



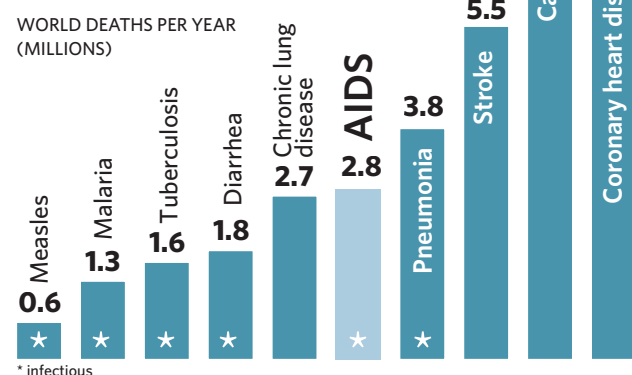
The disease and who it affects

AIDS has become the biggest killer of young men and women in the world. Some fear it could kill up to 200 million people before it is brought under control. Visual report by Catherine Farley

★ How AIDS compares

Top 10 killers

AIDS is the second most deadly infectious disease after pneumonia and the fifth biggest cause of all annual deaths from illness.



Major death tolls

- 60 million:** 1939-1945, World War II
- 40 million:** 1918-1919, Spanish Flu
- 25 million:** 1347-1352, Bubonic Plague
- 24 million:** 1907, Chinese famine
- 9 million:** 1914-1918, World War I
- 830,000:** 1556, Shansi, China earthquake
- 225,000:** 2004, Indian Ocean tsunami
- 25 million:** 1980-2005, HIV/AIDS

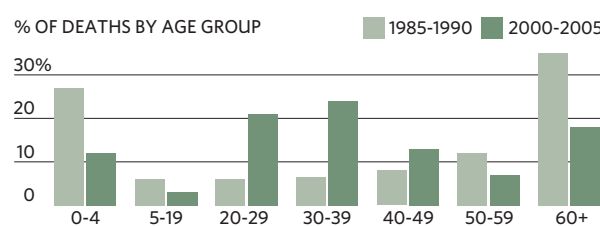


★ Who is dying

In South Africa, life expectancy for a person born today is 44 years, down from 62 in the 1990s.

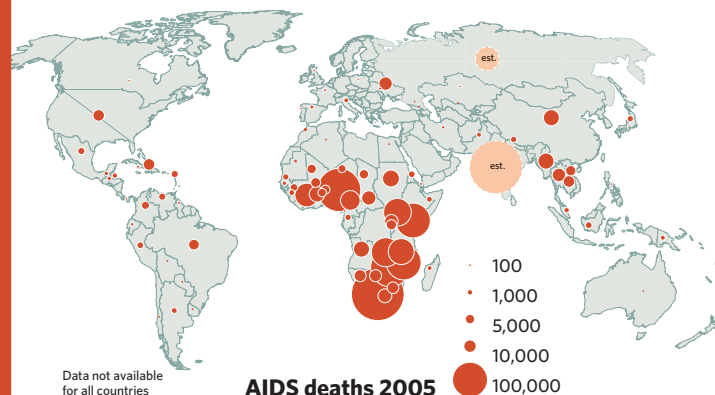
How the pattern of death has changed

In southern Africa, two-thirds of all deaths occur in young adults. Twenty years ago most deaths were infants and people over 60.



★ Where they're dying

More than 70% of the 2.8 million world deaths from AIDS last year occurred in sub-Saharan Africa, home to just 10% of the world's population. South Africa had the largest toll with 320,000 AIDS deaths.



Every day: 11,000 more HIV infections... 8,000 AIDS deaths worldwide

Uncircumcised men are

2.5 times more likely than circumcised men to get HIV

The delicate inner foreskin which is exposed during sex is the likely route of infection. Circumcision also reduces incidence of other sexually transmitted infections.

2 million fewer infections

Circumcision in Africa could reduce HIV infection by 2 million and save 300,000 lives in 10 years, but safe facilities for the operation are not always available and the practice is not widely accepted in some countries.

Condoms provide

90% protection against HIV

Properly used, latex condoms provide up to 90% protection by preventing contact with semen and other sexual secretions. The main problem is that often they are not available or used when needed.

Co-infection:

33% of AIDS victims die of tuberculosis

HIV infection is compounded by other diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria which proliferate in a compromised immune system. Nearly three-quarters of TB patients in east and southern Africa are also HIV positive.

SOURCES: UNAIDS, World Health Organization, United Nations Population Fund, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada, Ontario Ministry of Health and Longterm Care, avert.org, AP, Toronto Star Library

TODAY: 40 million living with HIV

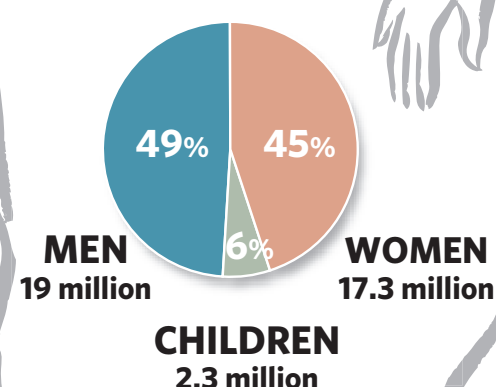
9 in 10 don't know they're infected

UNAIDS estimates that 90% of HIV cases worldwide are not aware they have the disease. In the United States, 25% don't know; in Canada 27%; and in southern Africa up to 95%.

HIV is up to 6 times more likely to be passed on:

- During the first 3 months of infection
- If there are other sexually transmitted infections with ulcers or open sores
- During anal sex or any forced sex because of a higher risk of tears or bleeding

HIV worldwide



3 in 4 new HIV cases in young people in developing countries are women

Women are **2 times more likely** than men to contract HIV from an infected partner, the vagina providing a large area of exposure to infected semen.

2 times more likely

than men to contract HIV from an infected partner, the vagina providing a large area of exposure to infected semen.

In South Africa, young women have an HIV infection rate of

15%

— three times higher than young men the same age. The main reason: girls start having sex earlier, usually with older men. Many are raped or victims of incest.

High-risk anal sex is used as a method of birth control in some cultures

3 in 10 infants born to HIV-positive mothers are infected

The rate can be reduced significantly with antiretroviral drugs for the mother during pregnancy and for the newborn.

Prolonged breastfeeding accounts for

50% of infant HIV infection

Breast milk of HIV-positive mothers contains HIV, which can infect the child. Problems such as cracked nipples, abscesses and mastitis increase the risk. To reduce exposure, health authorities recommend:

- Limit breastfeeding to 6 months.
- Use of condoms for the duration of breastfeeding to guard against contracting HIV.

★ The three hopes

1. Access to drugs

Antiretroviral drugs — initially developed for cancer — delay the onset of AIDS and help HIV patients live 10 or 15 years longer. The drugs also reduce the chance of HIV being passed to an unborn child.

But the drugs are expensive — \$300 to \$2,000 a year — and out of the reach of most patients in developing countries. Despite international pressure, drug companies have been slow to offer patented drugs at lower prices.

2. AIDS education

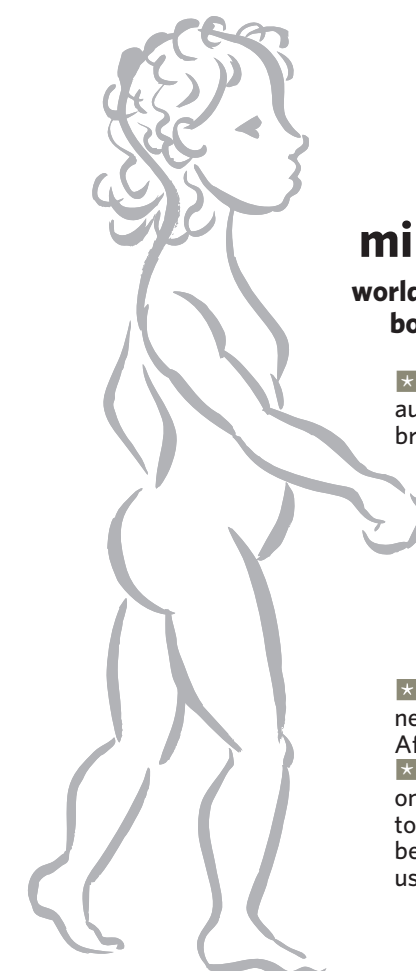
- A Abstinence:** Wait until marriage before having sex.
- B Be faithful:** Many women are infected by partners who acquire the disease outside the relationship.
- C Wear a condom.**
- D Disclosure:** Know your HIV status and tell your partner.
- E Education:** AIDS education in schools.
- F Female control:** Microbicides and the female condom, which women can use without depending on their partner.

3. Prevention

Microbicides: Creams or gels that destroy the HIV virus which are placed in the vagina before sex. Similar products are being tested for anal sex. Microbicides are likely to be available in two to four years.

AIDS vaccine: Not expected to be available for at least 10 years, but many are pinning their hopes on a vaccine to control the AIDS epidemic. A group of sex workers in Nairobi, Kenya who appear to be immune to HIV, may offer clues to a vaccine.

380,000 children die each year from AIDS, 90% of them in Africa



15 million children worldwide have lost one or both parents to AIDS

Many have also lost aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers and teachers.

Every day brings 2,500 new AIDS orphans in Africa. A child who has lost one parent is more likely to lose the second because the other parent usually also has HIV.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY RAFFI ANDERIAN/TORONTO STAR
DESIGN, RESEARCH AND GRAPHICS CATHERINE FARLEY/TORONTO STAR

