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Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Office of Public Health FOPH
Communication and Campaigns Division

Fact sheet

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Sexually transmitted infections and the LOVE LIFE campaign

Switzerland has made significant progress in the prevention and control of HIV and viral hepatitis in recent decades. This has been achieved through medical innovations and harm reduction measures, for example for people who inject drugs, as well as public information and advice, and training for professionals. Since 2011, Switzerland has also been working to control HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) as part of national HIV/STI prevention programmes.

The Federal Office of Public Health runs the national notification system for communicable diseases. It records how diseases evolve in Switzerland, and therefore allows conclusions to be drawn on the effectiveness of prevention measures. HIV has been recorded since 1985, and other STIs were added in subsequent years. A detailed analysis of the trends in case numbers up to 2025 is to be published in November. Initial analyses show that prevention remains important.

HIV

HIV is a virus that is mainly transmitted through unprotected sex and the sharing of needles and syringes. It can also be transmitted by a mother to her baby during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding. HIV attacks the immune system. If left untreated, it leads, on average nine to eleven years after infection, to severe immune deficiency and to AIDS. The virus can now be treated with medications, which successfully suppress it in the body and prevent the development of AIDS.

The number of reported HIV cases has fallen since records began in 1985. Following a decline due to the pandemic, it has remained at a generally stable level of between 349 and 389 cases per year since 2022. A total of 387 confirmed HIV cases were reported to the FOPH in 2025.

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is inflammation of the liver caused by the hepatitis B virus. It is highly contagious and is transmitted by contact with the bodily fluids of infected people, particularly blood and genital secretions. This happens, for example, through the shared use of needles or syringes, or through sexual contact. In some cases the disease can become chronic but can be treated effectively. Vaccination provides effective protection and is recommended for all infants in Switzerland. Within the National Programme NAPS, the federal government is working with the cantons to ensure that adolescents and adults can catch up on the vaccination if they were not vaccinated as children.

The number of recorded hepatitis B cases has been at a similar level since 2017, with a temporary dip during the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 1,186 cases were reported to the FOPH in 2025. Where the place of infection is known, most infections were acquired abroad, a share that has risen slightly since 2023. Nearly all reported cases are chronic infections, with less than one per cent acute, recently acquired infections.

Further information:
Federal Office of Public Health, Media and Communication, www.bag.admin.ch
This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.

Hepatitis C
Hepatitis C is also a viral infection of the liver. It is transmitted via the blood of an infected person. Without treatment the disease usually becomes chronic. It can cause permanent liver damage and can lead to cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer. However, it can be cured with medication.

The number of reported hepatitis C cases has been on a downward trend since the early 2000s. A total of 972 cases were reported to the FOPH in 2025. Where the place of infection is known, most infections were acquired abroad, a share that has risen slightly since 2022. The majority of reported cases are chronic infections, with only a very small proportion of acute, recently acquired infections.

Syphilis
Syphilis is a bacterial infection that is mainly transmitted through sexual contact. A mother can also transmit it to her baby during pregnancy. If left untreated, syphilis can have serious health consequences. It can be effectively treated with antibiotics.

The number of recorded syphilis cases has been largely stable since 2019, with a temporary dip during the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 1,165 cases were reported to the FOPH in 2025.

Chlamydia and gonorrhoea
Chlamydia infections are caused by bacteria. They are the most frequently diagnosed STI. Gonorrhoea (known as 'the clap') is also caused by bacteria. The infections are not transmitted through bodily fluids, but through contact with mucous membranes. Depending on the sexual practice the infections can affect different body parts, such as the urethra, the cervix, the rectum or the throat. If left untreated, they can lead to infertility in women and men.

The number of reported cases of gonorrhoea and chlamydia has been rising for years; at the same time, the number of people being tested has been steadily increasing. The growth in the reported cases is therefore mainly due to more frequent testing and, to a lesser extent, to better diagnostic procedures. Since 2024 the number of reported cases of gonorrhoea has been stable, and the same is true for cases of chlamydia since 2023. A total of 6,894 cases of gonorrhoea and 12,707 cases of chlamydia were reported to the FOPH in 2025.

National NAPS Programme

The National Programme 'Stop HIV, hepatitis B and C viruses and sexually transmitted infections (NAPS)', which was adopted by the Federal Council in November 2023, is based on the vision of eliminating the transmission of HIV and hepatitis B and C and reducing the incidence of other sexually transmitted infections in Switzerland by 2030.

The programme was developed by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) together with the cantons and other stakeholders. Implementation focuses on five action areas:

- **Surveillance:** The epidemiological development of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C infections, and of STIs, is evaluated on an ongoing basis – in the population as a whole as well as in the particularly affected population groups (key groups).

- **Information, awareness-raising, empowerment:** The public and the key target groups are educated and empowered to protect themselves from infection and to use counselling, testing and treatment services where necessary.

- **Integrated, joined-up services:** Counselling, vaccination, testing and treatment services should be needs-based, accessible and well coordinated.

- **Equitable access to prevention and treatment:** Infections should be detected early and treated properly. Existing services are to be developed so that key groups in particular can make better use of them.

- **Coordination and governance:** The federal government and cantons jointly steer

implementation of the programme. The organisations and professionals involved coordinate their activities.

The new LOVE LIFE campaign helps to achieve the programme's goals

The LOVE LIFE campaign is part of the information, awareness-raising and empowerment action area of NAPS. It now focuses on adolescents and young adults aged between 16 and 26. This also makes sense from a public health perspective as every year, some 90,000 young people become sexually active for the first time in Switzerland. They make important decisions about their sexual health. In addition, some of them already belong, from a young age, to one of the key groups with an increased risk of HIV and other STIs. Others may later belong to one of the key groups. Raising awareness early on and teaching health literacy are therefore key and can help people better protect themselves from infection.

The campaign complements sex education in schools and supports young people by providing easy-to-understand and relatable information. It provides specific and easily accessible information on protection from HIV and other STIs, and points people towards lovelife.ch, counselling services, and to the Safer Sex Check, which offers personalised recommendations on protection and testing.

The campaign is geared to the realities of young people's lives, speaks their language and uses the channels they use. This is important as digital media and social platforms now have a significant influence on people’s understanding of sexuality. They can amplify misinformation, stereotyped gender roles and unrealistic expectations. LOVE LIFE counteracts this content with evidence-based and trustworthy information. The aim is to empower young people to make informed decisions and to actively protect their sexual health.

LOVE LIFE is being run jointly by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), the Swiss AIDS Federation and the organisation SEXUAL HEALTH SWITZERLAND;

Further information

Link Love Life: lovelife.ch
Link FOPH landing page: Campaign page LOVE LIFE
Link NAPS: National Programme (NAPS): Stop HIV, hepatitis B and C viruses and sexually transmitted infections

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