

INTERCONNECTIONS 21

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Activity 1: Fact and Figures: HIV/AIDS Around the World

Purpose: To introduce the unit by familiarizing students with the extent of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and to encourage them to look at trends in the pandemic around the world.

Standards:

Social studies: NCSS Standards
 III: People, Places, and Environments
 IX: Global Connections
Math: NCTM standards
 Number and Operations 9-12
 Data Analysis 9-12
 Connections PK-12

Materials:

Activity 1 Student material: HIV/AIDS around the world: What do you know?
Activity 1 Student material: Basic Facts on HIV/AIDS
Calculators

Description:

1. Introduce the activity by asking students to take the “HIV/AIDS around the world: What do you know?” quiz.
2. When they have finished, distribute the “Basic Facts on HIV/AIDS” handout, and have students score themselves.

Ask students what information they found particularly surprising about the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

3. Have students do further research on the extent of the pandemic using the following sources:

For middle school students:

Visit the United Nations Foundation site on HIV/AIDS at www.apathyislethal.org.

Scroll down to “The Global Impact” and click on the map to find statistics by region of the world.

Or, use the United Nations Population Fund’s “AIDS Clock” at http://www.unfpa.org/aids_clock/main.htm

What can you learn about the impact of HIV/AIDS in different regions?

For high school students:

Visit the UNAIDS web page on country statistics at <http://www.unaids.org/EN/resources/epidemiology.asp>.

Scroll down to “Map: A Global View of HIV infection”. Look at the statistics for HIV prevalence (the percentage of adults infected with HIV). Why are these statistics presented as a range, rather than a single figure?

Click on the “Table of country-specific HIV and AIDS estimates and data for 2001 and 2003”. Divide students into groups to research different regions: the Caribbean, East Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, North Africa and Middle East, North America, Oceania, South and Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Western Europe. Have them calculate the changes in the numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS between 2001 and 2003 in their assigned region. Are there parts of the world where the number has decreased? In which areas is it increasing most rapidly? Why might this be?

If students want to research AIDS in a particular country in more depth, they can click on the “Epidemiological Fact Sheets” at the same site.

Activity 1 Student material

HIV/AIDS around the world: What do you know?

1. How many people are living with HIV/AIDS worldwide?
 - a. 10 million
 - b. 25 million
 - c. 40 million
 - d. 100 million

2. True or false: More men than women are infected with HIV/AIDS.

3. True or false: Only adults can die from AIDS.

4. How many people become infected with HIV each day?
 - a. 1,000
 - b. 5,000
 - c. 10,000
 - d. 15,000

5. True or false: Half of new HIV infections occur in people under the age of 25.

6. The region of the world with the highest rates of HIV/AIDS is:
 - a. North America
 - b. Sub-Saharan African
 - c. Central and Eastern Europe
 - d. The Caribbean

Activity 1 Student material

Basic Facts on HIV/AIDS

The AIDS pandemic is the most devastating health crisis in human history. Worldwide, approximately 40 million people are living with HIV, half of them women.

Since the start of the pandemic, more than 22 million have died, nearly 3 million of them in 2003 alone. Nearly six million children have been killed by AIDS. That number is more than every child in every grade school and high school in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, Miami and Atlanta combined.

Approximately 15, 000 people are infected each day; there were nearly 5 million new infections in 2003. Half of the new infections occurred in young people under 25.

It is estimated that if current trends continue, there will be more than 40 million AIDS orphans in Africa alone by the year 2010.

Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rates of HIV prevalence. In some African countries, HIV has infected more than a quarter of the adult population. HIV has killed more people than war in the region: in 1998 200,000 Africans died in war, but more than two million died of AIDS.

But the pandemic is escalating in other parts of the world as well. The Caribbean has the world's second highest rate of HIV prevalence. In Eastern Europe and Central and East Asia, the number of infected people is skyrocketing. In the U.S., AIDS is the leading killer of African Americans between the ages of 25 and 49.

In 2000, the UN's member states agreed to achieve eight Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by 2015, one of which is to halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. Many UN agencies now have special initiatives to address the effects of HIV/AIDS.

