

HIV Facts

International Statistics

UK Statistics

THE FACTS

- >> There are over 33 million people living with HIV worldwide.
- >> Since AIDS was first identified over 20 years ago, more than 25 million people have died.
- >> There are more than 11 million children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS in Africa.
- >> Worldwide about half of those infected by HIV are women.
- >> In some of the worst affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa rates of HIV infection are as high as 1 in 3.
- >> There are more than 80,000 people living with HIV in the UK.
- >> There are around 1,500 young people under 19 accessing HIV care in the UK.
- >> More than 1 in 4 people in the UK who are living with HIV do not know that they are infected.
- >> An estimated 20,000 children live in a family affected by HIV in the UK.
- >> Between 7,000 and 8,000 people are diagnosed with HIV in the UK each year. Because of good treatments, there are fewer HIV-related deaths, so the number of people living with HIV in the UK is growing each year.

FURTHER INFORMATION

UNAIDS website
www.unaids.org

AVERT website
www.avert.org

Health Protection Agency website
www.hpa.org.uk

NAT website
www.nat.org.uk

HIV Facts

What are AIDS and HIV?

HIV stands for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. HIV attacks the body's immune system – the body's defence against diseases.

AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. A person is considered to have AIDS when the immune system has become so weak that it can no longer fight off a whole range of diseases with which it would normally cope. Because of effective treatments, many people living with HIV in the UK will not go on to develop AIDS.

How HIV is transmitted

HIV is passed on from one person to another via body fluids – blood, semen, pre-ejaculate (pre-cum), vaginal fluids and breast milk.

In the UK today, the main routes of transmission are:

through vaginal or anal sex without a condom

by sharing needles either for injecting drugs or tattooing

Less commonly, HIV is passed on through:

oral sex (particularly if someone has ulcers or gum problems or has recently brushed or flossed their teeth)

mother-to-baby transmission, although with the right medical interventions there is only a 1-in-100 chance of this happening

breast feeding (where the mother is HIV positive)

HIV is not passed on through:

hugging, kissing or holding hands

sharing a bath

swimming pools

toilet seats

sharing cutlery or drinks with someone else

someone spitting at you or biting you.