

## 2007 AIDS epidemic update

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The annual AIDS epidemic update reports on the latest developments in the global AIDS epidemic. With maps and regional summaries, the 2007 edition provides the most recent estimates of the epidemic's scope and human toll and explores new trends in the epidemic's evolution.

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### Global Overview

- Global HIV prevalence (the proportion of people living with the virus) appears to have levelled off. However, the number of people living with HIV has risen to 33.2 million [30.6-36.1 million] in 2007 from 29.0 million [26.9 million-32.4 million] in 2001.

- Some 2.5 million [1.8-4.1 million] people were newly infected with the virus in 2007 and 2.1 million [1.9-2.4 million] people died of AIDS-related illnesses.

### Middle East and North Africa

- An estimated 35,000 [16,000-65,000] people in the region acquired HIV in 2007, bringing to 380,000 [270,000-500,000] the total number of people living with HIV. An estimated 25,000 [20,000-34,000] people died of AIDS-related illnesses in 2007.

- Few data are available in the region and much more needs to be done to improve surveillance and data collection.

- Most HIV infections occur in men and in urban areas, with the exception of Sudan, the country with the highest prevalence in the region, where unsafe heterosexual intercourse is the most important risk factor for HIV infection.

- While unprotected paid sex is a key factor in the HIV epidemics throughout the region, injecting drug use is the main route of HIV transmission in many countries.