

## Fact sheet on the epidemic of HIV and AIDS in Switzerland

(cases reported until January 31, 2005)

### AIDS cases:

Total number of reports (1983-2004) :	8023
- in the year 2004:	300
- in the year 2003:	282

Total number of death reports received for the AIDS cases:	5531
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Estimated number of newly diagnosed cases in 2004:	210-280
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Transmission groups (cases diagnosed since January 2004):	
- sexual contacts between men	29,0 %
- injecting drug use	16,1 %
- heterosexual contacts	50,8 %
- mother-to-child	0,0 %
- blood transfusions / blood products	1,6 %
- unknown transmission group	2,4 %

Proportion of women (cases diagnosed since January 2004):	30,7 %
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Age groups (cases diagnosed since 2000):	male	female
- children under 13	<1 %	<1 %
- 13 to 29	9 %	19 %
- 30 to 44	57 %	61 %
- older than 44	33 %	20 %

### Trends:

**New AIDS cases:** The number of newly diagnosed AIDS cases has declined between 1995 and 2002. This development is associated with improved therapy (highly active antiretroviral therapies, HAART). After correction for reporting delays, it appears that the number of new AIDS cases has probably been increasing since 2003.

The proportion of cases in the heterosexual transmission group, and hence the proportion of cases in women, has been steadily increasing.

**AIDS deaths:** The number of death reports for persons with AIDS increased until 1994 and has since declined. According to the reports so far received, 117 persons with HIV or AIDS died in 2001. This number represents 17 % of the number reported for the peak year in 1994 (686). The HAART are considered to be the most important factor leading to this decline. After 2001, the number of AIDS related deaths has probably stabilised at around 100 cases per year (reports still incomplete).

### HIV infections:

Positive test results reported since 1985:	27'904
- in the year 2004:	741
- in the year 2003:	756

Estimated number of infected persons since the beginning of the epidemic (including deceased persons):	20'000-30'000
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Estimated annual number of new infections:	750-850
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Dominant transmission routes today:	
- sexual contacts between men	~25 %
- injecting drug use	~12 %
- heterosexual contacts	~61 %
- mother-to-child	<1 %
- blood transfusions / blood products (in Switzerland)	<0,1 %

Proportion of women (positive tests since 2004):	35,7 %
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Age groups (positive tests since 2000):	male	female
- children under 13	1 %	1 %
- 13 to 29	24 %	39 %
- 30 to 44	52 %	48 %
- older than 44	23 %	12 %

### Trends:

The number of newly diagnosed HIV infections was declining in Switzerland between 1992 and 2000. This trend changed in the year 2001, and in 2002, the number of reported positive HIV tests increased by approximately 25 % compared to the previous year.

The two groups which were most affected by this increase were men who have sex with men (72 % of whom were Swiss citizens, 15 % foreigners from European countries) and heterosexuals (35 % of whom were Swiss, 41 % originating from sub-Saharan Africa). In 2003 and 2004, the rate of new HIV diagnoses has stabilised but is still high.

Most new infections occur during sexual contacts (homosexual and heterosexual). Heterosexual contacts have been the dominant transmission route (over a third of all newly diagnosed HIV infections) since early in the nineteen-nineties (over 50 % since 1997). Among heterosexuals, sexual contacts with the following groups were the predominant sources of HIV infection: persons from countries with a generalised HIV epidemic (where the heterosexual transmission of HIV predominates; more than half of these cases concern persons themselves originating from such countries), injecting drug users, persons with a known positive HIV test and occasional partners.