

**The HIV-positive patient medical
care
– between discrimination and
malpraxis–**

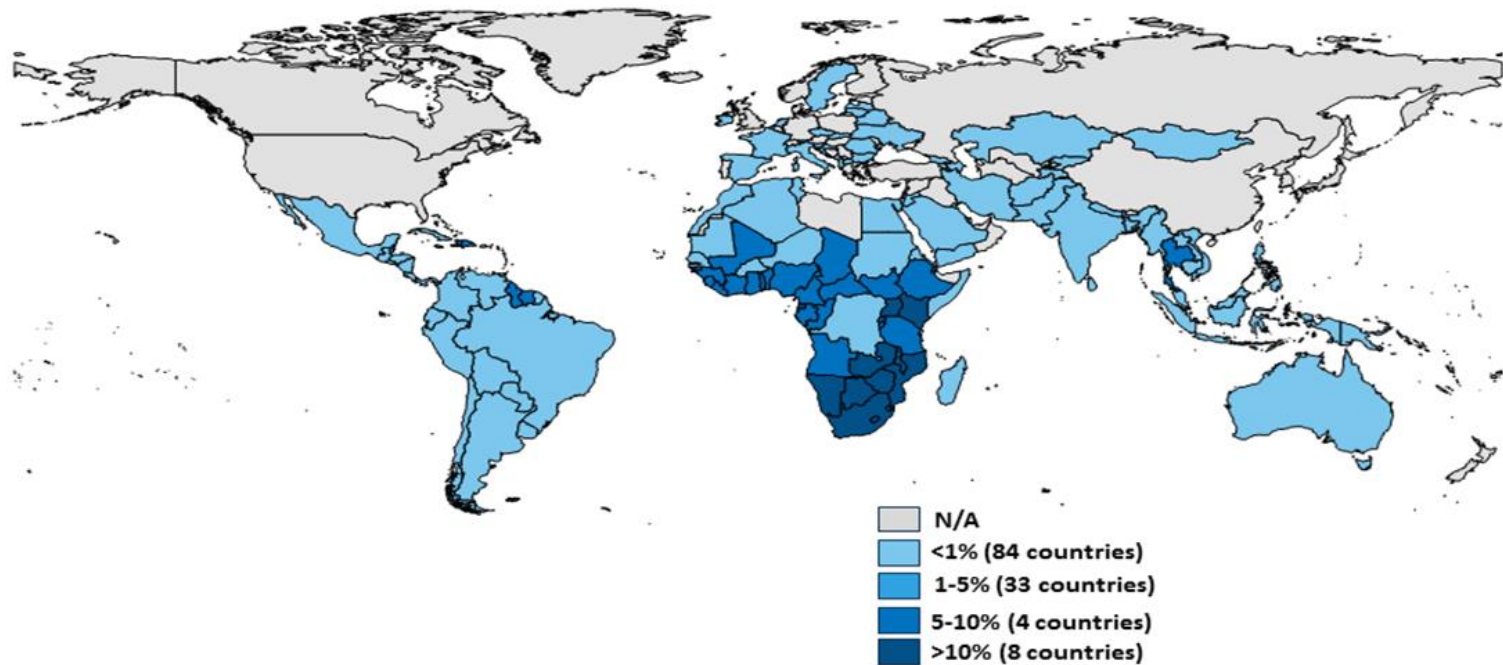
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Definition

The **human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)** infects cells of the immune system, destroying or impairing their function. Infection with the virus results in progressive deterioration of the immune system, leading to "immune deficiency", leaving the body vulnerable to life-threatening infections and cancers. **Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)** is the most advanced stage of HIV infection.

Global epidemiology of HIV infection

Global HIV Prevalence = 0.8%



NOTES: Data are estimates. Prevalence includes adults ages 15-49.

SOURCES: Kaiser Family Foundation, based on UNAIDS, AIDSinfo, Accessed July 2017

HIV infection in Romania

- 1989-1990 : 1090 “pediatric” cases of AIDS
 - 97% < age 3 years
 - 62% from orphanages
- 1991 : approximative 10,000 childrens

Coordination of counties by the Regional HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Centers in Romania

INBI "PROF.DR. MATEI BALȘ" Regional Centre	BUCHAREST
	ARGEȘ
	BUZĂU
	DAMBOVIȚA
	GALAȚI
	IALOMIȚA
	PRAHOVA
	ILFOV
	VÂLCEA
VRANCEA	

CRAIOVA Regional Centre	DOLJ
	GORJ
	MEHEDINȚI
	OLT

CONSTANȚA Regional Centre	CONSTANȚA
	TULCEA

V. BABEȘ BUCUREȘTI Regional Centre	BRĂILA
	CĂLĂRAȘI
	GIURGIU
	TELEORMAN
	V.BABEȘ-BUCUREȘTI

IAȘI Regional Centre	BACĂU
	BOTOȘANI
	IAȘI
	NEAMȚ
	SUCEAVA
	VASLUI

BRAȘOV Regional Centre	BRAȘOV
	COVASNA
	HARGHITA

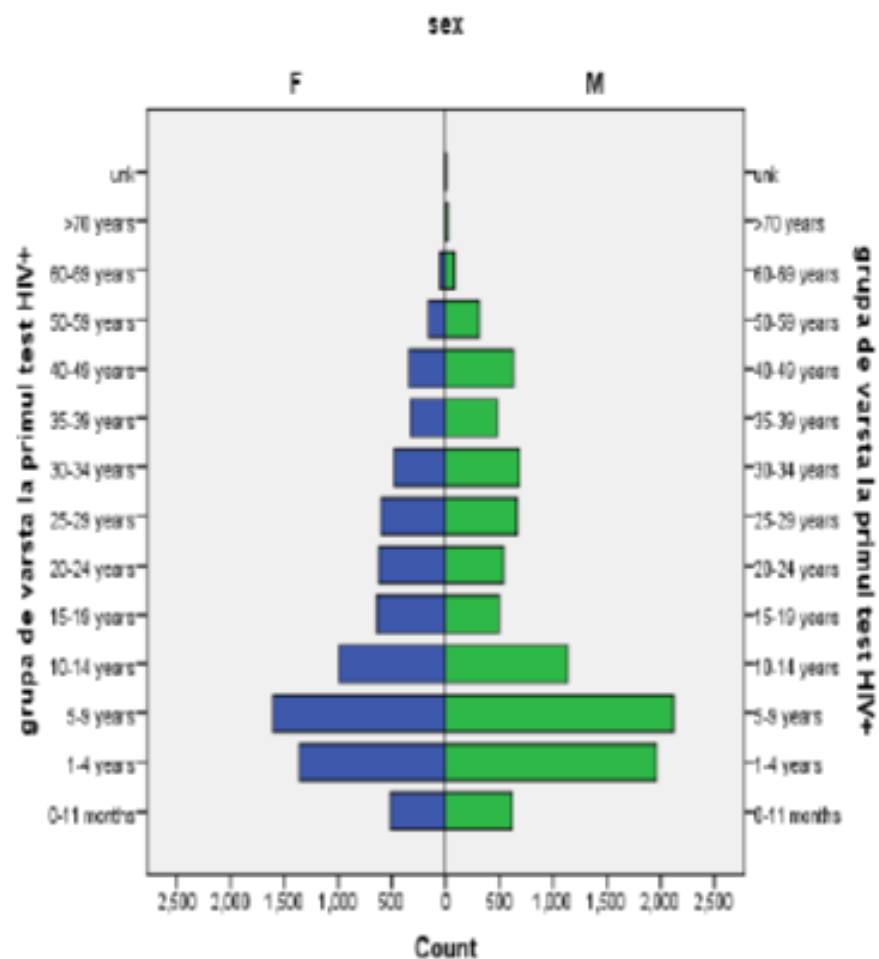
TÂRGU MUREȘ Regional Centre	ALBA
	BISTRIȚA NĂSĂUD
	MUREȘ
	SIBIU

CLUJ Regional Centre	BIHOR
	CLUJ
	MARAMUREȘ
	SĂLAJ

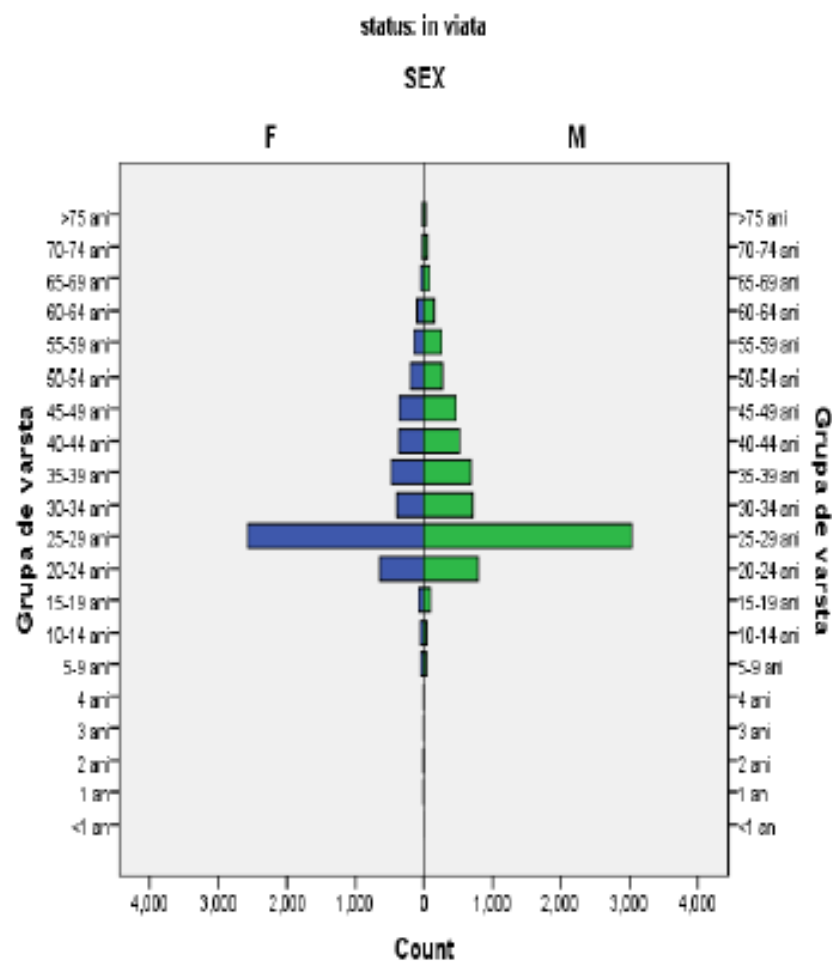
TIMIȘOARA Regional Centre	ARAD
	CARAȘ SEVERIN
	HUNEDOARA
	TIMIȘ

Age distribution – 31 December 2015

Age at time of diagnosis/notification
Cumulative total 1985-2015

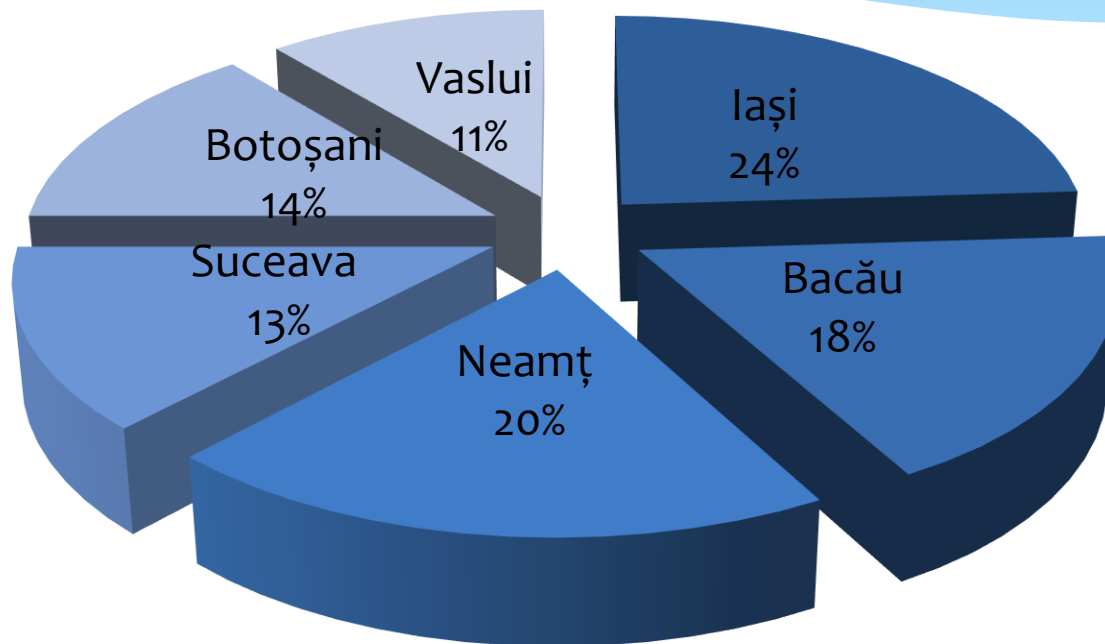


Age distribution of living patients



Regional Center HIV/SIDA Iași

- over 1400 HIV-positive patients in evidence from the 6 counties of the country



❖ 2015 – The „pediatric cohort“ is equal (as number) with the patients infected after 1988-1989

„Pediatric cohort“ - children born between 1988-1990 which were infected in the first year of life

- ❖ were HIV – positive in the first 7 years of life
- ❖ all types of antiretroviral therapy – from monotherapy to HAART
- ❖ Long-Term Survivors (over 20 years)
- ❖ ”Treatment fatigue /Tiredness”
- ❖ Non-adherence, non-compliance
- ❖ The risk of viral-resistance of the antiretroviral therapy

Social implications of HIV infections

- In 1987, Jonathan Mann (former director of WHO Global HIV / AIDS Program) referred to three major global epidemics:
 - First one → HIV infection → which enters silent and unnoticed in communities; the infected person may not be aware of this throughout the incubation period and even asymptomatic infection
 - The second → epidemic AIDS → the HIV infection lead to severe diseases (cancer, TB infection, etc.)
 - The third aspect → the social, cultural, economic and political response of the entire community

Social implications of HIV infections

“The sociological and epidemiological researches focused on the AIDS phenomenon emphasize the sociocultural, demographic, economic and even political implications of this complex phenomenon, which starts out as a medical problem and becoming a real and disturbing social problem over time”

Buzducea D. AIDS – Psychosocial confusions. Ed. Science and Technology, Bucharest 1997.

DISCRIMINATION

„ **discrimination**” (DIFFERENT TREATMENT) → treating a person or particular group of people differently, especially in a worse way from the way in which you treat other people, because of their skin colour, sex, sexuality, etc.:

racial/sex/age discrimination

„ **discrimination**” (SEEING A DIFFERENCE) → the ability to see the difference between two things or people

According to Cambridge dictionary

Material and method

- 24 semi-structured interviews (17 women, 7 men)

Interview Guide

1. Please tell me about your experience with the disease that you have.

- a. How long you live with HIV?
- a. What is the stage of the disease?

1. Did you have hospital admissions? Tell me about them.

- a. What symptoms have you presented?
- a. How was your experience?

1. Did you need a medical consultation that does not require hospitalization? Tell me your experience.

1. How did your HIV status affect your access to medical services?

- a. What obstacles did you encounter?
 - a. How did you feel about interacting with different medical specialties.
-

Results

- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Gastroenterology
- Nutrition Diseases
- Endocrinology
- **Dysfunctional:**
 - Surgery
 - Stomatology
 - Otorhinolaryngology

Discussions

- ❖ In 20 cities in France:
- ❖ was tested the attitude of dental and gynecological services concerning HIV infected persons
 - the design of the study (randomized) - calling to 440 dental offices
 - 116 gynecology offices
 - in order to make an appointment
 - in all cases the clinics received two phones, from persons describing themselves as having the same socio-demographic characteristics, with the difference of the HIV-positive or negative diagnosis
 - 33% of stomatologists declined the possibility to provide medicale care to HIV infected patients, in the majority of the cases the reasons were: lack of free space, full-time clinical programs, not having time
 - only 7% of ginecologists refused the HIV patients

Discussions

- ❖ The situation in France largely coincides with that in the north-eastern areas of Romania
- ❖ Despite accessible medical information and clear protocols on prophylaxis, dental practitioners avoid contact with HIV-positive people.
- ❖ A lot of studies confirms the discriminatory attitude since the school year, one in six dental students reporting a reluctance to treat HIV-positive people, one in ten declaring a total refusal.

Conclusions

- ✓ HIV seropositive patients has difficulties in order to access the medical services (mainly in surgery or stomatology specialities)
- ✓ The clear or unclear refuse and restricting patient access to healthcare can be a cause of malpractice.
- ✓ It requires the development of protocols between hospitals or infectious diseases and other specialties.

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Thank you!

