HIV/AIDS in the 2005 Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey

The 2005 Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey included HIV testing of over 10,000 men and women. According to the survey, 3.0 percent of Rwandans age 15-49 are HIV-infected.

HIV prevalence is higher among women than men in both urban and rural areas. Urban residents have much higher infection levels than rural residents (7.3% vs. 2.2%).

HIV prevalence is highest in the city of Kigali (6.7%). HIV prevalence is lowest in the North (2% HIV positive).

For both women and men, HIV infection rates are higher among those who are widowed or divorced/separated than among those who are single or currently married. About one widowed woman in six is HIV-positive.

HIV infection increases as the wealth of the household increases, most notably among women.

Women get infected earlier than men. For women, prevalence increases with age until it reaches a peak at age 35-39 (6.9%). The peak for men occurs between ages 40-44 (7.1%).

HIV prevalence in the city of Kigali is more than twice the national average (6.7%). HIV prevalence is lowest in the North (2% HIV positive).

HIV prevalence is highest among women who have had secondary or higher education (6.4%). The same pattern is seen with men’s education.
On average, HIV prevalence increases as the number of lifetime sexual partners increases. Men with ten or more lifetime sexual partners are ten times more likely to be HIV positive than men with only one lifetime sexual partner.

Overall, HIV prevalence among youth (age 15-24) is 1 percent. Young women in urban areas have the highest prevalence among youth: 4 percent.

Response rates and methodology:
HIV prevalence data were obtained from fingerstick dried blood spots voluntarily provided by women age 15-49 and men age 15-59 who were interviewed in the 2005 RDHS. Of the 10,796 eligible subjects, 96.5% provided blood spots. Response rates were slightly higher in rural areas than urban areas (97% vs. 94%).