

HIV and Syphilis among Street Children of Ukraine

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UNICEF Definition

- **Street Living Children:** children who ran away from their families and live alone on the streets.
- **Street Working Children:** children who spend most of their time on the streets, fending for themselves, but returning home on a regular basis.
- **Children from Street Families:** children who live on the streets with their families.

Inclusion criteria

- Children 14-18,
- Who spend all or most of their time on the street,
- Who maintain minimal contact with their families, or have no contact at all,
- or who live in the street together with their families.

Risk Factors

- Unprotected sex with multiple partners (male&female)
- Injecting drug use

Previous Research*

- HIV seroprevalence assessment among street children aged 15-17 in 3 cities of Ukraine, May-Dec 2008.

Odessa 21/123 (17.1%)

Kyiv 5/44 (11.4%)

Donetsk 2/87 (2.3%)

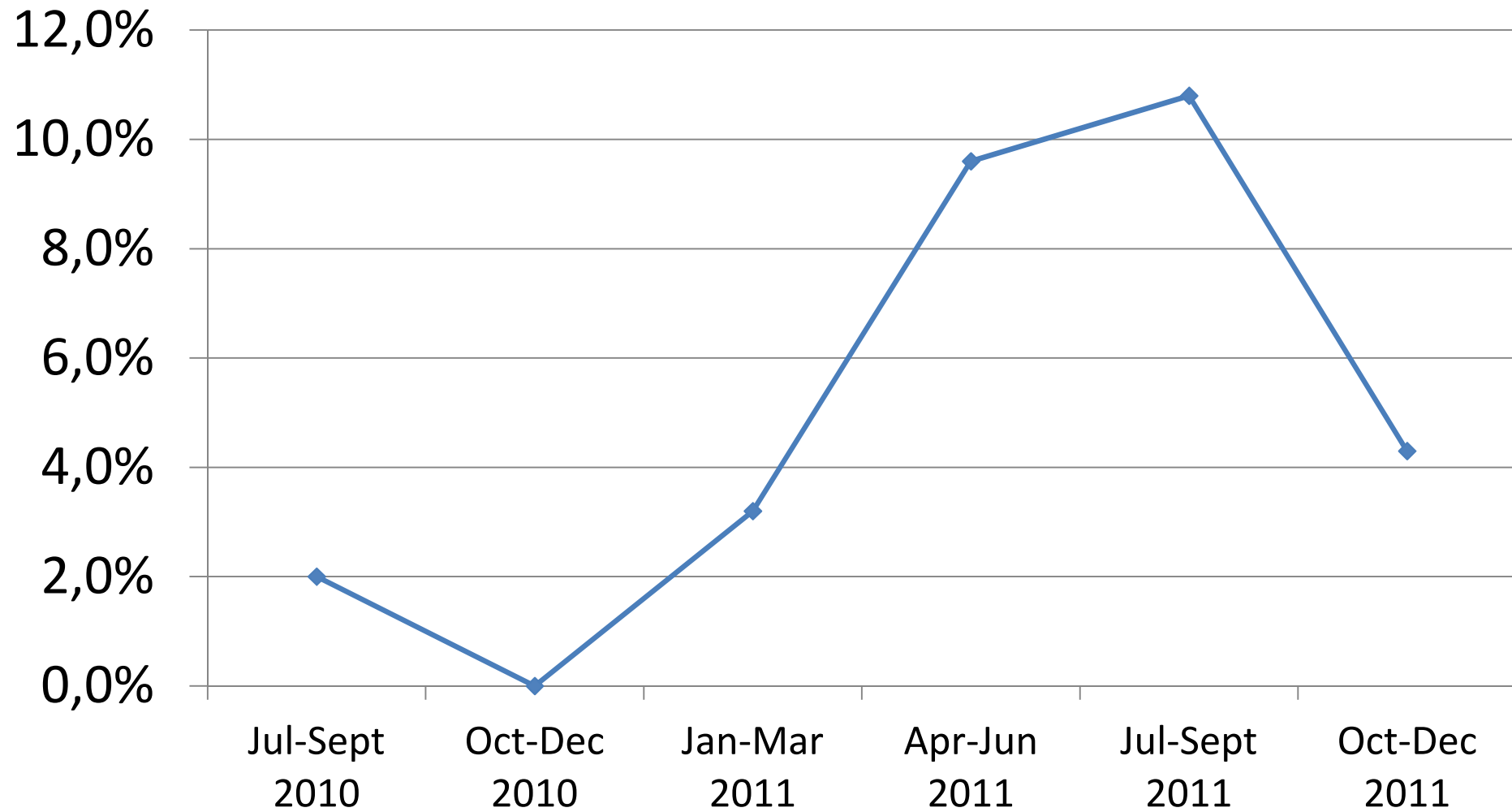
*Robbins et al., International Journal of STD & AIDS 2010;
21: 489–496.

Screening Results for HIV

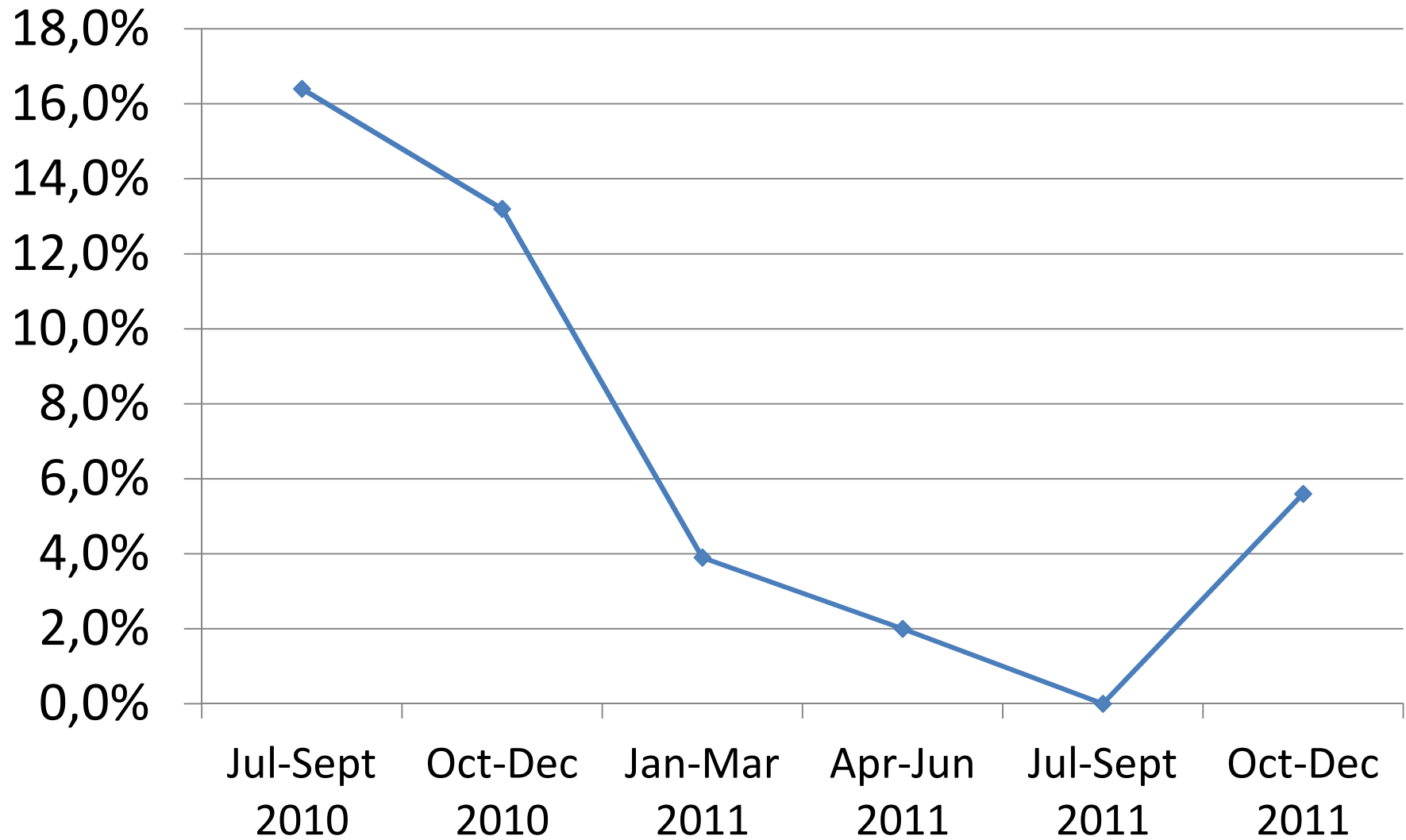
Jul 2010-Dec 2011

City	Street children tested for HIV	HIV+ street children	% of HIV+ street children
Mykolaiv	277	14	5.1%
Odessa	352	29	8.2%
Donetsk	399	16	4%
Kyiv	421	32	7.6%
Total	1449	91	6.3%

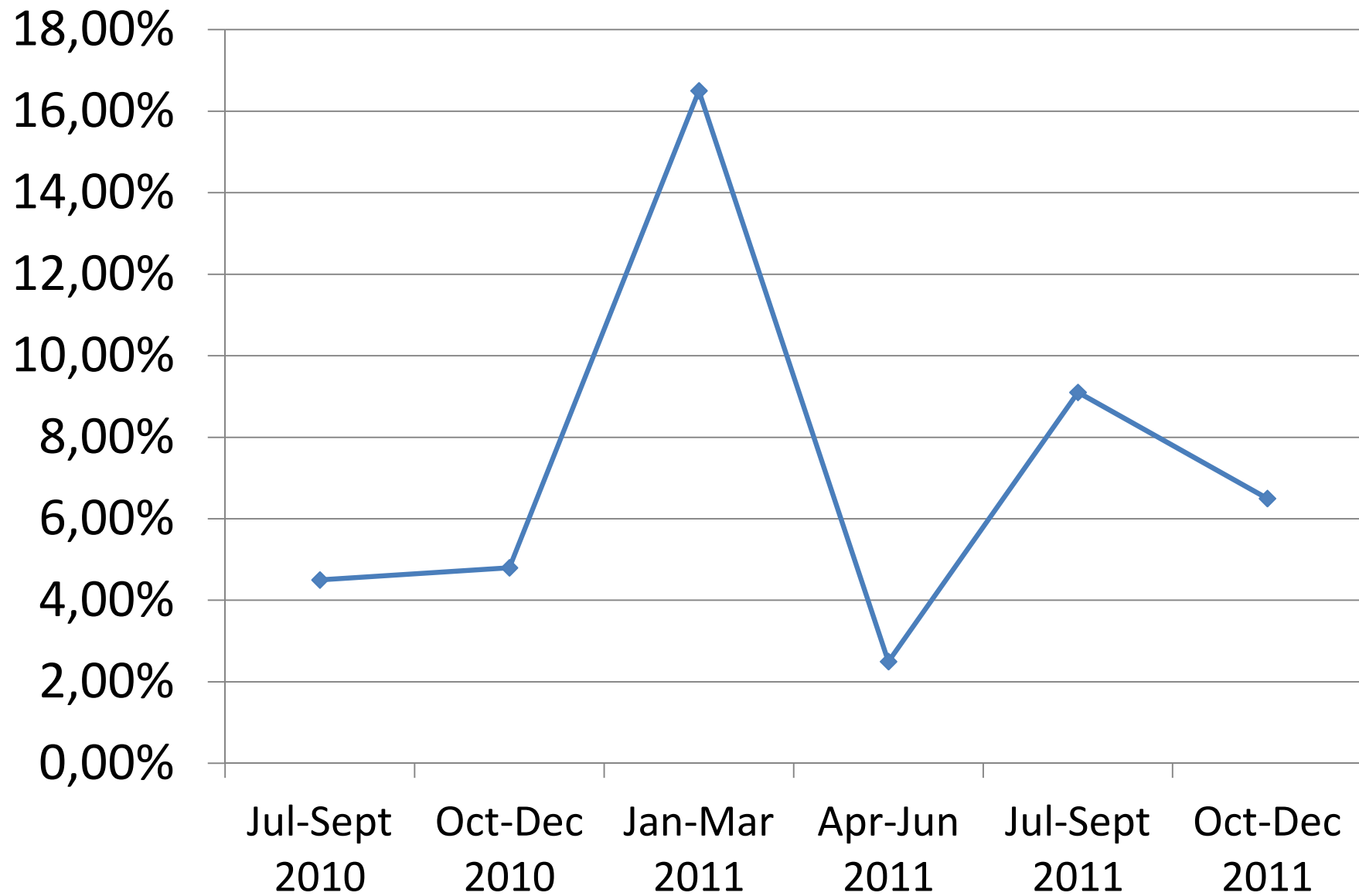
HIV+ street children in Mykolaiv



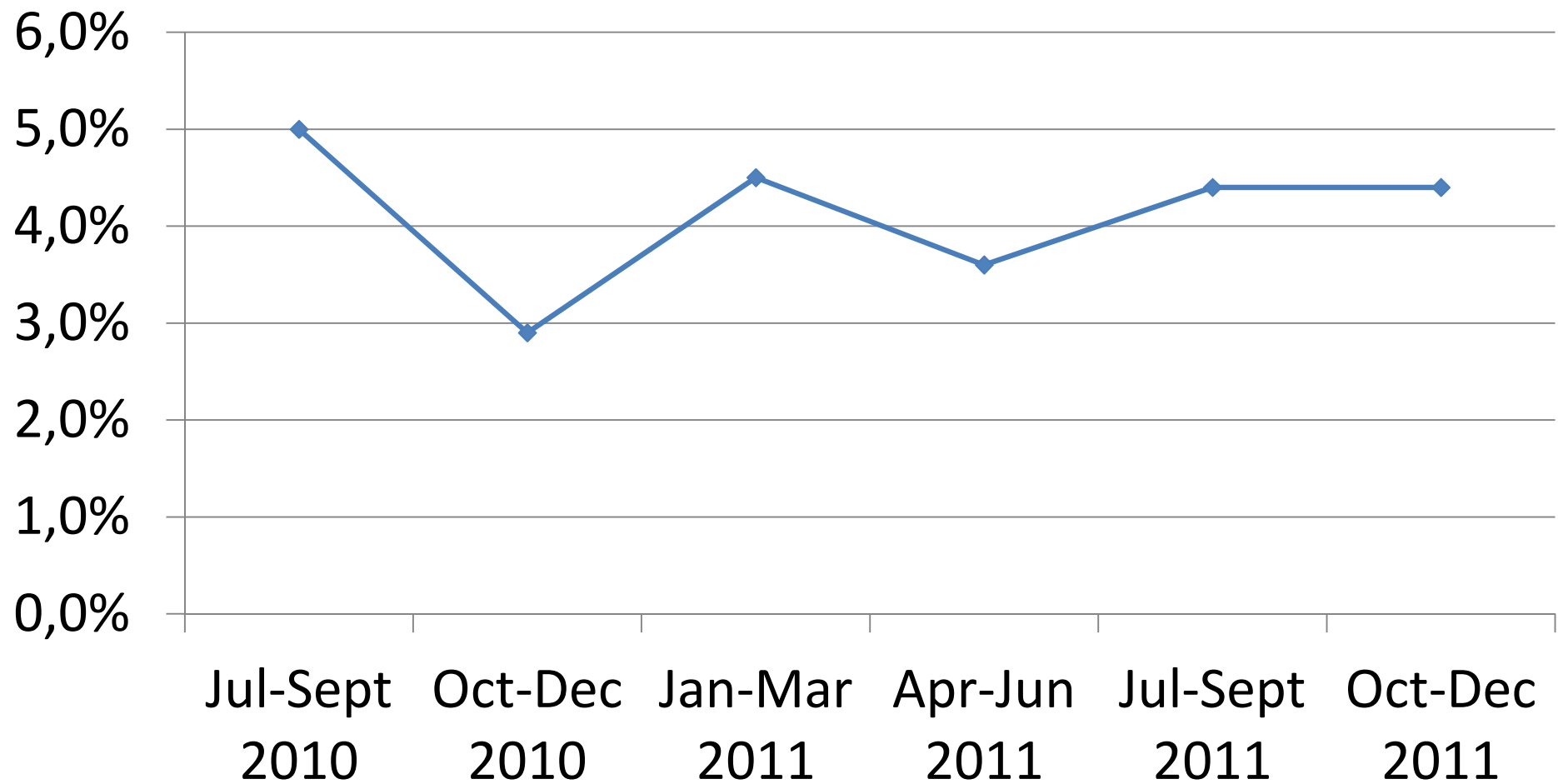
HIV+ street children in Odessa



HIV+ street children in Kyiv



HIV+ street children in Donetsk

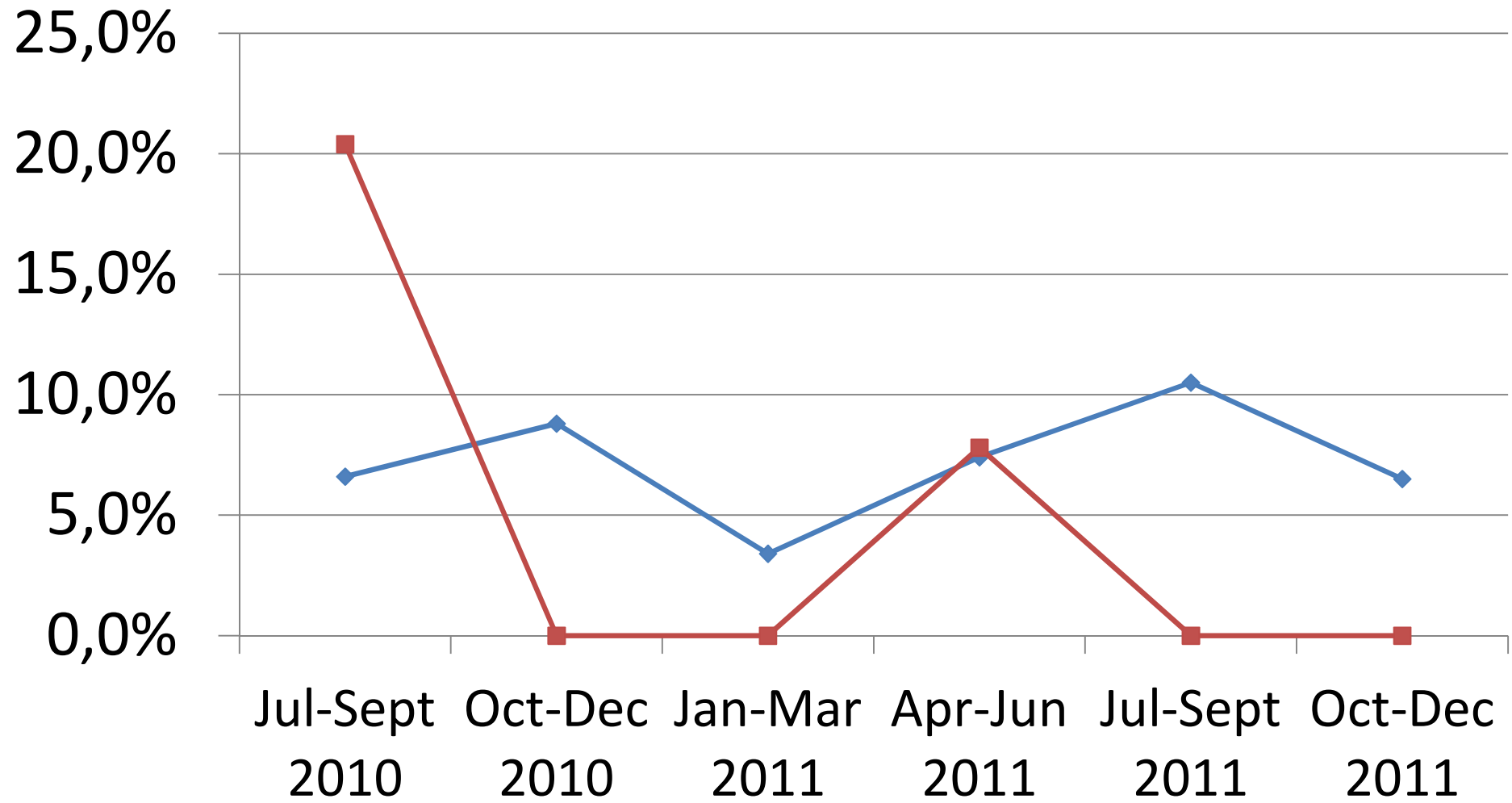


Screening Results for Syphilis

Jul 2010-Dec 2011

City	Street children tested for syphilis	Syphilis+ street children	% of syphilis+ street children
Mykolaiv	262	3	1.2%
Odessa	351	25	7.1%
Donetsk	399	3	0.8%
Kyiv	422	31	7.4%
Total	1434	62	4.3%

Syphilis+ street children in **Kyiv** and **Odessa**



Conclusions

- HIV and syphilis among Ukrainian street children are underdiagnosed
- Local peculiarities in dynamics of HIV-prevalence
- Seasonal factors (migration)
- External factors (police raids etc)

Considerations for prevention programs

- Age 18+
- AIDS-Centres are reluctant to register HIV+ street children without documents or residence registration
- Testing of runaways at orphanages and boarding-houses
- Street children from all over Ukraine found in Kyiv and Odessa; children from Moldova and Russia in Odessa