**YEAR HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN = Picture/illustration/screenshot or video is uploaded in the TIMELINE MEDIA**

**1981**

Major national newspapers like the [New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com/1981/07/03/us/rare-cancer-seen-in-41-homosexuals.html) in the US and the Nation in Kenya report on a rare type on cancer found in gay men but the story quickly fades from the limelight.

**1982**

Scientists in US predict that the immune system disorder affecting gay men is due to an infection. They change the name of the disease from GRID (Gay Related Infectious Disease) to AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), after they discover that aside from gay men, other groups at risk are people who inject drugs, people of Haitian origin and haemophiliacs.

**1983**

The *New York Times* reports that [concern over Aids grows internationally](http://www.nytimes.com/1983/05/24/science/concern-over-aids-grows-internationally.html). In Europe, Aids is found in gay men who have visited the US and in people with links to central Africa. Investigations begin into the occurrence of AIDS in Rwanda, Zaire and other African nations.

**1985**

Although cases of HIV have been documented for five years around the world, in Kenya, the condition remains a mystery as shown in the media coverage. On July 15, 1985 for instance, *The Standard* carries a story with the headline: [*Killer sex disease in Kenya*](http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000093254&story_title=when-mystery-sex-disease-came-to-kenya&pageNo=1).

**1986**

Political leaders and other prominent leaders in Kenya persist in denying the existence of HIV. But there is plenty of evidence that HIV is a serious problem in Nairobi because prevalence among tested sex workers is high.

**1987**

Puzzled by a group of sex workers who had resisted HIV infection even after being exposed to it, a group of scientists launch a study on the unique women from Majengo slum in Nairobi.

**1988**

Kenya’s Ministry of Health issues guidelines stating that patients should be told their HIV status.

**1989**

Joe Muriuki, becomes the first Kenyan to go public about his HIV status when aged 28.

**199O**

Images of severely sick, thin, and unhealthy HIV positive people accompany the increasing HIV coverage in the media in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The perception created is that one can tell an HIV positive person by looking at them.

**1994**

Over 12 years after the discovery of AIDS, the US government launches its first national media campaign explicitly promoting condoms.

**1996**

The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), a non-profit organisation based in New York City, is set up to speed the search for an HIV vaccine.

**1997**

Annual US death rates from AIDS dramatically fall for the first time, due to the introduction of HAART- Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy.

**1998**

President Moi declares AIDS a national disaster but is still reluctant to do anything about it. He says it would be improper to encourage the use of condoms in schools and colleges. The National AIDS Control Council is formed.

**1999**

British author [Edward Hooper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Hooper) releases his book, [*The River*](http://www.amazon.com/The-River-Journey-Source-AIDS/dp/0316372617), which accuses doctors who tested a polio vaccine in 1950s Africa of unintentionally starting the AIDS epidemic. The idea is rejected in 2001 by a wide group of researchers.

**2000**

Kenya develops a five-year National AIDS Strategic Plan and plans AIDS education for all schools and colleges. [The Millennium Development Goals (MDG)](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/) are adopted by the international community and reducing the spread and impact of HIV are included in this initiative.

**2001**

The International Labour Organisation publishes a [guideline on HIV and aids and the world of work](http://www.ilo.org/aids/Publications/WCMS_113783/lang--en/index.htm) targeting policy-makers, employers’ and workers’ organisations.

**2002**

President, Mwai Kibaki, declares ‘Total War on AIDS’. But widespread corruption, misuse and disappearance of funds result in the grants from the Global Fund to be withheld. A few of the people responsible are held accountable.

**2003**

A South African and three Indian drug companies agree to lower their prices for antiretroviral drugs (ARVs), in [a deal brokered by former US president Bill Clinton](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2803%2914735-6/fulltext). The agreement reduces price of the most frequently used drugs by a third. Although ARVs were introduced into the Kenyan market in the 1990s it is not until now that the public sector launches its ARVs program.

**2004**

With a high number of employees getting HIV, some employers launch HIV programs in the workplace and offer health insurance coverage for the condition.

**2005**

AIDS makes top news worldwide as media report that [Mandela's eldest son has died of Aids](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4151159.stm).

**2007**

An HIV positive woman aged 41 years and Aids activist gives birth to a healthy baby after going through PMTCT. As ARVs become more accessible in Africa the images of HIV positive people is changing.

**2008**

The legal rights of people living with HIV in Kenya are strengthened as a 45-year-old waitress, who was sacked for being HIV positive wins her court case. The success is widely covered around the world. Major media outlets like the BBC[report about the case.](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/7499496.stm)

**2009**

# The Pope Benedict XVI reignites the controversy over the Catholic Church’s stance on condom during his first trip to Africa. As he claims [*condoms could make African Aids crisis worse*](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/mar/17/pope-africa-condoms-aids)during a visit in Cameroon.

**2011**

A story on[*Condom Reuse*](http://www.internews.org/our-stories/program-news/travel-grant-story-goes-viral-youtube)*,* airs on K24 and prompts the government to allocate funds to reverse the condom shortage.

**2012**

*The Star* newspaper reports on[*forced sterilisation among HIV-Positive women*](http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/article-1732/hiv-positive-womens-pain-and-anguish-forced-sterilisation) shows that despite two decades of anti-sigma campaigns people living with HIV are still discriminated in Kenya.

**2013**

Although homosexuality is a taboo in Kenya, K24 airs the documentary [*The Invisible Bridge*](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-_JnYxag1Pw)  which highlights how the high HIV prevalence among key populations affects the fight against HIV in the population at large.

Globally, there is talk about getting to a world with zero HIV infections. CNN and other media houses around the world report the case of a [*baby cured of HIV*](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qo-2fhuyDlw)