

Metadata – HIV Detection rate

Description	<p>Number of new HIV infections detected and registered in a given calendar year</p> <p>Rates of new HIV infections registered in a given calendar year per 100,000 population.</p>
Rationale	<p>HIV is one of the most important communicable diseases in Europe. It is an infection associated with serious morbidity, high costs of treatment and care, significant mortality and shortened life expectancy. It is also a perfectly avoidable infection, since the transmission is largely preventable by behavioural measures (safe sex, safe injection). Therefore its incidence in a defined population is an indicator of the success/failure of health promotion. It is also an indicator of the ECHI shortlist [1].</p> <p>As the true incidence rate cannot be known, the detection rate is used as a proxy of the incidence.</p>
Primary Data source	Sciensano : National Surveillance Program of HIV/AIDS
Indicator source	Sciensano: National Surveillance Program of HIV/AIDS for national detection rates
Periodicity	Yearly
Technical definitions	<p>A case of HIV infection is defined according to the European HIV and AIDS surveillance case definitions. In Belgium, a case must be confirmed in one among the 7 references laboratories. The reference labs report the case to the national surveillance system (Sciensano HIV-AIDS Surveillance Program).</p> <p>European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) and the WHO Regional Office for Europe jointly coordinate HIV/AIDS surveillance in Europe. The surveillance data on HIV and AIDS diagnoses are collected and submitted annually by the national HIV/AIDS surveillance programs in the Member States to The European Surveillance System (TESSy).</p>
Calculations	<p>The detection rates are calculated as the number of newly diagnosed cases registered in the National Surveillance System in a given year, divided by the mid-year population of the same year.</p>
Limitations	<p>As the HIV infection remains asymptomatic for a long period, people are not necessarily aware of being infected, and can live for a while before developing symptoms and consulting a physician for a diagnosis. This results in an under-diagnosis of the existing cases.</p> <p>People being diagnosed in a given year can already be infected for several years. The actual year of infection is often not known. Therefore, the reported rates are not incidence rates but diagnostic rates.</p>
International comparisons	<p>Availability: yes</p> <p>The international comparability of the notification rate is limited, since the national surveillance systems are different between countries. Factors such as underreporting and reporting delay affect the countries figures and their ranking. There are also differences in the way to handle with double registration.</p>

References List

1. European Commission. The European Core Health Indicators (ECHI) shortlist.
https://ec.europa.eu/health/indicators_data/echi_en