



HIV/AIDS Today

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HIV and AIDS: A Global Epidemic

On June 5, 1981, the first cases of AIDS were reported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. By 1985, at least one AIDS case had been reported from each region of the world, and by 2007, over 58 million people worldwide had been infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.¹ This week's factsheet provides an overview of the global epidemic today.

TOTAL HIV/AIDS CASES

In 2007 an estimated 33.2 million people worldwide were living with HIV infection. This includes people with asymptomatic infection and those in whom infection had progressed to full-blown AIDS. This figure represents a decrease from earlier estimates of approximately 40 million. The decline is believed to be based on more accurate surveillance as well as actual declines in some regions.

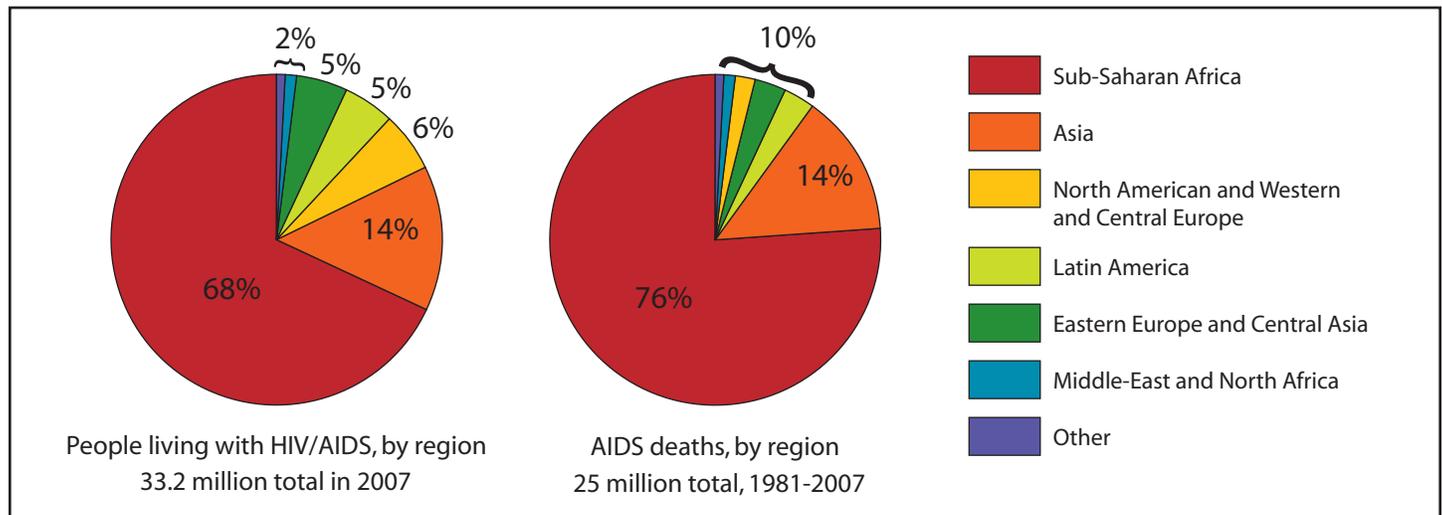
Of the total 33.2 million living with HIV in 2007, approximately 15.4 million were women and 2.5 million were children under the age of 15.

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF AIDS DEATHS

Since the beginning of the epidemic in 1981, an estimated 25 million people have died worldwide due to AIDS. In 2007 alone, AIDS claimed the lives of approximately 2.1 million people, or over 5,700 people per day. More than three in four AIDS deaths occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa, where access to necessary and reliable medical treatment services is often limited.

NEW HIV INFECTIONS

Roughly 2.5 million individuals became newly in-



REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

More than two out of three adults and nearly 90% of children infected with HIV live in Sub-Saharan Africa. Another 14% of people with HIV live in Asia, with the rest distributed globally.

ected with HIV in 2007, an average of 6,800 new infections daily. Numbers of new infections appear to have declined slightly after peaking in the late 1990s. However, since 2001, the rate of new infections has remained steady. The actual number of people living with the virus is increasing due to the accumulation of new infections coupled with longer survival rates.

ENDNOTES

¹ All information in this factsheet is from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and World Health Organization (WHO), *AIDS Epidemic Update* (Dec. 2007) (online at http://data.unaids.org/pub/EPISlides/2007/2007_epiupdate_en.pdf).