The HIV situation in Finland
Hiv surveillance

• National Infectious Diseases Register
• Prevalence studies among populations at most risk
National Infectious Diseases Register

Microbiological laboratory
- Microbe strain
- Notification

Reminder to notify

Treating physician
- Notification
- Copy of notification

Health Care District
- Remote access

Primary Health Care
- Remote access

National Infectious Disease Register THL
- National microbe strain collection
- Feedback
- Statistical database at the public website

TERVEYDEN JA HYVINVOINNIN LAITOS

30.9.2013

Esityksen nimi / Tekijä
New infections per year in 1980-2012

- In 2012, the total number of HIV infections 3056.
- Estimated adult prevalence 0.1%.
- The annual number of new HIV infections has steadily increased.
- Incidence 2.9/100 000 in 2012.
- 73% in males and 27% in females.
Sexual contact is the most common route of HIV transmission in Finland. Heterosexuals accounted for around 40% of the cases. Men having sex with men around 30%. Injecting drug users around 10%.
Mother to child transmission
Blood products

- HIV test is offered for all pregnant women

- Donated blood is tested for HIV (Ab/PCR)
- There have been no reported cases of infection through blood products in Finland since HIV testing of donated blood began in 1985.
Finnish national HIV-strategy 2013 - 2016

• Prepared by the National HIV Working Group
  – Representatives from the government, health care sector, research organizations and civil society

• Effective prevention must be focused on populations most at risk and most affected by HIV

• The priority population identified in this strategy are
  – People living with HIV, men having sex with men, people from high prevalence countries, travellers, injecting drug users, sex workers, prisoners
Men having sex with men

The majority of the HIV infected are Finns. The majority of the Finns had contracted the infection in Finland. The prevalence of HIV in this group is significantly higher than in the general population.

HIV continues to spread among Finnish gay men

more HIV prevention services
HIV infections among heterosexuals

The number of heterosexual infections has been steadily growing, among both foreigners and Finns. A significant number of Finnish HIV infections had been contracted outside of Finland.

More information about HIV and sexual transmitted diseases for travellers
Most migrants were infected through heterosexual contact.
Migrants mainly contracted the infection abroad, usually in their motherland.
Diverse group, 2008-2012 more than 60 different nationalities.

In recent years, about half of the HIV cases among migrants.

5% Percentage of the Finnish population who are migrants.

Enhance HIV testing and increase health counseling among migrants.
Injecting drug users

Recent years, low incidence. HIV prevalence around 1%.

Effective preventive measures are needed to keep infections at a low level.

HIV outbreak among injecting drug users in the Helsinki region 1998-2003
Needle exchange programs

- Low Threshold Health Service Centers
- 2011
  - 23 municipals and more than 30 centers
  - 11,000 visitors
  - 3.5 million exchanged needles

- The *Act on Communicable Diseases* from 2004 obligates municipalities to provide health counseling for IDUs in their area, including exchange of injecting equipment
Deaths among people living with HIV

By the end of 2012, around 300 persons in all had died from AIDS in Finland.
AIDS is no more a top cause of death among people living with HIV in Finland

Late diagnosis remains as a problem
Access to care for non-residents needs to be defined

People living with HIV
Late diagnosis

Infection was diagnosed late in about half of the cases (CD4 < 350).
Late diagnosis weakens the treatment prognosis and increases the possibility of further infections.

Testing promoted actively among the vulnerable groups

People can be infected with HIV for many years without knowing