The 2006 Benin Demographic and Health Survey (EDBS-III) included HIV testing of over 9,500 women and men. The EDBS-III shows that 1.2 percent of Beninese age 15-49 are HIV positive.

Women are almost twice as likely to be HIV-infected as men. HIV prevalence is higher in urban areas than in rural areas (1.7% versus 0.9%). Women living in Cotonou have the highest HIV prevalence (2.8%)

Women are infected with HIV at a younger age than men. Rates of infection rise with age, peaking at 2.5% among women at age 40-44 and 1.8% among men at age 45-49.

Women with primary education have the highest rate of HIV infection (2.2%). For men, there is no apparent relationship between education and HIV prevalence.

Among women, HIV prevalence is highest among those living in the richest households. The association between household wealth and men’s HIV prevalence is less clear among men.
HIV prevalence is highest among those who have previously been tested for HIV, especially among women who were tested but never received the results.

Among youth, HIV prevalence increases with age and is highest among those 23-24 years old.

Methodology and Response Rate: HIV prevalence data were obtained from fingerstick dried blood spots voluntarily provided by women age 15-49 and men age 15-64 who were interviewed in the EDSB-III. Of the 12,185 eligible subjects, 79 percent provided blood spots. Response rates were higher in rural areas than urban areas (81 percent vs. 76 percent).

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