

# HIV/AIDS in South Africa



HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) when not treated, can develop into AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome). AIDS weakens the immune system, making the body susceptible to deadly opportunistic infections (7).

South Africa has the **HIGHEST** number of people living with HIV globally (8).

### Mortality:

In 2021 alone, 51,000 adults and children died from AIDs in South Africa (4).

### Prevalence & Incidence:

- 7.5 million adults and children are living with HIV (4).
- South Africa experienced 210,000 new diagnoses of HIV in adults and children in 2021 (4).



South Africa ranks the **WORST** in DALY's for HIV/AIDs out of all countries (3).

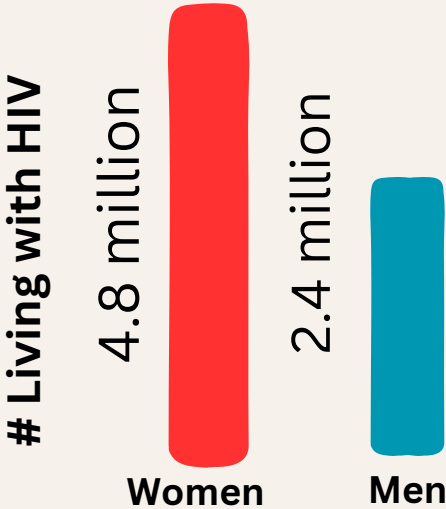


## Health, Economic, & Social Consequences

- People with HIV/AIDS are more likely to get sick from opportunistic infections and die (7).
- Labor supply is reduced due to an increase in mortality and morbidity. Labor productivity was reduced to those dealing with the illness from HIV/AIDS (2).
- Exports were reduced due to low productivity, and imports increased with expensive healthcare (2).
- Many who are HIV+ cannot grieve openly, and come in contact with others (2).
- The number of orphans is increasing as AIDS-related deaths increase as well (2).

## Who is Affected?

- Men, women, and children of all races (4)
- Highest prevalence among women aged 15-49 (4)
- Women 15 & older have **2X** more prevalent HIV cases than men 15 & older (4):



## Social Determinants & Risk Factors:

- Social norm of heavy alcohol & substance use (8)
- Young age of sexual consent; younger children having sex (8)
- Extreme poverty, unemployment, & lack of jobs (1)
- No quality public health infrastructure for prevention programs (5)
- Unsafe sex without condoms & having multiple sex partners (8)
- Poor access to health insurance; can't afford treatment (5)
- Many school systems don't teach sex-ed (6)
- Lack of male circumcision (8)

## Recommendations:

1. Door-door HIV testing and local HIV testing facilities (8)
2. Community-led peer education for further HIV prevention efforts with sex-ed training (6)
3. Distributing condoms in high HIV prevalent communities (8)
4. Expand incentives to HIV+ individuals to receive antiretroviral therapy (ART) from their country's existent ART program to decrease transmission rates (7).

## Limitations & Constraints:

- Violence against women leading to self-deprecation and lack of perceived self value to seek out health services (8)
- Migrant labor leading to a large sex industry (6)
- Stigma around males receiving medical care (8)
- Stigma surrounding sex workers & LGBTQ+ community (6)
- Poverty (1)
- Lack of quality public health infrastructure makes it hard to implement educational/prevention programs (5)

