

ESTONIA

DHAPP

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HIV/AIDS
PREVENTION PROGRAM

REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF HIV/AIDS
AMONG UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN
SELECTED AFRICAN NATIONS AND BEYOND

WINNING BATTLES IN THE WAR AGAINST HIV/AIDS

BACKGROUND

Country Statistics

The population of Estonia is estimated at 1.3 million, with an average life expectancy of 71.8 years. Estonian is the official language; estimated literacy is 99.8%. Since regaining its freedom from the USSR, Estonia has been transitioning to a modern market economy with strong ties to the West. The economy is based mainly on services, which account for 69% of the country's gross domestic product; electronics and telecommunications sectors are particularly strong. The annual per capita income is \$14,300.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 1.1%, with approximately 7,800 people living with HIV/AIDS. The main driving force behind the epidemic in Estonia is intravenous drug use. The epidemic in Estonia remains concentrated among intravenous drug users in specific parts of the country. Youth and young adults are more severely affected than other age groups. Other vulnerable groups include commercial sex workers, men who have sex with men, and prisoners.

Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 5000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Proposed Future Activities

A proposal was received on behalf of the military of Estonia for the 2006 fiscal year. Specific objectives of the proposed project include developing a train-the-trainer program for the military, conducting pretests and posttests to assess behavior change, establishing an HIV surveillance program, and conducting military-wide HIV prevention training on World AIDS Day.



OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention/Care/Treatment

Because the first proposal for HIV prevention activities in the Estonian military was received during FY05, there are no outcomes measures as of the end of this reporting period. DHAPP looks forward to continued collaboration with Estonia in the development of its program.

