



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
NATIONAL AIDS/STDS CONTROL PROGRAMMES (NASCOL)
SERIALISATION OF "AIDS IN KENYA", 1999 BOOK
II. PROJECTIONS OF HIV PREVALENCE IN KENYA

In order to project the number of new infections in the future, it is necessary to make an assumption about how rapidly HIV will continue to spread. Will adult HIV prevalence in Kenya increase above the 1998 level of about 14 percent? If it does, how high might it go in the absence of expanded AIDS control programmes and significant behavioral changes: 15 percent, 17 percent, 20 percent?

Since prevalence is still increasing in some areas of Kenya and there is not yet any evidence of a decline in prevalence anywhere, it is likely that prevalence will continue to increase, at least for the next few years. Although the national prevalence in 1998 was estimated at 14 percent, it was 18 percent in urban areas. There are areas in urban Kenya today where prevalence is already 20 percent. In other countries in the region urban HIV prevalence is even higher than in Kenya. Higher prevalence in other countries may be due to an earlier start of the epidemic in those countries or to different behavior patterns or both.

The trend in prevalence from 1990 to 1998 suggests that prevalence in all of Kenya will increase from about 14 percent of the adult population in 1998 to about 15 percent by the year 2005 and then stabilize at that level.

(See graph right)

Number of Future HIV Infections and AIDS Cases

If HIV prevalence does increase to 15 percent by the year 2005, then the number of infected people in the population would increase to 2.2 million people by 2000 and to 3.0 million by 2005. The number of new AIDS cases each year resulting from these infections would increase to 240,000 by 2000.

The cumulative number of AIDS deaths would increase from over 700,000 today to 2.7 million by 2005.

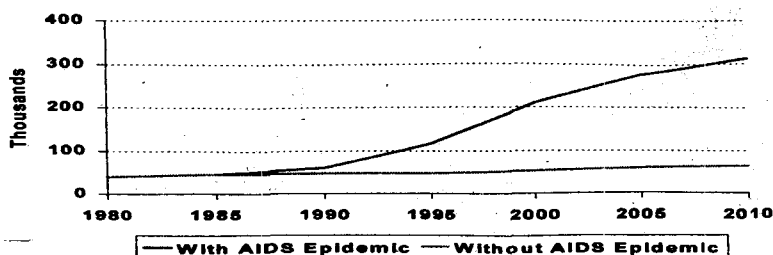
Adult Deaths

AIDS will increase the death rate at all ages. However, the impact will be most severe among young adults and children under the age of five. Without AIDS, and assuming a gradual decline in the death rates from other causes, the annual number of deaths among adults (ages 15 to 49) would increase slowly (because of the growing population) from about 49,000 today to 58,000 by 2005. However, AIDS will dramatically increase that number, more than quadrupling it to 208,000 a year (over 560 deaths daily) by 2000 and increasing to 270,000 (about 740 deaths per day) by 2005. This rapid increase in young adult death would have serious consequences for economic and social development. Many of these impacts are examined in the next section of this report.

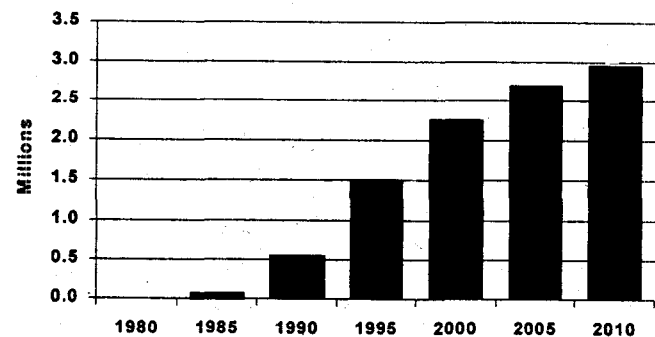
One dramatic impact of AIDS deaths is the decline in life expectancy. The Central Bureau of Statistics estimates that without AIDS, life expectancy at birth would currently be about 65 years. However, due to the large number of AIDS deaths, it is actually only about 50 years and may decline to as low as 42 years by 2010. Thus a full 15 years of life expectancy have already been lost due to AIDS.

(See graphs below)

Annual Number of Deaths to Adults (15-49)



Projected Number of People Infected with HIV



AIDS Orphans

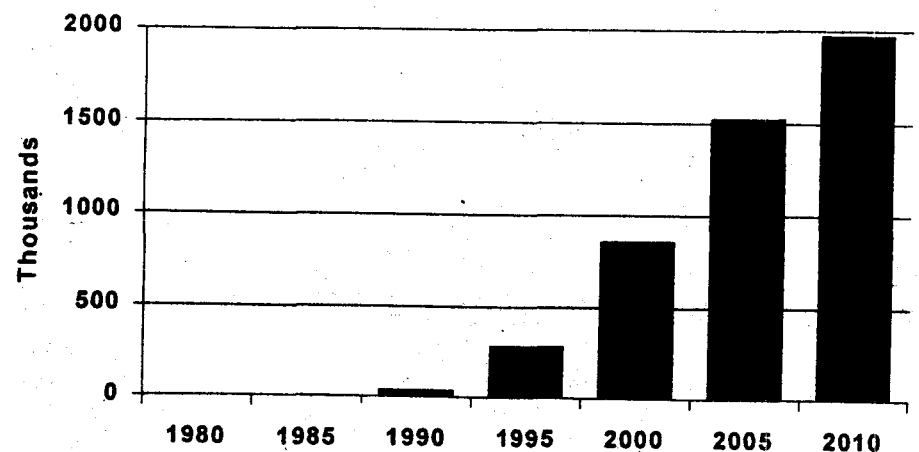
One of the worst impacts of AIDS deaths to young adults is an increase in the number of orphans. We define an AIDS orphan as a child under the age of 15 who has lost the mother to AIDS. With this definition, the number of AIDS orphans would increase to 860,000 by 2000 and to 1.5 million by 2005.

These children may lack the proper care and supervision they need at this critical period of their lives. There will be a tremendous strain on social systems to cope with such a large number of orphans.

- At the family level there will be increased burden and stress for the extended family that will try to care for these orphans. Many grandparents are left to care for young children. Some families are headed by children as young as 10-12 years old.
- At the community and national level there is an increased burden on society to provide services for these children, including orphanages, health care and school fees. Many children go without adequate health care and schooling, increasing the burden on society in future years. There may also be an increase in the number of urban street children.

(See graphs below)

AIDS Orphans



For more information or the book itself, contact:

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