

Children and HIV & AIDS

Key Statistics

- Of the estimated 3.2 million children under the age of 15 living with HIV, approximately 91% reside in sub-Saharan Africa.¹
- An estimated 220,000 children became *newly* infected with HIV in 2014, 190,000 of them in sub-Saharan Africa.²
- In 2013, approximately 190,000 children died of AIDS-related illnesses.³
- Approximately 220,000 children became newly infected with HIV in 2014.⁴
- Between 2005 and 2012, estimated AIDS deaths among adolescents increased by 50%.⁵
- Adolescent girls (15-19) account for approximately two thirds of new HIV infections among adolescents.⁶

Orphans and vulnerable children

- Of the estimated 17 million children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS, 90% reside in sub-Saharan Africa.⁷
- The vast majority of orphans and vulnerable children are cared for by extended family members.⁸
- In some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, 60% of orphans live in grandmother-headed households.⁹
- In a study of 10 sub-Saharan African countries, orphans living with their grandparents had better school attendance than those living with other relatives.¹⁰
- Families and communities bear approximately 90% of the financial cost of responding to the impact of HIV and AIDS on children.¹¹
- Children orphaned by AIDS or living with HIV positive caregivers are at an increased risk of physical and emotional abuse, transactional sex, and HIV exposure.¹²

Prevention and Treatment

- Only 22% of HIV-positive children in sub-Saharan Africa who need antiretroviral treatment were receiving it in 2013.¹³
- Without treatment, half of children living with HIV will die before their second birthday.¹⁴
- An estimated 2.1 million adolescents (aged 10-19 years) are living with HIV, with over 80% of them residing in south and east Africa.¹⁵ Most are unaware of their status.¹⁶
- In 2013, an estimated 1.5 million women living with HIV gave birth. 85% of pregnant women living with HIV reside in sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁷
- More than 4 out of every 10 new HIV infections among women are in *young* women (15-24).¹⁸

Education

- Each additional year of education dramatically lowers a child's vulnerability to HIV. This is true for girls, in particular.¹⁹
- According to UNESCO, some 30 million children in sub-Saharan Africa are not enrolled in primary school.²⁰
- Children orphaned by AIDS face significant barriers to education, including caregiving responsibilities, stigma and emotional distress.²¹

UNAIDS country estimates for children in sub-Saharan Africa (2014)

Source: UNAIDS (www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries)

The ranges around the estimates in this list [given in square brackets] define the boundaries within which the actual numbers lie based on the best available information for 2014.

Botswana

- Population: 2,141,206 (2014 est.)
- Children aged 0-14 living with HIV: 16,000 [15,000 - 18,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0-17: 67,000 [50,000 - 120,000]

Democratic Republic of Congo

- Population: 85,026,000 (2015 est.)
- Children aged 0-14 living with HIV: 59,000 [52,000 - 66,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0-17: 290,000 [160,000 - 700,000]

Ethiopia

- Population: 90,076,012 (2015 est.)
- Children aged 0-14 living with HIV: 110,000 [92,000 - 120,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0-17: 450,000 [280,000 - 970,000]

Kenya

- Population: 46,050,000 (2015 est.)
- Children aged 0-14 living with HIV: 160,000 [140,000 - 180,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0-17: 650,000 [480,000 - 1,100,000]

Lesotho

- Population: 2,097,511 (2014 est.)
- Children aged 0-14 living with HIV: 19,000 [18,000 - 21,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0-17: 74,000 [57,000 - 130,000]

Malawi

- Population: 16,310,431 (2015 est.)
- Children aged 0-14 living with HIV: 130,000 [120,000 - 140,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0-17: 530,000 [370,000 - 890,000]

Mozambique

- Population: 25,727,911 (2015 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 160,000 [140,000 - 200,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 610,000 [N/A]

Namibia

- Population: 2,113,077 (2015 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 16,000 [16,000 - 17,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 53,000 [38,000 - 93,000]

Rwanda

- Population: 11,262,564 (2015 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 22,000 [19,000 - 25,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 85,000 [58,000 - 140,000]

South Africa

- Population: 54,956,900 (2015 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 340,000 [310,000 - 370,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 2,300,000 [1,100,000 - 2,900,000]

Swaziland

- Population: 1,119,375 (2015 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 19,000 [18,000 - 19,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 56,000 [41,000 - 100,000]

Tanzania

- Population: 53,470,000 (2015 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 250,000 [210,000 - 280,000]*
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0 to 17: 1,300,000 [1,200,000 - 1,500,000]*

* NB: These are 2013 estimates

Uganda

- Population: 34,856,813 (2015 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 150,000 [130,000 - 170,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 650,000 [480,000 - 1,500,000]

Zambia

- Population: 15,473,905 (2015 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 100,000 [98,000 - 110,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 380,000 [290,000 - 680,000]

Zimbabwe

- Population: 13,061,239 (2015 est.)
- Children aged 0–14 living with HIV: 150,000 [140,000 - 160,000]
- Orphans due to AIDS aged 0–17: 570,000 [410,000 - 1,000,000]

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