

Key facts by region – 2007 AIDS Epidemic Update

Global Overview

- Global HIV prevalence (the proportion of people living with the virus) appears to have levelled off. However, the number of people living with HIV has risen to 33.2 million [30.6-36.1 million] in 2007 from 29.0 million [26.9 million-32.4 million] in 2001.
- Some 2.5 million [1.8-4.1 million] people were newly infected with the virus in 2007 and 2.1 million [1.9-2.4 million] people died of AIDS-related illnesses.

Sub-Saharan Africa

- **Sub-Saharan Africa** remains the most affected region. Some 1.7 million [1.4 million-2.4 million] people were newly infected with HIV in 2007, bringing to 22.5 million [20.9 million-24.3 million] the total number of people living with the virus. Unlike other regions, the majority of people (61%) living with HIV in **sub-Saharan Africa** are women.
 - More than two-thirds (68%) of all people infected with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa where more than three quarters (76%) of all AIDS-related deaths in 2007 occurred.
 - Within the region, **Southern Africa** is worst-affected – national adult HIV prevalence exceeded 15% in eight **Southern African** countries in 2005¹.
 - **South Africa** is the country in the world with the most HIV infections, but like most of the countries in **Southern, East and West Africa** adult HIV prevalence is either stable or has started to decline. The latter trend is most evident in **Kenya** and **Zimbabwe**, and signs of declining HIV prevalence are also being seen in **Côte d'Ivoire, Mali** and urban **Burkina Faso**. In these countries there is also evidence of a shift towards safer behaviour.

Asia

- In 2007, an estimated 4.9 million [3.7 million-6.7 million] people in **Asia** were living with HIV, including the 440,000 [210 000-1.0 million] people newly infected in the past year. Approximately 300,000 [250,000-470,000] people died from AIDS-related illnesses in 2007.
 - In 2007 there were almost 20% more new HIV infections in East Asia than in 2001.
 - HIV prevalence is highest in **South-East Asia**, with wide variation in epidemic trends between different countries – **Myanmar, Thailand** and **Cambodia** show declines in prevalence, but the epidemic is growing at a particularly high rate in **Indonesia** and in **Viet Nam**.
 - Although the proportion of people living with HIV in **India** is lower than previously estimated, the epidemic continues to affect large numbers of people (2.5 million people [2 million-3.1 million] in 2006).

¹ Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Caribbean

- Adult HIV prevalence was estimated at 1% in 2007 in the **Caribbean**, which remains the second most affected region in the world after sub-Saharan Africa. Some 230,000 [210,000-270,000] people were living with HIV in 2007, and an estimated 11,000 [9,800-18,000] people died of AIDS-related illnesses. In addition, 17,000 [15,000-23,000] people were newly infected with HIV.
 - HIV prevalence is highest in the **Dominican Republic** and **Haiti**, which together account for nearly three quarters all people living with HIV in the **Caribbean**.
 - In **Haiti**, however, data indicate significant recent reductions in some forms of sexual behaviour that put people at a higher risk of exposure to HIV.
 - AIDS remains one of the leading causes of death in the **Caribbean** among people aged 25 to 44 years.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

- The number of people living with HIV in **Eastern Europe** and **Central Asia** rose in 2007 to an estimated 1.6 million [1.2 million-2.1 million], with an estimated 150,000 [70,000-290,000] new HIV infections. Some 55,000 [42,000-88,000] people died of AIDS related illnesses in the region in 2007.
 - Nearly 90% of newly reported HIV diagnoses in this region occurred in two countries, the **Russian Federation** (66%) and **Ukraine** (21%), but newly reported HIV diagnoses are rising in other countries, including **Uzbekistan**, which now has the largest epidemic in **Central Asia**.
 - Injecting drug use is a major factor in the region's epidemic.

Latin America

- **Latin America's** HIV epidemics remain generally stable. The estimated number of new HIV infections in **Latin America** in 2007 was 100,000 [47,000-220,000], bringing to 1.6 million [1.4 million-1.9 million] the total number of people living with HIV in this region. An estimated 58,000 [49,000-91,000] people died of AIDS-related illnesses in the past year.
 - HIV transmission continues to occur among populations at higher risk of exposure, including sex workers and men who have sex with men.
 - Unprotected sex between men is an important risk factor in a number of epidemics in the region².
 - Widespread stigma and discrimination are hampering efforts to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in the region.
 - More investment is needed to address inadequate surveillance in Latin America.

² Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru in South America, and El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama in Central America

North America, Western and Central Europe

- Overall, approximately 2.1 million [1.1 million-3.0 million] people in North America and Western and Central Europe were living with HIV in 2007, including the 78,000 [19,000-86,000] who acquired HIV in the past year. Some 32,000 [20,000-84,000] people died of AIDS related illnesses in 2007.
 - There has been an increase in the number of new HIV diagnoses in Western Europe since 2002, and a relatively stable number of new HIV infections each year in North America.
 - Widespread access to effective antiretroviral treatment has helped the number of AIDS-related deaths in this region to remain comparatively low.

Middle East and North Africa

- An estimated 35,000 [16,000-65,000] people in the region acquired HIV in 2007, bringing to 380,000 [270,000-500,000] the total number of people living with HIV. An estimated 25,000 [20,000-34,000] people died of AIDS-related illnesses in 2007.
 - Few data are available in the region and much more needs to be done to improve surveillance and data collection.
 - Most HIV infections occur in men and in urban areas, with the exception of **Sudan**, the country with the highest prevalence in the region, where unsafe heterosexual intercourse is the most important risk factor for HIV infection.
 - While unprotected paid sex is a key factor in the HIV epidemics throughout the region, injecting drug use is the main route of HIV transmission in many countries.

Oceania

- An estimated 14,000 [11,000-26,000] people acquired HIV in **Oceania** in 2007, bringing to 75,000 [53,000-120,000] the total number of people living with the virus in this region. Some 1,200 [<500-2700] people died of AIDS related illnesses in **Oceania** in 2007.
 - Over 70% of the total number of people living with HIV are in **Papua New Guinea**, where the epidemic is still expanding, although at slightly lower levels than previously believed.
 - In **Australia** and **New Zealand**, HIV continues to be transmitted mainly through unprotected sex between men.

Contact

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