

# HIV / AIDS



# HIV / AIDS

“The global epidemic of HIV/AIDS is rapidly becoming the worst infectious-disease catastrophe in recorded history, surpassing the Bubonic Plague of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and the influenza epidemic of 1917, each of which killed 20 million people.”



# HIV / AIDS

More than 32 million people have died from AIDS and more than 40 million people are living with HIV/AIDS.



# **HIV / AIDS**

## **What is HIV**

The Human Immunodeficiency Virus is a virus that attacks and deteriorates the body's immune system. The immune system is the body's natural defense against infections such as the common cold. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.

# **HIV / AIDS**

## **What is AIDS**

**AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.**

- **A - It is Acquired, meaning that it must be transmitted from an outside source.**
- **I - It affects the Immune system**
- **D - It cause a Deficiency - this means that it causes the body's natural defense to be worn down**
- **S - It is a syndrome which simply means that it is a general name for a number of common symptoms**

# **HIV / AIDS**

## **Why do people infected with HIV Eventually die?**

When people are infected with HIV, they do not die of HIV or AIDS. These people die due to the effects that the HIV has on the body. With the immune system down, the body becomes susceptible to many infections, from the common cold to cancer. It is actually those particular infections and the body's inability to fight the infections that cause these people to become so sick, that they eventually die.

# HIV / AIDS

## What are the stages of the disease?

- Stage 1 Primary HIV infection - last a few weeks, flu like symptoms
- Stage 2 Latent period - may last years with no symptoms
- Stage 3 Symptomatic HIV infection - as more and more immune cells are destroyed, the body become susceptible to infections and cancers
- Stage 4 AIDS - immune cells are destroyed

# **HIV / AIDS**

## **How is HIV transmitted?**

HIV is transmitted if infected bodily fluids from one person gets into another person's bloodstream. This may even occur through a sore or small cut.



# **HIV / AIDS**

## **What ways that HIV can be transmitted?**

- Any kind of sexual relations.
- injecting drugs using a needle or syringe which has already been used by someone who is infected.
- An infected pregnant woman can pass the virus on to her unborn baby either before or during birth.
- Blood transfusions - HIV infection via a blood transfusion is now extremely rare.

# **HIV / AIDS**

## **What ways that HIV will NOT be transmitted?**

- HIV cannot be transmitted through hugging, kissing, holding hands or sharing food or a drink with someone who is infected.
- There is a very low concentration of the virus in tears and saliva. It would take two gallons of saliva at once for anyone to be infected with HIV.
- There are no known cases of transmission through mosquitoes or any other animals.

# **HIV / AIDS**

## **How can HIV be avoided**

- Abstinence from sexual relations.
- Abstinenences from drugs using needles.
- If you are going to have sex, have SAFE sex.
- If you are going to do drugs, use clean needles.

# **HIV / AIDS**

## **HIV Testing**

A small sample of blood is checked for antibodies to HIV. If they do NOT find the antibodies, then the test is considered to be NEGATIVE. If they do find antibodies, they do special tests to make sure that the virus is really present.

The test for HIV are VERY good.

# **HIV / AIDS**

## **Where can you get an HIV test?**

- Your community and county health department provide free testing.
- A health clinics in your area will do it for free.
- Your family doctor.

**All of these sources will provide confidential testing!**

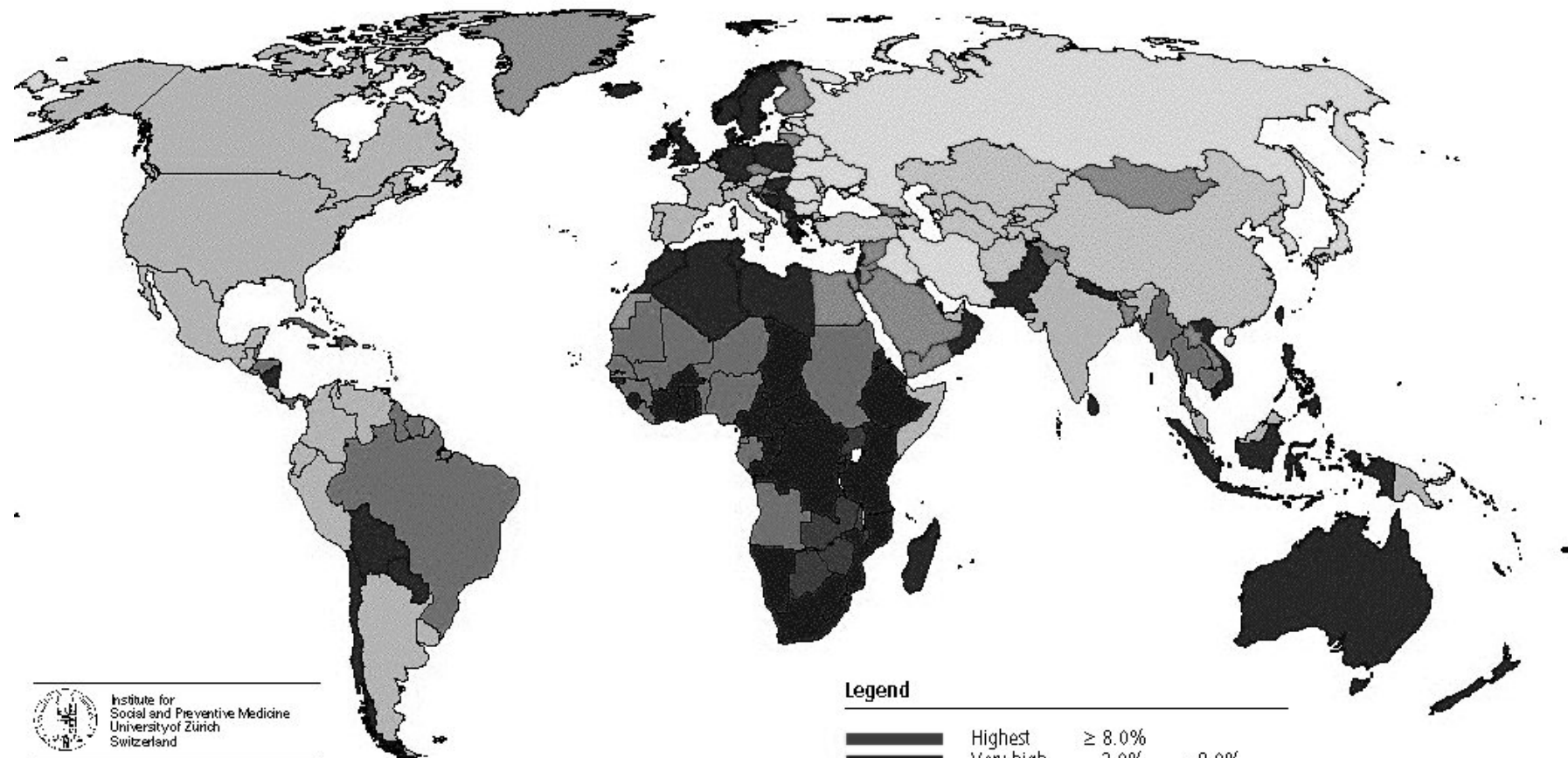
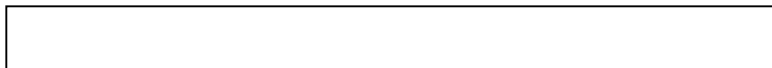
# **HIV / AIDS**

## **Treatment**

Scientists are trying to develop a cure for AIDS. There are three parts to finding the cure. They are:

- To devise a drug that will kill HIV once it enters the body.
- To create a vaccine that would prevent the disease.
- To educate people world wide about the dangers of AIDS and how to prevent infection.

# A Global View of HIV Infection








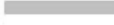



 Institute for  
Social and Preventive Medicine  
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**Aids Feedback (AF)**  
Global analytical integration & DEM-EP1 series

 **UNAIDS**  
UNICEF • UNDP • UNFPA  
UNESCO • WHO • WORLD BANK

## Legend

	Highest	$\geq 8.0\%$
	Very high	2.0% – 8.0%
	High	0.5% – 2.0%
	Intermediate	0.125% – 0.5%
	Low	0.031% – 0.125%
	Very low	0.008% – 0.031%
	Lowest	0.002% – 0.008%
	Entry	< 0.002%
	Not available	

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