

# Fall in Aids deaths boosts population

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Reduction in the number of people dying from HIV/Aids-related illnesses partly explains the increase in Kenya's population by 10 million.

The prevalence rate for the killer disease has dropped from 13 per cent in 2000 to 6.7 per cent four years ago, according to Government statistics released by the Planning ministry last month.

It is now estimated that there are 1.2 million people infected with HIV/Aids in Kenya while about 85,000 die annually of Aids-related complications, said the Millennium Development Goals Status Report for Kenya - 2007.

## Prevalence

National Coordinating Agency for Population and Development director Boniface K'Oyugi said: "Our efforts that helped reduce the prevalence rate to the neighbourhoods of six per cent means fewer people are dying from related ailments."

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Efforts that pushed down the prevalence rate include the 2006 move by Government to provide free anti-retroviral drugs at public hospitals.

The move, according to the report, contributed to the decline in Aids-related deaths from 120,000 annually in 2003 to the current 85,000.

The number of people on anti-retroviral treatment has increased from 2,000 in 2003 to 140,000 in 2007.

## Condom supply

Another reason for the decline in HIV/Aids cases is the increase in condom supply. The National Aids Control Council says the supply has risen from 28.4 million in 2005 to 36 million in 2006.

The figure rose to 64.5 million in 2007, a trend attributed to the increase in demand for condoms and availability of funds. The council estimated that people's awareness about the pandemic now stands at 98 per cent.

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