

Prevention Programs Curb New HIV Infections in South Africa

KEY

(NPR news, July 25 2012)

1. What is the program about? Listen to the whole report once and choose the best answer.

- The international AIDS conference in Washington, D.C.
- The decline of the HIV epidemic in South Africa
- The simulation and assessment of HIV impact in South Africa
- Designing prevention programs to slow down the AIDS epidemic in South Africa
- **The impact of prevention programs on the HIV and AIDS epidemic in South Africa**

2. Leigh Johnson. Decide whether the following statements are the same (S) or different (D) to what the journalist says. Take notes to justify your answers.

- works as an accountant for an AIDS association

D former accountant

- works at the University of Cape Town in South Africa

S

- works for the South African government

D mentions change in relationships with policy makers

- collects data on HIV and AIDS

D? combs through government reports and data

- analyses AIDS statistics

S intro

- creates computer models to simulate impact of HIV worldwide

D nationwide

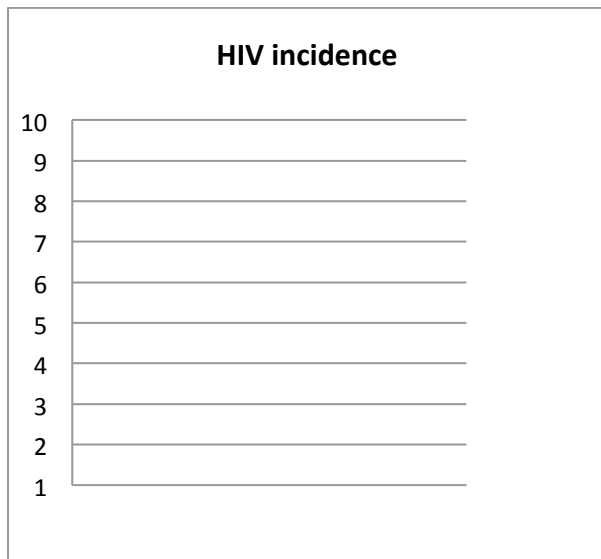
- creates computer models to evaluate the impact of prevention and treatment programs for HIV

S

3. The AIDS epidemic: facts and figures. Complete the graph with as much information as possible.

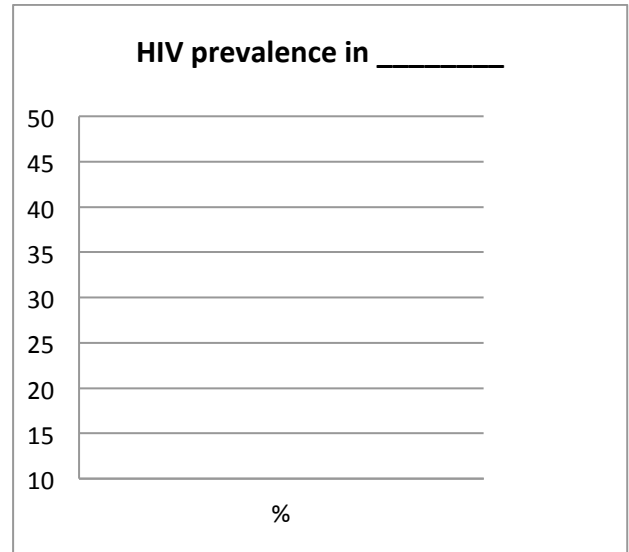
Graph 1

Define **incidence**: the number of new infections



Graph 2

Define **prevalence**: measures overall number of people who are infected with HIV



Source: national antenatal survey

4. Conclusions. Take notes to answer the following questions.

a) What may explain the trend observed in HIV incidence?

impact of condom distribution programs and AIDS awareness programs, which have led to increase in condom usage.

b) Why is prevalence hard to measure?

not every person is tested every year unlike pregnant women so rate of HIV among pregnant women is a decent barometer of the prevalence nationwide.

c) What are Leigh Johnson's conclusions?

epidemic is reaching a state of equilibrium, with HIV prevalence very high.

Drop in new infections counteracted by (offset by the fact that) longer survival of patients (anti-retroviral treatment)

5. South Africa: facts and figures. Take notes on any relevant information about AIDS in South Africa.

- more than 5,5 million people are living with HIV
- country with the largest HIV burden in the world
- in 2011, 1.8 million people were on HIV drug treatment (more than any other country)
- change in political approach to HIV / scientists and policy makers work together

6. Your opinion. Work with a partner. Describe the current state of the HIV and AIDS epidemic in South Africa. Work out what further research or actions could be done to improve the situation.

Prevention Programs Curb New HIV Infections in South Africa

(NPR news, July 25 2012)

1. What is the program about? Listen to the whole report once and choose the best answer.

- The international AIDS conference in Washington, D.C.
- The decline of the HIV epidemic in South Africa
- The simulation and assessment of HIV impact in South Africa
- Designing prevention programs to slow down the AIDS epidemic in South Africa
- The impact of prevention programs on the HIV and AIDS epidemic in South Africa

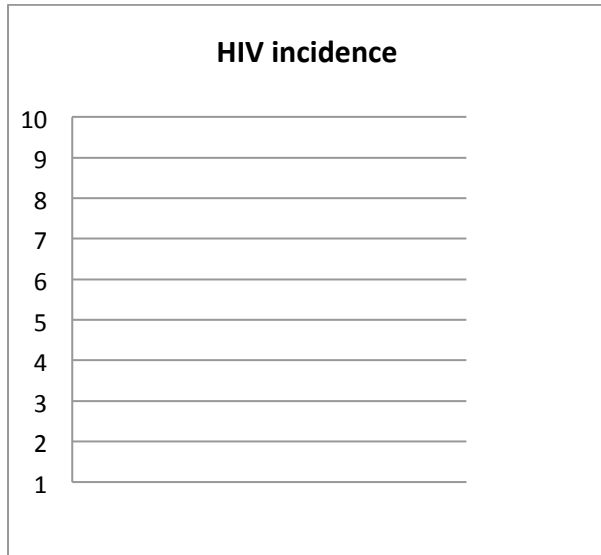
2. Leigh Johnson. Decide whether the following statements are the same (S) or different (D) to what the journalist says. Take notes to justify your answers.

- a) works as an accountant for an AIDS association
- b) works at the University of Cape Town in South Africa
- c) works for the South African government
- d) collects data on HIV and AIDS
- e) analyses AIDS statistics
- f) creates computer models to simulate impact of HIV worldwide
- g) creates computer models to evaluate the impact of prevention and treatment programs for HIV

3. The AIDS epidemic: facts and figures. Complete each graph with as much information as possible

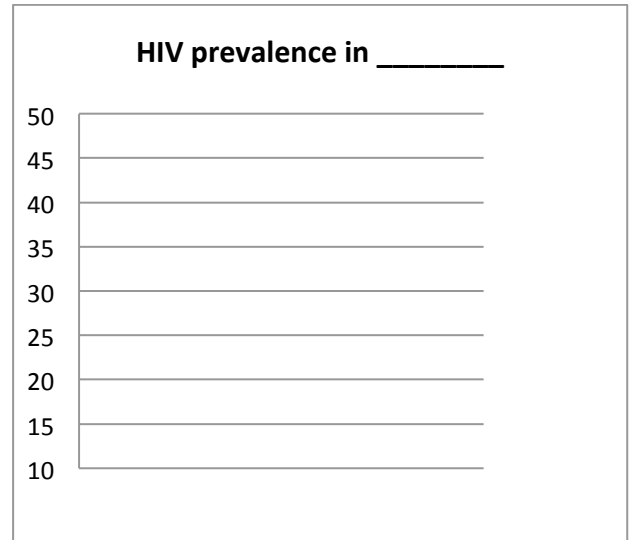
Graph 1

Define **incidence**:



Graph 2

Define **prevalence**:



Source: _____

4. Conclusions. Take notes to answer the following questions.

- a) What may explain the trend observed in HIV incidence?

- b) Why is prevalence hard to measure?

- c) What are Leigh Johnson's conclusions?

5. South Africa: facts and figures. Take notes on any relevant information about AIDS in South Africa.

6. Your opinion. Work with a partner. Describe the current state of the HIV and AIDS epidemic in South Africa. Work out what further research or actions could be done to improve the situation.

Prevention Programs Curb New HIV Infections In South Africa

July 25, 2012 - RENEE MONTAGNE, HOST:

All this week, with the international AIDS conference underway in Washington, D.C., we're examining the state of the HIV epidemic in the U.S. and around the globe. NPR's Jason Beaubien is in South Africa. He recently spent time with a man who analyzes AIDS statistics at the University of Cape Town.

JASON BEAUBIEN, BYLINE: Leigh Johnson used to be an accountant. Now he crunches numbers on HIV and AIDS.

LEIGH JOHNSON: The work that I do basically involves creating computer programs to simulate the impact that HIV is having in South Africa and also using these models to assess what the impact has been of various prevention and treatment programs for HIV.

BEAUBIEN: More than five and a half million people in South Africa are living with HIV. Johnson combs through government reports and data. And what he finds paints a broad picture of the epidemic in the country with the largest HIV burden in the world.

JOHNSON: We are estimating that HIV incidence has declined quite substantially in South Africa since the year 2000.

BEAUBIEN: And by incidence he means the number of new infections.

JOHNSON: Between 2000 and 2008 there was about a 30 percent decline in HIV incidence. And we attributed most of that decline in incidence to the impact of condom distribution programs and AIDS awareness programs, which have led to increases in condom usage.

BEAUBIEN: The number of new infections peaked in the year 2000, when researchers estimate just over 600,000 South Africans became HIV positive. Last year, roughly 400,000 people were newly infected. Despite this decline in new infections, the total number of people with HIV in South Africa isn't going down. And this is evident by tests of pregnant women.

JOHNSON: What we've seen in South Africa in the national antenatal clinics surveys, which measure the prevalence of HIV in pregnant women, is that antenatal prevalence hasn't changed much in the last few years. It's remained fairly constant at around 29.5 percent.

BEAUBIEN: Twenty-nine point five percent, meaning that roughly one out of every three pregnant women here has HIV. Prevalence measures the overall number of people who are infected with HIV. National prevalence, of course, is hard to measure. Not every person is tested every year. Most pregnant women, however, are, and the rate of HIV among pregnant moms is a decent barometer of the prevalence nationwide.

What Johnson is seeing in these numbers is that the epidemic is reaching a state of equilibrium, with HIV prevalence stuck at an extremely high rate.

JOHNSON: We think that although HIV incidence is coming down, that that effect is being counteracted by the longer survival of patients who are now accessing anti-retroviral treatment.

BEAUBIEN: So the drop in new infections is offset by the fact that people who already have HIV are living longer.

By the middle of last year, South Africa had 1.8 million people on HIV drug treatment. Again, this is far more than any other country in the world.

Johnson started analyzing AIDS data 12 years ago, at a time when President Thabo Mbeki was questioning the link between HIV and AIDS, and activists were denouncing Mbeki's health minister as a murderer for her approach to the epidemic.

Johnson says now the whole political landscape around HIV in South Africa is different.

JOHNSON: We no longer feel as if the scientists and the policy makers are at odds with one another. I think we are on the same page. And that's a very encouraging change from what we had back then.

BEAUBIEN: And he says the data in his computer models is starting to show that the country's HIV programs are having an impact on an epidemic that's going to be with South Africa for generations to come.

Jason Beaubien, NPR News.

MONTAGNE: And at NPR.org there's an interactive chart that lets you crunch the numbers on the global AIDS epidemic for yourself.

Copyright © 2012 National Public Radio.