

HIV/AIDS Profile: South Africa

Demographic Indicators

	with AIDS	without AIDS		with AIDS	without AIDS
Population (1000s)	43,421	44,468	Growth Rate (%)	.5 %	1.2 %
Crude Birth Rate	22	21	Crude Death Rate	15	7
Infant Mortality Rate			Life Expectancy		
Both Sexes	59	41	Both Sexes	51	66
Male	63	45	Male	50	62
Female	54	37	Female	52	69

Percent Urban	45		Total Fertility Rate	2.5	

Note: Above indicators are for 2000.

Estimated % of adults living with HIV/AIDS, end 1999	19.9 %
Cumulative AIDS rate (per 1,000) as of 10/30/96	0.30
Cumulative AIDS cases as of 10/30/96	12,825

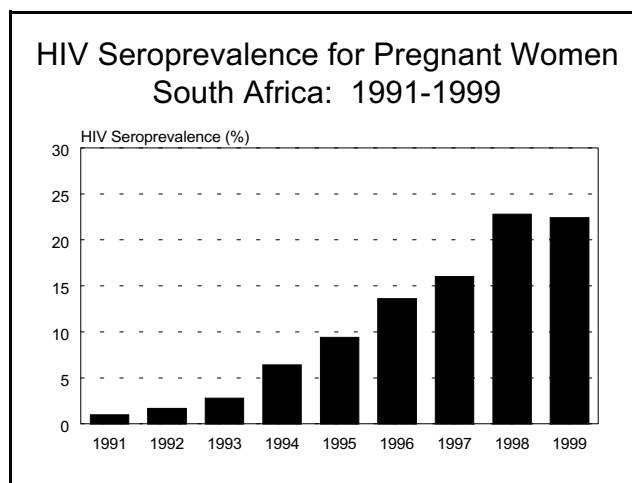
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, UNAIDS, Population Reference Bureau, World Health Organization.

Epidemiological Data

Epidemic State: Generalized

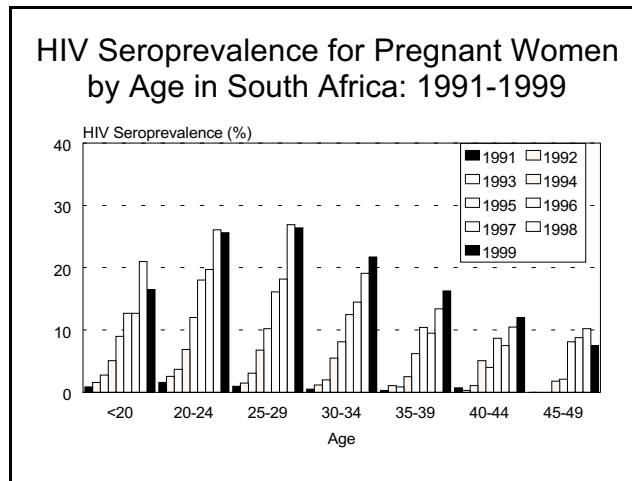
The epidemic began in South Africa much later than it did in other countries in Africa. By the mid 1990s, infection rates among pregnant women were increasing tremendously. South Africa is now facing one of the most serious HIV epidemics in the world. Rural areas appear to be affected to the same extent as urban areas, particularly in KwaZulu/Natal Province, the hardest hit province.

- By the mid 1990s, the HIV epidemic had exploded among pregnant women in South Africa. Twenty-three percent of pregnant women were infected, according to the 1998 sentinel surveillance round conducted in all nine provinces of South Africa. In 1999, 22 percent of pregnant women tested were HIV positive.

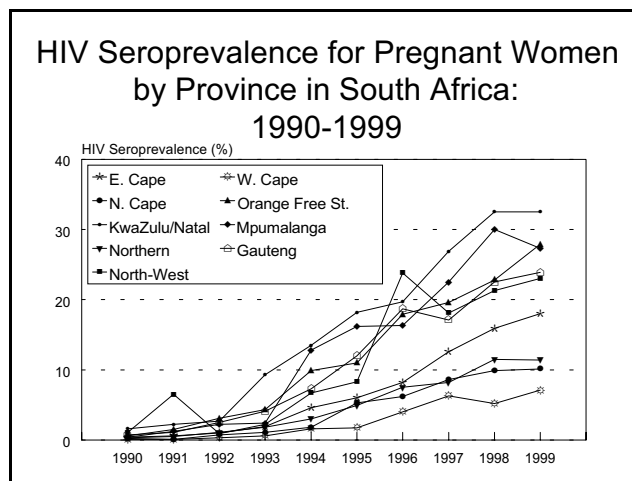


South Africa

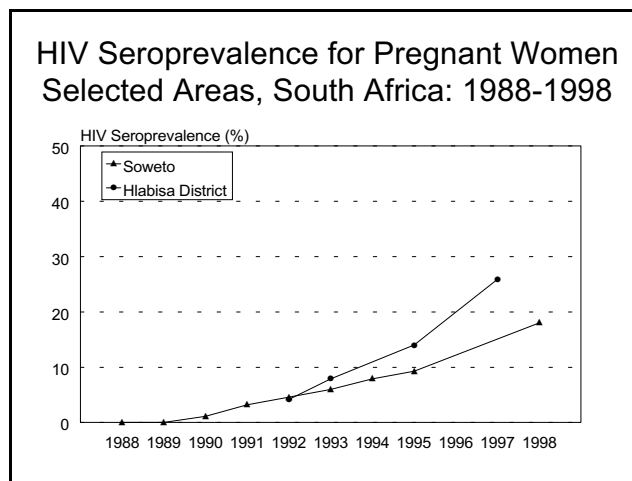
- Based upon sentinel surveillance data from all nine provinces, HIV seroprevalence levels have risen among all age groups of pregnant women during most of the 1990s. By 1998, 21 percent of those under 20 were infected, a very high level among pregnant women so young. By 1999, however, there was a decline to 17 percent among these women. Pregnant women in their 20s remain the most affected group.



- Annual sentinel surveillance surveys among pregnant women in all nine provinces of South Africa show a steady increase in HIV seroprevalence since 1990. KwaZulu/Natal Province has the highest infection levels; however, both 1998 and 1999 HIV prevalence were identical, 33 percent. In other provinces, HIV prevalence continued to increase.

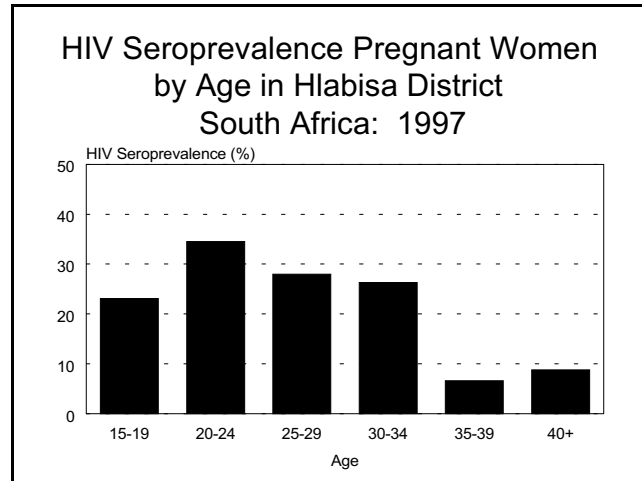


- Various studies done among pregnant women in selected areas of the country indicate a steadily worsening situation. In Hlabisa District, a rural area in KwaZulu/Natal Province, prevalence was 26 percent in 1997 and in Soweto, the 1998 prevalence was 18 percent.

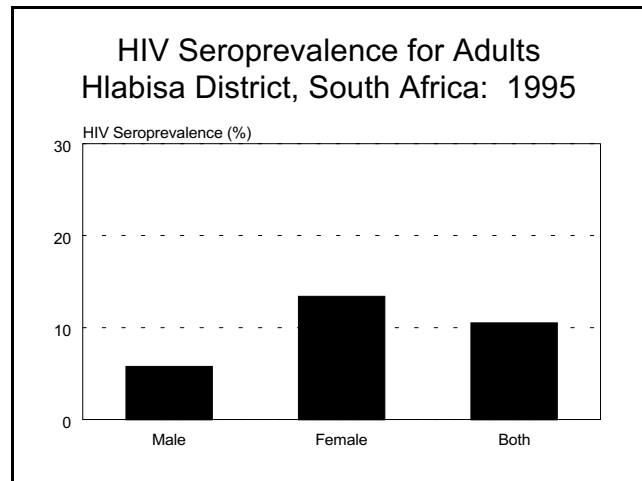


South Africa

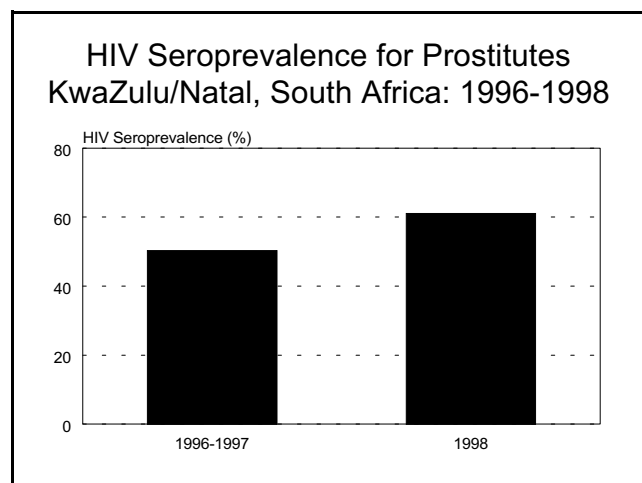
- In Hlabisa District, the highest infection rates were observed in pregnant women 20-24, 35 percent. Very high prevalence rates were also observed in those 15-19; 23 percent of these women were HIV positive.



- One study done in 1995 found high seropositivity among adults in Hlabisa District, 11 percent. Infection levels among women, at 13 percent, were more than double what was found among men, 6 percent.

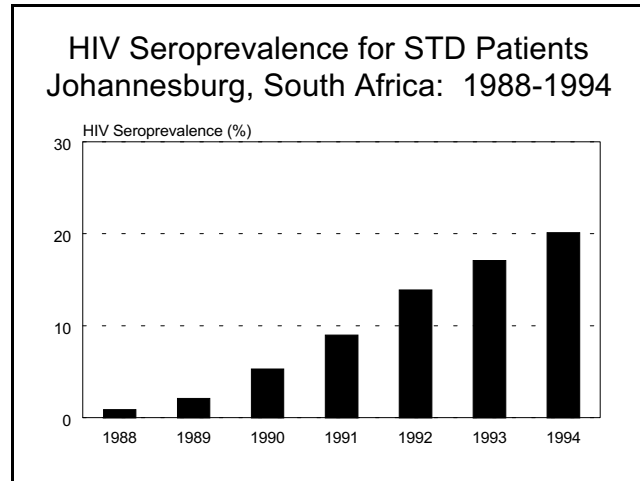


- HIV prevalence among prostitutes working mainly at truck stops increased between 1996-1997 and 1998 by 21 percent in KwaZulu/Natal Province.

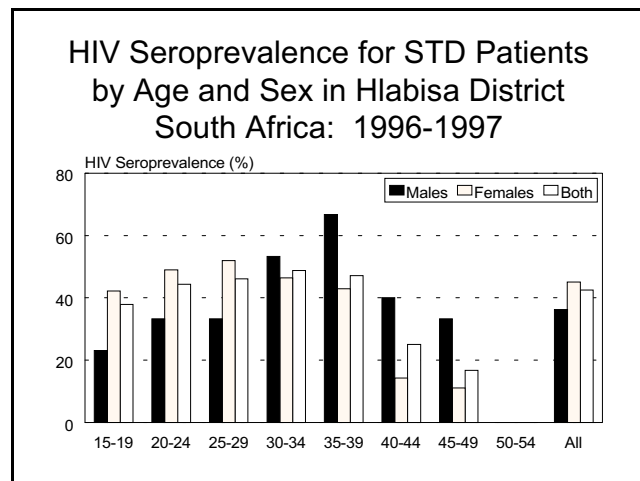


South Africa

- Sentinel surveillance carried out in Johannesburg, documents the steady but marked increase in HIV prevalence among STD clinic patients over a 6-year period. Infection levels increased from 1 percent in 1988 to 20 percent in 1994.



- In Hlabisa District, HIV seroprevalence among STD clinic patients had reached alarmingly high levels by 1996-1997. Females had much higher rates than males up to age 30. Overall, 45 percent of female patients and 36 percent of male patients were infected in this rural area of South Africa.



Sources for South Africa

- C0215 Colvin, M., S. S. Abdool Karim, C. Connolly, et al., 1998, HIV Infection and Asymptomatic Sexually Transmitted Infections in a Rural South African Community, *International Journal of STD and AIDS*, vol. 9, no. 9, pp. 548-550.
- D0214 Wilkinson, D., 1997, Report on the 4th Anonymous Survey of HIV Infection in Women Attending Antenatal Clinics in Hlabisa Health District, Personal correspondence.
- M0434 McIntyre, J. A., G. Gray, 1995, Maternal and Obstetrical Factors in Mother to Child Transmission of HIV at Baragwanath Hospital, IX International Conference on AIDS and STD in Africa, Kampala, Uganda, 12/10-14, Session ThC287.
- M0561 Morar, N. S., G. Ramjee, S. S. Abdool Karim, 1998, Safe Sex Practices among Sex Workers at Risk of HIV Infection, 12th World AIDS Conference, Geneva, 6/28 - 7/3, Poster 33287.
- M0570 McIntyre, J., G. E. Gray, 1998, The Feasibility of Short-Course AntiRetroviral Therapy for the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV in Soweto, . . ., 12th World AIDS Conference, Geneva, 6/28-7/3, Abstract 23322.
- M0579 Makubalo, L. E., 1998, Eighth Annual National HIV Sero-Prevalence Survey of Women Attending Antenatal Clinics in South Africa 1997, Department of Health, Health Systems Research and Epidemiology, June, report.
- R0089 RSA Dept. of National Health and Population Development, 1993, Third National HIV Survey of Women Attending Antenatal Clinics, South Africa, October/November 1992, *Epidemiological Comments*, vol. 20, no. 3, pp. 35-50.
- R0101 RSA Department of National Health and Population Development, 1994, Fourth National HIV Survey of Women Attending Antenatal Clinics, South Africa, October/ November 1993, *Epidemiological Comments*, vol. 21, no. 4, pp. 68-78.
- R0123 RSA Department of National Health, 1994, NIV Sentinel Surveillance, *Epidemiological Comments*, vol. 21, no. 11, pp. 230-231.
- R0131 RSA Department of Health, 1995, Fifth National HIV Survey in Women Attending Antenatal Clinics of the Public Health Services in South Africa, Oct./Nov. 1994, *Epidemiological Comments*, vol. 22, no. 5, pp. 90-100.
- R0142 RSA Department of Health, 1996, Sixth National Survey of Women Attending Antenatal Clinics of the Public Health Services in the Republic of South Africa, . . ., *Epidemiological Comments*, vol. 23, no. 1, pp. 3-16.
- R0168 RSA Department of Health, 1997, Seventh National HIV Survey of Women Attending Antenatal Clinics of the Public Health Services in the Republic of South . . ., *Epidemiological Comments*, vol. 23, no. 2, pp. 4-16.
- R0180 Ramjee, G., S. S. Abdool Karim, W. Sturm, 1998, Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Infections Including HIV among Sex Workers in KwaZulu Natal Midlands South Africa, 12th World AIDS Conference, Geneva, 6/28 - 7/3, Abstract 60860.
- R0204 RSA Department of Health, 1999, 1998 National Antenatal HIV Sero-Prevalence Survey in South Africa, Health Systems Research and Epidemiology, Department of Health, Republic of South Africa. final report.

R0206 RSA Department of Health, 2000, 1999 National HIV Sero-Prevalence Survey of Women Attending Public Antenatal Clinics in South Africa, Health Systems Research and Epidemiology, Department of Health, Republic of South Africa, summary report.¹

W0147 Wilkinson, D., N. Wilkinson, 1998, HIV Infection among Patients with Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Rural South Africa, International Journal of STD and AIDS, vol. 9, no. 12, pp. 736-739.

¹This source is not available in the June 2000 version of the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data Base but will be included in future versions.