

HIV infection rates in southern Africa

HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks CD4 cells which are an integral part of the body's immune system. As the virus progresses it becomes more and more difficult for the body to fight various diseases and the person then develops AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

While HIV cannot be cured, it can be managed and treated. The spread of HIV can be prevented if people take the right precautions. However, HIV infection rates are still high in developing countries because of a lack of contraception and education.

Study the figures below showing infection rates and numbers of people living with HIV in southern Africa and the world.

AIDS by the numbers

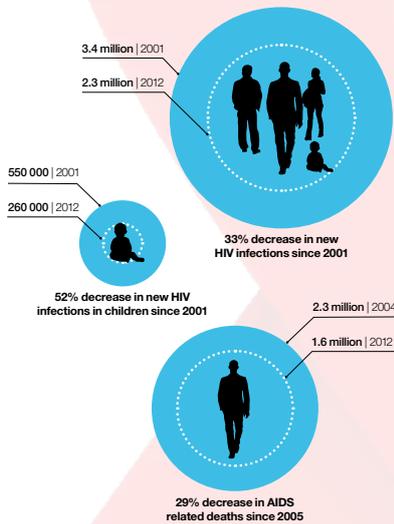
40-fold

Increase in access to antiretroviral therapy since 2002.

More than 10% of people living with HIV in low- and middle-income countries are aged 50 years or above

35.3

million people living with HIV in the world.



People accessing treatment

9 700 000

Every hour 50 young women are newly infected with HIV.



Africa and the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, 2008

	Sub-Saharan Africa	World	Africa %
People living with HIV	22.4 mn	33.4 mn	67
Women living with HIV	13.4 mn	15.7 mn	85
Children living with HIV	1.8 mn	2.1 mn	86
AIDS-related deaths	1.4 mn	2.0 mn	70
AIDS-related child deaths	230,000	280,000	82
New HIV infections	1.9 mn	2.7 mn	70
Children newly infected	390,000	430,000	91
People receiving ARVs	2.9 mn	4 mn	73
People in need of ARVs	6.7 mn	9.5 mn	71
Average adult infection rate	5.2%	0.8%	--

Source: UN Africa Renewal from UNAIDS, Kaiser Family Foundation and UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs data

Figure 2: Africa and the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. (<http://goo.gl/FcrjTB>)

Figure 1: AIDS by Numbers (<http://goo.gl/XtJlv1>)

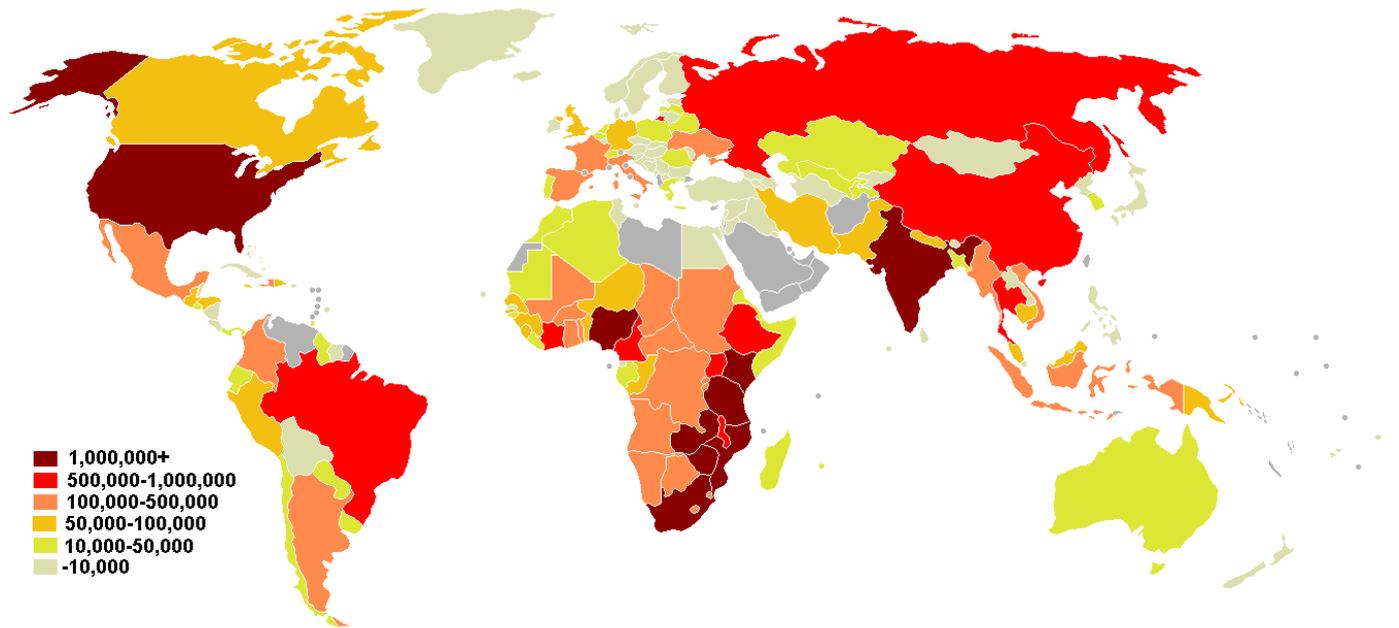


Figure 3: People living with HIV/AIDS (<https://goo.gl/M9qDkk>)

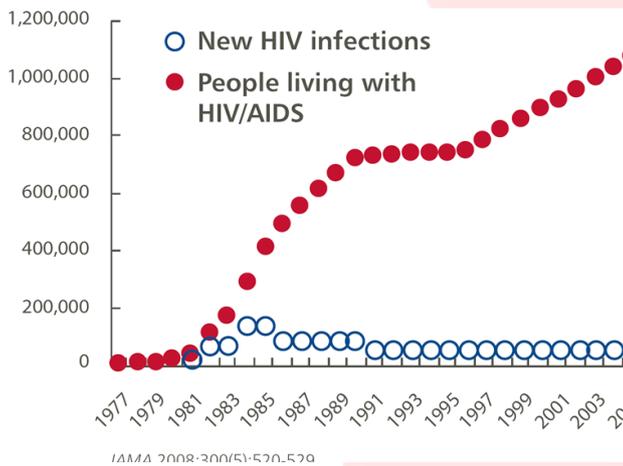


Figure 4: HIV infections over time (<http://goo.gl/ul8Lfn>)

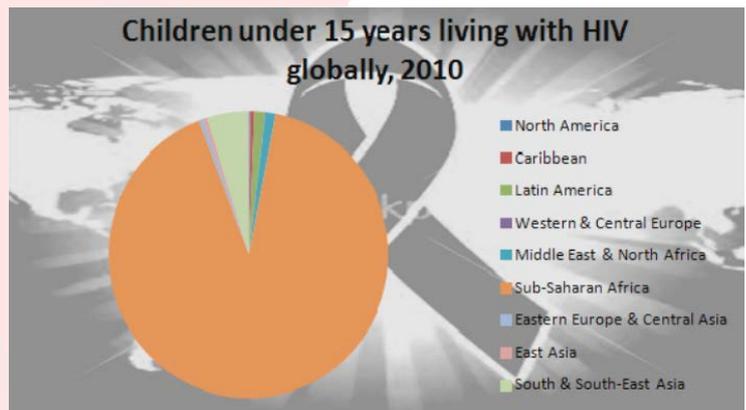
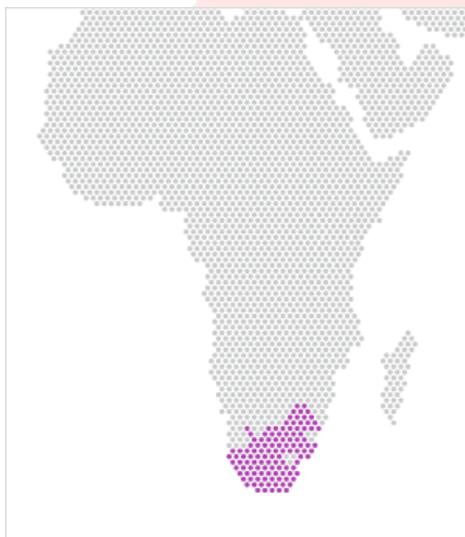


Figure 5: Children living with HIV (<https://goo.gl/u43828>)



South Africa (2013)

6.3 million people living with HIV

19.1% adult HIV prevalence

340,000 new HIV infections

200,000 AIDS-related deaths

42% adults on antiretroviral treatment

Source: UNAIDS Gap Report 2014

Figure 6: South African Statistics (<https://goo.gl/K2WkJ2>)



Regional HIV and AIDS statistics and features, 2007

	Adults & children living with HIV	Adults & children newly infected with HIV	Adult prevalence (15-49) [%]	Adult & child deaths due to AIDS
Sub-Saharan Africa	22.5 million [20.9 – 24.3 million]	1.7 million [1.4 – 2.4 million]	5.0% [4.6% – 5.5%]	1.6 million [1.5 – 2.0 million]
Middle East & North Africa	380 000 [270 000 – 500 000]	35 000 [16 000 – 65 000]	0.3% [0.2% – 0.4%]	25 000 [20 000 – 34 000]
South and South-East Asia	4.0 million [3.3 – 5.1 million]	340 000 [180 000 – 740 000]	0.3% [0.2% – 0.4%]	270 000 [230 000 – 380 000]
East Asia	800 000 [620 000 – 960 000]	92 000 [21 000 – 220 000]	0.1% [<0.2%]	32 000 [28 000 – 49 000]
Latin America	1.6 million [1.4 – 1.9 million]	100 000 [47 000 – 220 000]	0.5% [0.4% – 0.6%]	58 000 [49 000 – 91 000]
Caribbean	230 000 [210 000 – 270 000]	17 000 [15 000 – 23 000]	1.0% [0.9% – 1.2%]	11 000 [9800 – 18 000]
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	1.6 million [1.2 – 2.1 million]	150 000 [70 000 – 290 000]	0.9% [0.7% – 1.2%]	55 000 [42 000 – 88 000]
Western & Central Europe	760 000 [600 000 – 1.1 million]	31 000 [19 000 – 86 000]	0.3% [0.2% – 0.4%]	12 000 [<15 000]
North America	1.3 million [480 000 – 1.9 million]	46 000 [38 000 – 68 000]	0.6% [0.5% – 0.9%]	21 000 [18 000 – 31 000]
Oceania	75 000 [53 000 – 120 000]	14 000 [11 000 – 26 000]	0.4% [0.3% – 0.7%]	1200 [<500 – 2700]
TOTAL	33.2 million [30.6 – 36.1 million]	2.5 million [1.8 – 4.1 million]	0.8% [0.7% – 0.9%]	2.1 million [1.9 – 2.4 million]

Figure 7: HIV and AIDS statistics (<http://goo.gl/YCbr9K>)

Consequences of HIV and AIDS

AIDS in Africa

Of the estimated 39.4 million people living with HIV worldwide, more than two-thirds of them are in Africa.

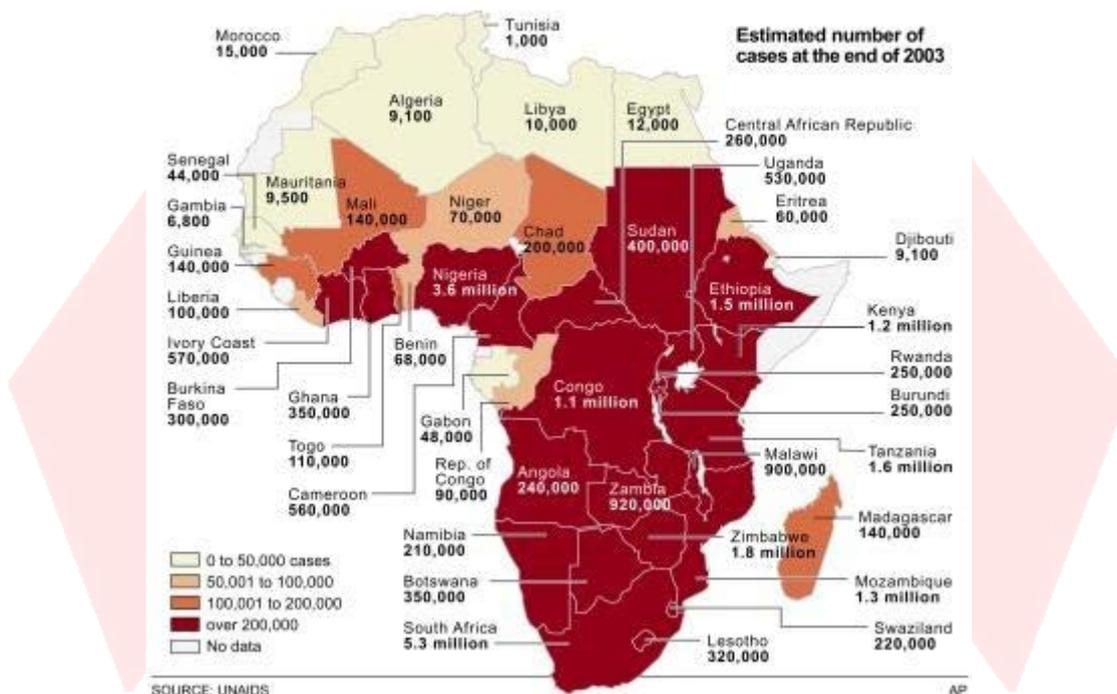


Figure 8: AIDS in Africa (<http://goo.gl/5UyJEj>)

AIDS has the most devastating effect in Africa but, even taking into account the many HIV-related deaths, the continent's population is still growing. This is the result of the high fertility rates. Without proper treatment, many women pass the virus on to their babies. Sexually active parents become ill and their children have to look after themselves. Eventually these children are left behind as orphans. Sometimes grandparents or family members look after them, but too often children are left alone in the world. In African countries, such as South Africa, many households consist only of children who have to provide food and shelter for themselves. This means that they may not have the time and money to go to school. With little schooling it is almost impossible to find a job that pays well enough to break the cycle of poverty. As a result, the next generation will have to suffer the same conditions (or worse) as the previous one.

Households where the breadwinner or parents have HIV/AIDS have to cope in some way. They often use all their savings or start selling things. When all the money is gone and there is nothing else to sell, the family falls into debt with doctors, hospitals and funeral homes. Once the land and livestock are sold, there is no way to care for and rebuild the family.

Other ways of coping are to get financial help from family or friends, or to send the children to live with family members.

The biggest burden to cope falls on women. Women have to care for sick people, earn an income, do the housekeeping and look after the children.

Children are often taken from school when a family is in crisis. Girls especially have to become caregivers or earn money when school uniforms and fees become unaffordable.

The poorest households suffer the most. In South Africa, where an adult has died of AIDS, the family will very likely break apart. In Botswana every person with an income will likely acquire one new dependent (a person who relies on them for money and survival) over the next ten years due to AIDS.

Impact of HIV and AIDS on population structure

There is a definite link between infection rates and mortality, fertility and life expectancy. Less Economically Developed Countries, especially African countries, have high infection rates. Death rates due to AIDS-related illnesses is decreasing and medical advances and access to medication becomes better and more accessible.

Generally, high HIV infection rates:

- Increase the death rate
- Decrease life expectancy
- Decrease birth rate
- Increase infant mortality rates

HIV and AIDS also affects the population structure. This is because of the age groups that are most susceptible to the disease and their role they play in society.

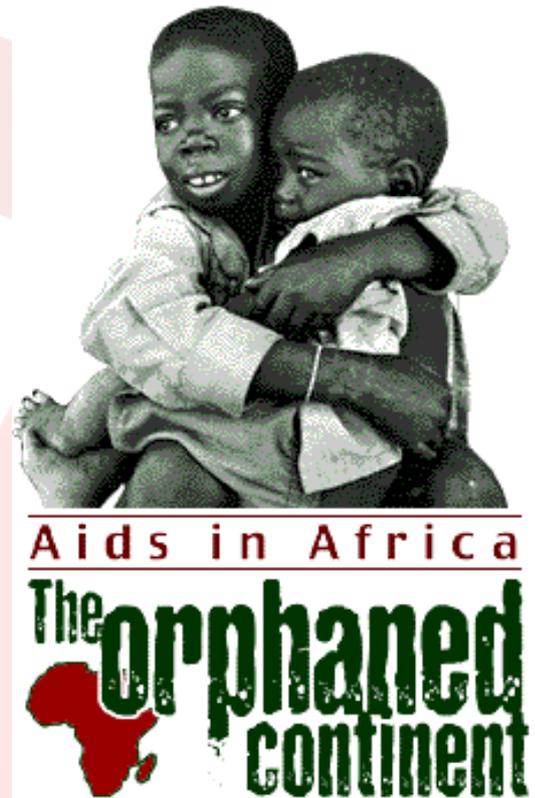


Figure 9: Aids in Africa. (<https://goo.gl/JF39Cq>)

The two graphs below show the prevalence of HIV by sex and age group and a projected population pyramid.

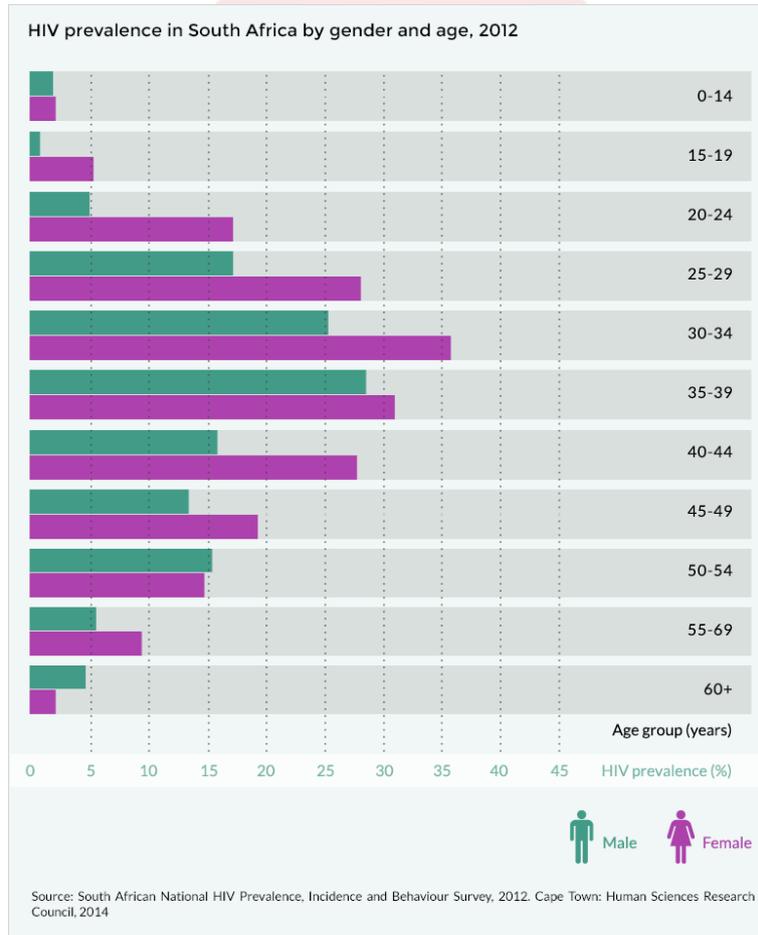


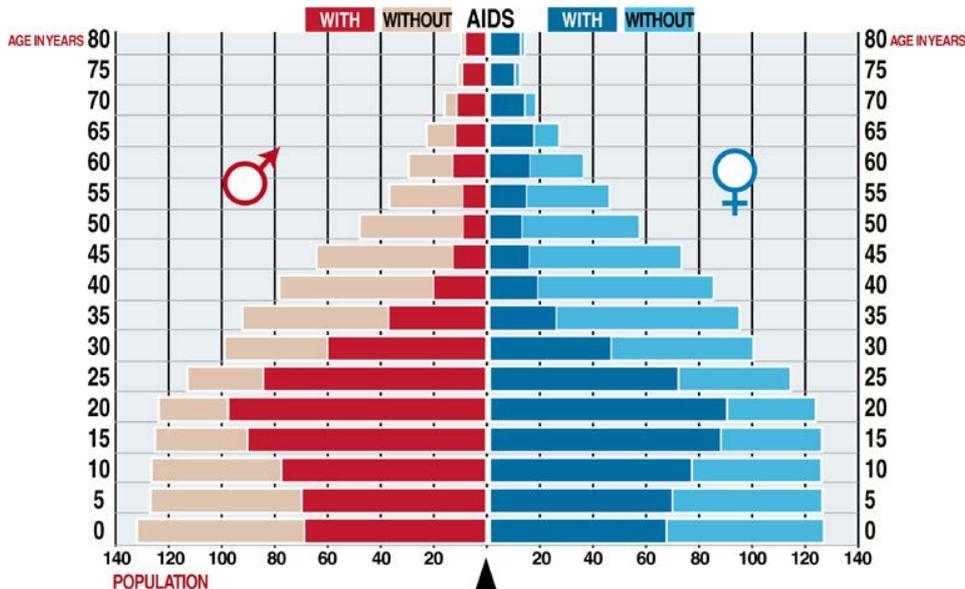
Figure 11: HIV prevalence in South Africa, 2015 (<https://goo.gl/eIFOkA>)

Table 7: HIV prevalence estimates and the number of people living with HIV, 2002–2015

Year	Prevalence				Incidence 15–49	HIV population
	Women 15–49	Adults 15–49	Youth 15–24	Total population		
2002	16,69	14,50	6,75	8,8	1,65	4,02
2003	16,85	14,58	6,35	9,0	1,63	4,14
2004	16,93	14,62	6,07	9,1	1,65	4,25
2005	17,01	14,65	5,91	9,2	1,67	4,35
2006	17,22	14,82	5,82	9,4	1,65	4,51
2007	17,52	15,10	5,76	9,7	1,58	4,71
2008	17,81	15,39	5,71	10,0	1,50	4,93
2009	18,09	15,66	5,69	10,2	1,43	5,13
2010	18,29	15,87	5,70	10,4	1,38	5,32
2011	18,42	16,01	5,64	10,6	1,34	5,48
2012	18,53	16,14	5,61	10,7	1,31	5,65
2013	18,67	16,29	5,60	10,9	1,28	5,83
2014	18,85	16,46	5,59	11,1	1,23	6,02
2015	18,99	16,59	5,59	11,2	1,22	6,19

Figure 10: HIV prevalence in South Africa (<https://goo.gl/Tc7KL6>)

Botswana:
Projected population structure in 2020 with and without the AIDS epidemic



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Figure 12: Botswana's predictions (<http://goo.gl/DmRBKy>)

Affect of AIDS on population pyramid for South Africa.

Predicted population for 2035, without and with AIDS.

With AIDS, looks like a population "chimney".

SOUTH AFRICA, 2035

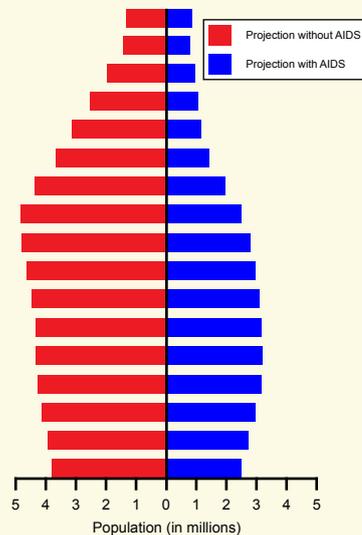


Figure 13: South Africa's total population prediction (<http://goo.gl/GAmw9h>)

References

<http://goo.gl/HLauzf>

<http://goo.gl/ZSEY8F>

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