

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION PROVISIONAL WORKING ESTIMATES OF ADULT HIV PREVALENCE

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Following a country-by-country review of HIV/AIDS data, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that globally approximately 17 million adults were living with HIV infection at the end of 1994. The majority (66%) of these infections were in sub-Saharan Africa (112 million) followed by South and South-East Asia (3 million), with Australasia having the fewest infections (12,000). In 50 countries the estimated HIV prevalence rate was less than 5 per 10,000 sexually active adults and in 15 countries (all in sub-Saharan Africa) the prevalence rate was over 500 per 10,000. The lowest prevalence rates were seen in Central and East Asia and the highest in Central and Southern Africa. The estimated numbers of persons living with HIV infection are shown in the Table.

WHO uses several methods and a variety of data sources to make estimates of the current and future extent of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Official country estimates of HIV prevalence made by national experts or national AIDS programmes are used when available. When not available, WHO makes estimates based upon a review of HIV sero-prevalence studies, reported AIDS cases, estimates of under-reporting, population size and structure (including the age/sex distribution and urban/rural differentials in HIV spread), and the predominant modes of transmission.

HIV sero-prevalence rates for populations at increased risk of HIV infection are used to set an upper limit for the national estimate. Sero-prevalence data from studies of groups thought to be more representative of the general population are used as the basis of the national estimate. When appropriate, HIV prevalence is estimated for sub-populations of a country and then aggregated for a national estimate.

Estimates of HIV prevalence are intended to give an indication of the magnitude of the HIV pandemic but should be considered provisional due to the difficulties in accurately assessing levels of HIV infection in national populations.

Table. Estimated number of persons living with HIV infection, by country, at the end of 1994

Country / Area	Estimated number of infections
AFRICA	
Algeria	10000
Angola	48000
Benin	27000
Botswana	125000
Burkina Faso	300000
Burundi	75000
Cameroon	175000
Central African Republic	85000
Chad	75000
Comoros	250
Congo	80000
Cote d'Ivoire	390000
Djibouti	8000
Egypt	7500
Equatorial Guinea	2000
Eritrea	50000
Ethiopia	588000

Table. Estimated number of persons living with HIV infection, by country, at the end of 1994^a, continued

Country/Area	Estimated number of infections
AFRICA - continued	
Gabon	13000
Gambia	11000
Ghana	172000
Guinea	17000
Guinea-Bissau	15000
Kenya	1000000
Lesotho	28000
Liberia	17000
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1300
Madagascar	2500
Malawi	650000
Mali	58000
Mauritania	7000
Mauritius	500
Morocco	5000
Mozambique	400000
Namibia	45000
Niger	40000
Nigeria	1050000
Reunion	150
Rwanda	250000
Senegal	50000
Sierra Leone	60000
Somalia	10000
South Africa	650000
Sudan	125000
Swaziland	15000
Togo	150000
Tunisia	2000
Uganda	1300000
United Republic of Tanzania	840000
Zaire	680000
Zambia	700000
Zimbabwe	900000
Total	11310200
AMERICAS	
Argentina	60000
Bahamas	6000
Barbados	4000
Belize	2000
Bolivia	2000
Brazil	550000
Canada	30000
Chile	10000
Colombia	40000
Cost Rica	9000
Cuba	1300

Country/Area	Estimated number of infections
AMERICAS - continued	
Dominican Republic	40000
Ecuador	16000
El Salvador	15000
Guatemala	20000
Guyana	6000
Haiti	150000
Honduras	40000
Jamaica	12000
Mexico	200000
Nicaragua	1500
Panama	8000
Paraguay	2600
Peru	30000
Suriname	2500
Trinidad and Tobago	6000
United States of America	700000
Uruguay	5000
Venezuela	35000
Total	2003900
ASIA	
Afghanistan	50
Armenia	20
Azerbaijan	50
Bahrain	500
Bangladesh ^b	15000
Bhutan	75
Brunei Darussalam	300
Cambodia	90000
China	10000
Cyprus	1000
Democratic People's Republic of Korea ^c	100
Georgia	500
Hong Kong	3000
India	1750000
Indonesia	50000
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1000
Iraq	250
Israel	2000
Japan	6200
Jordan	600
Kazakhstan	50
Kuwait	100
Kyrgyzstan	25
Lao People's Democratic Republic	550
Lebanon	1350

Table . Estimated number of persons living with HIV infection, by country, at the end of 1994^a, continued

Country/Area	Estimated number of infections
ASIA - continued	
Malaysia	30000
Maldives	60
Mongolia	150
Myanmar	350000
Nepal	5000
Oman	1000
Pakistan	40000
Philippines	18000
Qatar	290
Republic of Korea	2000
Saudi Arabia	1000
Singapore	1200
Sri Lanka	5000
Syrian Arab Republic	700
Tajikistan	25
Thailand	700000
Turkey	500
Turkmenistan	25
United Arab Emirates	2000
Uzbekistan	100
Viet Nam	25000
Yemen	750
Total	3116420
EUROPE	
Albania	100
Austria	8000
Belarus	200
Belgium	10000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	750
Bulgaria	300
Croatia	300
Czech Republic	2000
Denmark	4000
Estonia	40
Finland	500
France	90000

Country/Area	Estimated number of infections
EUROPE - continued	
Germany	43000
Greece	5000
Hungary	3000
Iceland	200
Ireland	1700
Italy	90000
Latvia	100
Lithuania	200
Luxembourg	300
Malta	200
Netherlands	3000
Norway	1250
Poland	10000
Portugal	8000
Republic of Moldova	40
Romania	500
Russian Federation	3000
Slovak Republic	250
Slovenia	150
Spain	120000
Sweden	3000
Switzerland	12000
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	500
Ukraine	1500
United Kingdom	25000
Yugoslavia ^d	5000
Total	453080
OCEANIA	
Australia	11000
Fiji	150
New Zealand	1200
Papua New Guinea	4000
Total	16350
WORLD TOTAL	16899950

a. Countries with adult populations of over 100,000.

b. The Government of Bangladesh has officially reported 44 HIV-infected adults. The estimate of 15,000 is speculative but represents what WHO believes to be a conservative estimate of the actual number of HIV-infected adults in Bangladesh.

c. Despite extensive testing, no confirmed cases of HIV have been detected in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. WHO believes HIV to be present in the country but at a very low level.

d. Refers to states/areas of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia not otherwise listed separately.