Introduction and objectives
The State Statistics on AIDS is prepared by the Carlos III Institute of Health of the Ministry of Health and Consumption.

The National Register of AIDS Cases offers information on the evolution of this disease in Spain. This register complies with the following objectives:

• To describe the number and characteristics of the persons recently diagnosed with AIDS.
• To evaluate the effectiveness of the treatments and the early diagnosis of the HIV infection.
• To compare the dimension of the epidemic in the different Autonomous Communities.
• To analyse the evolution of the epidemic in Spain as compared with other countries.

Collection method and variables studied

The data collected is classified according to the following variables:

• Age groups
• Sex
• year of diagnosis
• Autonomous Community of residence
• Transmission category. There are three main forms of transmission of HIV:
  Sexual transmission (homo/bisexual, heterosexual).
  Blood transmission (parenteral drug users and recipients of hemoderivatives and blood transfusions).
  Mother-child transmission
• Other forms of transmission.