

SUMMARY OF HIV / AIDS CONTROL PROGRAM IN TURKEY

Turkey's first AIDS case were diagnosed in 1985. Notification of HIV/AIDS cases is mandatory since 1985. Blood and blood products have been screened for HIV since 1986. Implementation of the serological tests on blood / organ / tissue donors and sex workers as well as prior to major surgery have been applied since 1987. The implementation of the notification code on reporting HIV/AIDS has been applied for patient privacy since 1994. Repayment of antiretroviral therapy has been implemented since 1996. National AIDS Commission (NAC) has been working under the umbrella of the Ministry of Health since 1996. Reproductive Health Training has been implemented since 2007. Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centers were opened in 2007. National Strategy Plan of HIV/AIDS has been created for years 2007 to 2011 and years 2012 to 2015 separately. People living with HIV have been covered with The General Health Insurance since 2012.

National AIDS Commission (NAC) involves 28 different organizations (Ministries, Non-Governmental Organizations, Private Sector etc.). The Commission aims for controlling and preventing HIV/AIDS with other sexually transmitted infections and contributing to making national policies and taking decisions for the preparation of the national action plan and ensuring cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination.

HIV testing procedure is applied mandatorily for people who are blood/organ donors and registered sex workers. People who apply to "Voluntary Counseling and Testing Center" or "Pre-marital Counseling" is tested for HIV if they request. HIV test is performed before surgical procedures. In addition people who request testing for HIV for any reason is tested.

Coding is done accordance with international coded notification. Notification form is filled by the clinician. Filling the form and transporting the form between units is being done strictly adhered to the principles of patient confidentiality and privacy.

In spite of the fact that AIDS incidence has increased in Turkey, Turkey is still within the countries which they have low AIDS incidence.