

Germany

Country statistics

Germany has a population of 82.8 million. Germany has been very close to reaching the first 90 of the UNAIDS treatment targets: the estimated number of all people living with HIV is around 86,000, by the end of 2017, 74,800 people have been diagnosed; and have already reached the second and third 90 targets: 68,800 were on treatment and 65,500 had an undetectable viral load.

The number of new diagnosis in 2017 was 3,300, which has been stable and showed a slight decrease in the last few years due to effective prevention programmes and the upscale of treatment. In the future, further decrease is expected due to the national rollout of PrEP in Germany.

Access in the general population

The general public has access to most prevention tools and methods, since September 2019, PrEP is also reimbursed through the mandatory health insurance. There is vaccination for HAV/HBV and disinfectants and information leaflets and posters regarding prevention are accessible for the public.

In Germany treatment for HIV, HBV, HCV, and TB are available.

Definition of closed setting – closed settings relevant in the national context

In Germany closed settings include prisons; pre-trial detention; police custody (after arrest); centres for refugees and migrants; and forensic clinics.

Funding for prevention and health interventions in closed settings

Healthcare of inmates in Germany is funded by the Ministries of Justice of the different federal states (Länder). There are differences from federal state to federal state in regulations and legislation that apply to prisons.

Prison statistics

The prison population of Germany is around 60 thousand. The estimate HIV prevalence is at 0.08%. The prevalence for HBV and HCV is 1% and 14-20% respectively.

The suicide rate is 12 people / 10 thousand detained.

Access and policies vs practice in prisons

Testing for HIV, viral hepatitis and TB are offered on an opt-in basis in Germany. Systematic screening for infectious diseases in prisoners is not implemented across the board.

Test strategies for HIV and HCV differ in the federal states (BL) and in some cases from prison to prison, ranging from a compulsory test at the start of imprisonment to a test offered only at the prisoner's own request or in the event of clinical symptoms.

There are issues with confidentiality of test results and medical results in prisons, many prison staff know about test results.

People in prison have access to prevention and treatment services similar to the general population, however, NSP is not available in all prisons across the country.

Other issues in prisons

PLHIV and people with viral hepatitis are detained together with other inmates. TB patients are separated for the period of infectiousness.

In general, all kind of health care is provided by the prison doctors. In case it is needed, they contact and consult specialists. TB check-ups are regularly done by prison doctors.

Training on HIV for prison staff is offered by the local AIDS organizations (Aidshilfen), they also provide consultations, seminars, support services, information materials, and condoms for people in prison.

Besides the services provided by NGOs, there are social and psychosocial services provided in prisons, however, they are only available in around 40% of the prisons in Germany.

Pre-trial detention statistics

The size of population in pre-trial detention was 12,679.

There is no data available on prevalence of communicable diseases or mental illnesses in pre-trial detention in Germany.

Access and policies vs practice in pre-trial detention

People in pre-trial detention have access to condoms and lubricants and OST. Treatment for HIV, HBV, and TB are also available.

Other issues in pre-trial detention

There are single cells in pre-trial detention regardless of their health status or condition. When needed, they are transported to specialist for check-ups and examinations.

HIV specific trainings for staff is offered by AIDS organizations (Aidshilfen) and staff has shown great interest in participating in these trainings.

Consultations, seminars, and information materials are offered to people in pre-trial detention by AIDS organizations.

Forensic clinics statistics

The number of people in forensic clinics is 10,875 people in Germany.

There is no official data available on prevalence of communicable diseases in these settings.

Access and policies vs practice in forensic clinics

There is mandatory testing for TB in forensic clinics and Germany, however, inmates are not screened or offered testing for other communicable diseases.

There is access to hepatitis A and B vaccination and access to treatment of HIV, HBV and TB.

Other issues in forensic clinics

OST is offered in some of the forensic clinics and AIDS service organizations offer some services but this very much differs by the federal state and there is a general issue with lack of data regarding forensic clinics.

Centres for refugees and migrants statistics

In 2019 there were a total of 165,938 asylum applications, including 142,509 initial (first-time) applications in Germany. There is no data accessible of the current number of population that are in centres for refugees and migrants.

There is no data available for prevalence on communicable diseases, mental health issues or suicide rate as Robert Koch Institute (the national CDC) collects data based on migration background, which includes all people in Germany with a migration background.

Similar to other European countries, reception centres for refugees and migrants in Germany are not closed settings in the traditional sense of the definition as people

staying in these institutions are free to leave during the day and only required to return for the nights. Still, they are listed here, as due to their set up, function and conditions are similar to other closed settings when it comes to the needs, issues, and barriers regarding accessing HIV-, viral hepatitis-, and TB-services.

Access in centres for refugees and migrants and policies vs practice in centres for refugees and migrants

There is mandatory testing for TB in the reception centres and in one federal state (Bavaria), there is mandatory testing for HIV for refugees.

People in the centres can access vaccination for hepatitis A and B and treatment for HIV and TB.

Other issues in centres for refugees and migrants

Refugees need to organize their medical check-ups and transport to the health care provider. Specialist do not visit the centres. In some federal states, there are separate centres for queer refugees due to safety considerations.

Hormonal therapy for trans individuals is not covered by the asylum seekers law.