

ITALY

(pop. 60 340 328)

HIV case reporting in Italy covered 18 of the country's 22 regions in 2010 – an increase from 10 regions covered in 2004-2006, 13 in 2007 and 15 in 2009. Data have been reported to the European level for the years 2004 – 2010 only. AIDS reporting, which began in 1982, covers the entire country. By the end of 2010, Italy had reported a cumulative total of 14 438 HIV cases, 57 375 AIDS cases, including 35 077 people who had died to the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). For the year 2010 alone, 2884 HIV cases, 718 AIDS cases and 66 deaths among AIDS cases were reported. The rate of newly diagnosed HIV infections in 2010 was 5.9 per 100 000 population. The rate is adjusted to the corresponding population size of the reporting regions (49 243 752 in 2010). The reported rate (adjusted to population sizes) has decreased since 2003 (8.7), however this may be due to variation in regional infection rates altering the overall rate. In 2010, of HIV infections with known transmission modes (88%), 58% of were infected through heterosexual contact, 36% through sex between men and 5% through injecting drug use. The majority (74%) of HIV cases in 2010 were male. Italy has reported a cumulative total of 75 mother-to-child transmission cases, 8 of which occurred in 2010.

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 14 438 reported HIV infections under which correction the cumulative number of people ever diagnosed with HIV in Italy could be adjusted upwards to about 68 000 cases.

Taking undiagnosed infections into account, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO estimate that 140 000 people were living with HIV in Italy in 2009 and that less than 1000 people died from AIDS-related causes during 2009.

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 was systematically offered to sexually transmitted infection patients and blood and tissue donors as of 2010.

In 2008, an estimated 95 000 people were receiving antiretroviral therapy in Italy.

Sources:

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