

HIV infection: Latest epidemiological data, October 2017

HIV surveillance in Greece is mainly operated through the mandatory HIV, AIDS and death reporting system. HIV and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Office of the Hellenic Center for Disease Control and Prevention is monitoring this epidemic.

According to the mandatory notification system, by October 31st, 2017, 16,527 cases of HIV infection (82.75% men) have been registered at KEELPNO. Of these, 4,083 are AIDS cases and about 9,500 are on antiretroviral therapy. The total number of deaths is 2,746.

During the first ten months of 2017, 492 cases of HIV (4.5 per 100,000 population) were diagnosed and reported to KEELPNO, of which 403 (81.91%) were men, 87 (17.68%) were women and 2 (0.41%) were transgender people. New HIV diagnoses per 100,000 for the same time period have been reduced compared to previous years and are close to pre-epidemic levels (Figure 1).

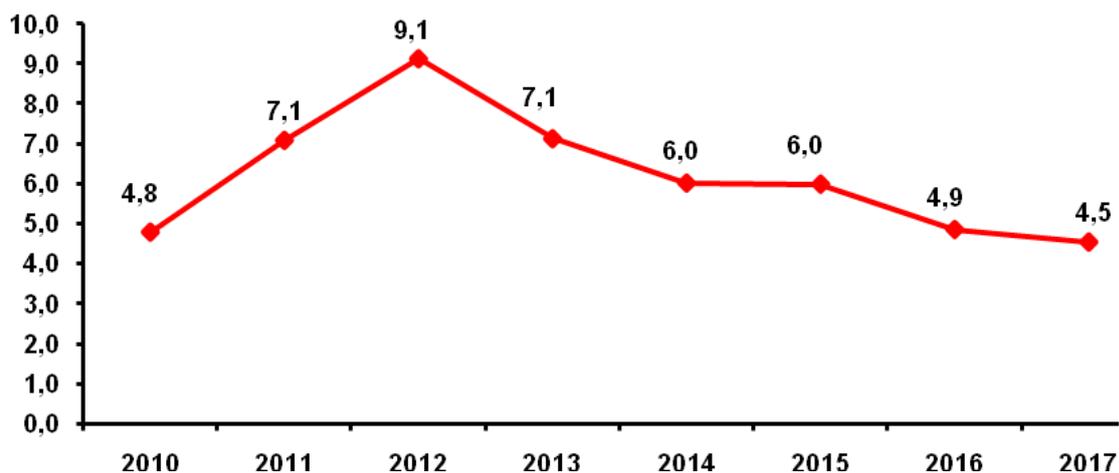


Figure 1. HIV new diagnoses per 100,000 population (January-October 2010-2017).

New diagnoses analysis by age group of the last 8 years, showed 30-39 years old as the predominant age group, whilst an increase has been emerged at new cases of groups aged 40-49 and 50-64 years. A decline was found for the 19-29 age group (Figure 2).

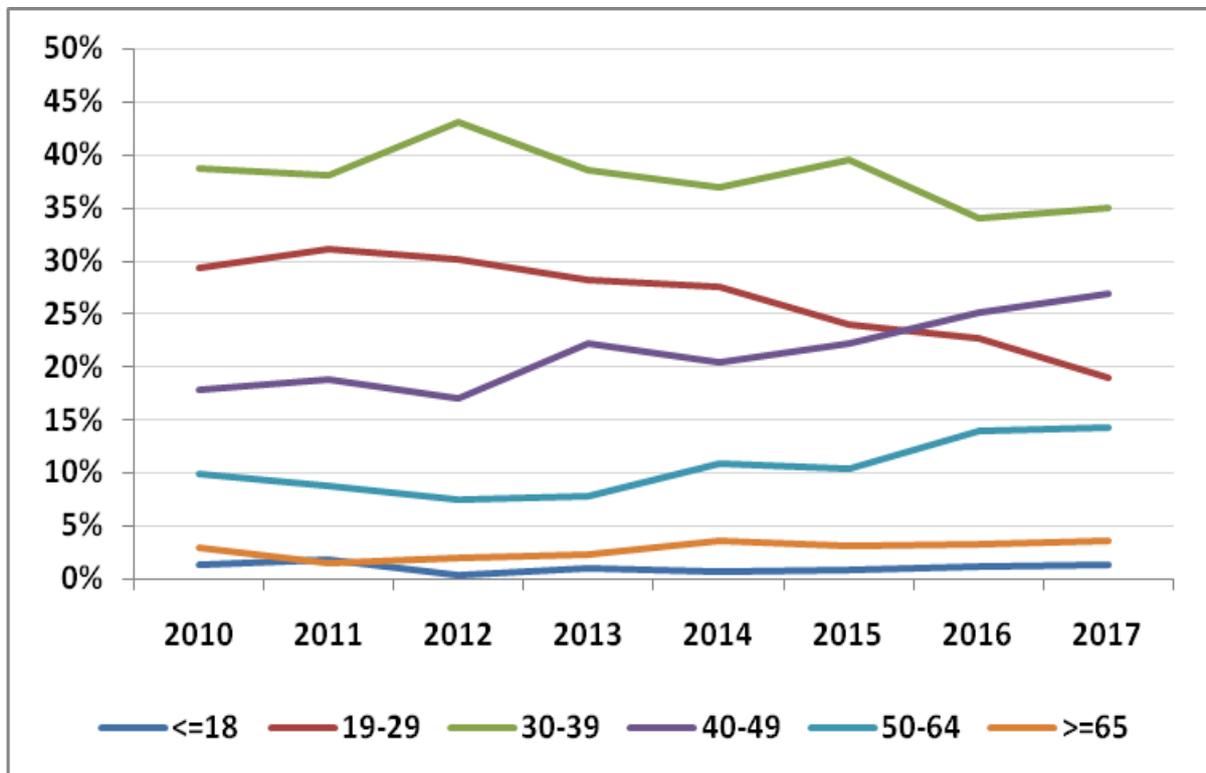


Figure 2. New HIV diagnoses percentage distribution by age group (January to October 2010-2017).

In the period 2011-2013 (Table 1), there was a significant increase of HIV infection among people who inject drugs in Greece (PWID). From 2014 has been reported a downward trend and most of the incidents reported to KEELPNO, related to people who were infected through unprotected sexual intercourse, especially among men who have sex with men (MSM). In the first ten months of 2017, sex between men accounted for 45.93%, followed by heterosexual transmissions (22,56%) and infections attributed to injecting drug use (13,41%). Moreover, no case of mother to child transmission was reported (Table 1).

Table 1. HIV cases by year of diagnosis (January-October of each year) and by transmission mode.

Transmission mode	Year of diagnosis (1 st January to 31 st October)							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Sexual contact between men (%)	326 (61,05)	293 (37,14)	295 (29,12)	336 (42,80)	332 (50,46)	370 (56,75)	246 (46,95)	226 (45,93)
Use of intravenous addictive substances (%)	20 (3,75)	250 (31,69)	485 (47,88)	251 (31,97)	103 (15,65)	80 (12,27)	81 (15,46)	66 (13,41)
Heterosexual intercourse (%)	101 (18,91)	137 (17,36)	129 (12,73)	101 (12,87)	121 (18,39)	108 (16,56)	117 (22,33)	111 (22,56)
Unspecified (%)	85 (15,92)	104 (13,18)	104 (10,27)	96 (12,23)	101 (15,35)	94 (14,42)	77 (14,69)	88 (17,89)

In conclusion, in Greece, after the huge outbreak of HIV infection among PWID in 2011-2013, the last four years a decrease in new HIV infections has been observed among the above mentioned group and the total population as well. Most of the transmissions are attributed to unprotected sexual intercourse, as it used to be, before the 2011-2013 epidemic, especially between MSM. The declining trend of HIV diagnoses during the first ten months of 2017 should be interpreted with caution as the collection of data is in process.

HIV and STI's office