

THE IMPACT OF THE AIDS PANDEMIC

In 2004, according to UNAIDS:

39.4 million worldwide were living with HIV/AIDS
25.4 million of those were in Sub-Saharan Africa

Areas next most heavily infected:

S and SE Asia with 7.1 million
Latin America with 1.7 million
E Europe and Central Asia with 1.4 million

Number of deaths

3.1 million world wide
2.3 million of those in Sub-Saharan Africa

Some of the worst hit countries (% adults infected, ages 15-49)

Swaziland 38.8%
Botswana 37.3%
Zimbabwe 24.6%
South Africa 21.5
Kenya 6.7%
Uganda 4.1%

IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS BY GENDER IN AFRICA

60% of the infected adults are women

75% of the young people age 15-24 who are infected are female

WHY IS THIS??

Women are biologically more susceptible

- The male to female infection rate is twice that of the female to male rate
- Young women who are less developed are at greater risk
- There is a greater risk to females if violence is involved
- There is a greater risk in pregnancy
- Male circumcision may offer males some protection from acquiring the virus

A range of interlocking cultural and socio/economic factors also influence these statistics, including:

- The role of women in the culture – can't say "No"
- Domestic violence & rape within marriage accepted
- Women have limited earning potential
- Legal factors including lack of inheritance rights
- Women are often responsible for providing for the household
- Migratory labor is common
- The practice of "sugar daddies"
- Women have less access to education
- Ecological & environmental disasters leading to famine
- War

AIDS' IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Numbers of AIDS orphans (children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS). In 2003 according to UNICEF there were:

- 15 million worldwide
- 80% of those were in Sub Saharan Africa

It is estimated that there will be 18 million AIDS orphans in Africa by 2010.

BARRIERS TO HALTING THE AIDS EPIDEMIC IN AFRICA

- Poverty, lack of development, related historical factors including corrupt regimes and frequent wars
- Denial
- Taboos against discussing what is a sexually transmitted disease
- Cultural/socio-economic factors
- Very difficult to change behavioral patterns, especially sexual behaviors
- Lack of intervention by wealthier nations
- When intervention does occur, lack of agreement on how to intervene