

Epidemiologic characteristics of AIDS in the Zadar area, Croatia

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ABSTRACT

Data on AIDS patients in the Zadar area, Croatia are presented. Since the appearance of the first patient in 1990, to the end of 2000, there have been registered 18 patients; 15 of them were males and 3 women. It makes total morbidity of 10/100 000 inhabitants.

It is significantly higher than morbidity level in whole Croatia, which amounts to 3.5/100 000 inhabitants. The number of new cases oscillated from 0 to 5 annually.

7 patients were heterosexuals, 5 of them were bisexuals, 3 homosexuals and 3 wives infected by their husbands. None of them was in risky groups of intravenous drug users or hemophiliac.

Out of the total number, there were 8 (44,4%) sailors and two of them infected their wives. So, the total number of patients connected to this occupation amounts to 10 (55,5%). All diseased sailors contracted the infection in overseas harbors from prostitutes.

Although the presented data show a lower intensity AIDS epidemic in the Zadar area compared to certain areas in Europe and worldwide, the incidence is higher than in other areas of Croatia. In view of the seriousness of this disease all necessary measures are to be taken in order to prevent a further spread of the epidemic.

KEY WORDS

**AIDS,
epidemiology,
Zadar area,
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Introduction

After the first information on an unknown disease in 1981, the medical science and the whole world soon realized that we were facing a very serious health problem.

The epidemics of AIDS with a great number of infected, diseased and deaths spread throughout the whole world, with terrifying consequences, especially in some countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean,

North America and South and Southeast Asia. In some of these countries, data about the number of HIV and AIDS cases are really dramatic. Globally, 36.1 million people were living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2000, and since the beginning of the epidemic, there have been 21.8 million AIDS deaths (1).

A few years after the appearance of the disease, in 1986, the first patient was registered in Croatia.

