**Objective:** To determine the number of persons infected with HIV in Germany initiating and receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) 2006-2008

**Methods:** Number of daily drug doses (DDD) was calculated using ART data of the ClinSurv Cohort, a national German multicentre observational open cohort. Using DDD derived from national APD collected by data processing centres for pharmacies covering all individuals with statutory health insurance (85% of the population in Germany), the total number of patients initiating and receiving ART was calculated for the years 2006-2008. ART composition of APD and ClinSurv data was analysed to ensure the comparability of both sources.

**Results:** 9,066 patients (mean 6,757 patients per quarter; SD 124.3) were receiving 14.77 mio. DDD of ART in the ClinSurv Cohort (2006-2008), while a total of 63.54 mio. DDD were prescribed in APD in Germany. The proportion of NRTI, NNRTI and PI among total DDD varied by less than 1% each between both sources. The calculated number of patients receiving ART covered by statutory health insurance, increased from 26,387 to 27,842 (2006-2007) and to 30,130 patients in 2008. 1,886 patients initiated ART in 2006, increasing up to 2,738 patients in 2008. Taking into account that 15% of individuals infected with HIV were without statutory health insurance, an estimate of 3,150 patients initiated ART and a total of 35,000 patients were receiving ART in 2008 in Germany. 5.5% of patients on ART had temporarily interrupted therapy for various reasons.

**Conclusions:** ART data from ClinSurv corresponded well with the APD reports. In Germany the number of persons initiating and receiving ART increased between 2006 and 2008 up to 35,000. The estimated number of patients initiating ART in 2008 exceeded the number of persons newly diagnosed with HIV from national surveillance, possibly indicating a trend towards earlier treatment.