HIV epidemic in Finland and highlights of the Finnish HIV strategy

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New infections per year in 1980-2013

- In 2014, the total number of HIV infections 3390
- Estimated adult prevalence 0,1 %
- In 2014
  - 181 new cases were diagnosed
  - incidence 3,3/100 000
  - 77 % in males and 23 % in females
  - migrants 49 %
Sexual contact is the most common route of HIV transmission in Finland 1980-2014

Through sexual contacts

- injecting drugs
- not known
- MTCT
- blood

56 %
Heterosexual

44 %
Men having sex with men
Sexual transmission has dominated the epidemic in Finland
Annual infections by transmission route

- IDU
- MSM
- heterosexual
- unknown
- blood products
- MTC

Yearly infections by transmission route from 1980 to 2012.
HIV infections among heterosexuals

The number of heterosexual infections has been steadily growing throughout the history of the epidemic, among both foreigners and Finns.

5% of the Finnish population are migrants/of foreign origin.

In recent years, about half of the HIV cases have been diagnosed among migrants/foreigners.

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Heterosexual transmissions 2010 – 2014

- 54% Foreign born / migrants
- 46% Native Finns

n=378
International travelling is a clear risk factor for Finns to get HIV through heterosex
The majority of the patients are native Finns who get HIV infection in Finland.
Foreign MSM get infected mostly abroad.
The prevalence of HIV in MSM population is significantly, around 20 times, higher than in the general population.
HIV in people who inject drugs

In the recent years, incidence has been low. Effective preventive measures have kept infections at a low level following the HIV epidemic at the turn of the millennium.
By the end of 2014, 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 HIV diagnosis are common 2010 – 2014

47 % 0 - 350, 30 % <= 200
Key elements of HIV response

SEXUALITY EDUCATION

TESTING TREATMENT

PREVENTION AMONG KEY GROUPS

PREVENTION OF STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION
Finland’s HIV Strategy 2013-2016

• Strategy focuses on key populations at higher risk to HIV exposure
  – People living with HIV; Men having sex with men; Migrants from high prevalence countries; Travellers from Finland to other countries; People who inject drugs; Sex workers; Prisoners

• HIV/AIDS treatment, care and support are integrated into public health care – on state, regional and municipal levels

• Civil society organisations have been involved in the HIV response since the beginning of the epidemic

• National HIV Expert Group follows-up and assesses HIV response in Finland