The 2007 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey (LDHS) included HIV testing of almost 12,000 men and women. According to the survey, 1.5 percent of Liberians age 15-49 are HIV-infected. Women get infected earlier than men. For women, prevalence increases with age until it reaches a peak at age 35-39 (2.5%). The peaks for men occur at ages 25-34 and 45-49 (1.7%).

HIV prevalence is higher among women than men in both urban and rural areas. Overall, almost 2 percent of women and just over 1 percent of men are HIV-positive. HIV prevalence is higher in urban areas than in rural areas for both men and women.

HIV prevalence is highest in the capital city of Monrovia (2.6%) and lowest in North Central (0.6%). Women who are divorced or separated are almost twice as likely to be HIV-positive as those who have never been married or are currently married. Among men, those who are divorced/separated or widowed are at a higher risk of infection than those who are currently married or have never been married.

HIV prevalence increases with education for both women and men. Women with secondary and higher education are almost three times as likely to be HIV-positive as those with no education. Men in the richest households are four times as likely to be HIV-positive as men in the poorest households.

Photos courtesy of Photoshare, from left: (c) 2006 Scott Harrison; (c) 2005 Omar Eid; (c) 2005 Kevin McNulty; (c) Glen Ivers/Lutheran World Relief.
About half of women know each of the three major methods of preventing HIV transmission. Men are more knowledgeable, with more than seven in ten knowing that using condoms and limiting sex to one uninfected partner reduces the risk of getting HIV.

One-quarter of women and one-third of men know where to get an HIV test, but very few have ever been tested and received the results.

For more information on the results of the 2007 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey, please contact:

**In Liberia:**
Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)
Statistics House
Tubman Boulevard
Sinkor, P.O. Box 629
Monrovia, Liberia
Telephone: 231-(0)6 810-276
Web: www.lisgis.org

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

The 2007 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey (LDHS), was carried out by the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW) and the National AIDS Control Program (NACP). Macro International Inc. provided technical assistance in the design, implementation, and analysis of the survey as part of the Demographic and Health Surveys project (MEASURE DHS). Funding for the survey was provided by the Government of Liberia, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/Liberia), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Response rates and methodology:
HIV prevalence data were obtained from fingerstick dried blood spots voluntarily provided by women and men age 15-49 who were interviewed in the 2007 LDHS. Of the 13,924 eligible subjects, 84% provided blood spots. Response rates were higher among women than men (87% vs. 80%) and in rural areas than urban areas (87% vs. 81%).