

SERBIA

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

In the spring of 2006, Montenegro took advantage of the provision to undertake a successful independence vote, enabling it to secede from Serbia on 3 June. Two days later, Serbia declared that it was the successor state to the union of Serbia and Montenegro. The population of Serbia is estimated to be 9.4 million people, with an average life expectancy of 74 years. Serbian is the official language of Serbia, which has an estimated literacy rate of 96.4%, evenly distributed between men and women. The gross domestic product per capita is \$4,400, with 30% of Serbian people living below the poverty line.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in Serbia's general population is estimated at less than 0.20%. Relatively little is known about the factors that influence the spread of HIV in Serbia, although the early phases of the epidemic were primarily driven by intravenous drug use.

Military Statistics

The size of the Serbian Armed Forces is unknown. The prevalence of HIV in the Serbian military is unknown.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

The initial phase of the DHAPP initiatives to support HIV prevention in the Serbian Armed Forces has focused on the development of laboratory infrastructure for HIV testing and diagnosis, as well as equipment and supplies for primary prevention activities. With the assistance of the Naval Regional Contracting Center, Naples, Italy, in-country partners at the Military Medical Academy in Belgrade have purchased the following supplies for HIV-related activities: computer equipment for HIV prevention and surveillance, Amplicor rapid HIV tests, freezer, lab equipment, printed prevention supplies, a video camera to be used to tape prevention messages, and condoms.



Proposed Future Activities

Efforts next year will expand current activities, with a focus on providing military personnel the knowledge and skills to adopt healthy behaviors that will keep them free of HIV infection.

OUTCOMES&IMPACT

The program in Serbia has only commenced purchasing prevention, laboratory, and surveillance materials; no outcome-level indicators have been collected as of the end of fiscal year 2006.

