

HIV/AIDS the Major Infectious Virus among Individuals

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Abstract

Globally, million people are infected with HIV-1, with around 25 million having already died. There were 4 million new HIV-1 infections and 2 million AIDS deaths in 2005 alone. The diverse aspect of this emerging disease in terms of temporal shifts, spatial spread, severity, viral variability, and mode of dissemination is obscured by these figures. This pandemic has now reached every corner of the globe.

Heterosexual transmission continues to be the most common form of infection, accounting for roughly 85 percent of all HIV-1 infections. Southern Africa is already at the heart of the pandemic, with elevated concentrations of new HIV-1 infections. While overall HIV-1 prevalence in emerging epidemics in China and India remains modest, absolute figures are rapidly approaching those in southern Africa, which is cause for concern. A third of all HIV-1 infections occur outside of Sub-Saharan Africa, with the majority occurring in Eastern Europe and Central and Southeast Asia. The rapid dissemination of HIV-1 in these regions due to injecting drug use is critical because it serves as a bridge to more widespread epidemics.

Treatments

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