MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Public Health Services
Department of TB & AIDS

STAGE OF ISRAEL


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www.health.gov.il/TBAIDS

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In the few cases where patient’s sex was unknown, rates were standardized according to risk behavior and/or country of origin.

* In the few cases where patient’s sex was unknown, rates were standardized according to risk behavior and/or country of origin.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transmission Category</th>
<th>Cumulative Number</th>
<th>Died or Left Israel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. MSM = Men who have Sex with Men</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. IDU = Intravenous Drug User</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Hemophilia</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Other Blood</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Heterosexual contacts:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1 OGE = originating from a country with a “generalized” HIV epidemic</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2 Partners from Categories 1-5.1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3 Sex with HIV not known as 5.1-5.2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4 Source undetermined</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Other/ undetermined</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*UnK= unknown

This brochure reports all HIV/AIDS patients, registered by the Ministry of Health and updated up to 30.6.2003. Since November 1983 it has been mandatory to report all AIDS cases. Cases reported before 1983 were included in the central reporting system, thus all AIDS cases reported in Israel are represented. HIV carriers have been included in the register since May 1986. HIV positive patients diagnosed before 1986 have also since been registered.
As in previous years, we are updating the HIV/AIDS data relating to the recent UNAIDS/WHO guidelines for second generation HIV surveillance (UNAIDS/WHO, Geneva 2000). The figures are based on individual AIDS notification and updated daily by comparing data with the local health districts, HIV laboratories, AIDS treatment centers and the medical insurance schemes.

During the period between 1980 and the end of June, 2003, 3,802 new cases of HIV/AIDS were registered. Subtracting the 791 fatalities and those who left Israel, there remain 3,011 people living with the virus in Israel.

It is presumed that there are about 1,000 HIV infected people who are not aware of their HIV status. Taking this into consideration, the Department of Tuberculosis and AIDS estimates that there are approximately 4,000 people presently living in Israel with the virus.

The Department of Tuberculosis and AIDS detected several trends in national HIV status since the mid-90’s:

1. A slight but steady increase in new cases detected annually in Israel.
2. Increase amongst HIV infected intravenous drug users, especially amongst new immigrants.
3. Increase in the relative portion of women who were born in endemic countries (such as sub-Saharan countries) among all people who are living with the HIV.
4. A mild increase among young people who are infected with the HIV virus (ages 21-29), most of whom originating from endemic countries.
5. A decrease in the death rate among HIV/AIDS patients.

Monitoring the above trends and considering the special health needs of each sub-population at risk, the Department of Tuberculosis and AIDS has initiated the following AIDS prevention activities:

GENERAL POPULATION: encouraging the use of condoms in all sexual activities, with a more targeted approach to women and young adults. The slogan: “AIDS. Once Without is Enough”, along with a short promotional broadcast on the hazards of AIDS was chosen for the annual campaign. Other information channels- an update of the HIV/AIDS Prevention brochure including translation into several languages, upgrade of the Department’s internet site and support for the telephone information open-line.

HOMOSEXUAL COMMUNITY: Safe sex messages in collaboration with non-governmental organizations.

IMMIGRANTS: translation of the HIV/AIDS Prevention brochure into several languages.

INTRAVENOUS DRUG USERS: initiating needle exchange project among drug addicts in order to decrease the extent of blood-born virus infections.

CHILDREN OF HIV INFECTED MOTHERS: a proposal was submitted to include free milk substitutes in the national health basket of services in order to decrease the chances of vertical transmission.

In addition to primary prevention, the Department of Tuberculosis and AIDS is involved in improving health services and social acceptance for people living with AIDS. Such projects are supported by the Department and are implemented by the Israeli AIDS Task Force, District Health Offices and STD clinics.

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