

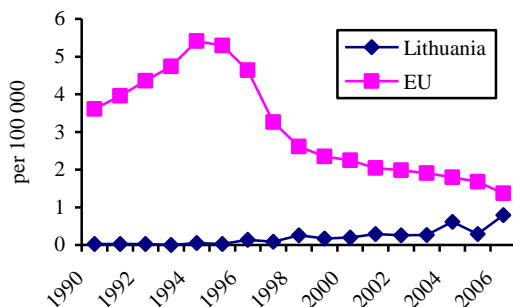
Module 5: HIV/AIDS and young people - Adolescent health and development with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health - Assignment

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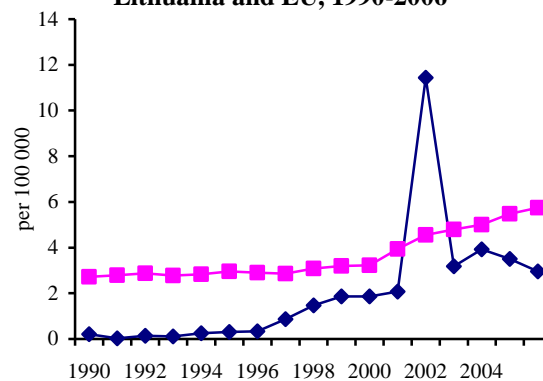
## Groups of young people in Lithuania who should be targeted with HIV interventions

Lithuania is a low AIDS incidence country (pictures 1 and 2).

**Picture 1. The AIDS incidence in Lithuania and EU, 1990-2006**



**Picture 2. The HIV incidence in Lithuania and EU, 1990-2006**



Source: Health for All Data Base 2010

The prevalence of AIDS / HIV among adolescents is very low. At the end of 2010, only four cases of AIDS/HIV were registered among adolescents (1). All of them were illicit drug users. Therefore, it could be emphasized, that this is the main risk group in Lithuania. According to epidemiological studies, up to 12% of 15-19 year schoolchildren have been tried illicit drugs at least one time in last 12 months (2). This argues that considerable proportion of Lithuanian adolescents is at the risk of HIV/AIDS.

### Factors (the 'drivers') which make them vulnerable

There are very few studies on factors influencing the start of use of illicit drugs. According to Targamadze & Simoncikiene (2007) there are four main factors, which have considerable influence to start using drugs: 1) absence of life-meaning; 2) selection of pseudo-values; 3) experience of negative emotions; 4) lack of relations with relatives (3).

## **Most important interventions which would contribute to achieving the UNAIDS goal**

I could say that there are plenty of institutions and programs trying to control this problem. In Lithuania, we have AIDS center coordinating all AIDS/HIV activities, we have needles/syringe exchange centers, and a number of health promotion programs against drug use.

## **References**

1. The epidemiological situation in sexual transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS in Lithuania 2009. Center of infection diseases and AIDS, Vilnius 2010.
2. Zagminas K, Surkiene G, Stukas R, Vadeikiene G, Nariunas G, Silys G. Prevalence of health risk factors among 9-12 grade schoolchildren in Vilnius. *Medicinos teorija ir praktika (Medical theory and practice)* 2009;15:45-52.
3. Targamadze V, Simoncikiene D. Facts, which has effect to affectation of drugs into older teenagers. *Pedagogika* 2007;86:149-55.