

Assignment 3: Original Visualization 1; Tile Plot

This visualization shows the impact of the HIV epidemic on five Sub-Saharan African nations; Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. These five nations were chosen for this visualization because at the peak of the crisis, each of these countries had an adult HIV infection rate over 20%. The first cases of HIV were reported in Central Africa in the early 1960s and spread rapidly, hitting East and Southern Africa the hardest. By 1986, the WHO officially declared HIV as an ‘epidemic’, by which time the virus had progressed from the initial ‘dormancy’ phase to active infection, following which life expectancy dropped sharply in the region. In 2003, President George W. Bush launched the PEPFAR initiative to combat the epidemic through large expenditures to fund treatment, prevention, and awareness campaigns. PEPFAR is widely considered to be one of the most successful foreign aid initiatives of all time, and this visualization demonstrates the impact of the program on life expectancy of affected countries.