

## KEY FACTS ON HIV EPIDEMIC IN THE NETHERLANDS AND PROGRESS IN 2011

(pop. 16 730 348)

By the end of 2011, the Netherlands had reported a cumulative total of 19 632 HIV cases to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC); they reported that 3 552 of these cases had developed AIDS and 296 had died. For the year 2011, 1 019 HIV cases, 186 AIDS cases and zero deaths among AIDS cases were reported. The rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections in 2011 was 6.1 per 100 000 population. Of the newly reported infections with information about transmission mode in 2011 (91%), 28.5% were infected through heterosexual contact, 70.8% through sex between men, 0.4% through injecting drug use and 0.3% through mother-to-child transmission. The majority (85%) of newly diagnosed cases were male. In total, 242 mother-to-child transmission cases have been reported in the Netherlands, including 3 in 2011.

Taking undiagnosed infections into account, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO estimate that 25 000 (20 000 – 36 000) people were living with HIV in the Netherlands in 2011 and that less than 200 people died from AIDS-related causes during 2011.

Surveillance data indicate that HIV testing is becoming more widespread. This may be interpreted as an achievement attributable to the range of efforts that seek to stimulate HIV testing. These efforts include communication about the value of testing and maintenance of low-threshold access to HIV testing, in particular for high risk groups. HIV testing is systematically preformed for blood donors, people who inject drugs starting treatment, sexually transmitted infection patients and prospective adoptive parents. In 2004, universal HIV screening of pregnant women in the Netherlands was initiated (based on an opt-out strategy).

In June 2011, 18,735 patients at HIV treatment centres in the Netherlands were registered by the Stichting HIV Monitoring. The number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) increased from 4 055 in 2002 to 11 780 by December 2010, of which 80% were men. As of December 2010, 29 facilities in the country were providing ART.

### Sources:

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