

HIV/AIDS FACT SHEET

- HIV/AIDS now kills more young adult Africans than any other disease.
- Poverty, poor education systems, lack of knowledge of the disease in some areas, prohibitive cost of AIDS drugs and treatment, aversion to discussing the transmission of the disease, and unsafe sexual practices play major roles in increasing the transmission of HIV.
- With only 12% of the world's population, 67% of all HIV-positive people live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- In 2007, 22 million Africans south of the Sahara had HIV/AIDS, compared to 33 million worldwide.
- South Africa has close to 6 million people living with HIV/AIDS, the highest number in the world, where roughly one in ten adults is HIV positive.
- HIV/AIDS often targets young adults, the foundation of the economy and the primary supporters of their families.
- 60% of those infected in sub-Saharan Africa are women.
- Nearly 12 million children in sub-Saharan Africa had lost at least one parent to HIV/AIDS by 2008.
- In three African countries—Lesotho, Zambia, and Zimbabwe— life expectancy at birth is below 45 years largely because of HIV/AIDS.
- In 2007, an estimated 1.9 million people in sub-Saharan Africa became newly infected with HIV.
- Close to 90% of children infected with HIV worldwide live in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 5% of sub-Saharan African adults are HIV positive. In the most severely infected African countries—Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe—nearly 20% or more of the adult population is infected.
- In areas where HIV prevalence is high, it constrains economic growth and hinders the provision of social services by destroying human capital.

Sources: UNAIDS, *Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic 2008*; Population Reference Bureau, *2009 World Population Data Sheet*.