



# HIV/AIDS SITUATION IN ALBANIA



FIRST HIV 1993  
FIRST AIDS 1994

Centres for VCT established since 2005,available in 12 prefectures .From 250 tests in 2005 to 36,040 in 2013.(1.2 % testing rate, the lowest rate among the countries that submitted these data to the ECDC/WHO

Over ¾ diagnosed CD4 < 350 cells with 52% CD4 < 200 cells.

- \*All HIV positive tests---the Institute of Public Health (IPH) reference laboratory for confirmation on Western Blott based in Tirana.
- \* Following a positive HIV diagnosis, patients are referred to a psychologist and referred to TUH for HIV treatment and care. There is no active follow up of patients newly diagnosed who do not attend care - otherwise known as those who are lost to follow up (LTFU).

- Late HIV diagnoses, AIDS and deaths :
- Three quarters of new HIV diagnoses are made at a late stage infection; this contributes to a high crude death rate.
  - The high percentage of late HIV diagnoses is indicative of a high proportion of undiagnosed infections among Albania's HIV positive population.
  - The number of HIV-related deaths is likely to be underestimated.



Opened in 2007



Infectious Disease Specialists  
Nurses  
Psychologist  
Social Worker

Drug class	Drug regimen
NRTI	ZDR/3TC
	FTC/ TDF
	TDF
	3TC
	ABC
NNRTI	ddI
	ZDV
	EFV
PI	LPV/r
	ATZ

Viral load and CD4 monitoring are not performed routinely due to shortages of kits, Drug resistance monitoring is not available. Also difficulty diagnosing opportunistic infections. Decisions to switch ART are based upon clinical

More than 18 NPO in Albania: like Stop AIDS,Aksion PLUS,APRAD (also raising awareness and counselling about drug abusing )

Until november 2016:

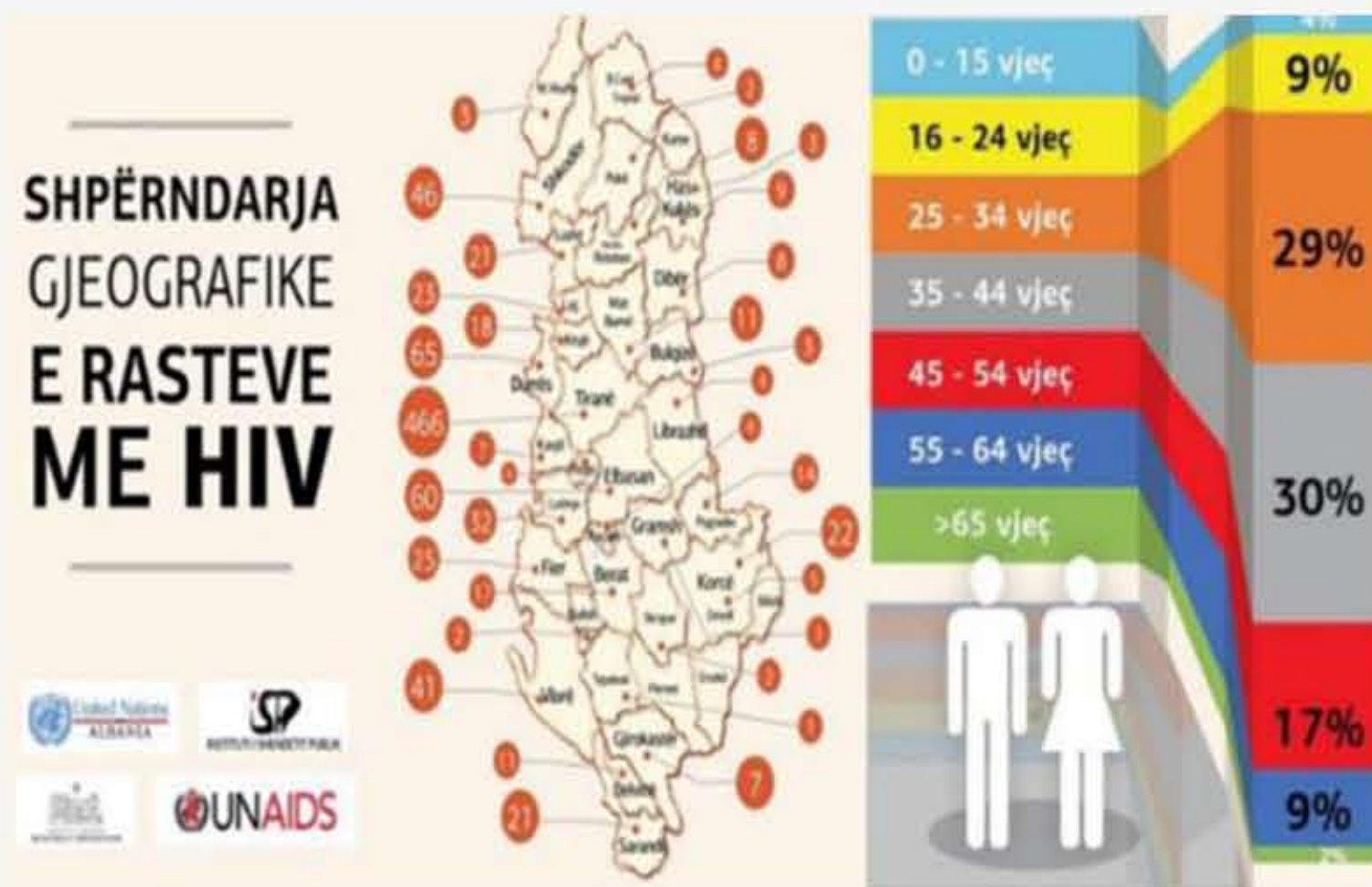
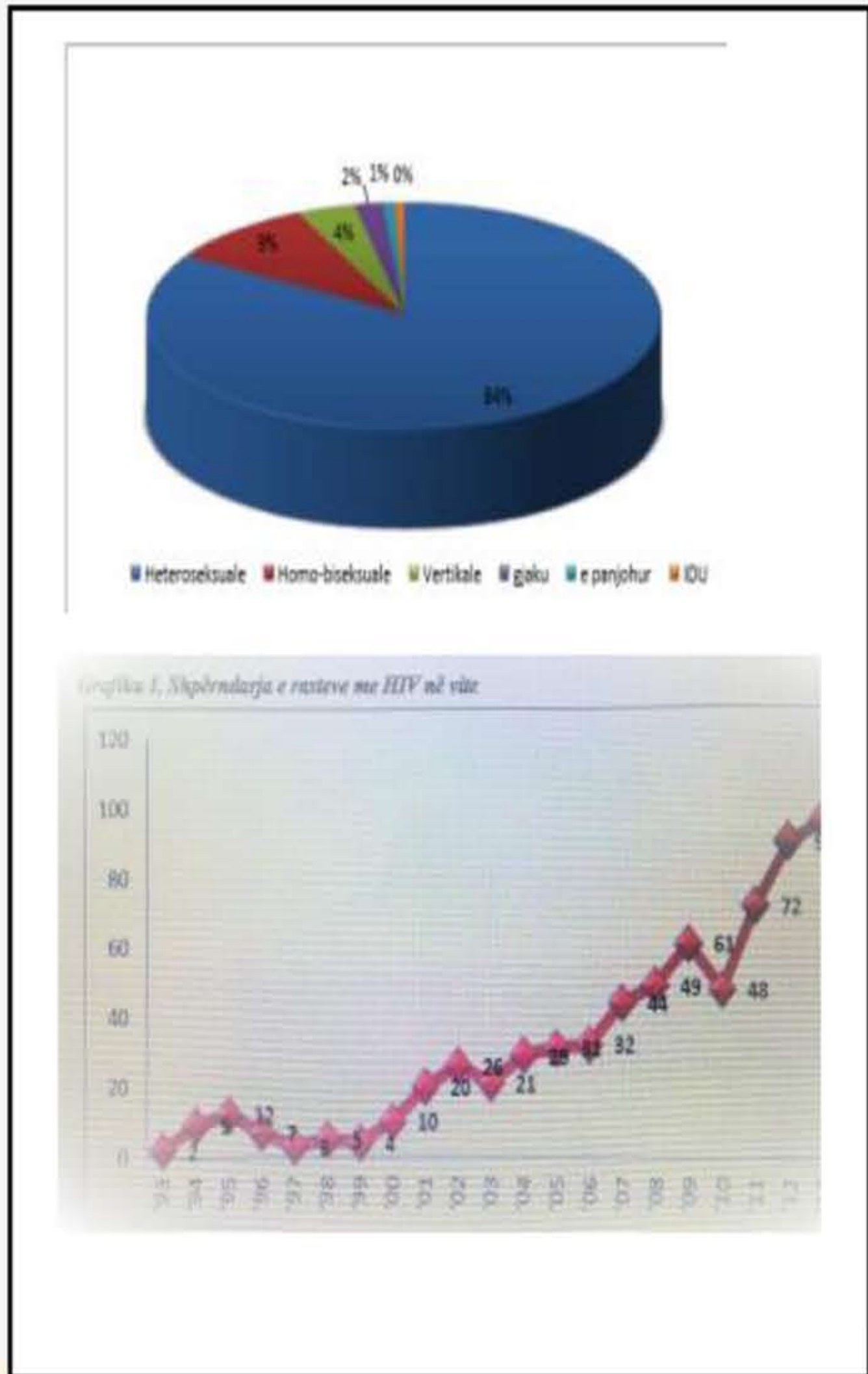
Total -984  
Male -704 female- 280  
Children < 15 years - 41  
16-24 years - 90  
Adults- 853  
144 deaths - 17% (2014)

1% of pwid in albania are living with hiv  
Main route of transmission –heterosexual 84%,homosexual 9% ,MTCH-4%,blood transfusions 2%  
Incidence- 0.003% Prevalence – 0.04 % (low testing rate,but rising through the years,changing numbers reported)

Patien on ARV treatment - 498  
In 2015 : 94 new cases  
In 2016 : 71 new cases

- Estimates of undiagnosed HIV infection are not available in Albania
- The CD4 profile at diagnosis suggests that 75% of those newly diagnosed have been living with undiagnosed HIV for at least three-four years.
  - The majority of those living with HIV in Albania are likely to be unaware of their infection.
  - The relatively large size of the undiagnosed population among all those living with HIV in Albania is likely to be contributing on ongoing transmission.

Factors that may be associated with loss to follow up in Albania include financial and practical difficulties attending care and consequences due to ART stock outs  
Stock-outs of ART are frequent particularly over the summer resulting in patients not receiving any treatment or switching of drugs regimens depending on drug availability. It is estimated that ART is not available for approximately three months of every year.



Patented pharmaceuticals for HIV treatment are considered deemed too expensive by the Ministry of Health. Generic drugs are available through a governmental contract with UNICEF. Whilst cheaper, there is limited choice of drugs and only 11 ARTs are currently available at TUH. --

\*Treatment given for free  
\*First line regimens - fund of ministry of health,procured by UNICEF

\*Second line regimens- by Global Fund

Legislation approved in July 2008

