

DEFINITIONS:

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus

AIDS: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIV AND AIDS?

- HIV is a virus found in human blood, semen, anal mucus, vaginal mucus and breast milk.
- HIV attacks the body's immune system, in particular white blood cells called CD4 cells.
- People can carry HIV for long periods before they show any symptoms.
- Medications known as anti-retroviral treatments prevent HIV from growing.
- AIDS is the name given to a specific group of illnesses that occur in people who have HIV who are not on anti-retroviral treatment. Some illnesses include pneumonias, cancers and dementia.

HOW IS HIV SPREAD?

 A person living with HIV taking effective antiretroviral treatment with undetectable levels of the virus cannot sexually transmit HIV. This is known as treatment as prevention (TasP).

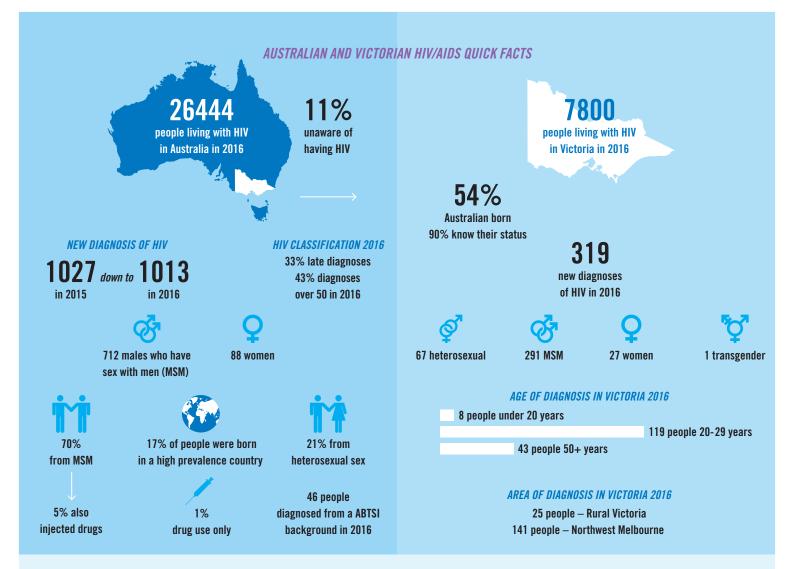
- HIV transmission is nearly always the result
 of condomless sexual intercourse OR from sharing
 injecting equipment with a person living with HIV –
 especially if they do not know they have HIV or are
 not on antiretroviral treatment.
- HIV is found in the blood, semen, anal mucus and vaginal mucus of HIV positive people. Only these bodily fluids have enough of the virus in them to pose a risk of transmitting the virus unless they are on anti-retroviral treatment.
- From mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth or breast feeding when the mother has HIV but she is not treated with anti-retroviral treatment.
- From a blood transfusion with contaminated blood.
 In Australia, all blood donations are tested to protect the patients who receive donated blood.

All of these ways of transmitting HIV can be prevented.

For more information see HIV Transmission Facts

 In healthcare if correct standard precautions are followed, including wearing disposable gloves when handling any bodily fluid, there is no risk of contracting HIV for healthcare workers or carers.





HIV AND AIDS WORLDWIDE QUICK FACTS

An estimated 36.7 million people were living with HIV at the end of 2016 and 20.9 million were accessing anti-retroviral treatment.

New HIV cases have fallen by 35% since 2000.

In 2015 there were around 2.1 million new HIV cases — over 5700 per day, about three every minute.

To date more than 35 million people have died of AIDS.

AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 48% since the peak in 2005.

About 1.1 million people died of AIDS in 2016.

More than two thirds (25.5 million) of all people with HIV live in Sub Saharan Africa where about three quarters of all AIDS related deaths occur.



About 2.1 million children under the age of 15 are living with HIV in 2016 and 43% were accessing anti-retroviral treatments.

An estimated 160,000 children under 15 contracted HIV in 2016.

New HIV diagnoses among children have declined by 47% since 2010 due to mothers having access to anti-retroviral treatments.

Some 12.6 million youth aged 15 – 24 are living with HIV and an estimated 1855 youth contract HIV each day, about a third of all new cases.

The predominant mode of transmission globally is through heterosexual sex.

THE INFORMATION ON THIS PAGE IS SOURCED FROM THE FOLLOWING:

Kirby Institute. HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia: Annual Surveillance Report. kirby.unsw.edu.au

Department of Health and Human Services HIV/AIDS Surveillance Reports. www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases

UNAIDS. unaids.org