Incidence & Patient Characteristics

- In 2018, 687 new HIV cases were diagnosed (males: 82%)
- MSM accounted for 40% of new infections, followed by heterosexual transmissions (22%) and people who inject drugs (PWID) (15%)
- One out of 5 new infections were of undetermined route of transmission
- From those with available CD4 at baseline, 51% had < 350 cells/ mm³ and 35% <200 cells/mm³, respectively. Persons who acquired HIV heterosexually, had significant lower CD4 counts than MSM

Age at diagnosis

- The predominant age group in both males (34%) and females (44%) was that of 30-39 years old
- 18% of persons diagnosed during 2018 were >50 years old
- Heterosexually infected patients were diagnosed at an older age
- Longitudinally, there is a gradual increase in the proportion of patients >50 years old at diagnosis

Current status among PWID

- Greece has experienced an HIV outbreak among PWID in the metropolitan area of Athens during 2011-2012
- A "seek-test-treat" field intervention (ARISTOTLE program) was implemented in Aug-2012 and resulted in the containment of the outbreak
- Despite that, the number of new infections among PWID has not returned to the levels prior to outbreak

The Virus

- A1 and B are the most common HIV-1 subtypes in Greece
- Phylogenetic studies suggest that most HIV transmissions among HIV late presenters occur in local transmission networks (LTNs)
- MSM and Greek nationality are associated with regional clustering of subtype A, whereas risk group other than MSM or PWID and more recent diagnosis are associated with subtype B.
- Overall prevalence of resistance is estimated at 22% (NNRTI=17%, PI=5%, NRTI=3%), with wide variance across country (higher rates in Northern Greece)

AIDS diagnoses

- During 2018, 100 AIDS cases were reported (males: 87%)
- 59% of patient with AIDS were >40 years old
- PCP (44%), pulmonary TB, sarcoma Kaposi and HIV wasting syndrome (all from 12%) and TB (10%) were the 5 most common AIDS indicative diseases during 2018.

Conclusions

- MSM continues to be the most common route of transmission, followed by heterosexual transmission
- HIV outbreak among PWID has been contained after targeted interventions
- Issues worth attention are the high rates of late presentation, especially among heterosexually infected persons, as well as the gradual aging of PLHIV