

Present epidemic situation vs. HIV/AIDS in Poland

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HIV and AIDS in Poland

from the beginning of the epidemic in 1985 till the end of 2008

Epidemiological data: National Institute of Hygiene

- 12 068 people living with HIV and AIDS
- Not less than 5 476 infected due to IDU (45%)
- 3 603 patients receive ARV treatment (by end of 2008)
- 2 189 AIDS cases
- 962 cases of deaths due to HIV and AIDS
- 30-35 000 estimated number of people living with HIV and AIDS (more than 20% are women)
- 809 HIV infections newly detected in 2008
- 650 – 800 new HIV infections detected every year

HIV and AIDS in Poland

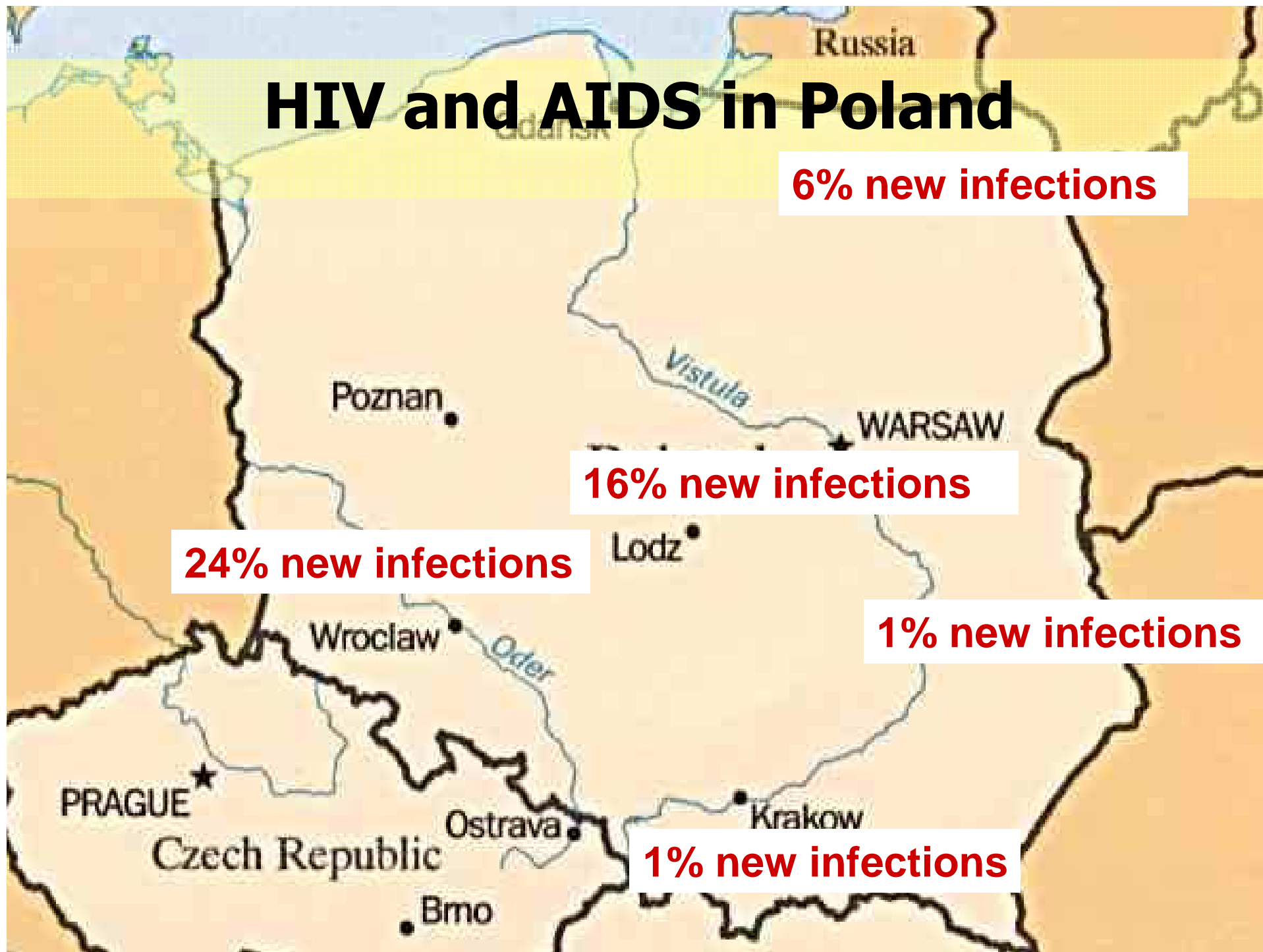
6% new infections

16% new infections

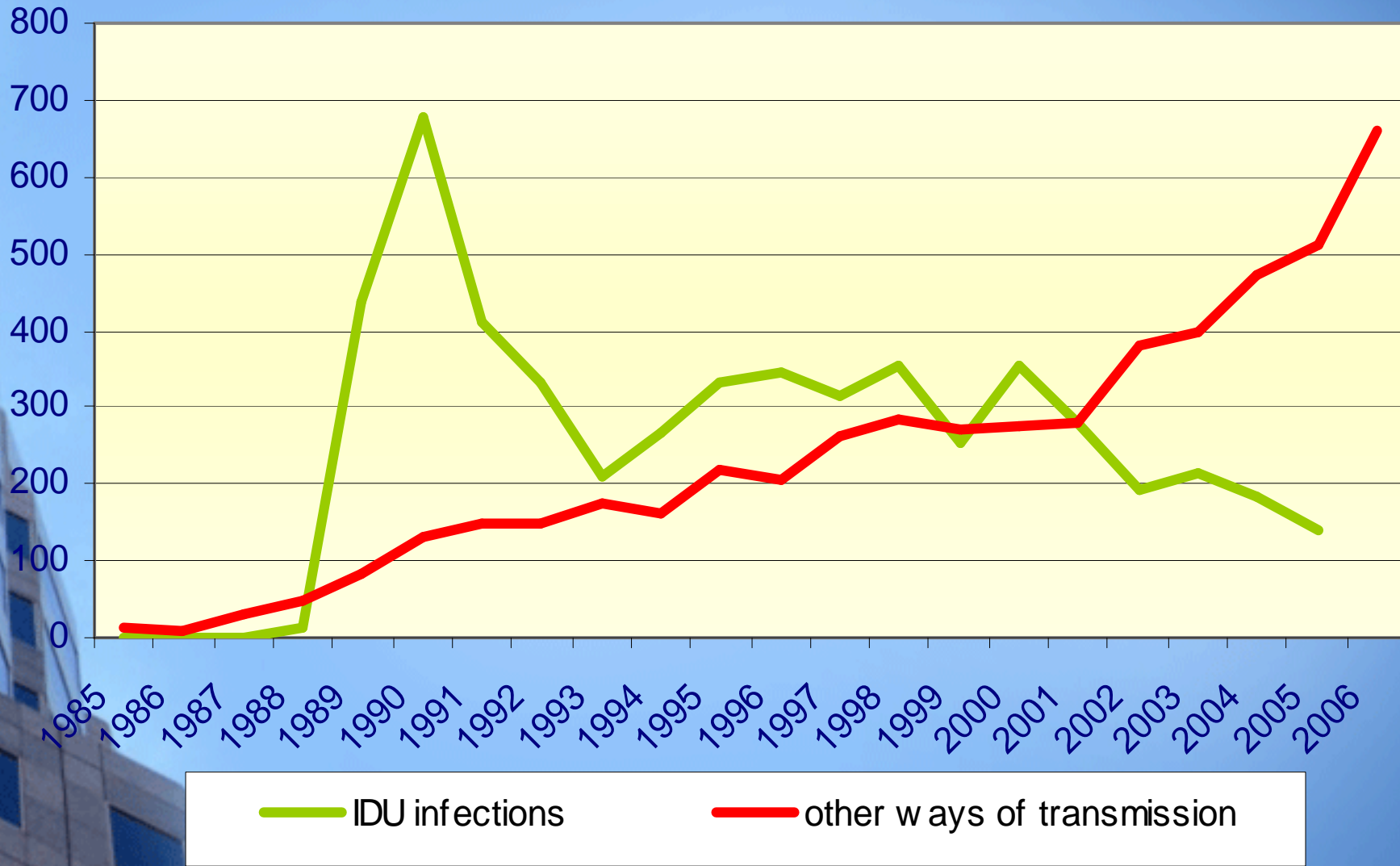
24% new infections

1% new infections

1% new infections



Main ways of HIV transmission



Other facts on the epidemic

- Majority (60%) of infections due to heterosexual contacts;
- Increasing infections among women (20%);
- Increasing rapidly rate of HIV infection due to sexual contacts among young people;
- 36% of infections among 20-29 year old and younger, 37% among 30-39 year old, in 2008;
- Increasing number of infections among MSM (increasing tendency for unsafe sexual behaviors).

National AIDS CENTRE

- The **National AIDS Centre** is an agenda of the Ministry of Health. It disposes of financial resources from the Minister's budget, dedicated to coordinate actions to tackle HIV/AIDS epidemics in Poland.
- The key element of HIV/AIDS policy is the partnership between governmental sector and non-governmental organizations, particularly those assembling PLWHA.
- Centre prepares and periodically updates *The National Programme of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS*.
- The legal basis of National Programme is the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers, 13th of September 2006, (*Dz. U. Nr 189/2005, pos. 1590*)

The National Programme of HIV Prevention, Care for People Living with HIV/AIDS

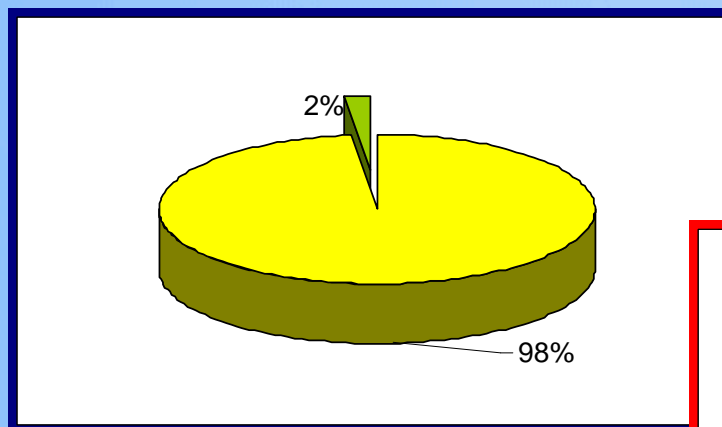
The Programme presents the state's policy on HIV/AIDS and is compatible with:

- The Protocol of World Health Organization on HIV/AIDS
- The Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS on 27 June 2001
- The National Health Programme

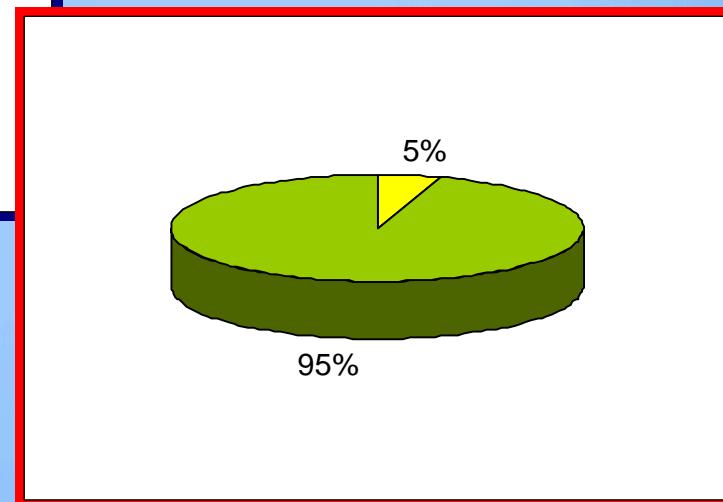
The objectives of the Programme concerns three fields:

- **prevention of HIV infections,**
- **care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families,**
- **ensuring broad access to free of charge ARV treatment and diagnostics.**

Division of resources for HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention in Poland



1994



2008



treatment



prevention

Treatment

The National AIDS Centre distributes antiretroviral medicines, monitors and coordinates their consumption.

Until the end of 2008, 3 603 patients were receiving ARV treatment.

The care and treatment is free of charge. (an annual cost of ARV treatment for one patient is about 10 000 euro)

Patients' data are registered into a specialised database secured by the National AIDS Centre.



Patients in ARV treatment

- 3603 patients
- 2590 men
- 890 women
- 123 children

18 hospitals carrying out ARV treatment for both HIV positive patients and patients with AIDS

ARV treatment available in prisons

ARV treatment

According to European standards patients should be admitted into treatment before they develop symptoms linked to HIV infection, i.e. number of CD4 cells between 350 - 200/ μ l.

In Poland:

- All patients admitted into the ARV treatment on the basis of life-saving indications;
- Are admitted for life;
- Need to be compliant to clinical, immunological indications; also patient's readiness to follow the treatment is estimated;
- Adherence to treatment of pregnant women allowed to limit the vertical transmissions from 23% (before 1989) to below 1% (K. Niemiec, 2007).

Access to treatment and care for migrants

- Foreign citizens who possess valid residence permit and are residing in Poland have the same rights in terms of access to healthcare services as Polish citizens.
- With some countries Poland has signed bilateral agreements on access to health services and people who proceed from those countries are assured medical assistance in cases of emergency.
- However, migrants who come to Poland, in most of the cases proceed from countries that do not have signed such agreements. In such cases they are obliged to pay for medical service.
- It doesn't concern HIV-positive pregnant women, who most of the times during the pregnancy do receive free of charge ARV treatment.

Access to treatment and care for migrants

- **Asylum seekers, refugees in reception centers or incarcerated migrants have the same rights for care and treatment as Polish citizens, and it also includes free of charge ARV treatment.**
- **Every migrant, regardless his residence status – either he remains legally or illegally in Poland - has the opportunity to benefit from anonymous and free of charge HIV testing and pre- and post-test counseling.**
- **However, those who don't have regulated residence situation cannot benefit from the antiretroviral treatment.**
- **Inclusion in the ARV treatment in cases of serious life indications is decided individually by the Ministry of Health. Also only in cases of serious life indications, migrants can be hospitalized, regardless their residence status – even if they remain illegally in the territory of Poland.**

Prevention programmes

A-type: targeting the general population;

B-type: targeting different professional / social groups – where the actions are undertaken in order to improve skills and knowledge in the HIV/AIDS prevention matter

C-type: programmes targeting populations showing higher level of risk behaviours: education kits, tailored info materials, education programmes aiming to change risky sexual behaviours and inviting to testing serological status

D-type: programs addressed to PLWHA and their families: information, psychological and social support, professional activation, rehabilitation for patients on ARV treatment, support of patients with AIDS.

26 VCT centers in Poland



**data from VCT for 2008 (20% of all detected cases)
risk behaviours of service clients having positive HIV test result**

age	< 18		18-19		20-29		30-39		40-49		50-59		> 60		TOTAL
sexe	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
<i>IDU</i>	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	6	1	3	0	1	0	0	17
<i>IDU + hetero.</i>	0	0	1	0	8	10	7	9	1	1	0	1	0	0	38
<i>IDU + homo.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
<i>IDU + bisex.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>heterosexuai</i>	0	0	4	2	12	17	7	9	2	7	1	2	1	2	66
<i>homosexual</i>	0	3	0	1	1	37	0	36	0	11	0	2	0	0	91
<i>bisexual</i>	0	0	0	2	0	6	0	9	0	3	0	1	0	0	21
<i>other</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
<i>No data</i>	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Positive results in total	3		11		99		91		29		8		5		246



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