

Africa HIV/AIDS

The virus is transmitted by bodily fluid contact including the exchange of sexual fluids, by blood, from mother to child in the womb, and during delivery or breastfeeding.

HIV/AIDS originated in Africa in the early 20th century and is a major public health concern and cause of death in many African countries. AIDS rates vary dramatically although the majority of cases are concentrated in Southern Africa. Although the continent is home to about 15.2 percent of the world's population more than two-thirds of the total infected worldwide – some 35 million people – were Africans, of whom 15 million have already died. Sub-Saharan Africa alone accounted for an estimated 69 percent of all people living with HIV and 70 percent of all AIDS deaths in 2011. In the countries of sub-Saharan Africa most affected, AIDS has raised death rates and lowered life expectancy among adults between the ages of 20 and 49 by about twenty years.

The earliest known cases of human HIV infection were in western equatorial Africa, probably in southeast Cameroon where groups of the central common chimpanzee live. It is suspected that the disease jumped to humans from butchering of chimpanzees for human consumption. Current hypotheses also include that, once the virus jumped from chimpanzees or other apes to humans, medical practices of the 20th century helped HIV become established in human populations by 1930. The virus likely moved from primates to humans when hunters came into contact with the blood of infected primates. The hunters then became infected with HIV and passed on the disease to other humans through bodily fluid contamination.

AIDS was at first considered a disease of gay men and drug addicts, but in Africa it took off among the general population. As a result, those involved in the fight against HIV began to emphasize aspects such as preventing transmission from mother to child, or the relationship between HIV and poverty, inequality of the sexes, and so on, rather than emphasizing the need to prevent transmission by unsafe sexual practices or drug injection. This change in emphasis resulted in more funding, but was not effective in preventing a drastic rise in HIV prevalence.

The global response to HIV and AIDS has improved considerably in recent years. Funding comes from many sources, the largest of which are the Global

Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief the number of AIDS-related deaths in 2011 in both Africa as a whole and Sub-Saharan Africa alone was 32 percent less than the number in 2005. The number of new HIV infections in Africa in 2011 was also 33 percent less than the number in 2001, with a "24% reduction in new infections among children from 2009 to 2011". In Sub-Saharan Africa, new HIV positive cases over the same period declined by 25%. According to UNAIDS, these successes have resulted from "strong leadership and shared responsibility in Africa and among the global community".

The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS defines combination prevention programs as: rights-based, evidence-informed, and community-owned programs that use a mix of biomedical, behavioral, and structural interventions, prioritized to meet the current HIV prevention needs of particular individuals and communities, so as to have the greatest sustained impact on reducing new infections.

1. How is the virus transmitted

Bodily fluid Contact

2. When did HIV/AIDS originated

Early 20th century Late 20th century

3. What part of Africa had more HIV cases

Sub-Saharan Africa Southern Africa

4. The earliest known cases of human HIV infection were in

Eastern Middle Africa Western equatorial Africa

5. It is suspected that the disease jumped to humans from

Monkeys Chimpanzees

6. Medical practices of the 20th century helped HIV become established in human populations by 1930.

True False

7. The virus likely moved from primates to humans when hunters came into contact with

The blood of infected primates The spit of infected primates

8. The number of AIDS-related deaths in 2011 in both Africa as a whole and Sub-Saharan Africa alone was 32 percent less than the number in 2005

False True

9. The number of new HIV infections in Africa in 2011 was also 33 percent less than the number in

2005 2001

10. The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS defines combination prevention programs as:

Rights-based Not prioritize