In this analysis we describe maternal characteristics and pregnancy outcomes in this small but important group of women. A number of CEE countries have higher HIV prevalence rates than Western Europe, with women representing a high proportion of the HIV-infected population. In the Ukraine, for example, the prevalence of HIV among pregnant women in many urban areas is >1%. In this analysis we describe maternal characteristics and pregnancy outcomes in this small but important group of women.

**Results**

- The number and proportion of CEE pregnancies reported in UK/Ireland has increased significantly since 2004 (0.2% before 2004 to 1.1% since ($p<0.001$)) (fig 1).
- In total 71 pregnancies in 63 CEE women were reported between 1992 and 2007 (fig 2) including 23 in 2007 alone; most pregnancies were reported in England (68%).

**Maternal characteristics**

- The largest group of women were from Poland (22/63, 35%), with the remaining as follows: Russia (8/63, 13%), Lithuania (8/63, 13%); Latvia (6/63, 10%) and Estonia, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Belarus & Hungary with less than 5 women each.
- Likely risk factor for HIV acquisition was reported for 43% of women; among those, 41% probably acquired HIV through injecting drug use, 52% through sexual transmission and 7% through blood transfusion in their country of origin.
- 29% (18/63) of women were diagnosed before their first reported pregnancy, 70% (44/63) antenatally (including 4 around the time of delivery) and 1 woman was diagnosed just after delivery.

**Live births**

- 61 live births were reported (fig 2) including 5 before 2004. One infant is known to be infected.
- Information on treatment in pregnancy was available for 59 of the 61 mothers. Among these, 4 (7%) were untreated, 3 (5%) received mono/dual therapy, and 52 (88%) highly active antiretroviral therapy.

**Conclusion**

- The number of pregnancies in HIV-infected CEE women living in the UK/Ireland has increased significantly in recent years, with a high proportion of women diagnosed antenatally.
- Continued monitoring of these pregnancies remains important in view of the increasing number of reports.

**Background**

- Immigration from Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries to the UK and Ireland has increased following the accession of eight CEE countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) to the EU in 2004 and a further two countries (Bulgaria and Romania) in 2007.
- A number of CEE countries have higher HIV prevalence rates than Western Europe, with women representing a high proportion of the HIV-infected population. In the Ukraine, for example, the prevalence of HIV among pregnant women in many urban areas is >1%. In this analysis we describe maternal characteristics and pregnancy outcomes in this small but important group of women.

**Methods**

- **Design:** National Study of HIV in Pregnancy & Childhood
  - Confidential active surveillance scheme for pregnancies in HIV infected women attending for antenatal care, HIV-infected children and infants born to infected women in UK/Ireland².
  - Run in collaboration with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (British Paediatric Surveillance Unit) and the Health Protection Agency (HPA).
- **Analysis:**
  - Pregnancies in diagnosed HIV-infected women from Central & Eastern European countries due to deliver between 1992 and 2007 and reported by June 2008.
  - Data managed in Microsoft Access 2003 database and analysed in Stata 10.0.

**Figure 1: The proportion of reported pregnancies by mother’s region of birth (European-born women only)**

**Figure 2: Pregnancy outcomes for CEE women 1992-2007**

- 71 pregnancies
- 33 Elective caesarean sections
- 17 Vaginal deliveries
- 11 Emergency caesarean sections
- 4 Women lost to follow up
- 1 Outcome not yet known

*Out of 52 children with known infection status.*

**References**