Global Epidemiology of HIV

Key Points

- An estimated 1.8 million new HIV infections occurred worldwide in 2017.
- There were an estimated 36.9 million people with HIV worldwide in 2017.

As part of its efforts to monitor the HIV epidemic and assess the effectiveness of prevention efforts, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimates the number of people with HIV (prevalence) and the number of new HIV infections in one year (incidence).

In 2017, an estimated 1.8 million new HIV infections occurred worldwide. This means an estimated 4,932 people became infected with HIV every day in 2017. The number of new infections has dropped by 16% since 2010.

There were an estimated 36.9 million people with HIV worldwide in 2017.

In 2017, an estimated 2,575 people died from an AIDS-related infection every day. This resulted in an estimated 940,000 deaths as a result of AIDS in 2017. This is down from an estimated 1.9 million deaths in 2004.

Globally there are two different types of HIV epidemics. In “concentrated” epidemics, transmission occurs largely in defined vulnerable groups such as sex workers, gay men and other men who have sex with men, and people who use injection drugs. In “generalized” epidemics, transmission is sustained by sexual behaviour in the general population and would persist despite effective programs for vulnerable groups. North America has a concentrated epidemic whereas sub-Saharan Africa has a generalized epidemic.

Resource

UNAIDS Data 2018 – UNAIDS

Sources

Disclaimer

Decisions about particular medical treatments should always be made in consultation with a qualified medical practitioner knowledgeable about HIV- and hepatitis C-related illness and the treatments in question.

CATIE provides information resources to help people living with HIV and/or hepatitis C who wish to manage their own health care in partnership with their care providers. Information accessed through or published or provided by CATIE, however, is not to be considered medical advice. We do not recommend or advocate particular treatments and we urge users to consult as broad a range of sources as possible. We strongly urge users to consult with a qualified medical practitioner prior to undertaking any decision, use or action of a medical nature.

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