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## **CURRENT ISSUES OF AIDS**

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### **Annotation**

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a virus that attacks the body's immune system. Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) occurs at the most advanced stage of infection. HIV targets the body's white blood cells, weakening the immune system. This makes it easier to get sick with diseases like tuberculosis, infections and some cancers. HIV is spread from the body fluids of an infected person, including blood, breast milk, semen and vaginal fluids. It is not spread by kisses, hugs or sharing food. It can also spread from a mother to her baby.

**Key words:** HIV, World Health Organization, children, adults.

HIV can be transmitted via the exchange of body fluids from people living with HIV, including blood, breast milk, semen, and vaginal secretions. HIV can also be transmitted to a child during pregnancy and delivery. People cannot become infected with HIV through ordinary day-to-day contact such as kissing, hugging, shaking hands, or sharing personal objects, food or water. People living with HIV who are taking ART and have an undetectable viral load will 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 living with HIV but also to prevent HIV transmission.

No doubt, the recent reports about HIV/AIDS are encouraging, still there are certain newly emerging issues arising about the disease. Few of those issues are mentioned below:

Women and children are increasingly becoming vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.

As first-line antiretroviral drugs fail to work for people with HIV/AIDS, the need for second-line antiretroviral drugs will arise. However, these are costly and remain beyond the reach of most.



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Another emerging problem about HIV/AIDS is the children orphaned by AIDS, which includes those under the age of 18 who have lost one or both parents to the disease.

For example, the World Health Organization 2023 statistics showed the following: Approximately 39.9 million [36.1–44.6 million] people were living with HIV at the end of 2023. Million [1.1–1.7 million] children living with HIV (0–14 years old). – 38.6 million [34.9–43.1 million] adults living with HIV (15+ years old).

HIV incidence:

1.3 million [1.0–1.7 million] people acquired HIV in 2023. Since 2010, the number of people acquiring HIV has been reduced by 39%, from 2.1 million [1.7–2.7 million]. – 120 000 [83 000–170 000] children acquired HIV in 2023. – 1.2 million [950 000–1.5 million] adults acquired HIV in 2023.

The number of people acquiring HIV decreased to 0.17 [0.13–0.21] per 1000 uninfected population in 2023 from 0.32 [0.25–0.40] in 2010.

HIV-related mortality:

In 2023, 630 000 [500 000–820 000] people died from HIV-related causes globally. Since 2010, HIV-related deaths have been reduced by 51%, from 1.3 million [1.0 million–1.7 million]. The global HIV epidemic claimed 69% fewer lives in 2023 since the peak in 2004. – 76 000 [53 000–110 000] children died from HIV-related causes in 2023. – 560 000 [430 000–730 000] adults died from HIV-related causes in 2023. HIV continues to be a major global public health issue, claiming 42.3 million [35.7–51.1 million] lives so far.

To conclude, the above statistics includes the period from 2010 until 2023. Despite the improvement of work aimed at preventing and spreading this disease, AIDS has not lost its relevance. The existence of children among the sick people is a sad state.

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