



# Paediatric HIV care in Germany including care for Ukrainian war refugees

Cornelia Feiterna-Sperling  
Charité University Medicine Berlin

September 29, 2023

# HIV/AIDS in Germany



**Approximately 90.800 people living with HIV (PLWH) in Germany**

**90% of PLWH are aware of their status**

**96% with known HIV infection are treated**

**Estimated number of new HIV infections: 1.800 in 2021**

**MSM\* the major transmission route (60%)**

**Approximately 19.9% women**

**Less than 200 children <15 years living with HIV in 2023**

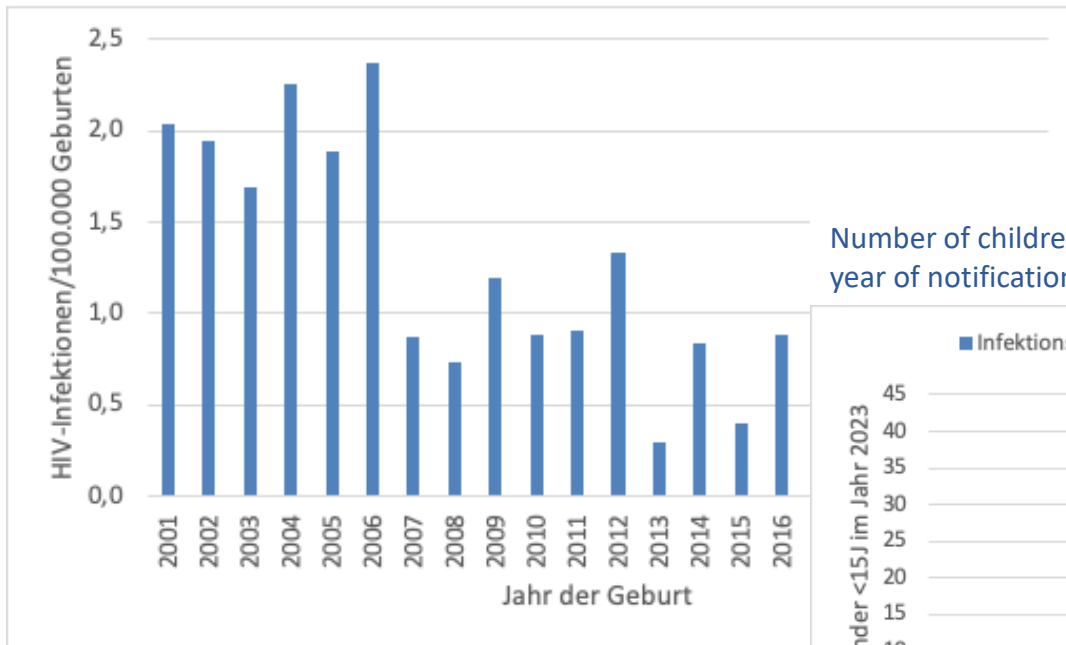
**Mother-to-child-transmission <10 per year**

**\*MSM: Men having sex with men)**

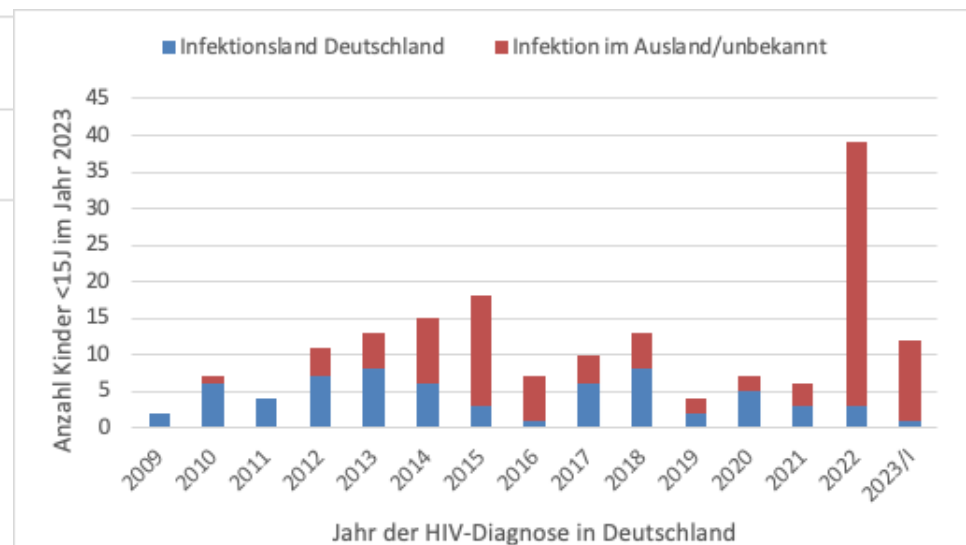
# Paediatric HIV cases in Germany



Number of reported HIV mother-to-child transmissions per 100,000 births in Germany, 2001-2022



Number of children <15 years currently living with HIV in Germany by year of notification and birth abroad (red)/in Germany (31.07.2023)



# Paediatric HIV centres in Germany

Working group for paediatric HIV/AIDS



**Pädiatrische Arbeitsgemeinschaft AIDS**

<https://kinder-aids.de>

# Charité University Medicine Berlin



HIV outpatient clinic –  
Department of Pediatric Respiratory  
Medicine, Immunology and Critical Care

# HIV Outpatient clinic - Charité

- Outpatient clinic offers medical and psychosocial care for children living with HIV and children exposed to HIV

- Team:
  - 2 Paediatricians
  - 4 Paediatric nurses
  - 1 Social worker



# Concept of the interdisciplinary cooperation

Internist

Pediatrician

Mother - Child

Obstetrician

Social worker

Neonatologist

# Patients (Charité)



69 children and adolescents **with HIV**

Median age 14.2 years (1 – 25 years)

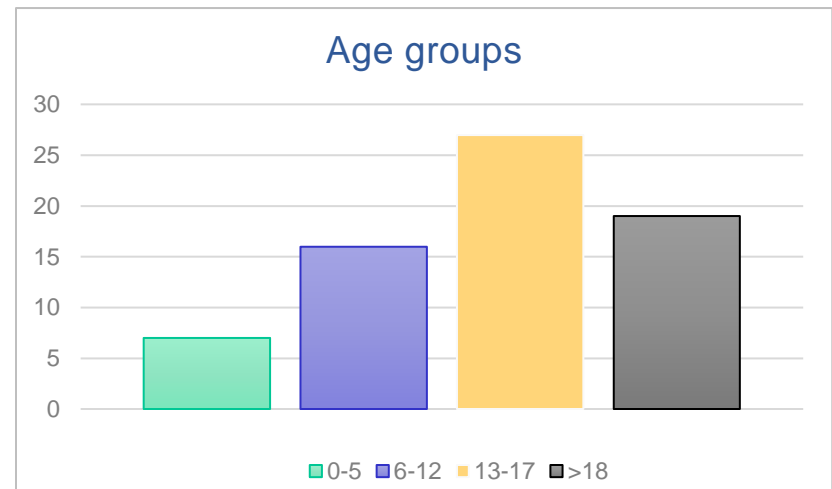
50.7% (35/69) are female

94% (65/69) vertically HIV-infected

100% on ART

65.2% INI-based ART

85%: HIV-RNA <20 cop/ml





# Children exposed to HIV (Charité)

Between 2017 and 2022:

**364 HIV-exposed** children were born,  
2 were HIV+ (transmission rate: 0.5%)



# Children exposed to HIV (Charité)

Between 2017 and 2022:

**364 HIV-exposed** children were born,  
2 were HIV+ (transmission rate: 0.5%)

Breastfeeding in 53 children (no transmission)



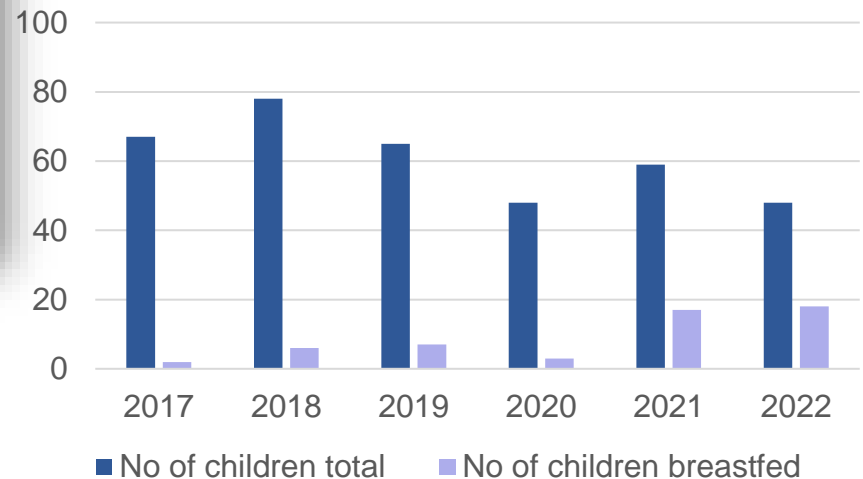
AIDS PATIENT CARE and STDs  
Volume 35, Number 2, 2021  
© Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.  
DOI: 10.1089/apc.2020.0223

CLINICAL AND EPIDEMIOLOGIC RESEARCH

## Not Recommended, But Done: Breastfeeding with HIV in Germany

Lila Haberl,<sup>1</sup> Franz Audebert, MD,<sup>2</sup> Cornelia Feiterna-Sperling, MD,<sup>3</sup> Daniel Gillor, MD,<sup>4</sup> Peter Jakubowski, MD,<sup>5</sup>  
Celia Jonsson-Oldenbützel, MD, PhD,<sup>6</sup> Pavel Khaykin, MD,<sup>7</sup> Rita Kiener, MD,<sup>8</sup> Anke Reitter, MD, PhD,<sup>9</sup>  
Ansgar Rieke, MD,<sup>10</sup> Elena Rodríguez, MD,<sup>11</sup> Steve Rößler, MD,<sup>12</sup> Jörg-Andres Rump, MD, PhD,<sup>13</sup>  
Gundolf Schüttfort, MD,<sup>1</sup> Christoph Stephan, MD, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Albrecht Ulmer, MD,<sup>14</sup> Amrei von Braun, MD,<sup>15</sup>  
Katharina von Weizsäcker, MD,<sup>16</sup> and Annette Haberl, MD<sup>1</sup>

HIV-exposed children per year



# Psychosocial care for children and adolescents living with HIV

- Providing non-medical support to patients and their families
- Help with questions regarding health insurance, residence permission, housing situation, schooling, etc.
- Help to resolve social and financial problems



Hannah B.

# Educational training for HIV+ children

## “How to become an expert of my body”

Training in groups for the preparation of disclosure to children of their HIV status



# Aim of this group training

- Transfer of basic knowledge about body functions, immune defense and health promotion
- Better understanding of explanations in preparation of HIV disclosure
- Improving adherence (adolescents!)
- Strengthen self-confidence when experiencing discrimination from the social environment
- Initiating a peer group for understanding “I’m not alone..”

# Topics of this educational training

1. Body system
2. Blood cells
3. Immune system
4. Nutrition
5. Exercise and relaxation
6. Emotions
7. Sexuality, pregnancy, and birth
8. HIV disclosure

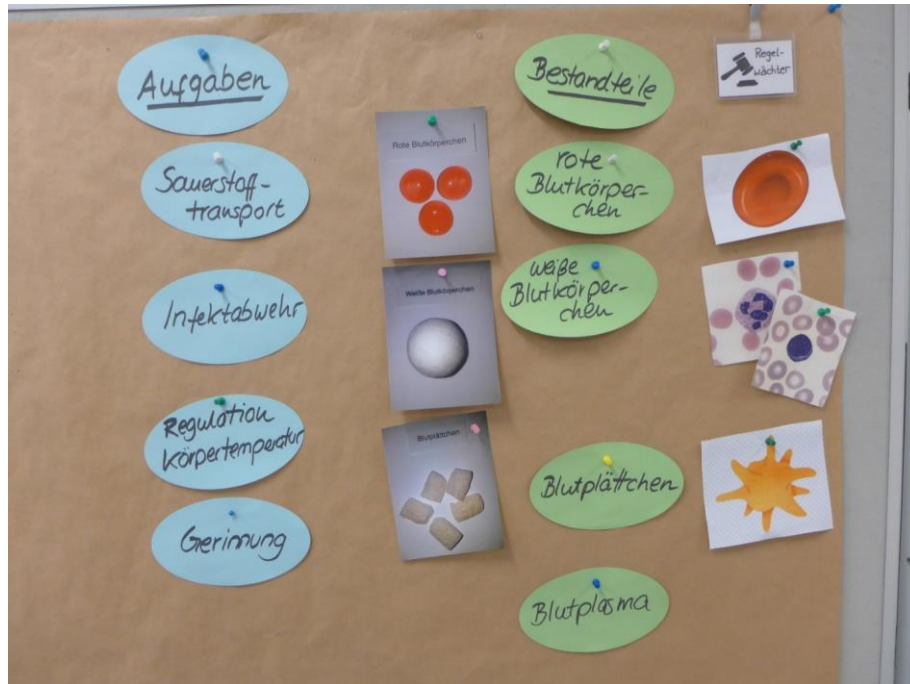


# Body system

# Body system



# Blood cells



# Blood cells

# Emotions



# Paediatric HIV care for war refugees from Ukraine

# February 24, 2022: Russian invasion of Ukraine

"All the News That's Fit to Print" **The New York Times** Late Edition  
VOL. CLXXI, No. 68,245 NEW YORK, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2022 \$3.00

## WAR IN UKRAINE

### RUSSIANS PUSH INTO OUTSKIRTS OF CAPITAL AS DEATHS RISE AND THOUSANDS FLEE WEST



**Big Explosion Is Seen Over Kyiv; Zelensky Says He's 'Target No. 1'**

The attack in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, was the deadliest yet in the city since the Russian invasion. It was seen from the city's center, and the explosion was heard in other parts of the city and the surrounding area. The explosion was seen from the city's center, and the explosion was heard in other parts of the city and the surrounding area.



**Russians Wake Up to Discover They Didn't Really Know Putin**

Russian troops are waking up to the reality that they are not the invincible force they were led to believe. They are discovering that the Ukrainians are not the easy targets they were led to believe.



**Sanctions Aim to Isolate Banks And Cut Off Russia Tech Imports**

The United States and other nations are imposing new sanctions on Russia to isolate its financial system and cut off its access to technology.

**U.S. Intelligence Strengthens Biden's Hand in Uniting Allies**

The United States intelligence community is providing more evidence to its allies that Russia is the aggressor in the conflict.

**An Untested President Steps Up To Rally His People in Wartime**

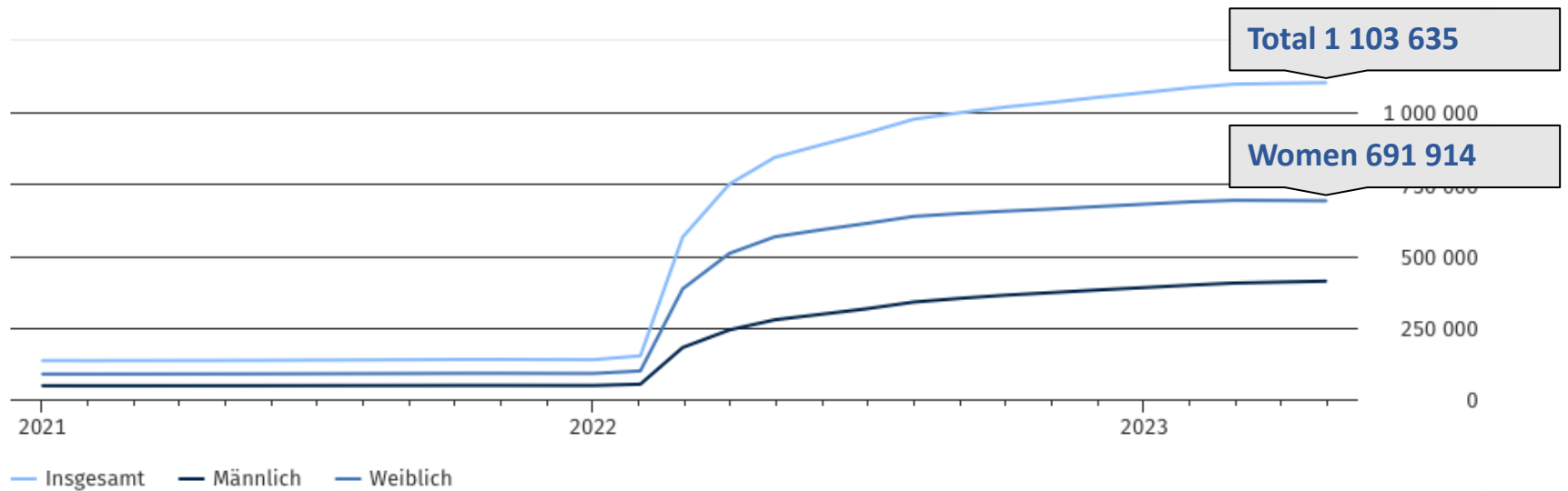
President Biden is stepping up to rally the American people in this time of crisis.

# Ukrainian population in Germany

Status: May 31, 2023

## Ukrainische Bevölkerung in Deutschland nach Geschlecht

Anzahl



Ergebnisse der Bevölkerungsfortschreibung auf Grundlage des Zensus 2011

Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), 2023

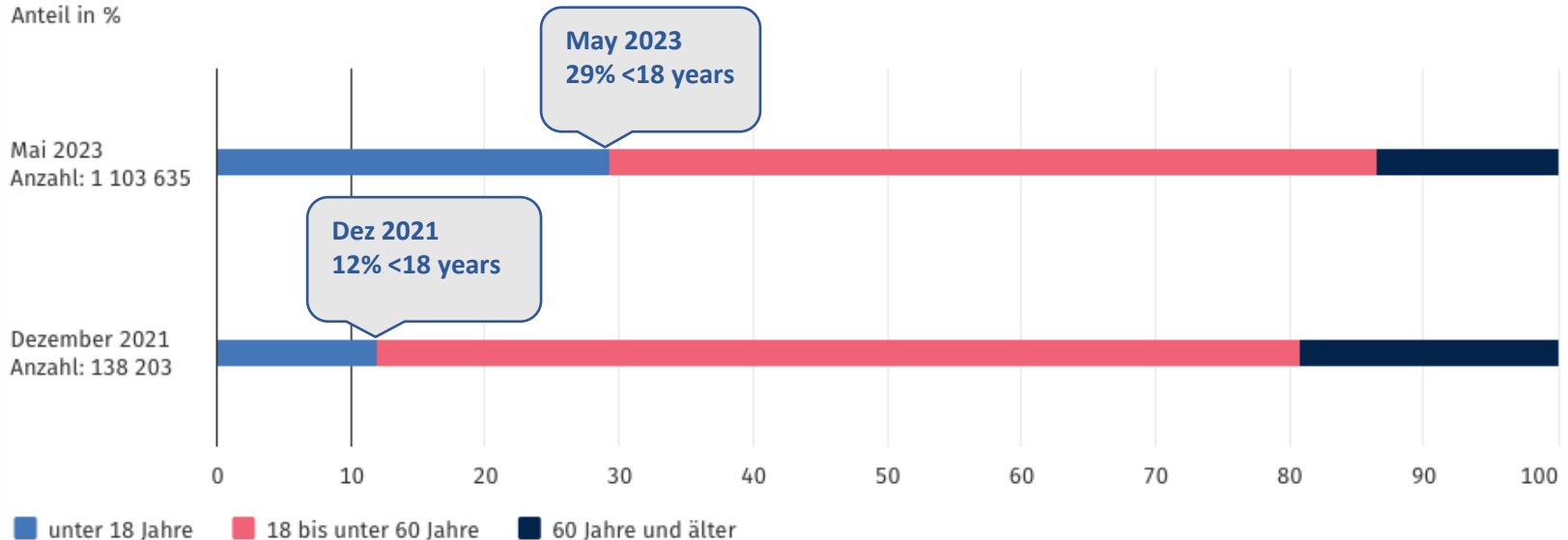
[https://www.destatis.de/DE/Im-Fokus/Ukraine/Gesellschaft/\\_inhalt.html](https://www.destatis.de/DE/Im-Fokus/Ukraine/Gesellschaft/_inhalt.html)

# Ukrainian population by age groups living in Germany

Status: May 31, 2023

## Ukrainische Bevölkerung in Deutschland nach Altersgruppen

Anteil in %



Ergebnisse der Bevölkerungsfortschreibung auf Grundlage des Zensus 2011

Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), 2023

[https://www.destatis.de/DE/Im-Fokus/Ukraine/Gesellschaft/\\_inhalt.html](https://www.destatis.de/DE/Im-Fokus/Ukraine/Gesellschaft/_inhalt.html)

# HIV/AIDS in Ukraine



**Approximately 260.000 people living with HIV (PLWH) in Ukraine**

**Only 69% of PLWH are aware of their status**

**AIDS incidence in new HIV cases: 9.9/100.000**

(European average: 1.2/100.000 in 2020)

**Approximately 45% women and 2700 children**

**On ART are 57% of PLWH**

**80% of ART regimen are Dolutegravir-based**

**Tuberculosis is common, in 12.9% of individuals with newly diagnosed HIV (often multidrug resistant)**



# The first patient in our clinic .....

**Anna \*2010**

Arrival in Germany: **March 21, 2022**

Date of HIV diagnosis: **Dezember 2021**

CD4+ **12/μl (4%)**

HIV-RNA: **10 Mio. cop/ml**

**ART start DEC/2021: TDF/FTC and DTG**



## AIDS-defining symptoms:

**Wasting-Syndrome**

**MAC-Infection**

# The first patient in our clinic.....

**Anna \*2010**

**How did she get HIV infection?**

Mother: HIV-Seroconversion in pregnancy

Postnatal HIV-prophylaxis with zidovudine

No breastfeeding

HIV-PCR 3 times negative, testing up to the age of 10 weeks of life

No further testing!



# War refugees from Ukraine: Children and adolescents with HIV in Berlin

Presentation with known HIV infection:

n = 13

12 patients: ART started in Ukraine

1 patient: ART initiation in Moscow

HIV newly diagnosed in Germany:

n = 3

1 infant born in Berlin

2 patients (7 and 10 years)

# From which parts of Ukraine did the patients come from?

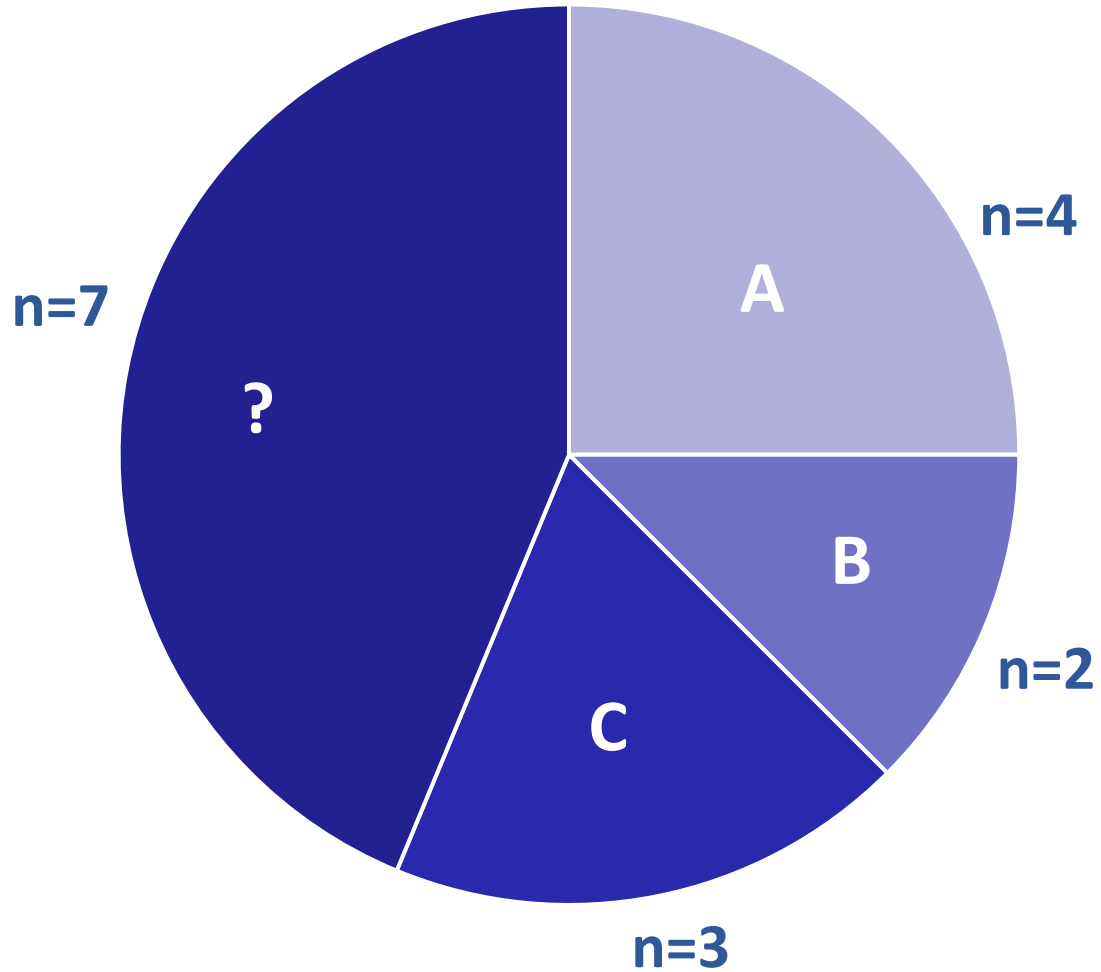


# Patients at first presentation (n=16)

Characteristics	
Age	Median 12 years (0.2 – 17 years)
Gender	10/16 (62.5%) female
Route of transmission	16/16 (100%) vertically infected
Country of HIV diagnosis	12/16 (75%) in Ukraine*
Duration arrival to first presentation	Median 35 days (14-207 days)
Patients on ART	13/16 (81.3%)

HIV diagnosis outside Ukraine: n=1 in Russia, n=3 in Germany

# Clinical CDC Stages of the patients



# Patients on ART at first presentation

Characteristics	
Patients on ART	13/16 (81.3%)
Dolutegravir based ART	9/13 (69.2%)
Single-Tablet-Regime	8/13 (61.5%)
ART switch	9/13 (69.2%)
CD4+ (patients on treatment)	Median 940/ $\mu$ l (100-1650)
HIV-RNA (patients on treatment)	69.2% (9/13) <20 cop/ml

**5/13 (38.5%) had received TLD  
(tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, lamivudine, dolutegravir)**

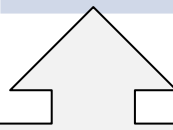


# Children newly diagnosed with HIV in Berlin

**Pat. 1: Father HIV+  
tested**



Pat.	Date of diagnosis	Age at diagnosis (years)	Reason for HIV testing?	HIV-RNA* (cop/ml)	CD4+* (cells/ $\mu$ l)	CDC Stage
1	10/2022	0.2	Mother HIV+, Hepatitis	1.11 Mio.	2010	B1
2	1/2023	10	Chronic otitis media, lymphadenopathy	13.900	140	B3
3	2/2023	7	Sister (Pat. 2) HIV+	17.800	1160	A1



**Pat. 2 u. 3:  
Parents also tested  
HIV+**



# Co-infections and vaccine protection

HBsAg	100% (16/16) negative
Anti-HBc	100% (16/16) negative
Anti-HBs	93,8 % (15/16) negative
Anti-HCV	100% (16/16) negative
Anti-HAV	100% (15/15) negative
Interferon-Gamma-Release Assay	93.3% (14/15) negative*
Measles-IgG	73.3% (11/15) negative
Mumps-IgG	73.3% (11/15) negative
Rubella-IgG	78.6% (11/14) negative

# Psychosocial / family situation

- 50% (8/16) of the patients were orphans or half-orphans, 5 of them unaccompanied minors
- Escape accompanied by both parents in 4/16 (25%) of the patients
- Need for psychiatric treatment in 2 patients



# Psychosocial / family situation

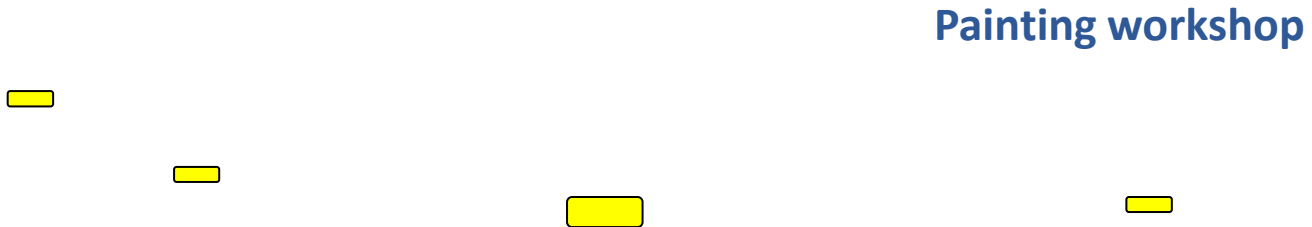
- 50% (8/16) of the patients were orphans or half-orphans, 5 of them unaccompanied minors
- Escape accompanied by both parents in 4/16 (25%) of the patients
- Need for psychiatric treatment in 2 patients
- Housing situation

8 of 15 (53%) families lives in an own apartment

1 child lives in children's home  
1 child with a foster mother (after her mother's suicide)



# Psychosocial support in our clinic



With courtesy of H. Bethke

# Visit to the Berlin Zoo



# Conclusions

- Medical and psychosocial care of pediatric patients living with HIV among refugees from Ukraine has been challenging
- Most children and adolescents on ART are sufficiently treated
- In our study group, we had no co-infections
- Poor vaccination protection against measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, and hepatitis A and B
- High need for psychosocial support



Thank you very much for your attention