

### **HIV Prevalence in Cameroon: Findings from the 2011 DHS-MICS**

The 2011 Cameroon Demographic and Health Survey and Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys (DHS-MICS) included HIV testing of 7,221 women age 15-49 and 6,981 men age 15-59. According to the survey, 4.3% of adults age 15-49 are HIV-positive.



HIV prevalence is almost twice as high among women (5.6%) as men (2.9%). Among women, HIV prevalence is higher among those living in urban areas (6.4%) than those living in rural areas (4.6%). There is little difference among men, as 3.0% of men living in urban areas are HIV-positive compared to 2.7% of men living in rural areas.



Overall HIV prevalence in Cameroon has decreased since 2004, from 5.5% to 4.3%.



For women and men, HIV prevalence increases quickly with age until it peaks at age 35-39 for women and age 45-49 for men.



HIV prevalence is highest in South Region (7.2%), East Region, (6.3%), and North West Region (6.3%). HIV prevalence is lowest in Extreme North Region (1.2%) and North Region (2.4%).



HIV prevalence is lowest among women and men who have had no education. Among women, HIV prevalence is highest among those with primary or secondary/1st cycle education, while men with secondary/2nd cycle or more are most likely to be HIV-positive.



HIV prevalence is highest among women who are widwed (17.9%) or divorced (15.7%), and among widowed men (10.6%). HIV prevalence is least common among never married women and men (2.9% et 1.0%, respectively).





Among women, HIV prevalence is higher among those from wealthier households. There is no clear association between HIV prevalence and household wealth for men.

5.9% of couples are discordant, meaning that only one partner is HIV-positive. In 1.5% of couples, both the woman and the man tested positive for HIV.



Almost 2% of young people age 15-24 are HIV-positive. Among young women, HIV prevalence is slightly higher in those living in urban areas (2.9%) than those living in rural areas (2.6%).

**Response rate and methodology:** HIV prevalence data were obtained from fingerstick dried blood spots voluntarily provided by women age 15-49 and men age 15-59 interviewed in the 2011 DHS-MICS. Of the 15,265 eligible subjects, 93% provided blood spots. Response rates were slightly higher among women (94%) than men (92%).

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