Sub-Saharan Africa
More than two thirds of all people with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa. This week’s factsheet details the scope and impact of the epidemic in the region.¹

INFECTION RATES
The sub-Saharan region of Africa includes 42 mainland and 6 island countries. While more than one-tenth of the world’s population lives in sub-Saharan Africa, approximately 68% of the world’s adults infected with HIV and nearly 90% of all children infected with HIV live in this region. In 2007, there were an estimated 1.7 million new HIV infections in this region. A total of 22.5 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in the region, including the estimated 1.7 million who were newly infected in 2007.

SOUTHERN AFRICA
The HIV/AIDS epidemic is most active and deadly in the southern region of Africa, which includes South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Angola, and Zimbabwe. These countries account for approximately one-third of all people living with HIV; one-third of all new HIV infections in 2007; and one-third of all AIDS related deaths in 2007.

The country of South Africa has the largest number of HIV infections in the world with approximately 5.5 million people currently living with HIV infection. However, recent prevalence data suggests that HIV infection rates might be leveling off in South Africa.

EAST AFRICA
Prevalence rates have either stabilized or started to decline in most of the countries in East Africa. While behavioral changes appear to have led to lower rates of new infections, the death of people with AIDS has also contributed to the decreasing prevalence rates.

ENDNOTES