

The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Romania



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Total HIV/AIDS cases
1985-2017: 22980

People living with HIV/AIDS

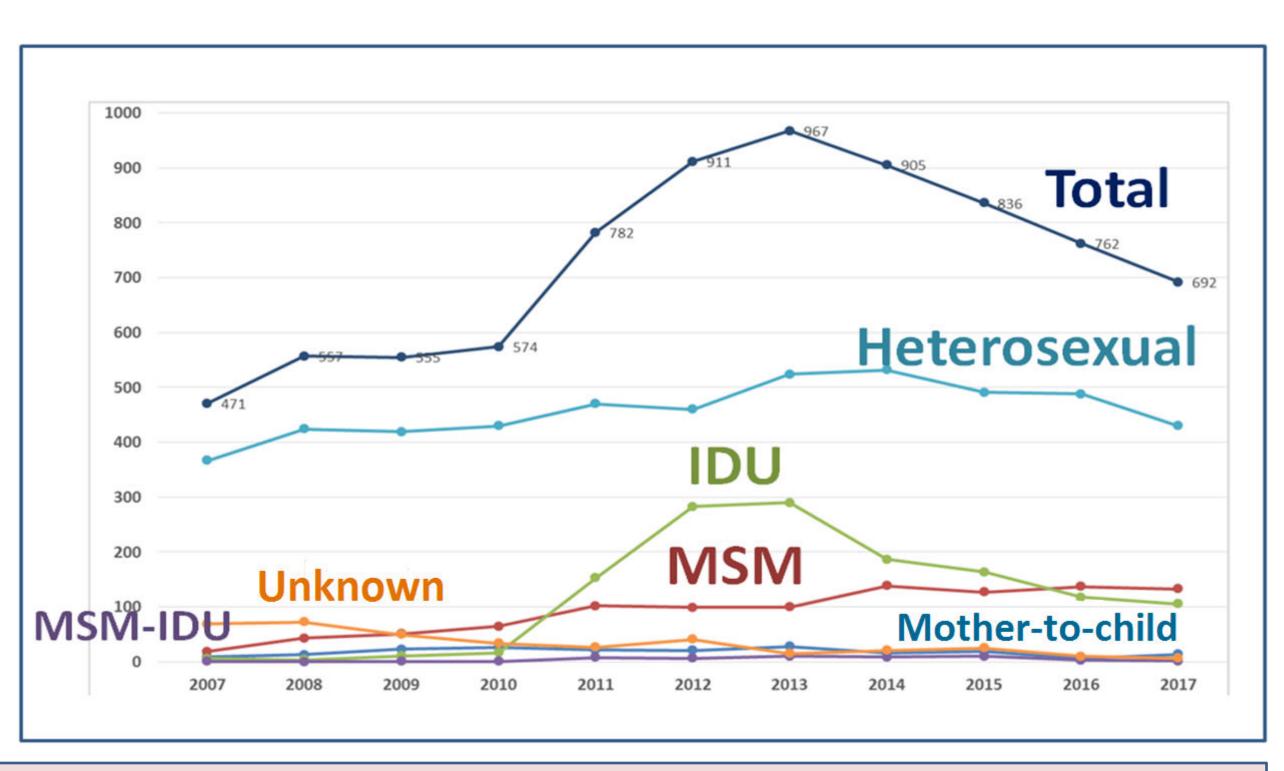
(PLWHA): **15009**

• New HIV/AIDS cases in 2017: **692**

Patients on cART/post-exposure

prophylaxis: 12247

< 1 year	6
1-14 years	190
15-19 years	171
20-29 years	6537
30-34 years	2103
35-39 years	1523
40-49 years	2400
50-59 years	1218
≥ 60 years	861



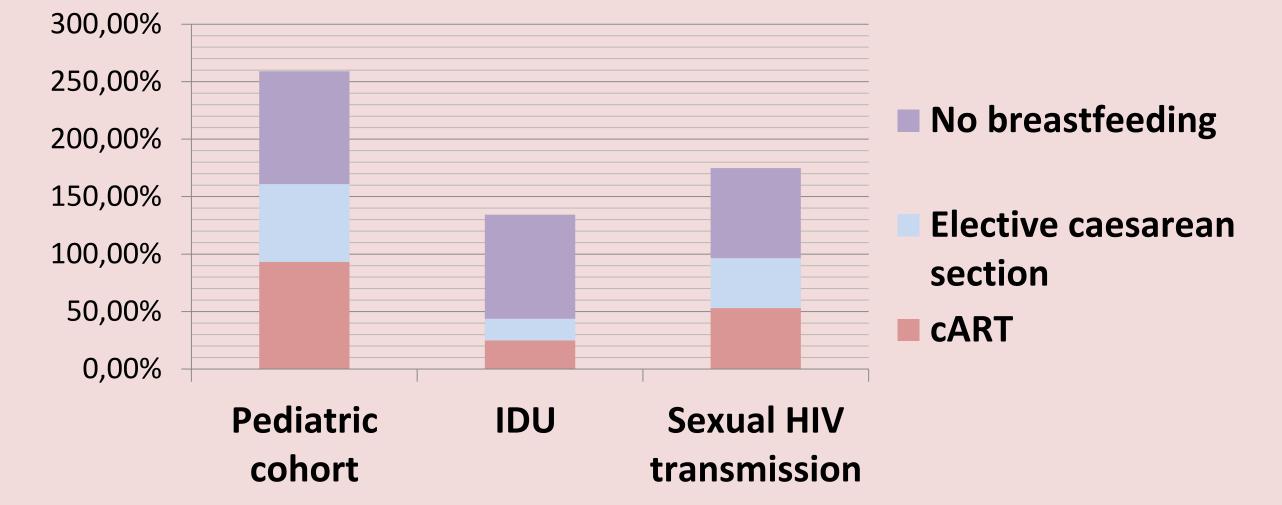
Current challenges in the Pediatric Cohort

- Jul. 1989- Dec. 1990:
- > 1090 pediatric AIDS cases identified
- > 97% <3 years;
- > 62% living in institutions
- The largest 27-30 year-old cohort in **Europe**
- An estimated 10,000 children infected
- Sex-ratio 1:1
- F1 subtype almost 100 %
- Long-term survivors (~6000)

- Multiple ART regimens (10-15!)
 - Salvage tx
 - ARV toxicities
 - "Therapeutic exhaustion"
- Have/ want to have children of their own:
 - ➤ Vertical transmission problems↓
 - ➤ Teratogenicity of longterm use of ART

MTCT Demographic changes

• Most MTCT cases occur in mothers with a recent HIV diagnosis as a result of intravenous drug use or sexual transmission.



- High national ART coverage in mothers (95%) and infants (99%)
- Avoidance of breastfeeding is achieved in 90% of cases (studies)
- Caesarean sections remains the measure with the lowest uptake (between 60-80% in various studies)

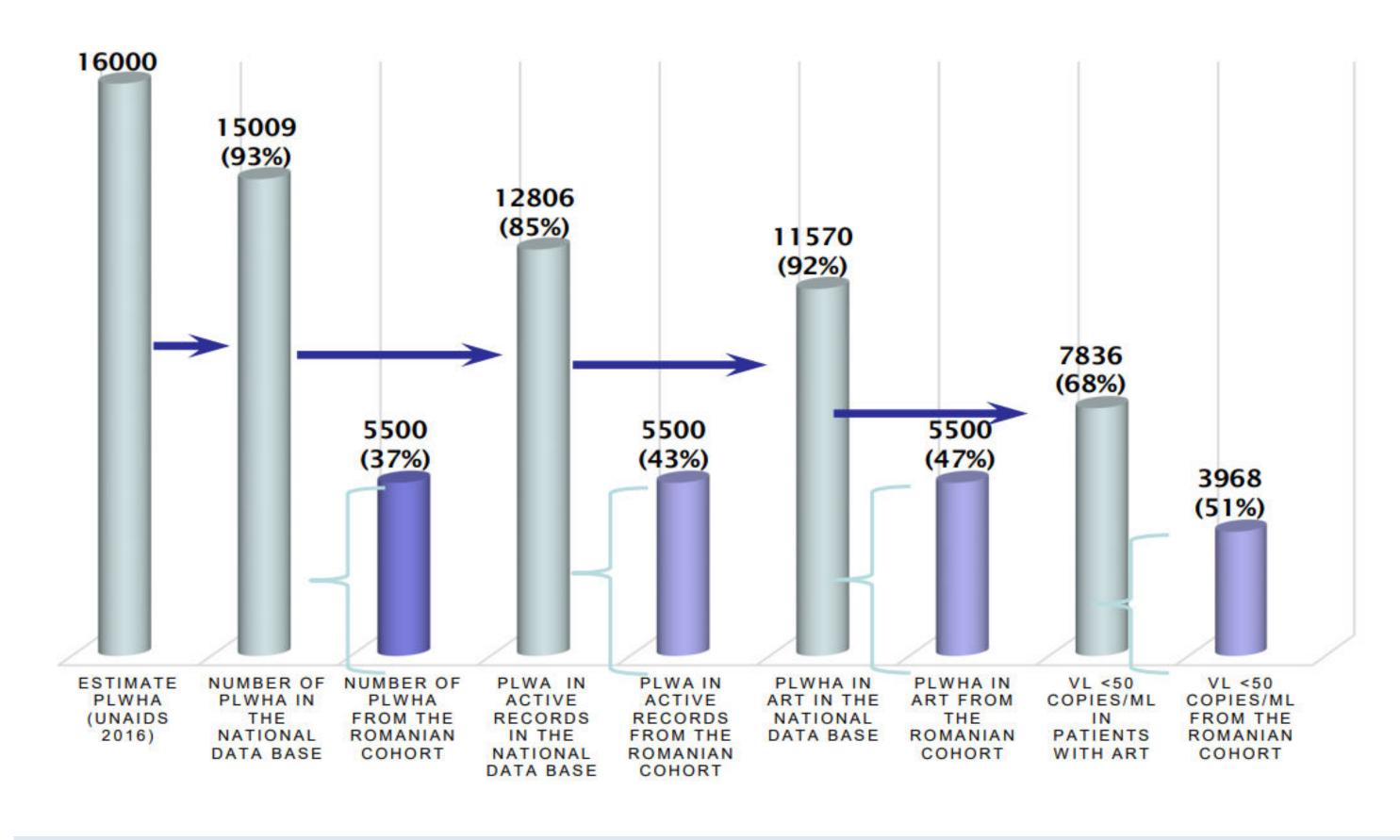
Intravenous drug users – high incidence, co-morbidities, resistance

- 2016 national drug report:
- > 20 937 high risk opioid users
- > 1 480 of which receive opioid substitution
- 2017 national HIV data:
- > 15.31% of IDUs were infected with HIV
- > Most are men (85%) aged 20-40 years old (60%)
- > Around half (49%) use heroin in various combinations
- > 60% were late presenters
- > 44% were diagnosed with advanced HIV/AIDS

- Most IDUs are co-infected with HCV (83.33% of cases diagnosed in 2017)
- Phylogenetic analysis on a smaller group of 117 IDUs showed the following:
 - ➤ HCV infection occurs before HIV in 80.3% of cases
 - > simultaneous HIV and HCV transmission is less frequent (19.65%)
- No national data on adherence in IDUs but it is presumed to be low, hence only anecdotal cases of DAA treatment are available in this patient group

Reaching the 90-90-90 UNAIDS targets

Cascade of HIV care - Romania 31 December 2017



- Increased HIV testing, diagnosis and ART coverage
- High frequency of HIV-1 F1 subtype (>80%)
- Other subtypes: C and B in MSMs, G and B in IDUs
- Most ARV drugs are universally available in Romania recommended irrespective of CD4 T cell count since 2011
- Low transmitted drug resistance (14.75%)
- Small individual studies hinted at a potentially higher rate of major mutations in treatment-naïve patients
- In a study on 350 patients with multiple ART regimens around half displayed major NRTI mutations

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