

AIDS in the World

Interagency
Coalition on AIDS
and Development



Coalition
interagence sida
et développement

1 Nicholas Street, Suite 726 Ottawa ON K1N 7B7
Telephone: (613) 233-7440 • Fax: (613) 233-8361
E-mail: info@icad-cisd.com • Web: www.icad.cisd.com

The People Infected

HIV/AIDS continues its relentless spread. Each day, about 14,000 people are infected. As of the end of 2002, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization estimate that 42.0 million people are living with HIV/AIDS. In 2002, there were 5.0 million new infections and 3.1 million deaths due to AIDS. The cumulative number of deaths since the start of the pandemic now stands at 27.9 million. More than 95% of all HIV-infected people live in developing countries, where the disease primarily affects young adults in their peak productive and reproductive years. The impact of AIDS on people and on development in these countries has been devastating. The epidemic is spreading at an alarming rate among children under 15 years of age. Children represent 7.6% of the number of people living with HIV/AIDS. However, they represented 16% of the new infections in 2002.

Regional Distribution

Sub-Saharan Africa

A total of 29.4 million people are now living with HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. This part of the continent accounts for 70% of the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world. Fifty-eight percent of the people infected are women. Already, 21.9 million people have died from AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Asia and the Pacific

Encompassing some of the largest countries in the world, this region is fertile ground for HIV/AIDS. There are 7.2 million people living with HIV. High infection rates are being discovered among specific populations groups across the region (mainly injection drug users, sex workers and men who have sex with men). We are

beginning to see signs of an emerging epidemic in Japan.

Latin America and the Caribbean

There are 1.9 million people living with HIV/AIDS in this region. In Latin America, the pandemic is spreading through a mix of male-to-male sex, heterosexual sex and injection drug use. Some countries in the Caribbean, where the main route of transmission is heterosexual sex, have the worst rates of HIV infection outside Africa.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

In this region, where the epidemic started late, the rate of increase of HIV infection in 2002 was greater than in any other area of the world. There are now 1.2 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the region.

Middle East and Northern Africa

The number of people living with HIV/AIDS in these areas is 550,000. The overall rate of HIV prevalence in the region remains low, but some countries are already experiencing complex epidemics. Denial among social and political leaders in some countries is helping to fuel the epidemic.

Industrialized Countries of North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand

There are 1.6 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the industrialized countries. The epidemic is being propelled by unsafe sex and injection drug use. The epidemic's shift into the poorer and marginalized groups of society is continuing. Complacency remains a problem. Prevention efforts have stalled or are dwindling. The proportion of cases of HIV infection attributable to heterosexual intercourse is rising. In some European countries, a large share of heterosexually transmitted infections are being diagnosed in persons who originate from, or who have visited, countries where HIV prevalence is high.

ICAD's aim is to lessen the impact of HIV/AIDS in resource-poor communities and countries. We are a coalition of Canadian international development organizations, AIDS service organizations and other interested organizations and individuals. Funding for this publication was provided by Health Canada. The views expressed herein are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Minister of Health. Most of the information in this fact sheet is taken from information released by the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization for World AIDS Day 2002. Additional copies of this fact sheet are available on the ICAD website at www.icad-cisd.com. Le feuillet "Le sida dans le monde" est disponible en français.

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