2nd Meeting on detecting and responding to outbreaks of HIV among PWID

Update on country situation: Italy

Lisbon, 12th October 2012
Information flow concerning drug related Infectious Diseases (HIV, HCV, HBV)
Percent distribution of new HIV diagnoses, by exposure category and year of diagnosis

Source: ISS, COA
Epidemiological update

HIV notifications in PWID

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Comments: 2012 data not yet available
Epidemiological Update

Prevalence of HIV infection and rates of individuals not screened for HIV in DA services: 2000-2011

**Individuals not tested**

- 2000: 60.8%
- Estimate: 69.5%

**HIV prevalence among tested**

- 2000: 15.8%
- Estimate: 8.3%

*Source: Ministry of Health*

- **Total**: 172,211
- **86% male**
- **70% heroin addiction**
- **Returning (~80%)**
- **Trend index**
- **New (~20%)**


www.emcdda.europa.eu
Epidemiological Update

Prevalence of HIV infection among returning DA services clients

Source: Ministry of Health

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Prevalence of HIV infection among **first-time** DA services clients

**Source:** Ministry of Health

www.emcdda.europa.eu
Drug markets

Are there any changes in heroin availability in your country?

Increase □ No Change □ Decrease ✓

Are there any evidence of “new” drugs entering the market, especially methamphetamines? (based on seizure data and/or qualitative data)

• The Italian Early Alert System reports in the last years:
  • 61 Synthetic Cannabinoids
  • 35 Synthetic Cathinones
  • 42 Phenethylamines
  • 80 Molecules, including piperazines, tryptamines, PCP-derivatives, ketamine.

Is there an observed change in injecting stimulant use?

Increase □ No Change ✓ Decrease □
Main challenges

**Surveillance and monitoring:**
A new information system based on individual data (SIND) of patients in DA departments has been approved and is progressively implemented.

**Harm reduction:**
*The national policy on drugs in Italy focuses more on prevention and reduction of chronic drug misuse, rather than harm reduction.*

**Drug treatment for PWID:**
- OST, detoxification, psychosocial interventions

**Collaboration between public health and drug authorities:**
- Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Department of antidrug policies, Politiche Antidroga & Ministry of Health
Thank you!