

HIV/AIDS Profile: Namibia

Demographic Indicators

	with AIDS	without AIDS		with AIDS	without AIDS
Population (1000s)	1,771	1,879	Growth Rate (%)	1.6 %	2.9 %
Crude Birth Rate	35	36	Crude Death Rate	19	7
Infant Mortality Rate			Life Expectancy		
Both Sexes	71	45	Both Sexes	42	65
Male	74	48	Male	44	64
Female	67	41	Female	41	67

Percent Urban	27		Total Fertility Rate	4.9	

Note: Above indicators are for 2000.

Estimated % of adults living with HIV/AIDS, end 1999	19.5 %
Cumulative AIDS rate (per 1,000) as of 3/31/97	4.07
Cumulative AIDS cases as of 3/31/97	6784

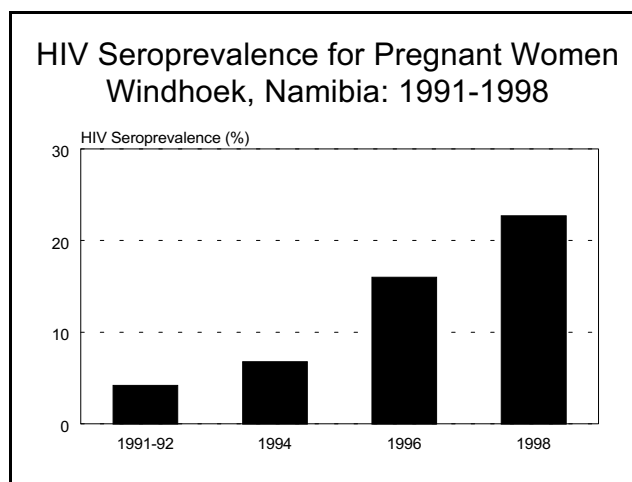
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, UNAIDS, Population Reference Bureau, World Health Organization.

Epidemiological Data

Epidemic State: Generalized

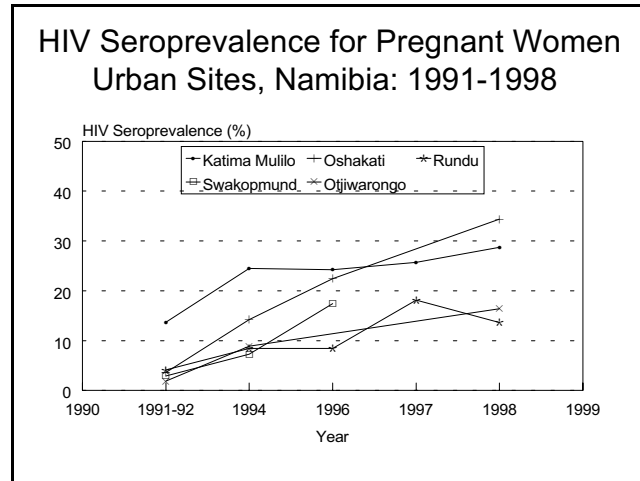
Namibia has been experiencing a steadily worsening epidemic since the early 1990s. It is experiencing an explosive increase in HIV infection similar to other countries in Southern Africa. Both urban and rural areas are affected alike.

- Among pregnant women, the level of HIV infection has soared to more than 5 times what it was in 1991-1992 in Windhoek, the capital. Almost 23 percent of pregnant women tested during the 1998 sentinel surveillance round were infected.

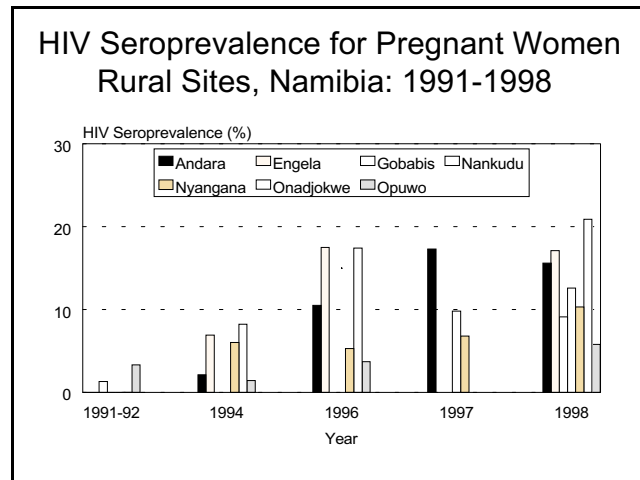


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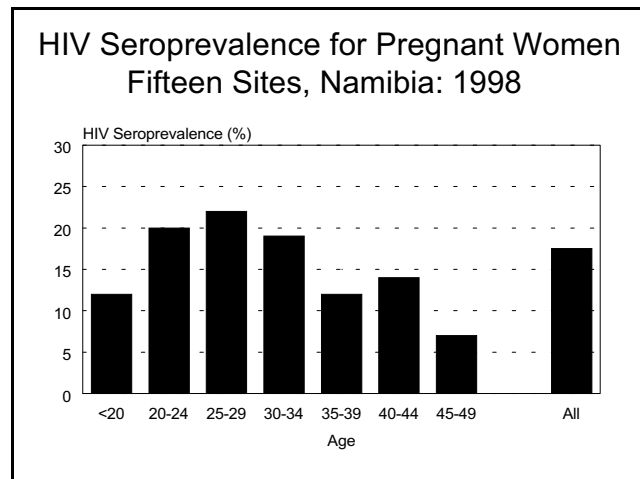
- Outside of the capital, prevalence among pregnant women in three urban sites has steadily increased since 1991-1992. By 1998, 34 percent of pregnant women in Oshakati and 29 percent in Katima Mulilo were infected.



- Even in rural areas of Namibia, prevalence has increased to levels usually seen in urban areas. By 1998, 21 percent of pregnant women in Onadjokwe and 17 percent in Engela were HIV positive.

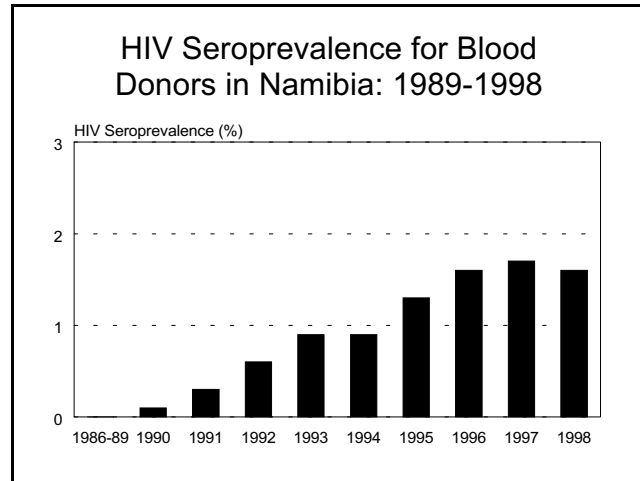


- In Namibia, sentinel surveillance data shows that 18 percent of pregnant women were infected by 1998. The 20-24 and 25-29 year age groups were the most affected with 20 percent and 22 percent, respectively, testing positive in 1998. These fifteen sites included both urban and rural sites, along with two districts.

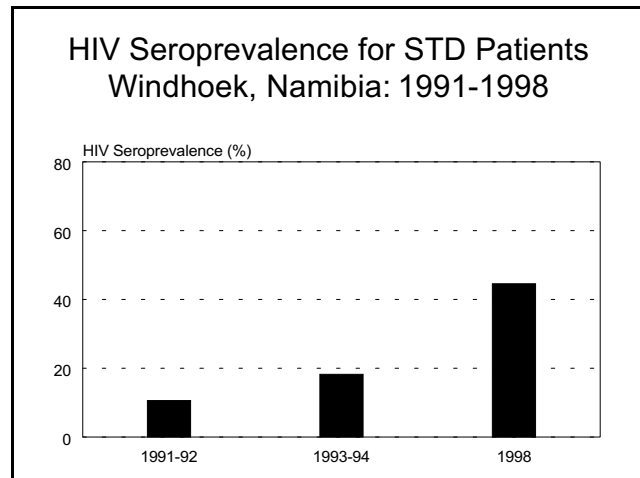


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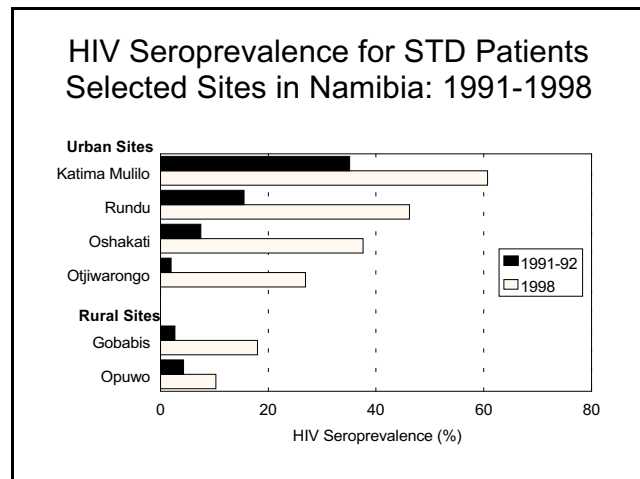
- Data from the Blood Transfusion Service of Namibia show HIV seroprevalence levels among blood donors increased from 0 percent in 1989 to nearly 2 percent in 1998. Infection levels have been kept low as the national policy dictates selection of low-risk donors and regular voluntary blood donation.



- STD patients have been included in the sentinel surveillance system in 1992 and 1998 only. By 1998, 45 percent of STD patients in Windhoek tested positive.

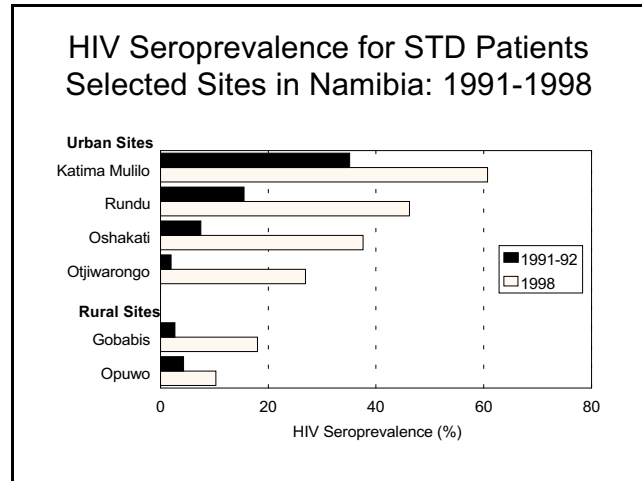


- In selected sites, both urban and rural, prevalence levels among STD patients, in 1998, were high. Even in the rural town of Engela, located in the northwest of the country, almost one-half of STD patients were infected. This level was even higher than Windhoek.

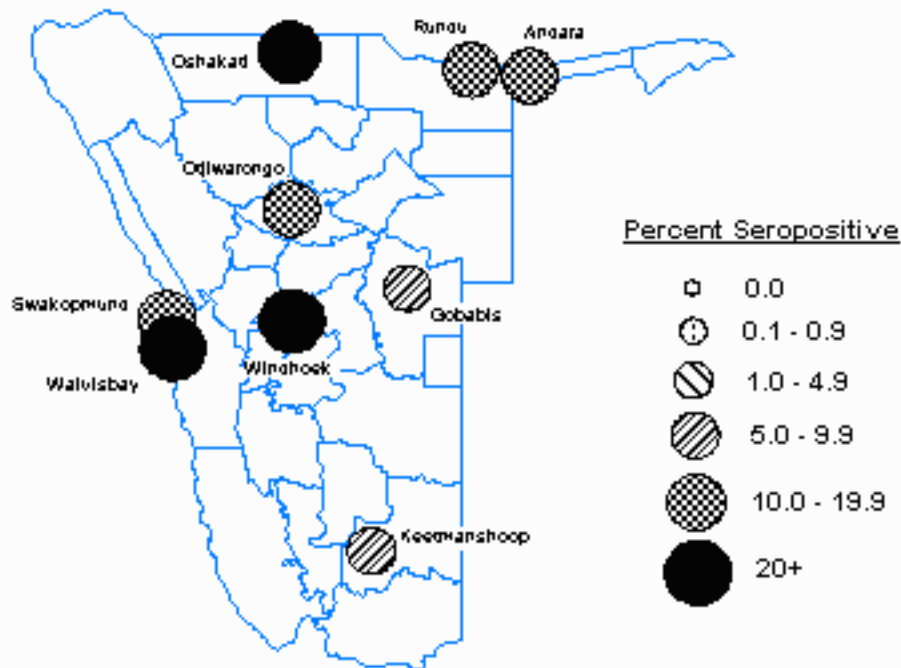


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- Over time, HIV prevalence rates among STD patients have increased tremendously, especially in urban areas. In Rundu, Oshakati, and Otjiwarongo, infection levels have more than tripled since 1991-1992. In Katima Mulilo, HIV prevalence was already high in 1991-1992. By 1998, 61 percent of patients tested were positive.



Seroprevalence of HIV-1 for Pregnant Women Namibia: 1998



U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division,
International Programs Center,
Country Profile, September 2000.

Sources for Namibia

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