



FACT SHEET: HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and South Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa

- An estimated 22 million people in sub-Saharan Africa were living with HIV in 2007, of which 1.9 million were newly infected in 2007.
- Two-thirds of the 33 million people with HIV in the world live in this region.
- In 2007, 75% of all AIDS-related deaths occurred in this region.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, the epidemics vary from country to country in both scale and scope. Adult national HIV prevalence is below 2% in several countries of West and Central Africa, as well as in the horn of Africa.
- In 2007, HIV prevalence exceeded 15% in seven southern African countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe)
- HIV prevalence was above 5% in seven other countries, mostly in Central and East Africa (Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Gabon, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda and Tanzania).
- Swaziland has the highest HIV prevalence rate in the world (26.1%).

(Sources: www.unaids.org and www.kff.org – May 2009)

South Africa

South Africa has a population of about 46 million. The country has the highest number of people living with HIV in the world, 5.7 million.

- The total HIV prevalence rate in South Africa's adult population is 18.1%, which means that one in every five adult South Africans is living with HIV.
- 59% of women aged 15 and over are living with HIV.
- 12.7% of young women aged 15 – 24 are living with HIV.
- Approximately 4% of young men between 15 and 24 are living with HIV.
- 280,000 infants and children under 14 are living with HIV.
- About 1.4 million children in South Africa have been orphaned by AIDS.
- Approximately 350,000 South Africans died of AIDS-related illnesses in 2007.

(Source: www.unaids.org – June 2009)

Almost 1,000 AIDS-related deaths occur in South Africa every day. It is believed that almost half of all deaths in South Africa and 71% of deaths among those aged 15-49 are AIDS-related. This epidemic affects all parts of the population, though women are more likely to be infected than men.

(Source: <http://www.avert.org/safricastats.htm> – June 2009)

Results of a national household HIV survey, published by South Africa's Human Sciences Research Council on 11 June 2009, indicated that the country's HIV epidemic has leveled off and that a decline in new infections has also been noted among teenagers aged 15-19.

(Source: *South African National HIV prevalence, incidence, behaviour and communication survey, 2008* available at <http://www.hsrcpress.ac.za>)

HIV Treatment in South Africa

Access to ARVs is still a matter of concern in South Africa. HAART has been available at a few public sector research and pilot sites for about a decade, but the implementation of treatment in the public sector began in 2004. The number of people on treatment in both the private and public sector has risen from about 50,000 at the start of the programme in mid-2004 to about 550,000 in mid-2008.

(Source: Adam M. A. and Johnson L. F. (2009) *Estimation of adult antiretroviral treatment coverage in South Africa*. *South African Medical Journal*. [In press])

HIV-Related Stigma and Discrimination in South Africa

HIV is sometimes seen as being a disease of the poor, but it is prevalent across all sectors of society. By 1998, although people from more affluent, largely white society were starting to come out as being HIV positive, stigmatization of the condition remained deeply rooted in township areas.

(Source: <http://www.avert.org/safricastats.htm> - June 2009)

HIV Prevention Campaigns in South Africa

Numerous awareness campaigns at national, regional and local community levels have been launched in South Africa through government initiatives and private and non-governmental organizations over the past 15 years. These include:

- The **Soul City Project** was started in 1994 to educate people about AIDS through radio, print, and television, using dramas and soap operas to promote its message.
- The **Beyond Awareness** campaign ran between 1998 and 2000 and concentrated on informing young people about AIDS through the media.
- The **Khomanani** ('caring together') campaign run by the AIDS Communication Team (ACT), a group that was set up by the government in 2001.
- **loveLife**, the most prominent HIV prevention campaign in South Africa, targets young people, integrating HIV prevention messages into their culture.

(Source: <http://www.avert.org/safricastats.htm> - June 2009)

The HIV/AIDS Sector in South Africa

The response to HIV/AIDS in South Africa takes on a great variety of activities with funding being channelled through private sector organizations that often provide support to provinces through public-private initiatives. The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), for example, has provided grants totaling \$856.8 million to support AIDS-related prevention and treatment programmes in South Africa between 2003 and 2007.

(Source: SA Health Review 2008 <http://www.hst.org.za/publications/841>)

Many other sectors, including government, corporate, NGO and civil society organizations are active at provincial and local levels in assisting people infected and affected by HIV. More information about these activities and the organizations that run them, is available at: <http://www.aidsbuzz.org/organisations/umbrella-organisations.html>

The **South African AIDS Conference** is convened by Dira Sengwe every two years in collaboration with the Foundation for Professional Development (FPD), a private higher educational institution in South Africa that is contracted to provide the secretariat for the conference. The 5th SA AIDS Conference will be held at the International Convention Centre in Durban, South Africa, from 7 to 10 June 2011. (<http://www.saaids.com>)

The **HIV-911 programme** builds and maintains a directory of close to 11,000 HIV/AIDS-related services available across South Africa. (<http://www.hiv911.org.za>)

Other useful resources based in South Africa include:

- SA National AIDS Council (SANAC) - <http://www.sanac.org.za>
- SA HIV Clinicians Society SAHIVSOC) - <http://www.sahivsoc.org>
- SA Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS (SABCOHA) - <http://www.sabcoha.org>
- AIDS Foundation of South Africa - <http://www.aids.org.za>
- Treatment Action Campaign - <http://www.tac.org.za>
- AIDS Law Project - <http://www.alp.org.za/>