



Gender Violence and HIV&AIDS in South Africa

Research indicates that:

Women who have been physically & sexually assaulted by their partners

AND

Women in relationships with men that have a greater degree of control over them

are at higher risk of HIV infection

HIV&AIDS Prevalence in South Africa

According to StatsSA, the HIV&AIDS prevalence statistics in South Africa for 2010 are as follows:

- The total number of people living with HIV is estimated at approximately **5.24 million**
- In 2010, approximately **1.6 million** people aged 15 and older; and **183 000** children were in need of ARVs
- The total number of new HIV infections for 2010 is estimated at **410 000**
- Of these, an estimated **40 000** will be among **children**

According to Redribbon:

- In 2008 there were **1356** new infections **every day**
- and **1063 deaths**
- By June 2008, **2.5 million** people had **died** of AIDS in South Africa
- South Africa **has one of the highest infection rates globally**
- It is believed that **in 2009, an estimated 310 000 South Africans died of AIDS**
- Almost **one-in-three women** aged 25-29, and over **a quarter of men** aged 30-34, are living with **HIV**

Gender Violence and HIV&AIDS

- A study from South Africa revealed that young women are much more likely to be infected than men, with **women** accounting for **77%** of infections among youth aged between 15-24 years
- A study by Interpol, the international police agency, has revealed that **South Africa leads the world in rapes**
- **One in three** of the **4,000** women questioned by the Community of Information, Empowerment and Transparency said they had been **raped** in the past year
- Approximately **1300** women can be expected to be **raped** every day in South Africa
- More than **four-in-ten** South African men reported to have been **physically violent** to an intimate partner
- **Over a quarter of men** reported ever having **raped a woman** with nearly **one-in-twenty** committing rape in the previous year
- Of South African men who knew somebody who had been raped, **16%** believed that the rape survivor had **enjoyed the experience** and had asked for it
- According to a recent study police estimated that **only one in 36 rape cases were reported** and of those only **15%** culminated in a conviction





“the
HIV&AIDS
epidemic is
responsible
for half of
the
country’s
orphans”

HIV&AIDS and Children

In 2009, The South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) reported that:

- **32%** of all children in the nation will have **lost one or both parents** to AIDS by 2015
- in 2007, **2.5 million** children had lost one or both parents, and **AIDS** was the cause of **more than half these deaths**
- "Vulnerable children need additional support that is not necessarily monetary in nature, as these children have lost their primary caregiver," said Gail Eddy of SAIRR
- Other research finds that South Africa has **some of the highest incidences of child and baby rape in the world** with more than **67,000** cases of rape and sexual assaults against children reported in 2000
- Welfare groups believe the number of **unreported incidents** could be **up to 10 times** that number

HIV&AIDS Awareness

- Despite the improved reach of awareness campaigns, **accurate knowledge about HIV&AIDS is poor**
- Of particular worry is the lack of knowledge regarding **how to prevent sexual transmission** of HIV
- Across all age groups and sexes **less than half** of all people surveyed **knew of both the preventive effect of condoms** and that having **fewer sexual partners** could **reduce the risk** of becoming infected
- More troubling still is the fact that **accurate knowledge has significantly decreased** in recent years
- HIV & Sex education exists in schools as part of the Life Orientation curriculum which was implemented in 2002 and also covers subjects such as nutrition and careers guidance
- However, **the shortage of trained teachers** may result in just one teacher in a school (if that), being able to **accurately and effectively** teach HIV&AIDS education
- According to a comparative risk assessment for South Africa, **unsafe sex** ranks as the **number one risk factor** associated with the **loss of potential years of life**

Sources:

- http://www.rape.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=875&Itemid=64
- <http://www.thebody.com/content/world/art54517.html>
- <http://www.thebody.com/content/world/art59455.html>
- <http://www.avert.org/aidssouthafrica.htm>
- <http://www.genderjustice.org.za/reports/reports>