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## **Drug-related AIDS deaths rise quickly in Central Asia**

AIDS deaths have jumped more than 11-fold in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in the past decade, according to a U.N. agency's report Monday, defying a global decline.

AIDS killed about 90,000 people in these regions in 2010, compared with 7,800 in 2001, the Joint United Nations Program on H.I.V./AIDS, or Unaid, said in the report. Russia and Ukraine account for 90 percent of the areas' people infected by H.I.V., most of whom are drug users who catch the virus that causes AIDS by sharing contaminated needles.

Russia's failure to implement programs like offering drug users clean needles or switching them to methadone tablets from heroin injections is fueling the virus's spread, said Paul De Lay, the deputy executive director of the agency. (BLOOMBERG)