

[Source: *Report on the global AIDS epidemic 2008*, August 2008]

Key facts by region – 2008 Report on the global AIDS epidemic

Global overview

- An estimated 33 million people [30.3 – 36.1 million] were living with HIV in 2007. There were 2.7 million [2.2 – 3.2 million] new HIV infections and 2 million [1.8 – 2.3 million] AIDS-related deaths last year.
- The rate of new HIV infections has fallen in several countries, but globally these favourable trends are at least partially offset by increases in new infections in other countries.
- Sub-Saharan Africa has two thirds (67%) of all people living with HIV worldwide.
- Globally, women account for half of all HIV infections—this percentage has remained stable for the past several years.
- An estimated 370 000 [330 000 – 410 000] children (younger than 15) became infected with HIV in 2007. The total number of children living with HIV has increased from 1.6 million [1.4 – 2.1 million] in 2001 to 2 million [1.9 – 2.3 million] in 2007—almost 90% live in sub-Saharan Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa

- Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region most heavily affected by HIV worldwide, accounting for two thirds (67%) of all people living with HIV and for three quarters (75%) of AIDS deaths in 2007.
- An estimated 1.9 million [1.6–2.1 million] people were newly infected with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa in 2007, bringing to 22 million [20.5–23.6 million] the number of people living with HIV.
- Sub-Saharan Africa's epidemics vary significantly from country to country—with most appearing to have stabilized, although often at very high levels, particularly in **Southern Africa**.
- The nine countries in **Southern Africa** continue to bear a disproportionate share of the global AIDS burden—35% of HIV infections and 38% of AIDS deaths in 2007 happened there.

Asia

- In Asia, an estimated 5 million [4.1 million–6.2 million] people were living with HIV in 2007.
- The number of new infections and people who died from AIDS-related illnesses were, comparatively speaking, equal in 2007—380 000 [200 000–650 000] and 380 000 [270 000–490 000], respectively.

- National HIV infection levels are highest in South-East Asia. New HIV infections are also increasing steadily, although at a much slower pace, in populous countries such as **Bangladesh** and **China**.

Caribbean

- In 2007, an estimated 230 000 [210 000–270 000] people were living with HIV, while an estimated 20 000 [16 000–25 000] were newly infected, and some 14 000 [11 000–16 000] died of AIDS-related illnesses.
- Although surveillance systems are largely inadequate in several countries, available data indicate that most of the HIV epidemics in the Caribbean appear to have stabilized, while a few have declined in urban areas—this is particularly evident in the **Dominican Republic** and **Haiti**. Both countries are home to the largest epidemics in the region.
- At the end of 2007, an estimated 30 000 people living with HIV were receiving antiretroviral treatment in the region—a 50% increase since end-2006, when 20 000 people were on treatment.¹

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

- The estimated number of adults and children living with HIV in Eastern Europe and Central Asia rose to 1.5 million [1.1–1.9 million] in 2007—almost 90% of those infected live in either the **Russian Federation** (69%) or **Ukraine** (29%). This figure has more than doubled since 2001, when some 650 000 [510 000–1.1 million] were estimated to be living with HIV.
- In 2007, around 110 000 [67 000–180 000] people became HIV-positive, while some 58 000 [41 000–88 000] died of AIDS-related illnesses.
- The largest HIV epidemic in region is in the **Russian Federation**—and it continues to expand, although at a slower pace than in **Ukraine**, where annual new HIV infections have more than doubled since 2001.

Latin America

- New HIV infections in 2007 totalled an estimated 140 000 [88 000–190 000], bringing to 1.7 million [1.5–2.1 million] the number of people living with HIV in Latin America. An estimated 63 000 [49 000–98 000] people died of AIDS-related illnesses last year.
- The region's biggest epidemics are in the countries with the largest populations, notably **Brazil**, which is home to more than 40% (730 000 [600 000–890 000]) of people living with the virus, followed by **Mexico** with 200 000 [150 000–310 000] HIV-positive people.
- The HIV epidemics in Latin America remain generally stable, changing little in the past decade, but HIV transmission in the region is occurring mainly among men who have sex with men, sex workers, and (to a lesser extent) people who inject drugs.

North America, Western and Central Europe

- In 2007, the **United States of America** accounted for an estimated 1.2 million [690 000–1.9 million], or roughly 60%, of the 2 million [1.4–2.8 million] people living with HIV in North America and Western and Central Europe. Overall in these regions, 81 000

¹ From *Towards Universal Access: Scaling Up Priority HIV/AIDS Interventions in the Health Sector*, June 2008.

[30 000–170 000] people became newly infected with HIV and 31 000 [16 000–67 000] died of AIDS-related illnesses.

- On both sides of the Atlantic, the estimated number of people living with HIV continues to increase because of wide access to antiretroviral treatment. However, the regions diverge in terms of new HIV infections—North America has remained relatively stable over recent years, whereas in Western Europe new HIV diagnoses are increasing.

Middle East and North Africa

- The limited information available for the Middle East and North Africa indicates that some 380 000 [280 000–510 000] people were living with HIV in 2007, including the estimated 40 000 [20 000–60 000] people who were newly infected last year.
- **Sudan** represents the bulk of the region's HIV epidemic, with an estimated 320 000 [220 000–440 000] people living with HIV.
- Although overall numbers of reported HIV cases in the region remain small, they have been increasing in several countries, partly due to expanded HIV testing efforts. One such example is **Algeria**, where the number of people living with HIV has nearly doubled between 2001 and 2007.

Oceania

- An estimated 74 000 [66 000–93 000] people were living with HIV in Oceania in 2007, of which 13 000 [12 000–15 000] were new infections.
- The region's epidemics are relatively small, except for **Papua New Guinea**, where the number of people living with HIV has increased from 10 000 [9800–10 000] in 2001 to 54 000 [53 000 – 55 000] in 2007. In **Australia**, a total of 18 000 [11 000–36 000] people were living with HIV in the same year.

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