

# HIV Facts

## International Statistics

### The facts

- There are over 38 million people living with HIV and AIDS worldwide, half are women.
- Over 2.1 million children are living with HIV and AIDS, 90% of them resulting from mother-to-child transmission.
- In 2007, about 420,000 children were infected with HIV.
- Less than 10% of HIV children are receiving drug treatment.
- Only 9% of HIV pregnant women received treatment to prevent transmission to child.
- Since AIDS was first identified over 20 years ago, more than 20 million people have died.
- There are more than 15 million children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS.
- In some of the worst affected countries in sub-Saharan Africa rates of HIV infection are as high as one in three.
- Cambodia has the highest rate of HIV in Asia.

### Further information

UNAIDS website - [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)

AVERT website - [www.avert.org](http://www.avert.org)

## Australian Statistics

### The facts

- There are more than 16,700 people living with HIV in the Australia.
- There are around 300 young people under 18 infected in the Australia.
- At least 5,000 children live in a family affected by HIV.
- Approximately 75 people die every year from illnesses related to their HIV infection.
- Around 1,000 people are diagnosed with HIV each year, so the number of people living with HIV in Australia is growing year-on-year.
- In 2008 the highest ever number of new diagnoses in the Australia was recorded.

### Further information

AIDS Trust of Australia website - [www.aidstrust.com.au](http://www.aidstrust.com.au)

# HIV Facts

## Cambodian Statistics

### The facts

- There are more than 75,000 people living (estimates range up to 300,000) with HIV in Cambodia.
- There are more than 4,400 (estimates up to 10,000) young people under 15 infected in Cambodia.
- 25% of all households are headed by a woman.
- Now it is one of the world's hardest-hit countries, with more than 100 new HIV infections estimated to take place every day.
- Already 3.7% of adults aged 15 to 49 years are infected, according to UNAIDS.
- Prime Minister Hun Sen has said that AIDS has done more damage to the country than decades of war.
- At least 30,000 children live in a family affected by HIV.
- Approximately 7,000 people die every year from illnesses related to their HIV infection.
- Around 10,000 to 35,000 people are infected with HIV each year, so the number of people living with HIV in Cambodia is growing year-on-year.
- HIV/AIDS remains a major threat in Cambodia. Although its prevalence among adults has declined, transmission patterns are shifting: most new infections now occur among married women and their children.

### Further information

Department for International development: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/countries/asia/Cambodia-facts.asp>

UNICEF: [http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/cambodia\\_statistics.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/cambodia_statistics.html)

## What are HIV and AIDS?

**HIV** stands for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

HIV attacks the body's immune system - the body's defence against diseases.

**AIDS** stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. A person is considered to have AIDS when the immune system has become so weak that it can no longer fight off a whole range of diseases with which it would normally cope. If HIV is diagnosed late, people are more likely to develop AIDS.

# HIV Facts

## How HIV is transmitted to children

### The facts

HIV is passed on through:

- mother-to-baby transmission
- breast feeding (where the mother is HIV positive)
- accidents in a healthcare setting (needle-stick injuries)
- tattooing – where dirty needles or makeshift equipment are used.

You can not get HIV from everyday activities including:

- hugging, kissing or holding hands
- sharing a bath
- from a swimming pool
- from a toilet seat
- sharing cutlery or drinks with someone else
- by someone spitting at you or biting you.

### Further information

World Health Organisation: <http://www.who.int/hiv/topics/mtct/en/index.html>

## HIV treatment

### The facts

- There is no cure for HIV but since 1995 there have been drugs available to treat it.
- Treatment for HIV is known as anti-retroviral therapy (ART).
- Treatments are often quite complicated – for example requiring a number of different drugs which have to be taken at different times - and don't always work. It can also be difficult to find the right combination for an individual and forgetting to take treatment at the right time can result in complications and drug-resistance.
- ART can be very effective. However most HIV drugs also have side-effects ranging from diarrhoea, nausea and prolonged headaches to changes in body shape, depression and other mental health issues.

### Further information

National AIDS Manual website - [www.nam.org.uk](http://www.nam.org.uk)

# HIV Facts

## Mother to Child HIV Transmission Prevention

### The facts

- Without treatment the transmission rate is 40% during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding
- With treatment the transmission rate is below 1%
- 3% to 5% HIV prevalence rate in young pregnant women (aged 15-24)
- In Cambodia, it is estimated that 500 children a year are born with HIV or contract HIV within the first 6 months.
- With proper treatment this can be reduced to below 10 children a year.

### Further information

UNICEF: [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

UNAIDS: [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)

## Children affected by HIV/AIDS in Cambodia

### The facts

- Children living with HIV in the Cambodia continue to experience prejudice and discrimination which for many people is more difficult than living with the physical effects of HIV.
- Stigma and discrimination is often the result of ignorance about how HIV is passed on and unfounded fear about becoming infected.
- Children and their dying parents are ostracised from their communities, experience the deepest poverty, forced to live on the streets with limited food and limited access to medication.
- HIV Orphans are usually not accepted into orphanages.
- Only a few orphanages in Cambodia, like Hope for Cambodian children centre in Battambang, will accept HIV children.
- Cambodia's health system provides poor access to services for the most vulnerable in society and poor quality services even when they can be accessed.
- Some of the most serious challenges affecting the health of Cambodians are in the areas of child and maternal health, particular those with HIV/AIDS.

### Further information

Hope for Cambodian Children: [www.hopeforcambodianchildren.org](http://www.hopeforcambodianchildren.org)

# HIV Facts

## Shades 4 AIDS Day

### The facts

- Shades 4 AIDS Day is on the first Friday of September.
- Shades 4 AIDS Day was started by the Hope for Cambodian Children Foundation in 2009 to raise funds to eliminate children being born with HIV in Cambodia and help overcome the discrimination and poverty that results.
- Wearing sunglasses at school even in class recognizes the plight of children around the world affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Over 400 schools are participating in 2009.

### Further information

Shades 4 AIDS: [www.shades4aids.org](http://www.shades4aids.org)

## World AIDS Day and the red ribbon

### The facts

- World AIDS Day (WAD) is on 1 December. World AIDS Day was the very first international health day.
- World AIDS Day was started by the World Health Organisation in 1988, in recognition of the need for a global response to addressing the HIV pandemic.
- The red ribbon is the universally recognised symbol of HIV and is inextricably linked to WAD.
- The red ribbon has been an international symbol of HIV awareness since 1991 when it was created by a group of US-based artists as a symbol of support for the growing number of people living with HIV.
- Throughout the nineties many celebrities wore red ribbons, encouraged in the UK by Princess Diana's high profile support for HIV.
- The red ribbon is worn across the world as a sign of support for people living with HIV.
- Wearing a red ribbon is a simple and powerful way to challenge the stigma and prejudice surrounding HIV and AIDS that prevents us from tackling the global epidemic.

### Further information

World AIDS Day website – [www.worldaidsday.org](http://www.worldaidsday.org)

World AIDS Campaign website - [www.worldaidscampaign.org](http://www.worldaidscampaign.org)