



FIGURE 226-8 Estimated number of adults and children living with HIV infection as of December, 2013. Total: 35.0 (33.2 million–37.2 million). (From Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS [UNAIDS].)

the global prevalence—has increased more than fourfold since 1990, reflecting the combined effects of continued high rates of new HIV infections and the life-prolonging impact of antiretroviral therapy (Fig. 226-9). In 2013, the global prevalence rate among persons age 15–49 years was 0.8%, with rates varying widely by country and region as illustrated in Fig. 226-10.

In 2013, an estimated 2.1 million new cases of HIV infection occurred worldwide, including 240,000 among children <15 years; about 40% of new infections were among persons under age 25. Between 2001 and 2013, the estimated number of new HIV infections globally fell by 38% (Fig. 226-9). Recent reductions in global HIV incidence likely reflect progress with HIV prevention efforts and the increased provision to HIV-infected people of antiretroviral therapy, which makes them much less likely to transmit the virus to sexual partners. In 2013, global AIDS deaths totaled 1.5 million (including 190,000 children <15 years), a 35% decrease since 2005 that coincides with a rapid expansion of access to antiretroviral therapy (Fig. 226-9). Since the beginning of the pandemic, an estimated 39 million people have died of an AIDS-related illness.

The HIV epidemic has occurred in “waves” in different regions of the world, each wave having somewhat different characteristics depending on the demographics of the country and region in question and the timing of the introduction of HIV into the population. Although the AIDS epidemic was first recognized in the United States and shortly thereafter in Western Europe, it very likely began in sub-Saharan Africa (see above), which has been particularly devastated by the epidemic. More than 70% of all people with HIV infection (~25 million), and nearly 90% of all HIV-infected children live in that region, even though sub-Saharan Africa is home to just 12% of the world’s population (Fig. 226-8). Within the region, southern Africa is worst-affected. In nine southern African countries, seroprevalence data indicate that >10% of the adult population age 15–49 is HIV-infected (Fig. 226-10). In addition, among high-risk individuals (e.g., commercial sex workers, patients attending STI clinics) who live in urban areas of sub-Saharan Africa, seroprevalence is now >50% in some places. Recent data offer promising signs of declining HIV incidence and prevalence in many countries in the region, although frequently at levels that remain high. Heterosexual exposure is

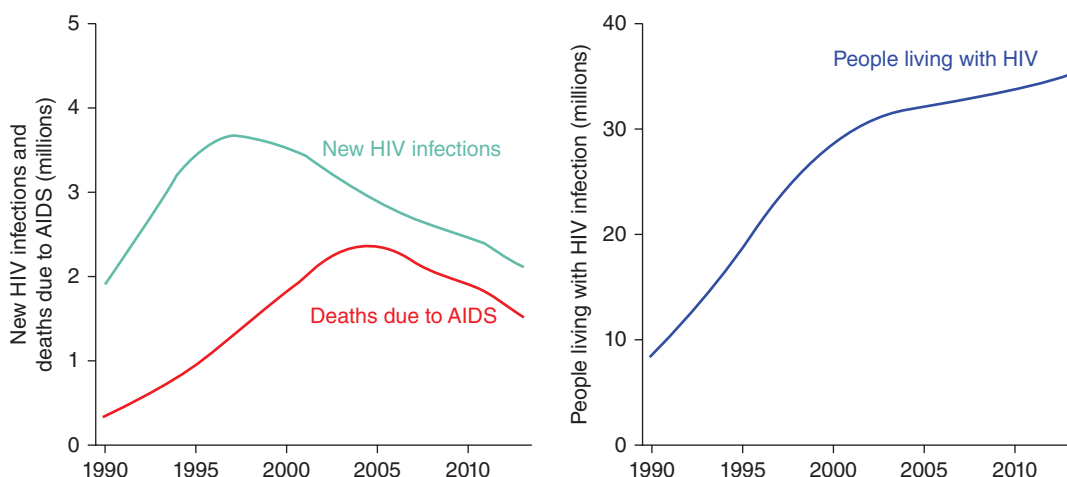


FIGURE 226-9 Global estimates of HIV incidence and AIDS deaths (left) and, HIV prevalence (right), 1990–2013. (From UNAIDS.)