

AIDS SHOULD ALWAYS BE FRONT PAGE NEWS

FUNDERS CONCERNED ABOUT AIDS

More than 40 million people have AIDS worldwide.

90% of people with HIV do not know they have it.

There are 5 million new HIV infections each year. Every minute, six more people are infected.

At least 50% of all new HIV infections worldwide are young adults under 25.

LIVING

Since 1981, there have been 25 million AIDS deaths.

There were 3.1 million AIDS deaths in 2005.

More people died from AIDS in April 2006 alone than were killed in the Southeast Asia tsunami that shocked the world in late 2004. (CNN)

DYING

In countries such as South Africa and Zimbabwe, where 20-25% of the adult population is infected, AIDS is set to claim the lives of around half of all 15 year-olds. (Physicians for Human Rights)

Africa has almost 70% of HIV/AIDS cases. In some African countries, more than 25% of the population is infected, and one in five people in these countries will die of AIDS. (CNN)

“[S]ub-Saharan Africa is by far the worst-affected in the world by the AIDS epidemic. The region has just over 10% of the world’s population, but is home to over 60% of all people living with HIV. An estimated 3.1 million adults and children became infected with HIV during the year 2005.” (Avert)

“If we could cure AIDS with a clean glass of water, we could not deliver that cure to half the people in Sub-Saharan Africa who need help” because there is currently a lack of health service infrastructure. (Pfizer President & CEO Hank McKinnell, Jr.)

AFRICA

“The AIDS epidemic in Eastern Europe and Central Asia is rapidly expanding. Some 270,000 people were infected with HIV in 2005, bringing the total number of people living with the virus to around 1.6 million, and AIDS claimed an estimated 62,000 lives in 2005. Only a small proportion of HIV+ people in these areas can hope to receive ARV medication, so the AIDS death rate is higher than it might otherwise be.” (Avert)

“Around 1.1 million people in Asia acquired HIV in 2005, bringing the number of people living with HIV to an estimated 8.3 million. It is estimated that a further 520,000 people died of AIDS in 2005.” (Avert)

“The notion that North Africa and the Middle East have sidestepped the global epidemic - perhaps due to strict rules governing sexual behavior - is not supported by the latest estimates, which indicate that 67,000 people acquired an HIV infection in 2005, bringing the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the Middle East and North Africa to an estimated 510,000. AIDS killed a further 58,000 people in 2005.” (Avert)

“An estimated 2.1 million people are now living with HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean, including the estimated 230,000 that contracted HIV in 2005. Around 90,000 people died of AIDS in the same period,” 24,000 in Haiti alone. (Avert)

OTHER REGIONS

Everyday, 1,800 babies are born with HIV.

Everyday, 1,400 children under the age of 15 will die of AIDS.

There is a greater gap between the number of children who need and are getting pediatric drug treatments than the number of adults who need and are getting medicine.

CHILDREN

According to the Clinton Foundation, only 25,000 children were receiving pediatric medications for AIDS last year in the developing world. (Of those, 15,000 were in Brazil and Thailand where they are covered by the government.) More than half a million children died without ever receiving existing life-saving medications.

65% of children born to HIV-positive women will not contract the virus (UNAIDS).

By 2004, the AIDS pandemic had robbed more than 15 million children worldwide of their families, their childhood, and all too often, hope for the future. According to UNAIDS, that's the equivalent of every child under five in America living without a mom or dad to care for them. (UNAIDS, NetAid)

Of the 6.5 million people in developing and transitional countries who need life-saving AIDS drugs, only 1 million are receiving them. (UNAIDS/WHO report)

Expanded use of HIV/AIDS drugs saved more than 250,000 lives in 2005 (UNAIDS).

One prevention method currently in large-scale testing is the use of microbicides (topical gels) to curb the spread of HIV. They could prove to be particularly effective in women and girls, who are currently bearing the brunt of the epidemic because they are most at risk for biological reasons and because they often lack social and economic power. (Dr. Zeda Rosenberg, International Partnership for Microbicides)

Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is a short-term antiretroviral treatment which, when used in conjunction with antiretroviral treatment, may reduce the likelihood of HIV infection after potential exposure (WHO). Research of the effectiveness and efficacy of PEP and PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) is ongoing.

The first-ever large-scale AIDS vaccine trials were completed in 2003. A third large-scale trial began last fall, and a fourth is expected to begin later this year. In most developing countries, there is no capacity to conduct large-scale trials. Global spending on an AIDS vaccine is less than 1% of global spending on all health product research and development. (IAVI)

More than one million Americans are living with HIV (CDC).

On March 30, 2006, Reuters reported that in the United States, nearly 800 people are on waiting lists for HIV/AIDS-related medications from federally funded AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, according to a survey of state and territorial ADAPs .

AIDS is the leading cause of death among African-American women ages 25-44.

One recent study found that women living in poverty in New York City, the epicenter of the domestic epidemic for women, are contracting HIV in order to access better social services.

The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency AIDS (CARE) Act provides funding for primary health care and support services for people with HIV in the United States. The federal government is evaluating the reauthorization of this Act, which expired in September 2005. According to recent report by the AP/Seattle Post Intelligencer, proposed changes to funding calculations have angered lawmakers in NY, NJ, and CA who say that millions of dollars in funding would be moved from their regions of the country to the South.

LEARN MORE!

Funders Concerned About AIDS is hosting two events in NYC for funders next month.

- June 5 – Twenty-five Years of AIDS Philanthropy: a discussion of the past, present & future
- June 28 – The Emerging Needs of Women with AIDS in New York City – panel/discussion