

# THE DYNAMICS OF HIV TRENDS OF TRANSMISSION IN THE ROMANIAN COHORT



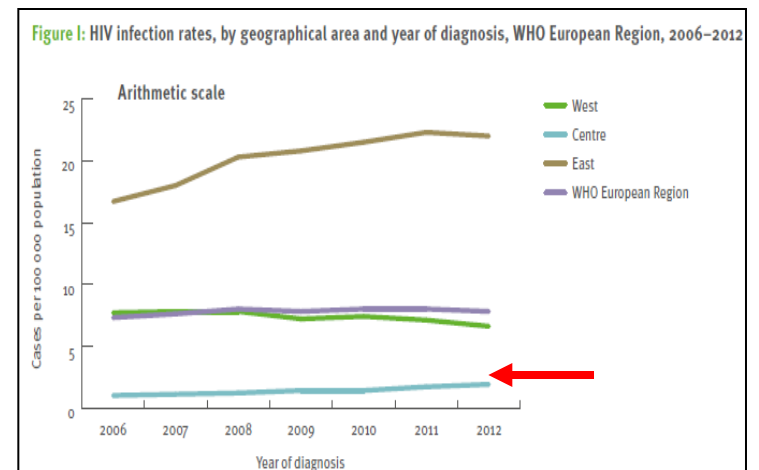
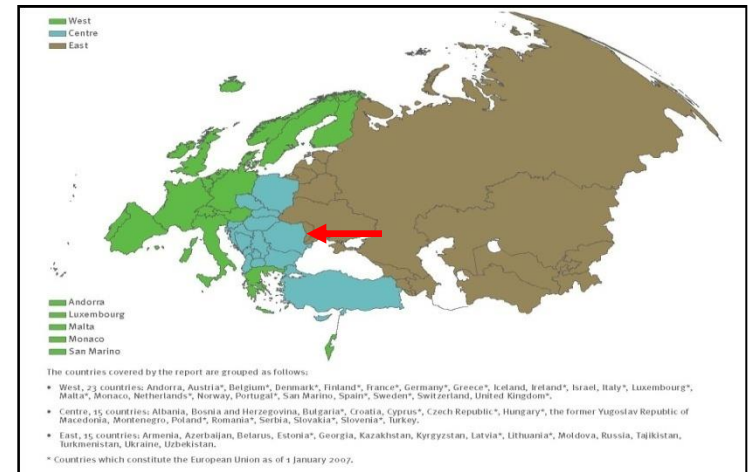
# Background

- Since the early 1990s Romania has made important progresses in the HIV/AIDS area, also recognised by the international community.
- These steps forward concern treatment and care for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and prevention of HIV transmission among young people and vulnerable groups.
- However, the global economic crisis has generated a behavioural change especially among the young population, with an increase of incidence at 2,54/100.000 at 31 December 2013.

# Epidemiology/ key population /trends

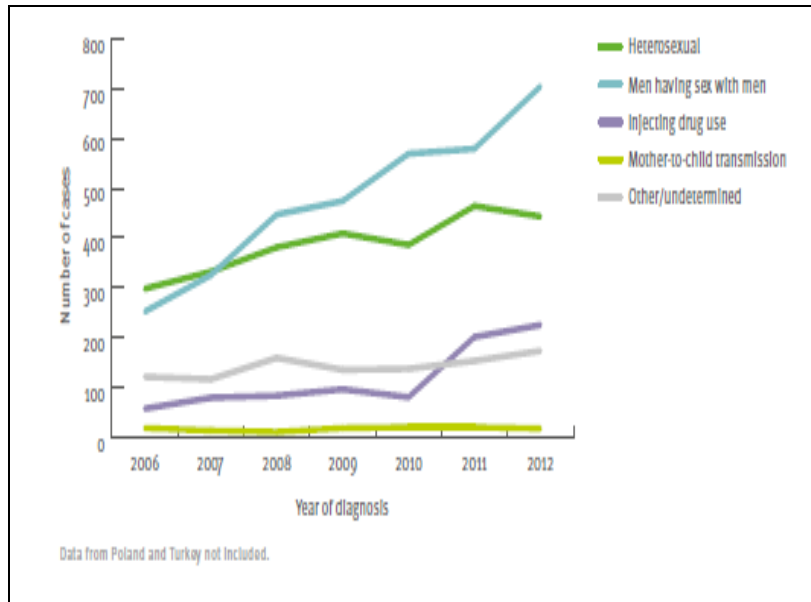
## Romania 2013

- 31 December 2013: **12.273** people living with HIV/AIDS (*19.261 total cumulative number, beginning with 1985*).
- High rate of HIV incidence in children who were infected in the 1980s in Romania.
  - The maximum number of these patients recorded at the beginning of the 1990s'; >90%: sub-type F1.
- Currently, Romania has the largest number of “long term survivors” in the 19–24 age group, who belong to the 1987–1990 , ~ 75% from the “Romanian cohort”.
- During the same period, the HIV incidence rate among the adult population was low. In early 2000 an increase was recorded, due to unprotected heterosexual contact, the main route of transmission for the last decade.
- Since 2011 the new cases of HIV infection acquired through *unsafe sexual contact and IDU* are young people aged 19-29 years, generated by a change in the behavioral pattern.
- MTCT rate has been kept below 5%, thanks to the National PMTCT and HIV Programmes.
- A large number of PLWHA who receive specific ARV therapy in relation to the total number of infected persons (>8000 – 31 December 2013 - out of 10.261 in active surveillance).
- Since the early 1990s, Romania monitors the HIV phenomenon also through testing services provided by County Public Health Authorities (19 risk groups, in 2013 302,898 tests, 0,74% positive tests).

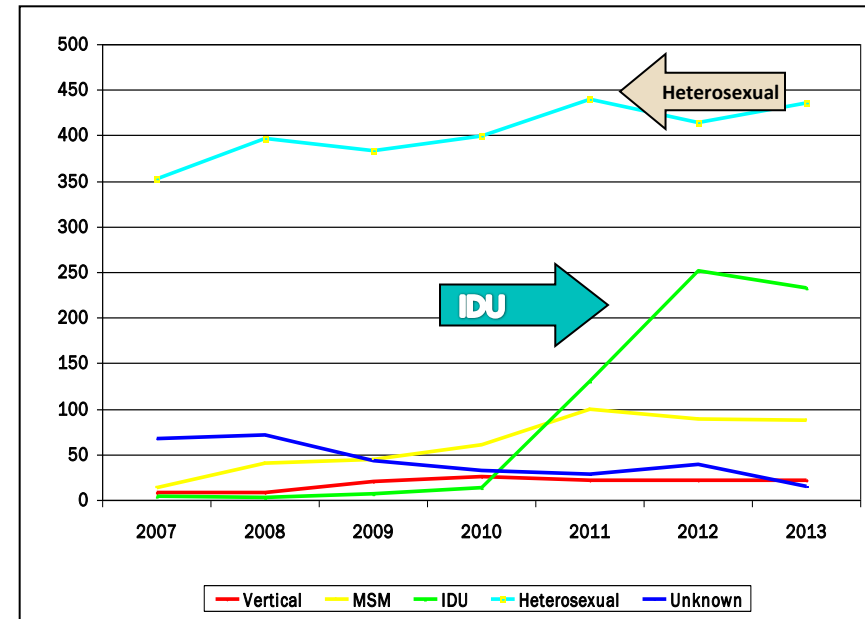


# Epidemiology/ key population /trends Romania 2013 - WHO European Region

TRENDS OF REPORTED HIV INFECTIONS,  
BY TRANSMISSION MODE AND YEAR OF DIAGNOSIS WHO  
EUROPEAN REGION : CENTRE 2006-2012  
ARITHMETIC SCALE



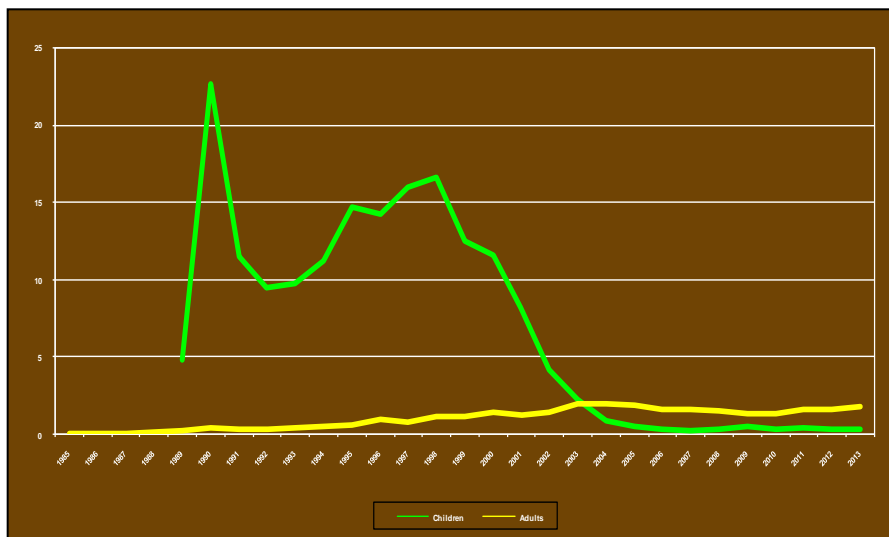
TRENDS OF REPORTED HIV INFECTION,  
BY TRANSMISSION MODES IN ROMANIA  
2007-2013  
ARITHMETIC SCALE



# Epidemiology/ key population /trends Romania 2013

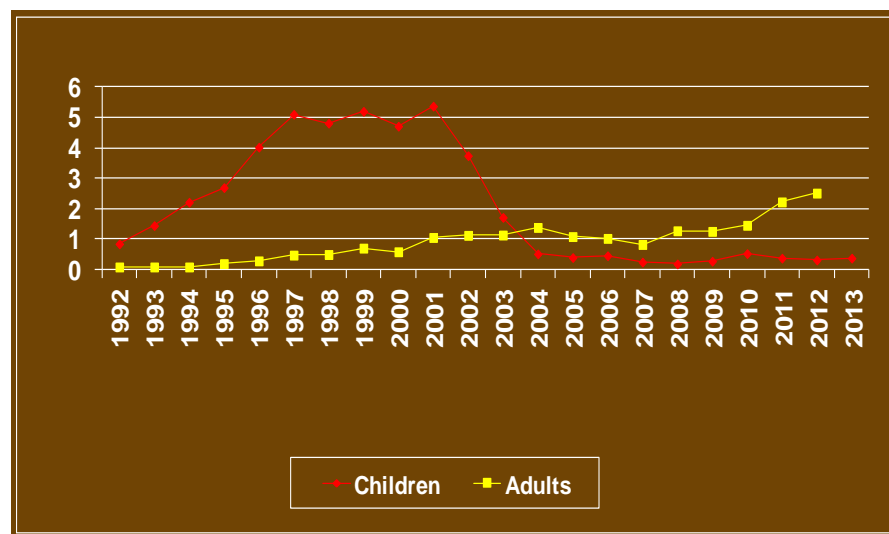
## TENDENCIES IN THE TRANSMISSION ROUTE IN ROMANIA

**AIDS Incidence 1985-2013**  
**(100.000)**



**Children 2013: 0,28/100.000**  
**Adults 2013: 1,74/100.000**

**HIV incidence 1992-2013**  
**(100.000)**

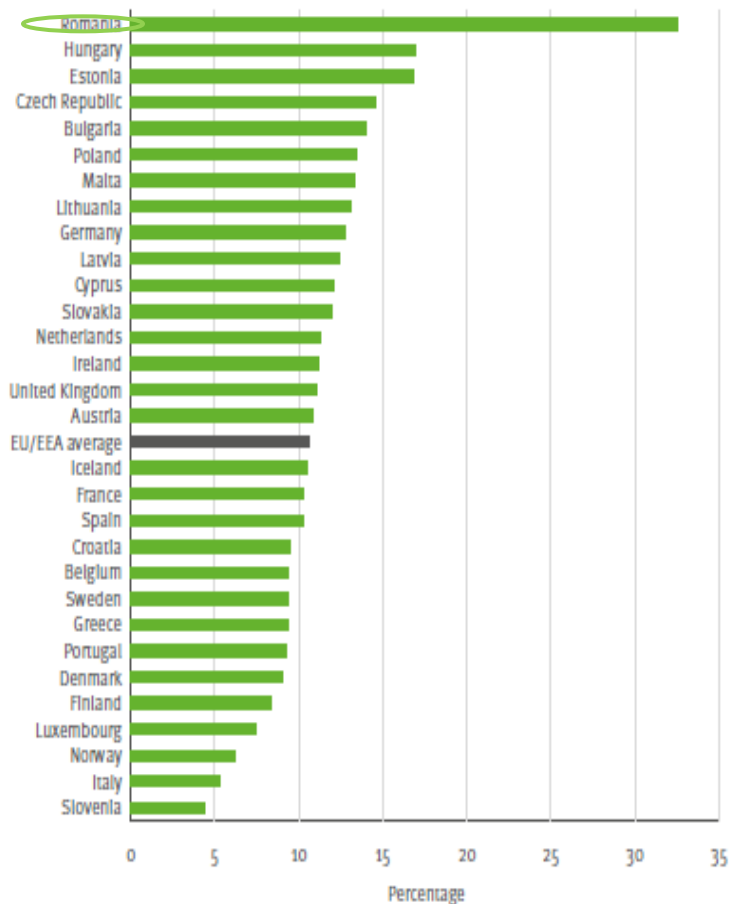


**Children 2013: 0,37/100.000**  
**Adults 2013: 2,54/100.000**

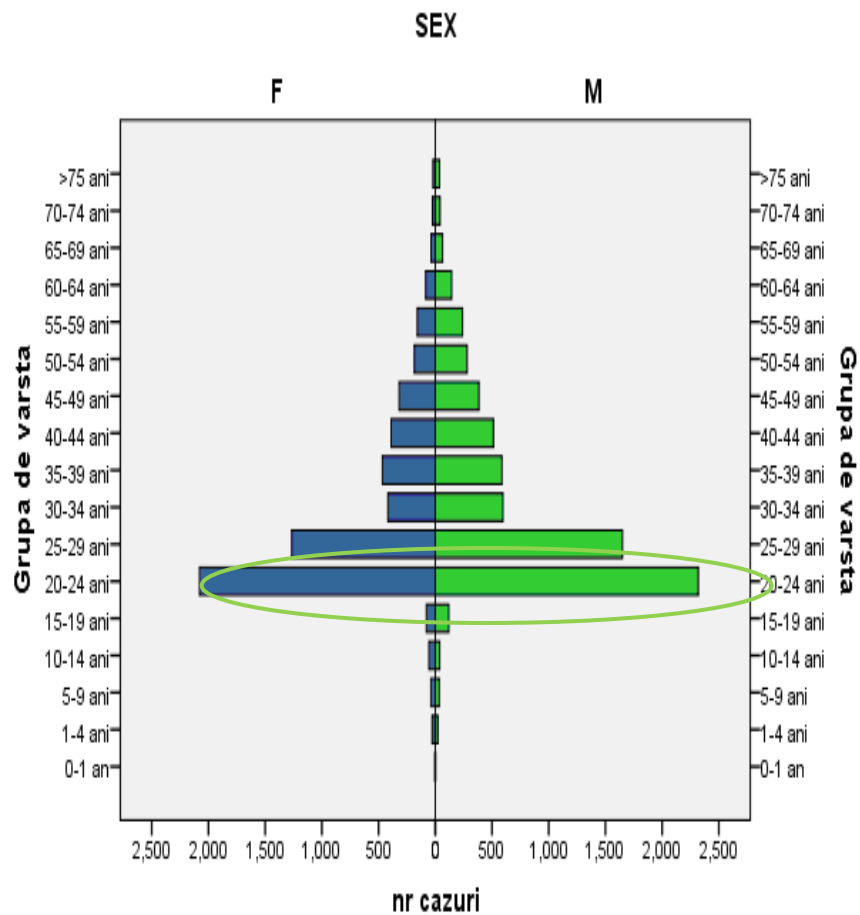
# Epidemiology/ key population /trends

## Romania 2013 - WHO European Region

Percentage of new HIV diagnoses in people between 15 and 24 years old, by country, EU/EEA 2012



Distribution of living patients by age, in the Romanian cohort 2013



Source: ECDC: Surveillance Report. HIV/AIDS surveillance in Europe.

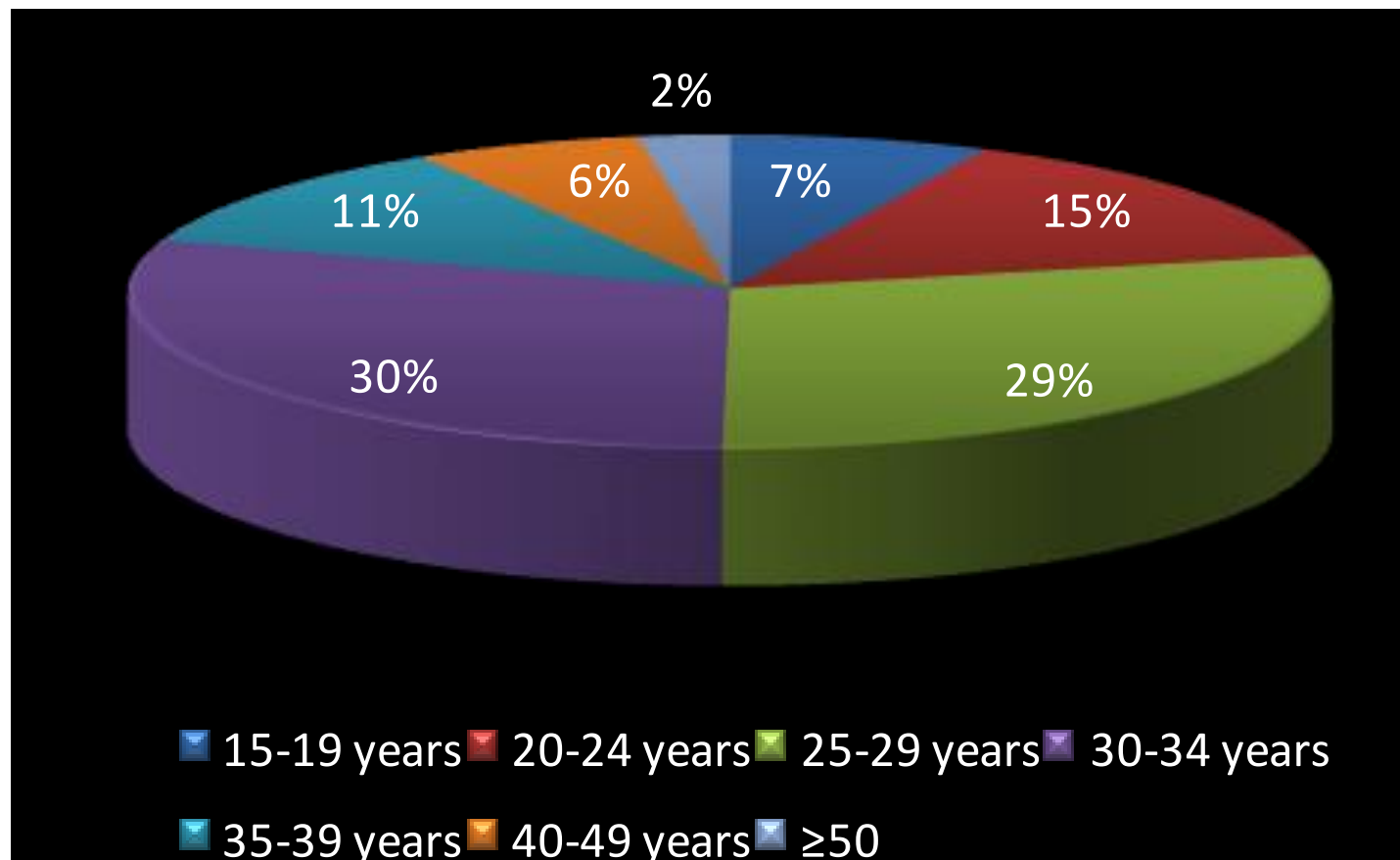
Source: Compartment for Monitoring and Evaluation of HIV/AIDS Data in Romania

## Tendencies in routes of transmission Romania 2007-2013

Route of transmission	31 December 2007	31 December 2008	31 December 2009	31 December 2010	31 December 2011	31 December 2012	31 December 2013
Vertical	8 (2%)	7 (1%)	20 (4%)	25 (5%)	21 (3%)	21 (2,6%)	21 (2,64%)
MSM	14 (3%)	40 (8%)	44 (9%)	60 (11)	95 (13%)	89 (10,8%)	88 (11,04%)
IDU	4 (1%)	3 (1%)	7 (1,4%)	14 (3%)	131 (18%)	252 (30,6%)	233 (29,23%)
MSM/IDU				1 (<0,5%)	5 (1%)	6 (1%)	5 (0,63%)
Heterosexual	352 (79%)	397 (76)	383 (77%)	399 (75%)	440 (61%)	414 (50%)	435 (54,58%)
Unknown	67 (15%)	71 (14%)	43 (8,6%)	32 (6%)	28 (4%)	39 (5%)	15 (1,88%)
Total	445	522	497	531	720	821	797

# Epidemiology/ key population /trends Romania 2013

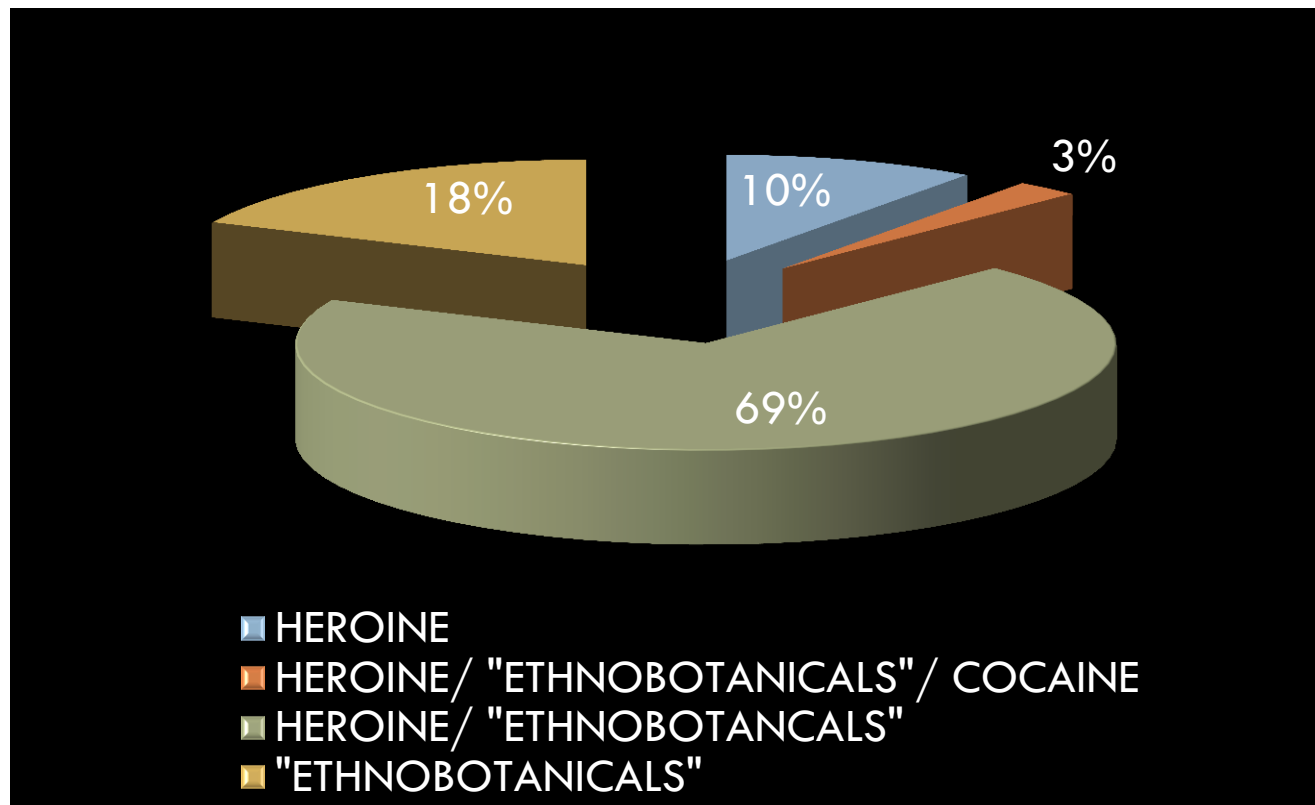
## New cases of HIV infection by I.V. drug use and age , recorded in 2013



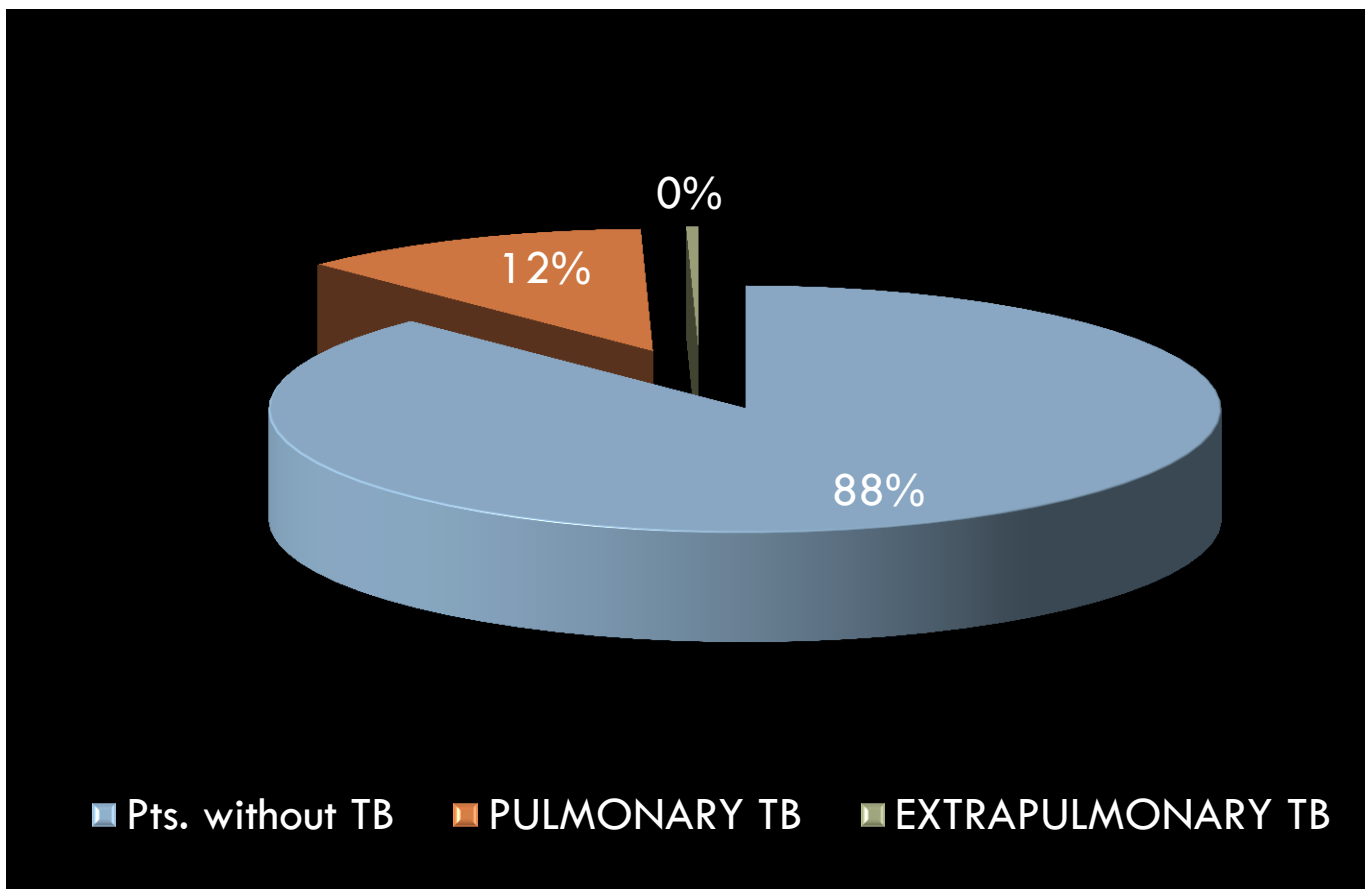


## Epidemiology/ key population /trends Romania 2013

### Drugs declared by HIV/IDU patients recorded in 2013



## Epidemiology/ key population /trends Romania 2013 HIV/TB co-infection in HIV/IDU patients recorded in 2013

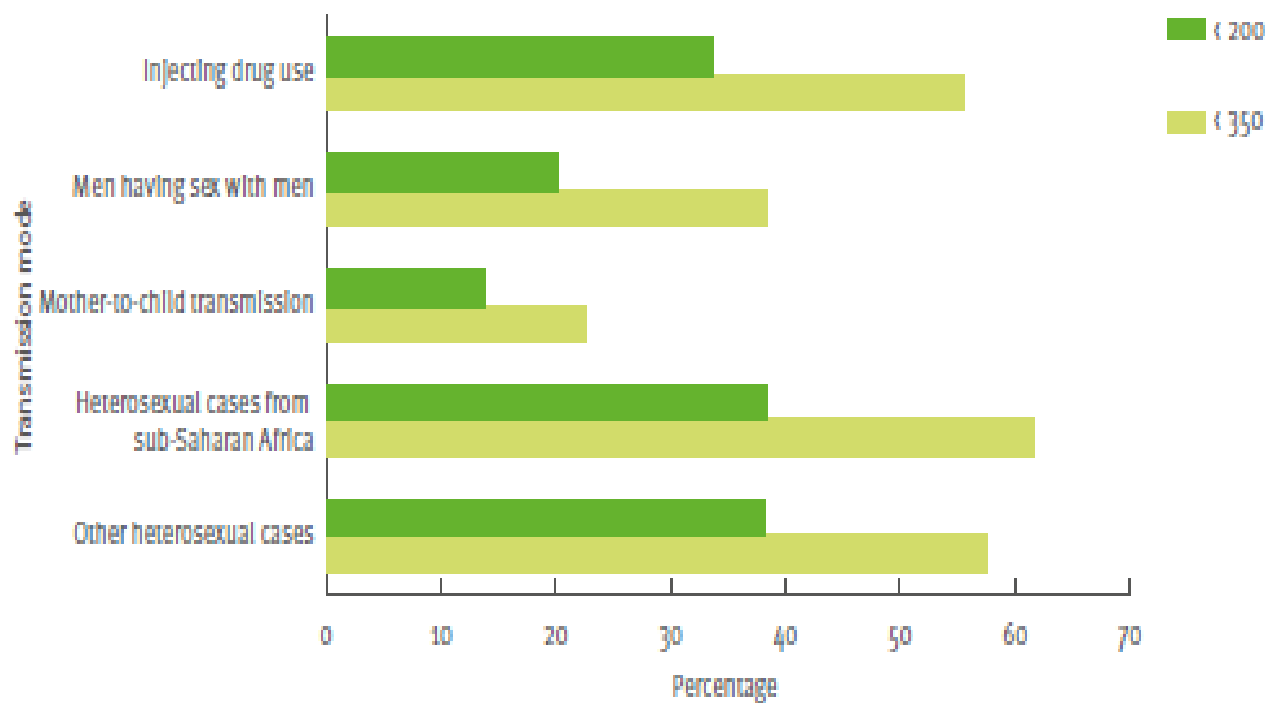


## **Epidemiology/ key population /trends Romania 2013 HBV, HCV, STDs in new HIV/AIDS cases through i.v. drug use**

<b>Tested for</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>AgHBs</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,24%</b>
<b>VHC</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>AgHBs + VHC</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12,03%</b>
<b>STIs</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>14,10%</b>

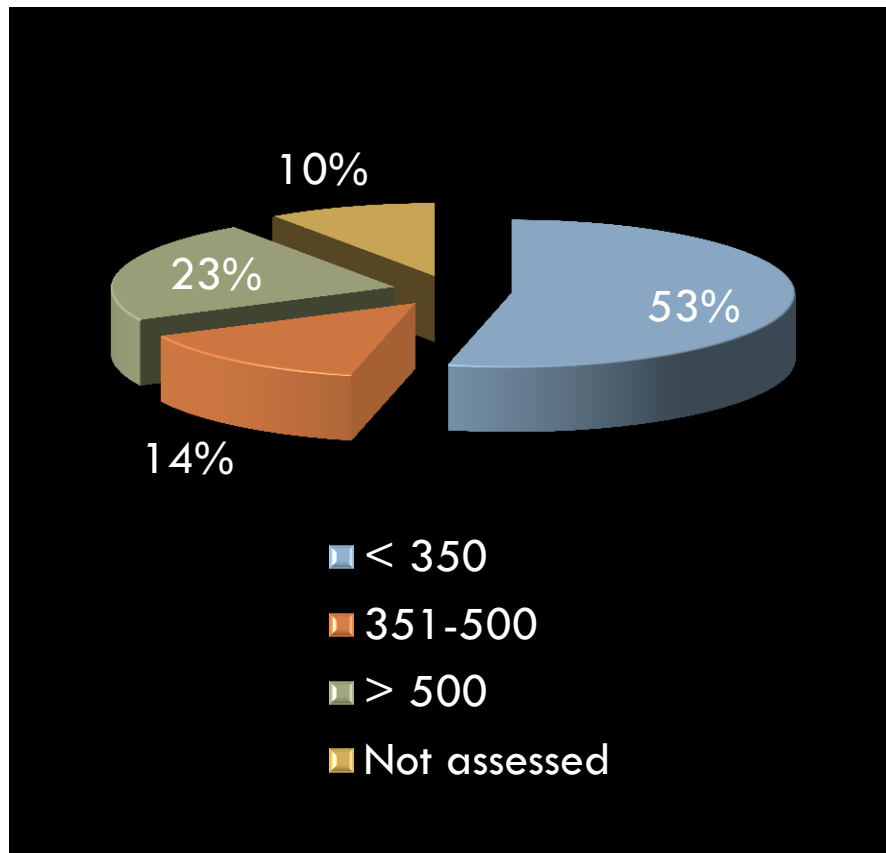
# Epidemiology/ key population /trends - WHO European Region 2012

## Percentage of CD4 count <350/mm and <200/mm by mode of transmission, EU/EEA 2012 (p.4)

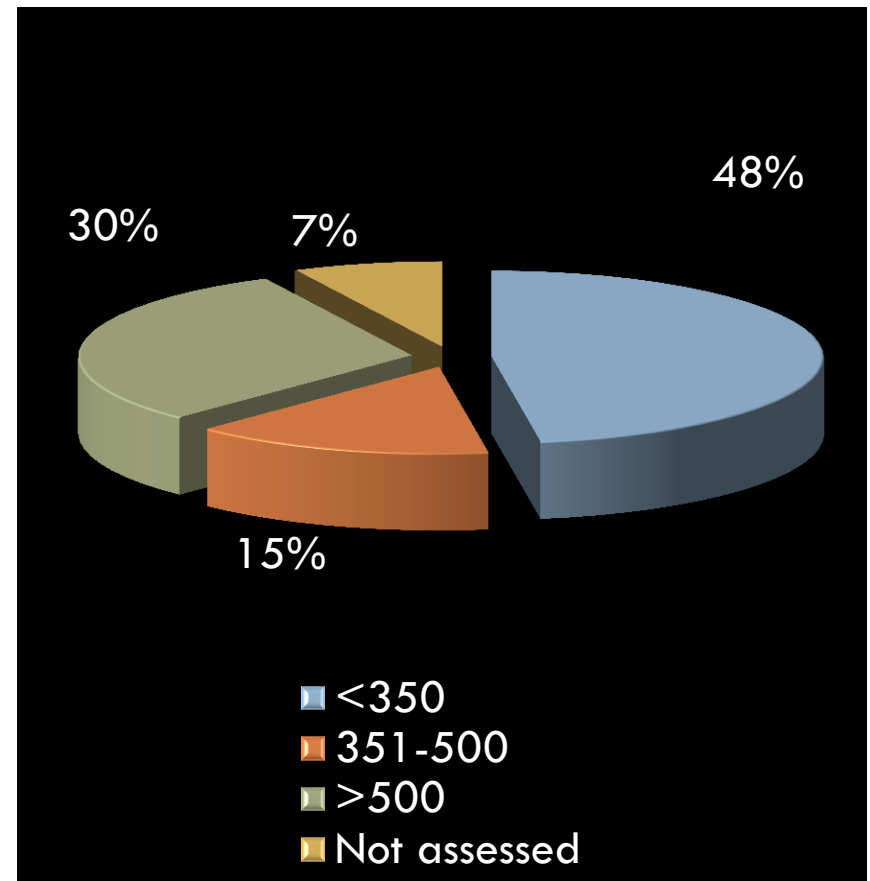


# Epidemiology/ key population /trends- Romania 2013

CD4 values in new HIV/AIDS cases  
at adults- 2013

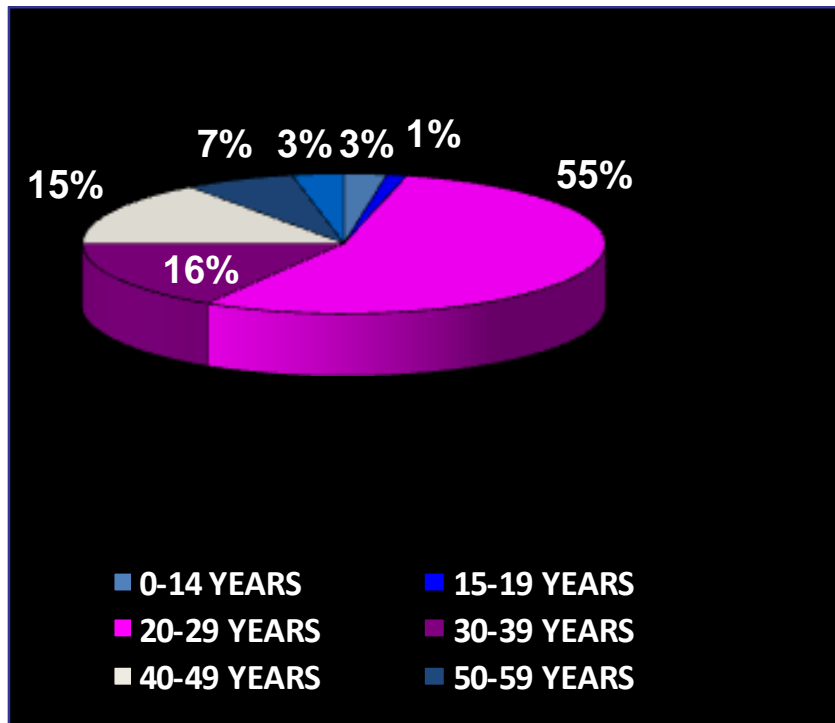


CD4 in IDUs diagnosed with  
HIV/AIDS in 2013

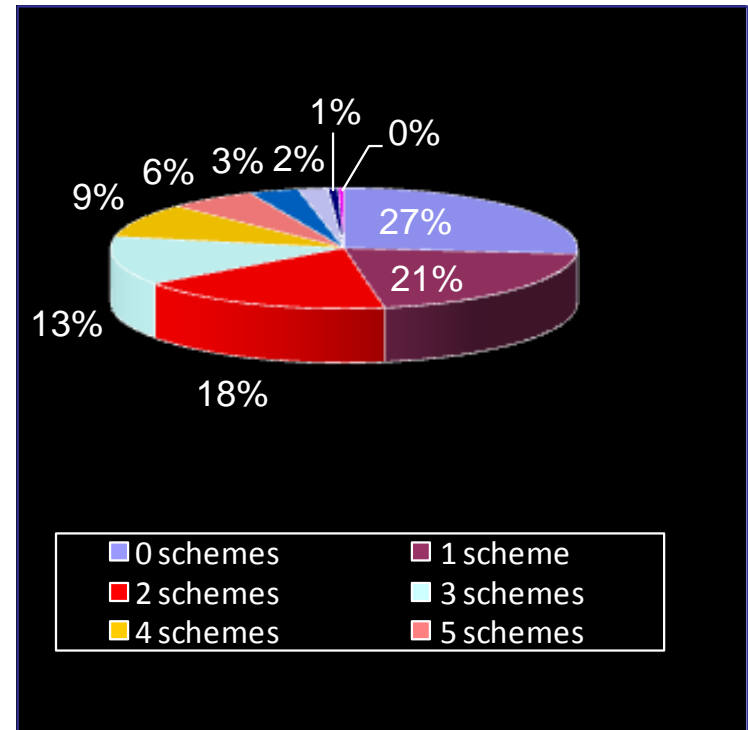


# Epidemiology/ key population /trends Romania 2013

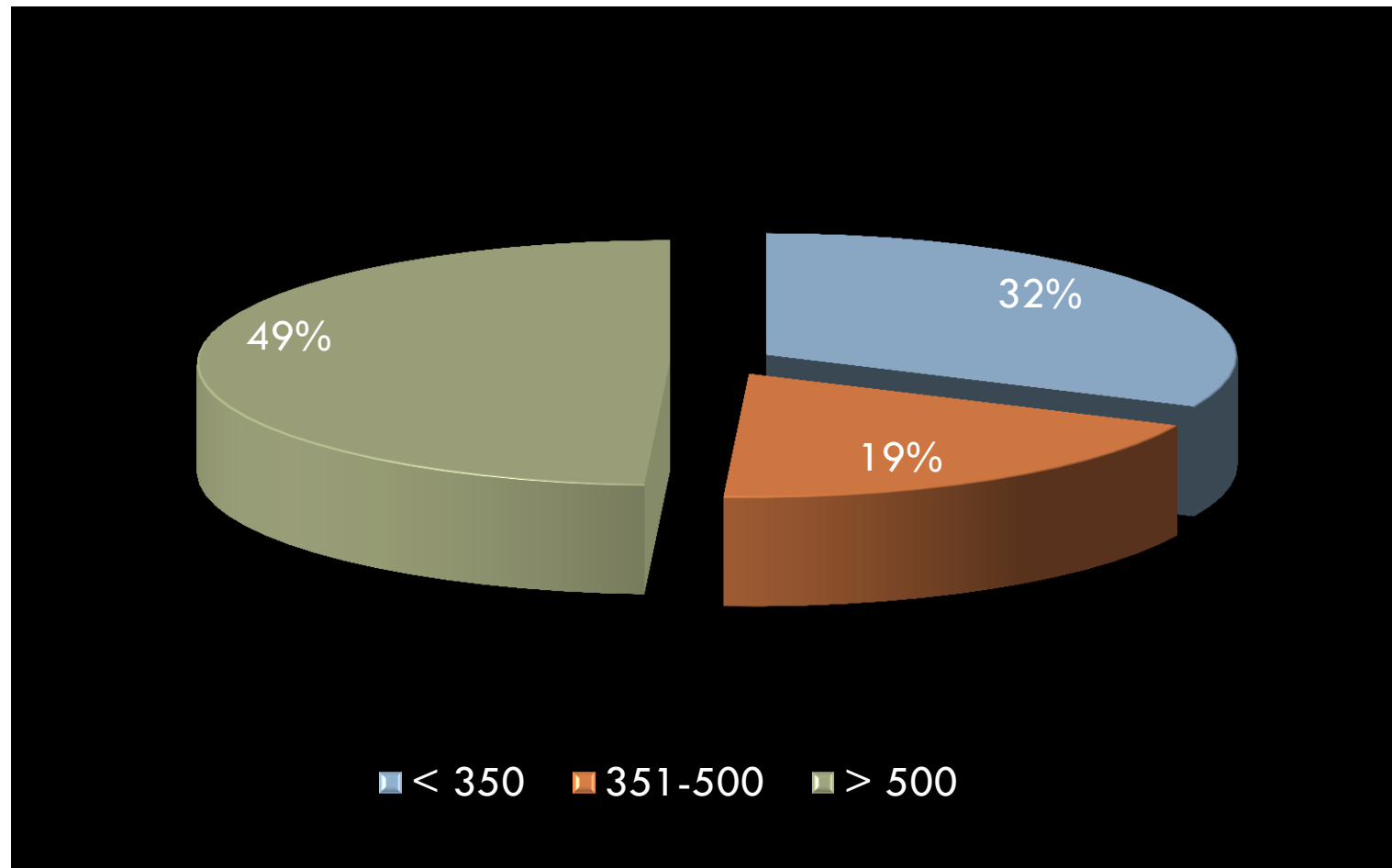
**DISTRIBUTION ON AGE GROUPS  
OF PATIENTS IN ART AT 31 DECEMBER  
2013**



**ADULTS (≥ 15 YEARS):  
NUMBER OF ARV SCHEMES, PRIOR TO THE  
CURRENT ONE**

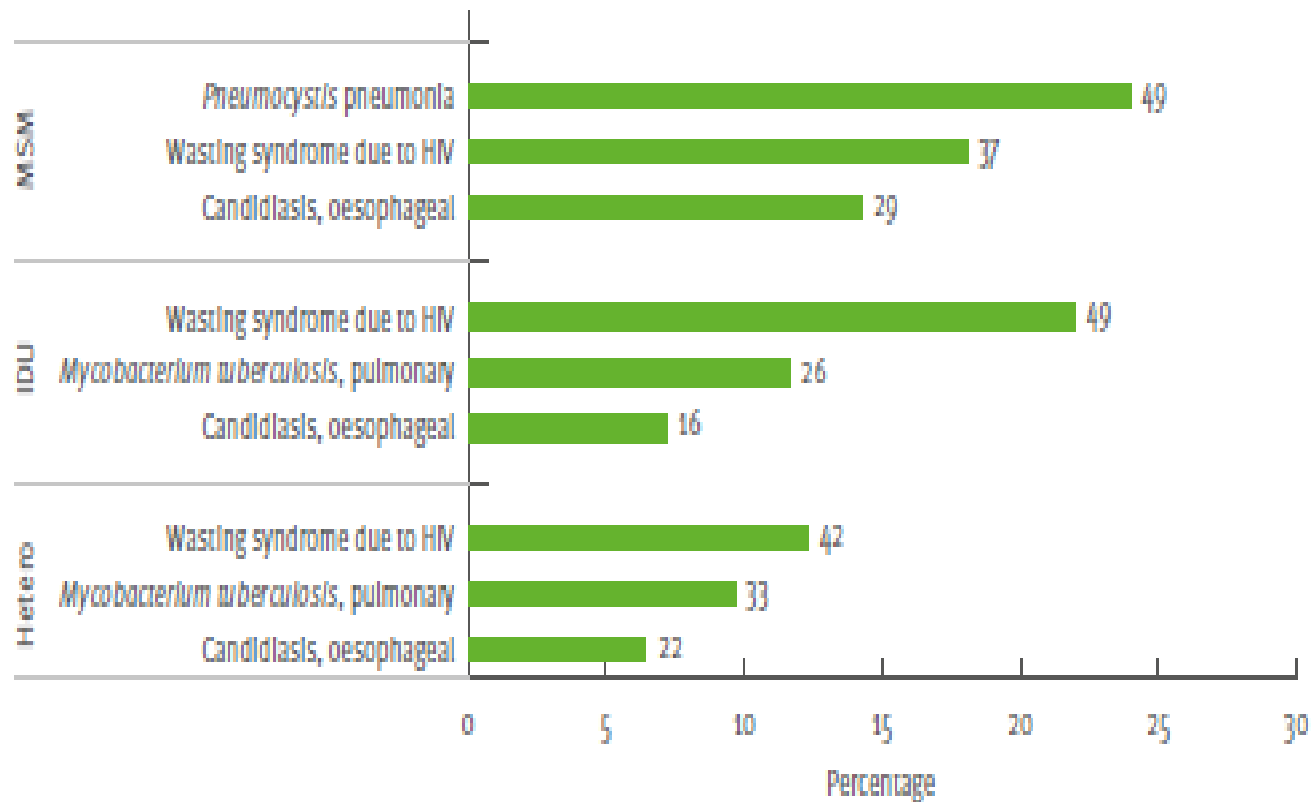


## CD4 values in patients under ART



## Epidemiology/ key population /trends WHO European Region 2012

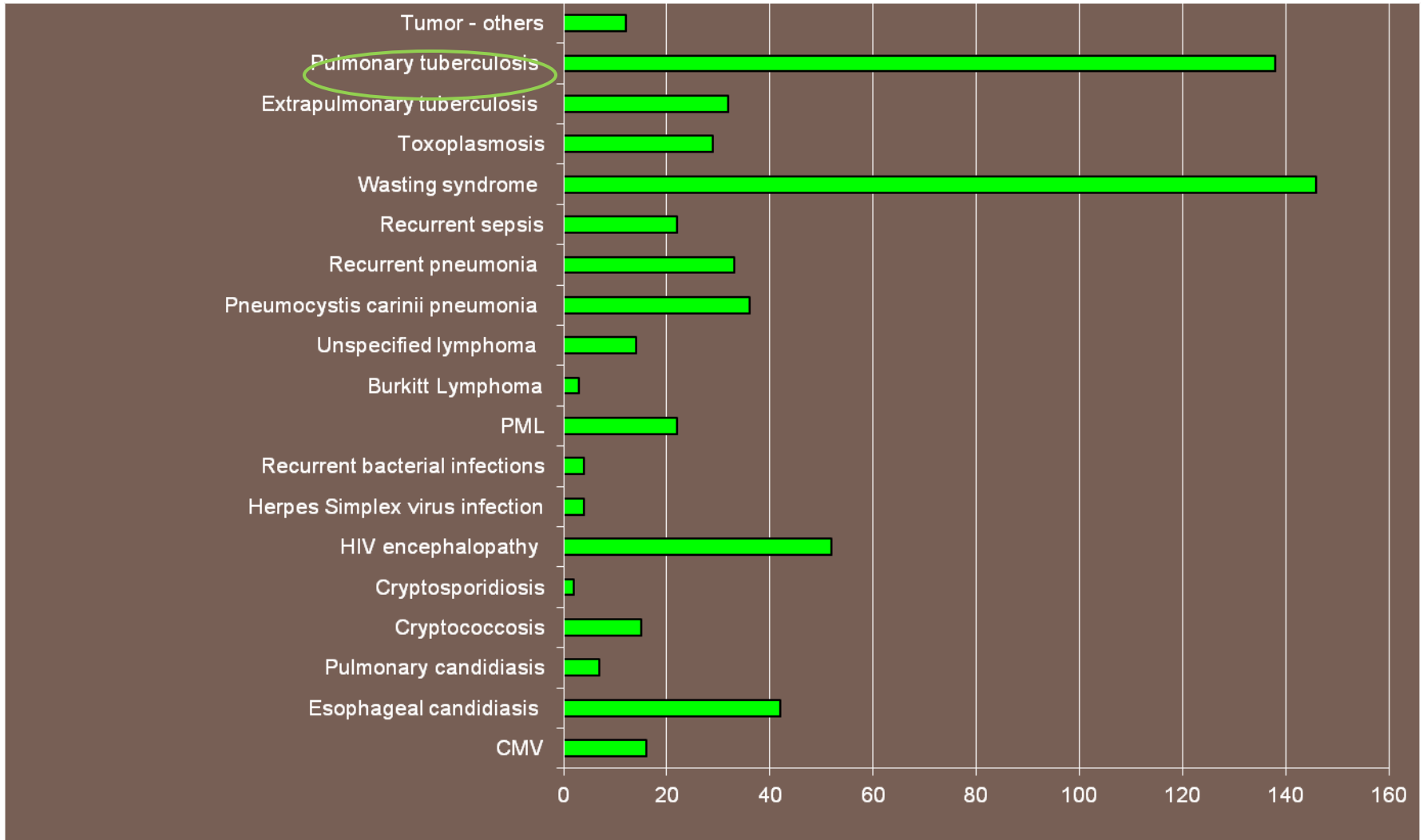
Distribution of the three most common AIDS-indicative diseases per transmission mode, WHO, European Region, Centre, 2012





# Epidemiology/ key population /trends Romania 2013

## AIDS indicative diseases



# Conclusions

- The evolution of HIV/AIDS phenomenon in Romania should be considered in EU context, even if incidence & prevalence place it in Central Europe, with low values of the above mentioned rates.
- ECDC's Surveillance Report 2012 outlined:
  - HIV Infection: a major public health issue for Europe, with specific signs of continuous transmission and no clear evidence of significant reduction of cases.
  - HIV heterogeneous in EU/EEA:
    - Main way of transmission: unsafe sexual contact among MSMs;
    - Significant share of heterosexual transmission cases from countries with generalized epidemic.
    - Continuous transmission among IDUs in Eastern European countries.
    - In Eastern Europe, the predominant route of transmission has shifted from IDU to heterosexual contact.

# Conclusions

- Since 2011, the national response to HIV has weakened as a consequence of the economic. Hence, the new IDU-HIV cases boosted from **14 cases (3%) in 2010 to 233 (29,23%) in 2013**.
- At the same time we detected a growth in the share of children born to women using drugs, including WLHA. For the same category we identified 76.83% HCV co-infections, 11% HBV-HCV co-infections.
- The assessment evinced that late presenters account more than 50% from the new cases, with CD4<350 cell/mm. In addition, 35% of patients in treatment have low CD4 counts-<350 cell/mm (end 2013).
- The rising number of pregnant women, addicted to drugs is directly proportional to the expanding figures of drugs and new drugs users. Cares provided to newborns from mothers who use i.v drugs and new drugs, perinatally exposed to HIV are usually associated with hepatitis B, C and with syphilis.
- Romania needs an upgrade of its national HIV/AIDS policies: broaden access to treatment and integrated services, using ART as prevention measure to avoid HIV transmission among the general population and a strengthened partnership between the medical networks, in order to respond to the emergent HIV trends.

# Key messages

Considering the new local HIV transmission tendencies and in order to limit HIV/AIDS epidemic, Romania opts and pleads, within the European region:

- For an optimal combination of services, treatment and prevention.
- Access of all pregnant women to HIV testing.
- Use of ART as a preventive measure to keep HIV transmission at a low rate, within the general population.
- Access to constant monitoring of ART- immunologic, virologic and resistance test.
- Cooperation and collaboration at European level with respect to the increasing number of I.V. drug users, in order to integrate national efforts within the European tendencies and to benefit of supplementary support.

*Warm thanks to our patients and their parents, long distance runners who have been joining their efforts together with the medical staff, for the past 24 years...*



**The data is collected from the HIV/AIDS charts, sent  
by the  
nine Regional Centers for Evaluation and Monitoring  
of HIV/AIDS Data and by County Public Health  
Authorities, further processed by Compartment for  
Monitoring and Evaluation of HIV/AIDS data in  
Romania, in National Institute for Infectious  
Diseases “Prof. Dr. Matei Bals”**

## References:

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THE 2<sup>ND</sup> CENTRAL EUROPEAN HIV FORUM

**Sibiu**

**29 May 2014**