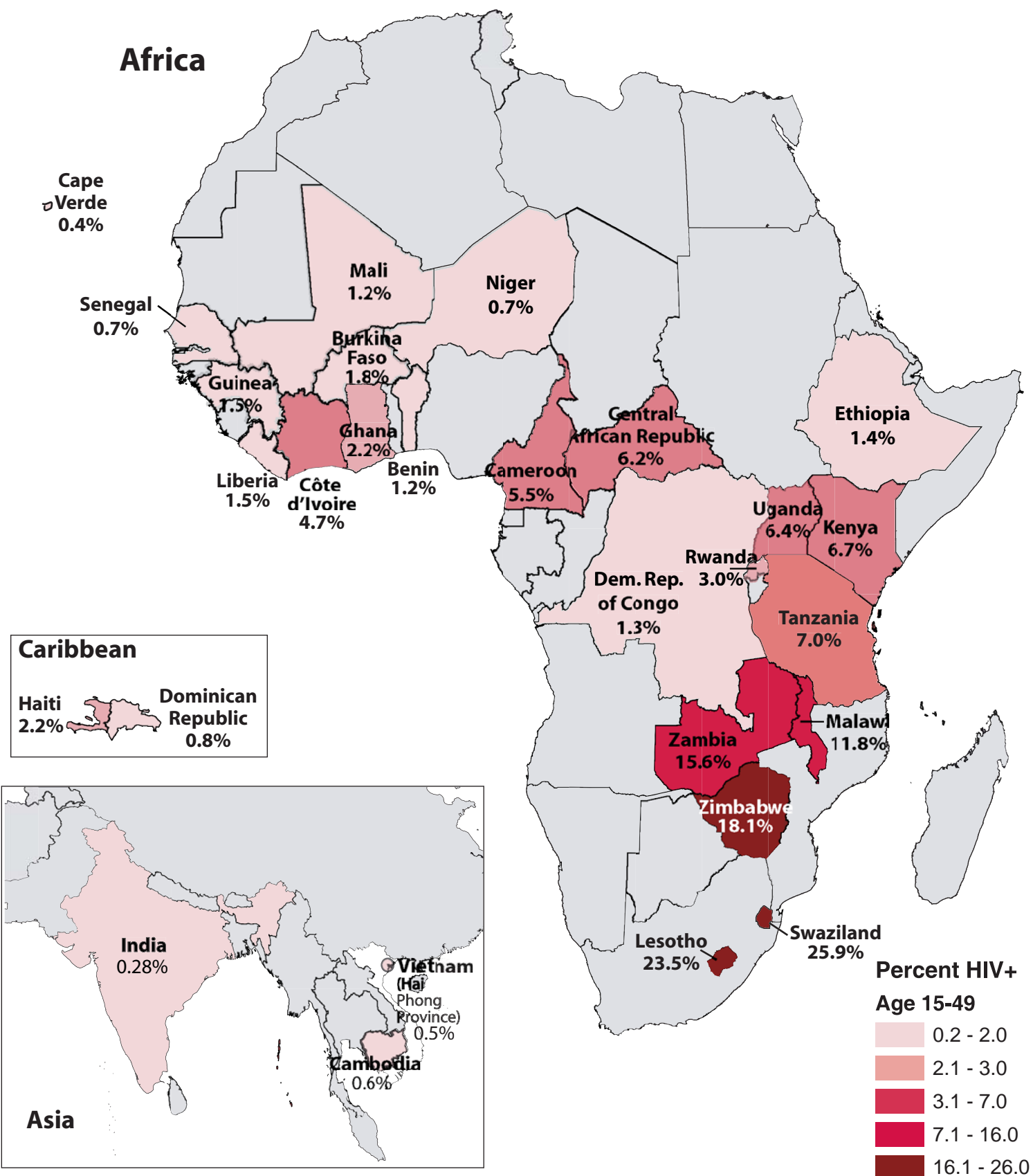


# National HIV Prevalence based on the Demographic and Health Surveys



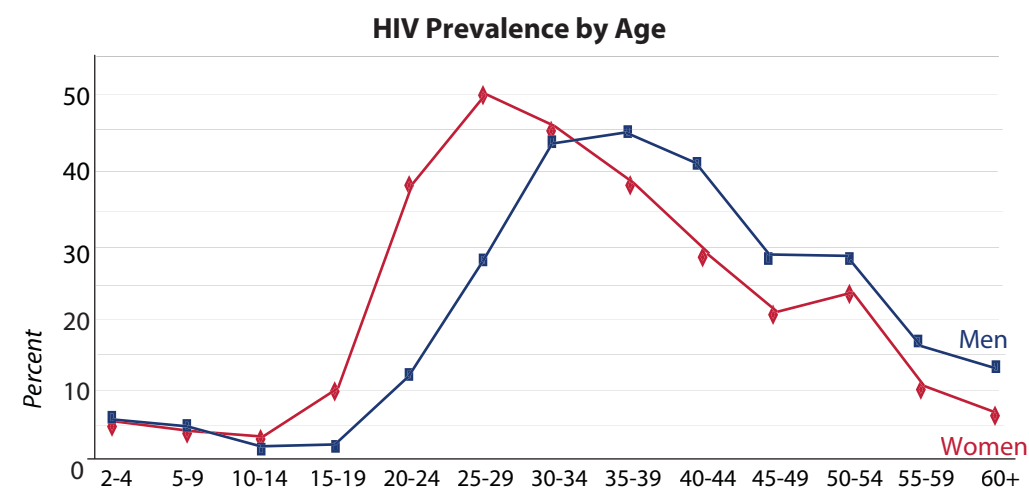
## HIV Notes from MEASURE DHS

August 2008



### Swaziland HIV Prevalence Among Highest in the World, New DHS Shows

Swaziland is facing a major HIV epidemic. Nearly 20 percent of Swaziland's population age two and older is infected with HIV, according to the 2006-07 Swaziland Demographic and Health Survey (SDHS), the first national survey in Swaziland to include HIV testing. The SDHS tested women and men age 15 and older and children age 2-14. This nationally representative sample provides important insights to HIV prevalence and sexual practices that can be used to improve prevention programs.



One in four women and men age 15-49 are infected with HIV. As in other African countries, women carry the heaviest burden of HIV infection. Thirty-one (31) percent of women have HIV compared to 20 percent of men. Women also become infected earlier. Nearly twice as many 15-19 year-old girls are HIV-positive compared to boys the same age (10 percent versus 6 percent). Even more striking is the fact that HIV prevalence among young adults age 18-19 (9.6 percent) is nearly triple that at age 15-17 (3.6 percent). Among boys and girls age 2-14, the percent with HIV is lower (3.9 percent), but the results indicate that many thousands of children are already infected with HIV. Among children age 2-4 years, HIV prevalence is 5 percent.

One in four Swazi women and men age 15-49 are infected with HIV.

Prevalence rates peak for women age 25-29 when nearly half of women (49 percent) are infected with HIV, the highest rate of any age group either for women or men. Among men, HIV prevalence peaks at 45 percent in the 35-39 age group. While prevalence rates decline with age, a substantial proportion of older adults are infected—12 percent of women age 50 and older have HIV as do 18 percent of men age 50 and older.

### What's Coming...

**Surveys with HIV Prevalence (planned or in the field):**

- Congo Brazzaville
- Sao Tome
- Sierra Leone

**Upcoming Reports with HIV Prevalence:**

- Democratic Republic of Congo (August 2008)
- Tanzania (Fall 2008)
- Zambia (Fall 2008)

**Upcoming HIV SPA Surveys:**

- Uganda (Fall 2008)
- Rwanda (Fall 2008)

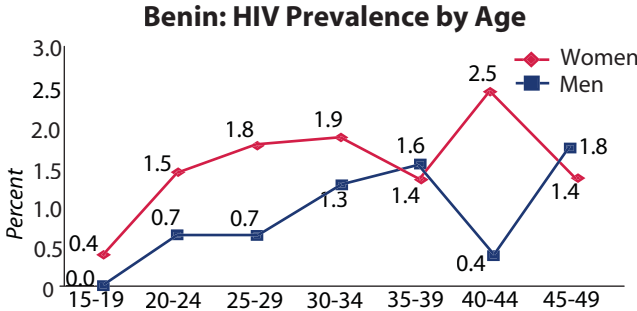
**Conferences:**

International AIDS Conference in Mexico City, August 3-8, 2008.

Visit booth D-215 for publications, CD-Roms, and an introduction to DHS's web tools, such as the HIV/AIDS Survey Indicators Database and HIVmapper.

### HIV Prevalence Low in Benin, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Just over one percent (1.2 percent) of Beninese adults age 15-49 have HIV, according to preliminary results from the latest DHS survey. Women are almost twice as likely to be infected as men (1.7 percent compared to 0.9 percent). Also, women become infected with HIV at younger ages than men. Rates of infection rise with age, peaking at 2.5 percent for women ages 40-44 and at 1.8 percent for men age 45-49.



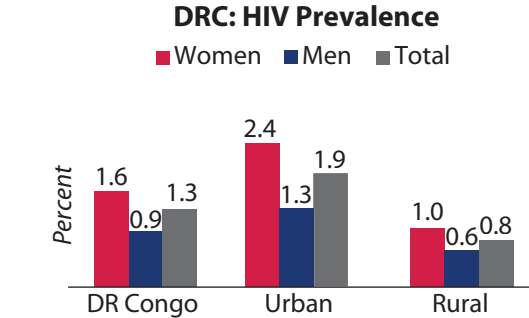
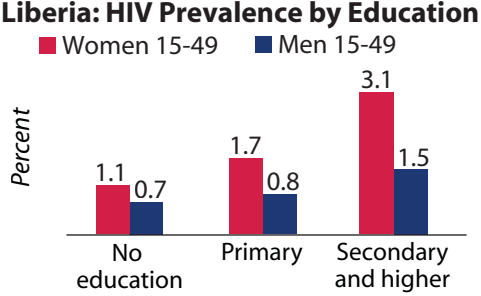
As in many countries, HIV prevalence in Benin is highest among women who are divorced or separated (7.2 percent) and widowed (10.6 percent). By comparison, less than 1 percent of never-married women are HIV-positive. The 2006 Benin Demographic and Health Survey (EDBS-III) included HIV testing of more than 9,500 women and men.

Preliminary results from the 2007 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey (LDHS) indicate that 1.5 percent of Liberians age 15-49 are HIV-positive. HIV prevalence is three times higher in urban areas than in rural areas (2.5 percent versus 0.8 percent) and is higher among women than among men (1.8 percent versus 1.2 percent).

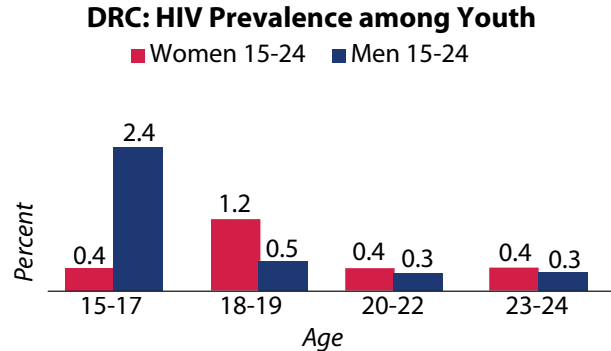
HIV prevalence varies by region, ranging from 0.6 percent in North Central to 2.6 percent in the capital of Monrovia.

As seen in other countries, prevalence increases with education. Women with secondary and higher education are almost three times as likely to be HIV-positive as those with no education (3.1 percent versus 1.1 percent).

Almost 12,000 women and men were tested for HIV in the 2007 LDHS.



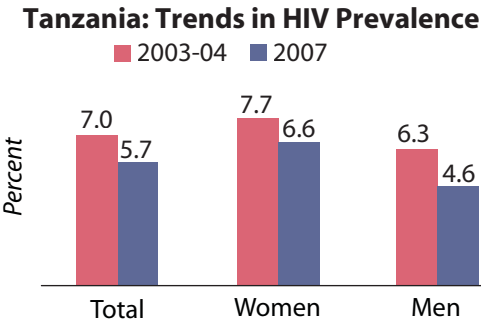
In the Democratic Republic of Congo, 1.3 percent of adults age 15-49 are HIV positive. Unlike most African countries, however, young men have higher rates of HIV infection than young women. Among youth age 15-24, HIV prevalence is highest among the youngest men (2.4 percent). By contrast, HIV prevalence for the youngest women is less than 0.5 percent. At age 25 and older, women have consistently higher prevalence rates than men and in general, women are more likely to be infected than men (1.6 percent compared to 0.9 percent). Prevalence peaks at age 40-44 for women (4.4 percent) while men's prevalence peaks at age 35-39 (1.8 percent). The 2007 Demographic and Health Survey (EDS-RDC) tested about 9,000 women and men for HIV.



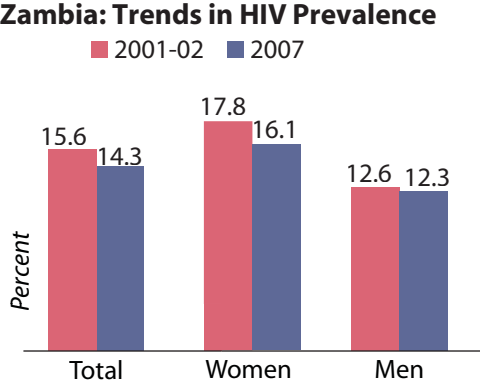
A survey worker collects blood spots for HIV testing in DRC.

### Preliminary HIV Prevalence Results Released for Follow-on Tanzania and Zambia Surveys

Tanzania's HIV prevalence has declined slightly in recent years, according to the preliminary results from the new Tanzania HIV and Malaria Indicator Survey (THMIS). The results from the 2007 THMIS show an overall HIV prevalence rate of 5.7 percent, with 6.6 percent for women (8,200 tested) and 4.6 percent for men (6,900 tested). By contrast, the 2003-04 Tanzania HIV Indicator Survey (THIS) found an overall HIV prevalence of 7.0 percent, with 7.7 percent for women (6,000 tested) and 6.3 percent for men (4,900 tested). These results show a significant decline in HIV prevalence among men but not among women.



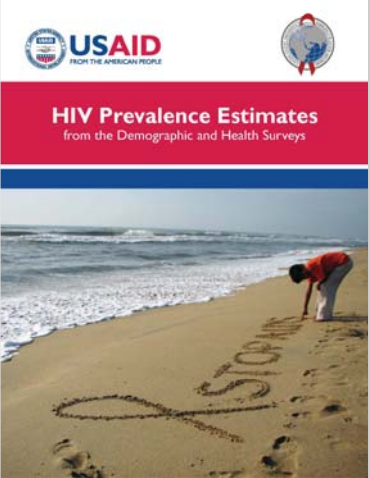
In Zambia, HIV prevalence has dropped slightly. The adult HIV prevalence is 14.3 percent, according to preliminary results from the 2007 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS). This estimate represents a slight decrease from the 15.6 percent prevalence observed in the 2001-02 ZDHS. In 2007, 16.1 percent of women and 12.3 percent of men are HIV positive. By comparison, in 2001-02, 17.8 percent of women and 12.6 percent of men had HIV. None of these decreases are statistically significant.



#### Interpreting HIV Data

Trends in HIV prevalence need to be interpreted with care. The DHS estimates HIV prevalence, the existing pool of people with HIV infection in the country. The DHS does not provide estimates for incidence, the number of new HIV infections in a population. Thus, while DHS results estimate the percentage of respondents currently infected with HIV, they cannot determine when these respondents contracted the virus or if new infections have increased or decreased. And, HIV prevalence can be influenced by many factors including the number of people on antiretroviral treatment, availability of health care and other services for people living with HIV, and ultimately, the life span of people carrying the virus. If people with HIV are living longer, this can mask an overall decline in new infections.

While estimates of new infections cannot be readily determined by national population-based surveys, the survey results do provide critically important information on the current status of HIV prevalence in the country, on the populations most infected, and on programmatic needs for prevention and treatment.



#### New DHS Report Captures Scope of Global HIV Epidemic

Between 2001 and 2008, MEASURE DHS included population-based HIV testing as part of 32 surveys in 28 countries, resulting in revised HIV estimates for these countries and a new understanding of the global HIV epidemic. A new DHS report, "HIV Prevalence Estimates from the Demographic and Health Surveys," captures the highlights of these DHS surveys. For the first time ever, this report presents selected HIV data for all 28 countries in easy-to-read graphs and figures. To download a free copy of the report, go to [www.measuredhs.com](http://www.measuredhs.com).