



HIV/AIDS Today

Vol. 1, Issue 16: May 2, 2008

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

This week's edition of HIV/AIDS Today reviews the impact of the epidemic in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

THE STATE OF THE EPIDEMIC IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

The region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia includes countries such as the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Young people aged 15 to 24 make up almost one third of the new HIV infection diagnoses in 2006. The majority of those infected with HIV in this age group live in the Russian Federation or Ukraine. Overall, in 2006, these two countries accounted for approximately 87% of all new reported HIV infections in the region.¹

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND UKRAINE

The number of registered new HIV cases has been increasing in the Russian Federation, after a decline between 2001 and 2003. Including the 39,000 new HIV diagnoses made in 2006, the total number of registered HIV cases in 2006 was 370,000.

Since 2001, annual HIV diagnoses in Ukraine have more than doubled. 16,094 new HIV diagnoses were registered in 2006, and more than 8,700 new HIV diagnoses were registered in the first six months of 2007. Southeastern Ukraine and the capital city of Kiev account for more than 70% of all HIV cases in the country.

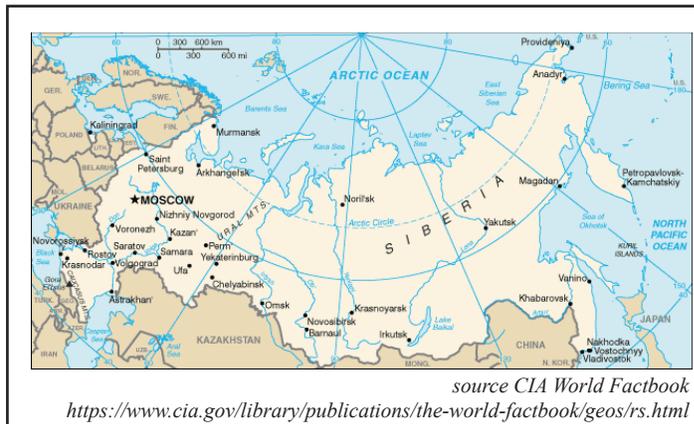
TRANSMISSION OF HIV/AIDS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Injection drug use is the dominant mode of transmission in Russia, where it is responsible for approximately two-thirds of known HIV cases in 2006. Injection drug use is also the principal driver of neighboring countries' HIV epidemics. In Ukraine, HIV prevalence among injecting drug users ranged from 10% in Lugansk to 89% in Krivoi Rog. Studies conducted in Belarus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan have demonstrated that HIV prevalence among injecting drug users is increasing.

Unprotected heterosexual intercourse is the second leading mode of HIV transmission in the region. In 2006, one-third of identified HIV cases in Russia were attributed to unprotected heterosexual intercourse, as were more than half of HIV infections reported in the Republic of Moldova in that same year.

HIV prevalence among sex workers in Ukraine varied by city, from 4% in Kiev to 27% in Mikolayev. In Tajikistan, the HIV prevalence among the same population rose from 0.7% in 2005 to 3.7% in 2006.

Recent studies now show that transmission among men who have sex with men is also a contributing factor to the region's epidemic. In Ukraine, the HIV prevalence rate among men who have sex with men ranges from 4% in Kiev to 23% in Odessa.



source CIA World Factbook
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rs.html>

ENDNOTES

¹ All information in this fact sheet is from the World Health Organization and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), *AIDS Epidemic Update, December 2006* (2006) (online at http://data.unaids.org/pub/EpiReport/2006/2006_EpiUpdate_en.pdf) and World Health Organization and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), *AIDS Epidemic Update, December 2007* (2007) (online at http://data.unaids.org/pub/EPISlides/2007/2007_epiupdate_en.pdf).