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WFWO FACT SHEET - HIV / AIDS

The WFWO and its partners in order to give adequate response to United Nations call to act decisively on Global issues, and commitments on AIDS in the Millennium Development Goals six and the UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS.

The WFWO, will continue to increase public awareness about Global Development Issues, focuses on “The World AIDS Campaign” is stressing the urgency of new and renewed leadership commitments by all stakeholders in the response to HIV and AIDS.

The momentum must continue to build. “It is now time for bold leadership at all levels in order to turn the tide of HIV.

We need to straighten more efforts worldwide to response to AIDS to the next level so that universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support can be realised and incidence of HIV can finally be reversed.”

Break the silence about HIV. Help us get everyone talking about HIV on WORLD AIDSDAY, 1 December 2007.

Discover the realities of HIV and How You Can Make a Difference.

HIV FACTS

HIV is increasing in every region in the World.

There are now 33.2 million people living with HIV Worldwide.

Improved methods in data collection have lowered estimates of people living with HIV in several countries and there are indications in some countries that the incidence of HIV has stabilised. Yet an estimated 33.2 million people around the world – one in every 200 – are living with HIV, and daily 6,800 people are infected with HIV and 5,700 people die of AIDS-related illnesses. AIDS is still considered the leading cause of death in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Get the facts about HIV so you can get talking on WORLD AIDS DAY.

WHAT IS HIV ?

HIV is a virus that attacks the body's immune system-the body's defence against diseases. A person infected with HIV may not have symptoms to start with, but eventually without effective treatment the immune system will become very weak and they will no longer be able to fight off illnesses.

ARE HIV AND AIDS THE SAME ?

No. When someone is described as HIV positive, they have the HIV virus in their body. A person is considered to have developed AIDS when the immune system is so weak it can no longer fight off a range of diseases with which it would normally cope.

IS THERE A CURE FOR HIV ?

No, but treatment can keep the virus under control and the immune system healthy. People on HIV treatment can live a healthy, active life, although they may experience side effects from the treatment. If HIV is diagnosed late, treatment may be less effective in preventing AIDS.

WHAT'S IT LIKE LIVING WITH HIV ?

If people with HIV are diagnosed early and respond to treatment they can be healthy, work and have relationships like anyone else and have a long life expectancy.

Coming to terms with an HIV diagnosis and getting used to treatment can be very difficult however, and people living with HIV will often need support from healthcare providers, friends and family, employers and support organizations.

WHY DO PEOPLE FIND IT HARD TO TELL OTHERS THEY ARE HIV POSITIVE ?

People living with HIV may find it hard to tell others about their condition as they worry that people will reject them, or they will experience prejudice from friends, family and colleagues. People living with HIV can also experience discrimination in their workplace, in healthcare settings (e.g., GPs and dentists), from members of their local community and through the media.

HIV prejudice is often the result of ignorance about how HIV is passed on and unfounded fear of becoming infected. Encouraging those around us to talk about HIV and find out the facts can help overcome this.

HOW IS HIV PASSED ON ?

HIV can be passed on through infected blood, semen, vaginal fluids or breast milk. The most common ways HIV is passed on are:

- Sex without a condom with someone living with HIV;
- Sharing infected needles, syringes or other injecting drug equipment;
- From an HIV-positive mother (to her child) during pregnancy, childbirth or breast-feeding;

CAN YOU GET HIV FROM KISSING ?

No. HIV cannot be passed on through:

- Kissing or touching;
- Spitting, coughing or sneezing;
- Toilet seats, swimming pools, or shared facilities or utensils;

CAN WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV STILL HAVE CHILDREN ?

Yes. HIV can be passed from mother to child, but there are steps that can be taken to reduce the possibility of the child contracting HIV to less than one per cent, including giving the mother and child antiretroviral HIV drugs, delivering the child by Caesarean and not breast-feeding the baby.

COULD I GET HIV ?

If you are sexually active or share needles you could be at risk from getting HIV.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF FROM HIV?

Always use a condom when having vaginal or anal sex.
Never share needles, syringes or any other injecting equipment.

WHAT DO I DO IF I THINK I HAVE PUT MYSELF TO RISK ?

If you think you have placed yourself at risk from infection by HIV you can ask for a free and confidential test at your local sexual health clinic, which you can locate.

If you are within 72 hours of an incident of possible exposure to HIV, ask for PEP (Post Exposure Prophylaxis) treatment from a sexual health clinic or at your nearest hospital accident and emergency department. The sooner treatment is begun the higher the probability the treatment will be effective.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE LIVING WITH HIV?

People living with HIV:

- 33.2 million people living with HIV Worldwide:
- 30.8 million adults, 15.4 million women, 2.5 million children

New HIV cases in 2007:

- 2.5 million total new cases:
- 2.1 million adults and 420,000 children under 15

HIV-related deaths in 2007:

- 2.1 million total deaths:
- 1.7 million adult deaths, 330,000 deaths among children under 15

WORLD AIDS DAY

Twenty years ago, a Summit of Health Ministers realized that a united global effort was required to halt the spread of HIV and AIDS. As a result, WORLD AIDS DAY emerged as the first international health day in December 1988.

The aim of WORLD AIDS DAY is to bring to people's attention the worldwide challenges and consequences of the epidemic-ultimately, preventing the spread of HIV and improving the lives of people living with the virus.

Each year the Campaign is an opportunity for Organizations throughout the world to highlight the HIV pandemic in order to raise awareness and bring about change.



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