**THE EFFECT OF HIV ON POPULATION GROWTH BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

Introduction

HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) is a virus that attacks the body’s immune system. According to the World Health Organization(WHO), The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) targets the immune system and weakens people's defense against many infections and some types of cancer that people with healthy immune systems can more easily fight off.

HIV can be transmitted via the exchange of a variety of body fluids from infected people, such as blood, breast milk, semen and vaginal secretions. HIV can also be transmitted from a mother to her child during pregnancy and delivery. However it should be noted that people with HIV who are taking ART(Anti-retroviral therapy) and are virally suppressed do not transmit HIV to their sexual partners. Early access to ART and support to remain on treatment is therefore critical not only to improve the health of people with HIV but also to prevent HIV transmission.

According to WHO, HIV continues to be a major global public health issue, having claimed 40.1 million [33.6–48.6 million] lives so far. In 2021, 650 000 [510 000–860 000] people died from HIV-related causes and 1.5 million [1.1–2.0 million] people acquired HIV. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there were [37.7 million people worldwide](https://www.who.int/teams/global-hiv-hepatitis-and-stis-programmes/hiv/strategic-information/hiv-data-and-statistics) (roughly 0.7% of the world's population) living with HIV in 2020, including 1.5 million new cases. It further estimated that 73% of those cases were being treated with ART, but that 680,000 people died from HIV-related causes (such as AIDS) that same year.

According to Hiv.org, the vast majority of people with HIV are in low- and middle-income countries, as opposed to developed countries. It estimates that  In 2021, there were 20.6 million people with HIV (53%) in eastern and southern Africa, 5 million (13%) in western and central Africa, 6 million (15%) in Asia and the Pacific, and 2.3 million (5%) in Western and Central Europe and North America.

A comparison between these categories of countries is analytically studied in relation to how HIV has impacted their population growth. This literature seeks to provide insights as to….