 100 people died from AIDS-related causes during 2011.

In 2011, 938 694 HIV tests were performed in Belarus. HIV testing was free of charge and 1 070 facilities across the country provided testing services. According to national HIV testing policies, partner notification was mandatory and anonymous. Pre-educational testing was systematically carried out, as were tests in relation to pregnancy, adoptions, imprisonment, marriage, invasive medical treatment, employment and education. HIV testing in Belarus was systematically performed for blood donors, people who inject drugs, street children, long-term visa and residence seeking people, refugees and nationals returning home from long-term residency abroad. All tests were reported to be preceded by counselling.

The estimated number of people who inject drugs in Belarus in 2010 was 50 000. Both needle and syringe exchange programmes (NSP) and opioid substitution therapy are available to them. In 2010, the number of syringes per person who inject drugs distributed by NSP was estimated to be 46.5 and the percentage of people who inject drugs receiving OST was estimated to be 0.9%.

As of 2011, 3 223 people were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) at 343 facilities across the country. The estimated ART coverage in 2010, based on 2010 WHO guidelines, was 51% (33%-75%).

### Sources:

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