

O1197 The changing trends in presentation of clinical AIDS in Croatia: 2001 to 2017

Wandini Lutchmun*¹, Lukas Davorka², Vanja Romih Pintar², Šime Zekan¹, Josip Begovac¹

¹ School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, ² University Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Zagreb

Background: All HIV-infected persons in Croatia (population: 4.2 million) are treated at one center, the University Hospital of Infectious Diseases (UHID), Zagreb. The aim of this study was to assess the population trend in presentation to care with AIDS-defining conditions (ADC) and to describe whether there was a change in the type of the presenting ADC in the period 2001-2017.

Materials/methods: The data were extracted from the electronic database at UHID. Included into the study were Croatian citizens or permanent residents whose first ever presentation to HIV care was with an ADC. The population trend over time was analyzed by annual percent change (APC) using the Joinpoint program. ADC were compared over 3 periods (2001-2006, 2007-2012, 2013-2017) with the chi-square test for trend.

Results: Of 1174 persons who never received HIV care before elsewhere, 240 (20.4%, median age:42.6 years) presented with and ADC. The rate of ADC per one million inhabitants was low (1.6 to 4.7); it increased (APC=2.8%, p=0.058) over time, particularly in males (n=215, APC=3.4%, p=0.017), but remained very low and unchanged in females (n=25, p=0.331) (Figure). The proportion of persons with ADC among all first-time receivers of HIV care declined from 18.0% in 2001 to 12.1% in 2017 (p=0.011). There was an increase in the proportion of males (period 2001-06: 58/70, period 2013-17: 75/84; p-trend=0.039) and MSM (period 2001-06: 28/70, period 2013-17: 69/84; p-trend<0.001) presenting with ADC. The most common ADC (total=316) were *Pneumocystis pneumonia* (PCP; n=91), tuberculosis (TB; n=47), esophageal candidiasis (n=28) and Kaposi's sarcoma (KS; n=26). There was a nonsignificant increase in the proportion of cases with PCP (23/70 in the period 2001-06 versus 37/84 in the period 2013-17; p-trend=0.149), whereas TB was less frequent (p-trend=0.001) and KS was more frequent (p-trend=0.014) in recent years. 31(12.9%) persons died within 6-months and 39 (16.3%) within 12-months of AIDS-diagnosis (p-trend=0.212 and 0.552 respectively).

Conclusions: There was an increasing trend in presentation with ADC, however, it is encouraging that the proportion of presentations with ADC decreased over time. Presentation with TB declined, whereas with KS increased. Further efforts to decrease the number of AIDS-presentations are needed.

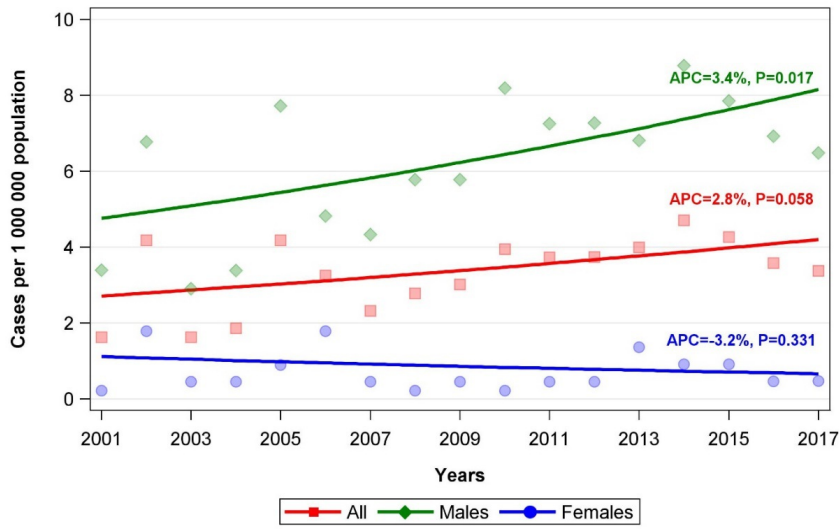


Figure. The trend in presentation to care with AIDS-defining diseases in Croatia, 2001 to 2017. APC, annual percent change.

