The 2004 Cameroon Demographic and Health Survey included HIV testing of over 10,000 men and women.

HIV prevalence is about 60 percent higher among women than men in both urban and rural areas. Urban residents have considerably higher infection levels than rural residents (6.7 vs. 4.0 percent).

HIV prevalence increases with level of education, especially among women. Women who have primary and/or secondary or higher education are more than twice as likely to be infected than women with no formal education.

HIV prevalence tends to increase with level of household economic status. Infection rates are about three times higher among respondents living in households in the fourth wealth quintile compared to those living in households in the lowest wealth quintile.

Women who are separated, divorced or widowed have a significantly higher rate of HIV infection than currently married or never-married respondents.

HIV prevalence is highest in the provinces of Northwest (8.7 percent) and East (8.6 percent). The lowest prevalence levels are in the North (1.7 percent) and Extreme North (2.0 percent).

Comparing HIV rates between the two capital cities, Yaoundé has almost double the rate of Douala (8.3 vs. 4.5 percent).

Women become infected at an earlier age than men. Prevalence for both women and men increases with age until reaching a peak: for women at age 25-29 (10.3 percent) and for men at age 35-39 (8.6 percent).

HIV prevalence by age:

- Men: 2.5% (15-19), 2.9% (20-24), 4.2% (25-29), 6.0% (30-34), 6.9% (35-39), 3.8% (40-44), 4.9% (45-49)
- Women: 7.9% (15-19), 7.3% (20-24), 8.3% (25-29), 8.6% (30-34), 6.0% (35-39), 5.5% (40-44), 3.8% (45-49)

HIV prevalence by province:

- North: 1.7%
- Extreme North: 2.0%
- South: 8.6%
- South West: 5.6%
- Centre: 4.7%
- East: 2.4%
- Littoral: 8.7%
- Cameroon: 6.8%
- Douala: 8.3%
- Yaounde: 8.3%

HIV prevalence by marital status:

- Currently married: Men 5.4%, Women 6.2%
- Formerly married: Men 7.4%, Women 18.5%
- Never married/not in union: Men 3.5%, Women 2.1%

HIV prevalence by wealth quintile:

- Poorest: Men 3.1%, Women 4.1%
- Second: Men 2.3%, Women 4.7%
- Middle: Men 6.3%, Women 9.4%
- Fourth: Men 8.0%, Women 8.1%
- Richest: Men 5.3%, Women 8.1%
Young women show a sevenfold increase in HIV prevalence between ages 15-17 and 23-24. There is a large gap in the level of HIV infection between young women and young men. The largest gap occurs at age 23-24, when women are more than five times as likely to be infected than men (11.8 vs. 2.2 percent).

Men and women with multiple sex partners are much more likely to be HIV infected than those with a single partner. There is a significant increase in HIV prevalence among people who have had even two sex partners, compared with those who have had only one.

For additional information on the results of the 2004 Cameroon DHS survey, please contact:

**In Cameroon:**
National Institute of Statistics  
B.P. 660 Yaoundé, Cameroun  
Telephone : (237) 222 04 45/(237) 222 04 77  
Fax : (237) 223 24 37  
www.statistics-cameroon.org
National AIDS Control Committee  
B.P. 1459 Yaounde, Cameroun  
Telephone : (237) 222 57 58/223 34 50  
Fax : ( 237) 222 57 58  
cnls@camnet.cm

**In USA:**
MEASURE DHS  
ORC Macro  
11785 Beltsville Drive, Suite 300  
Calverton, MD 20705 USA  
Telephone: 301-572-0200  
Fax: 301-572-0999  
www.measuredhs.com

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