



The Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic

The overwhelming numbers

- 40 million people living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2003
- 5 million people newly infected with HIV in 2003
- 3 million people died of AIDS in 2003
- 95% of people living with HIV/AIDS live in developing countries
- 90% do not know they are HIV-positive
- Half of all new infections are in women

Sub-Saharan Africa: 26.6 million people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHIV/AIDS)

- Women 1.2 times more likely to be HIV-positive than men.
- Home to 30% of PLWHIV/AIDS, but only 2% of the world population
- AIDS is devastating economies and dramatically lowering life expectancy

Success Story: Senegal

By acting quickly to implement countrywide prevention education programs, Senegal has avoided a generalized epidemic.

Asia and the Pacific: 7.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS

- Epidemic largely fueled by injection drug use and commercial sex
- Significant local and regional epidemics in India
- Emerging epidemics in highly populous countries: China, Indonesia, India

Success Story: Thailand

Through vigorous and early efforts to promote condom use in the commercial sex trade, Thailand turned around a limited epidemic, thus avoiding a generalized epidemic.

Latin America and the Caribbean: 2 million people living with HIV/AIDS

- Caribbean most affected region after Sub-Saharan Africa
- Divergent regional modes of transmission
- High levels of stigma and discrimination against vulnerable groups

Success Story: Brazil

Vigorous prevention efforts and universal access to treatment have helped Brazil contain and manage its epidemic.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia: 1.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS

- Epidemic still exploding since the mid-1990s
- Epidemic driven so far mostly by injection drug use

Middle East and Northern Africa: 0.6 million people living with HIV/AIDS

- Very low prevalence rates
- High level of stigma and denial

Success Story: Algeria

More substantial prevention programs are being developed to address the epidemic.

Industrialized Countries: 1.6 million people living with HIV/AIDS

- Mortality rates continue to decrease due to access to treatment
- Prevention activities not keeping pace with changes in epidemic

Success Story: Australia

Through coordinated prevention efforts and policy changes, the epidemic among gay men has been managed better than in other countries.

AIDS Epidemic Update, December 2003, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

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