



FACT SHEET: HIV/AIDS IN MEXICO, LATIN AMERICA AND GLOBALLY

HIV/AIDS IN MEXICO¹

- Adult HIV prevalence remains low in México (0.3%), with 180,000 people age 15 or older living with HIV/AIDS at the end of 2005. Data on the number of Mexican children living with HIV/AIDS is not available.
- Sex between men is believed to account for more than half (57%) of HIV infections recorded to date in México.²
- Approximately 23% (42,000) of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs) in México are women, and there are signs that heterosexual transmission of HIV is increasing, as more women are infected by their male partners.
- HIV prevalence among injection drug users and sex workers is higher than the national HIV prevalence rate, with some local studies showing rates as high as 4% and 6% among these groups, respectively.
- In 2005, an estimated 6,200 Mexicans died of AIDS-related complications.
- As of December 2005, an estimated 31,000 PLWHAs in México were receiving antiretroviral treatment. This represents 71% of the estimated 43,000 who were in need of such care.

HIV/AIDS IN LATIN AMERICA²

- An estimated 1.8 million people in Latin America are living with HIV/AIDS.
- In 2005, approximately 66,000 people in Latin America died of AIDS-related complications.
- An estimated 140,000 people in Latin America became newly infected with HIV in 2006.³
- Among young people 15-24 years of age, an estimated 0.4% of women and 0.6% of men were living with HIV in 2005.
- Argentina, Brazil and Colombia are home to the biggest epidemics in this region, primarily due to their large populations. Brazil alone accounts for more than one-third of all PLWHA in Latin America.
- Despite their relatively small populations, the highest HIV prevalence rates in Latin America are found in Belize, Guatemala and Honduras — where approximately 1% of all adults or more were infected with HIV at the end of 2003.
- HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men ranged between 2% and 28% in different areas, while studies of prevalence among female sex workers show a range

of between 0% and 6.3%. Injection drug use is also a driver of the epidemic in Latin America.

- Around 345,000 people in Latin America were receiving antiretroviral therapy as of June 2006 – representing 75% of the estimated 460,000 people in need of such treatment.⁴
- Access to antiretroviral treatment in Latin America has grown considerably, thanks to programmes in several countries, including Argentina, Brazil, and México. Compared with rates of coverage in other low- and middle-income countries, Latin America boasts the highest level of coverage (75%, compared with 23% in Sub-Saharan Africa and 16% in East, South and Southeast Asia).⁴ However, the overall size of the epidemic in Latin America is smaller than in these other regions.

GLOBAL HIV/AIDS FACTS⁵

- As of December 2006, an estimated 39.5 million people were living with HIV.
- Worldwide, an estimated 4.3 million people became newly infected with HIV in 2006.
- In the same year, 2.9 million people died of AIDS-related complications.
- Southern Africa remains the global epicenter of the epidemic. Nearly two-thirds of all people living with HIV live in sub-Saharan Africa (62% or 24.7 million).
- By June 2006, an estimated 1,650,000 people living with HIV/AIDS were receiving treatment in low- and middle-income countries. Though important progress has been made in recent years, this still represents just 24% of the estimated 6.8 million people in need of treatment.⁴

ABOUT AIDS 2008

The International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2008) is the world's largest and most important HIV/AIDS forum, and will be held in Mexico City from 3-8 August 2008. With 20,000 participants expected, AIDS 2008 will be the first International AIDS Conference to be held in Latin America, and is expected to increase awareness of the disease and its impact throughout the region. For more information, visit www.aids2008.org.

AIDS 2008 Conveners and Partners: International AIDS Society (IAS), Federal Government of Mexico, the Government of Mexico City, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO), Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+)/International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (ICW), World YWCA, Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN)

Sources:

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all data for Mexico are from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) online Country Profile: http://www.unaids.org/en/Regions_Countries/Countries/mexico.asp Accessed on 14 March 2007.

² Unless otherwise noted, Latin American data are from the UNAIDS online Regional Profile: http://www.unaids.org/en/Regions_Countries/Regions/LatinAmerica.asp Accessed on 14 March 2007.

³ UNAIDS/WHO, Global Summary of the AIDS Epidemic in the [2006 AIDS Epidemic Update](#) (December 2006).

⁴ World Health Organization (WHO), [Toward Universal Access by 2010](#): How WHO is working with countries to scale up HIV prevention, treatment, care and support (2006).

⁵ UNAIDS/WHO, Global Summary of the AIDS Epidemic in the [2006 AIDS Epidemic Update](#) (December 2006).