

New evidence on survival of people living with HIV in low- and middle income countries

In 2001 the UNAIDS Reference Group on Estimates, Modelling and Projections had recommended an average survival time of 9 years for modeling the HIV epidemic in low- and middle income countries.^[1] This recommendation was based on a review of results from cohort studies in Haiti, Thailand and Uganda, although the only study that had observed median survival (in Masaka, Uganda) had shown a median crude survival time of 9.8 years.^[2]

Recent data from cohort studies in several low- and middle-income countries shows that survival from HIV seroconversion is somewhat longer than previously assumed in most areas, except where subtype E is dominant. Published study results from South-Africa^[3] with crude survival of 10.5 years, Tanzania^[4] with a predicted crude survival of 11.2 years, and Rwanda^[5] with a crude survival of 11.6 years, together with unpublished data from Uganda suggests that net survival (excluding background mortality due to other causes) is close to 11 years. It is noteworthy that a large collaborative study in western countries also found a crude survival in the pre-HAART era ranging from 7.9 to 12.5 years depending on the age group, with an average of around 11 years.^[6] Published data from Thailand^[7, 8] suggests that survival of people infected with subtype E is shorter, with a median crude survival of 7.8 years in one study, and median crude time to AIDS of 6.7 years in the other study.

References

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