

HIV/AIDS AROUND THE WORLD

Prevalence

There are currently more than 42 million people worldwide who are HIV positive or have AIDS. In 2002, over 3 million people died of AIDS. The experts say that by the year 2005 the number of people living with AIDS will rise to 100 million.

Vulnerability

Ninety-five percent of all AIDS cases worldwide occur in the developing world. This figure speaks to the nature of the disease and the multitude of factors influencing its spread. These include poverty, inadequate healthcare and education systems, migrant labor, gender discrimination, and cultural practices.

Regions most affected

Sub-Saharan Africa is by far the hardest hit region with 28.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS. In 2001, the disease killed 6,300 people a day there. In Asia and the Pacific, an estimated 7.1 million people are now living with HIV/AIDS. Additionally, the Caribbean and Eastern Europe are on the verge of major epidemics.

Orphans

There are nearly 1 million orphans in Ethiopia due to HIV/AIDS and 14 million in sub-Saharan Africa. The care of orphaned children puts a terrible strain on diminishing social structures and resources in many developing countries. Extended family and community members (who are often hard pressed to care for their own families) are left to care for orphans, creating further economic hardship. By the year 2010, it is estimate that over 25 million children will be orphaned by AIDS globally.

Means of transmission

Worldwide, more than 90 percent of HIV transmission occurs through heterosexual sex.

Infection rate

Botswana has the highest HIV infection rate in the world, where nearly 40 percent of all adults are HIV positive. Many other countries in sub-Saharan Africa have HIV infection rates higher than 25 percent.



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Located in Mahomet, Ill., ELI is a community-based nonprofit organization emphasizing life skills for emerging youth leaders in third world countries. ELI has been formed by Paul and Virginia who have been working with youth in United States and abroad for more than 30 years. For further information on ELI, please call (217) 377-9444.