

The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Angola

October 2005

There are almost a quarter million people estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Angola (240,000 as of the end of 2003).¹ Angola's HIV/AIDS prevalence rate (the percent of people living with the disease) is still relatively low compared to the sub-Saharan African region overall and to its neighboring countries, which may be, in part, a by-product of limited mobility during decades of internal conflict.^{2,3} However, Angola faces numerous post-war challenges and there are concerns that the epidemic could spread in this middle-income country.^{2,4} As such, Angola is at a critical tipping point in addressing HIV/AIDS.^{2,5} The Government of Angola first established a National AIDS Control Program in 1987. A National AIDS Commission was created in 2002, and the country's National Strategic Framework to Fight HIV/AIDS for the 2003—2008 period is being implemented.^{2,5}

Figure 1: Percent of Adults Estimated to be Living with HIV/AIDS, 2003

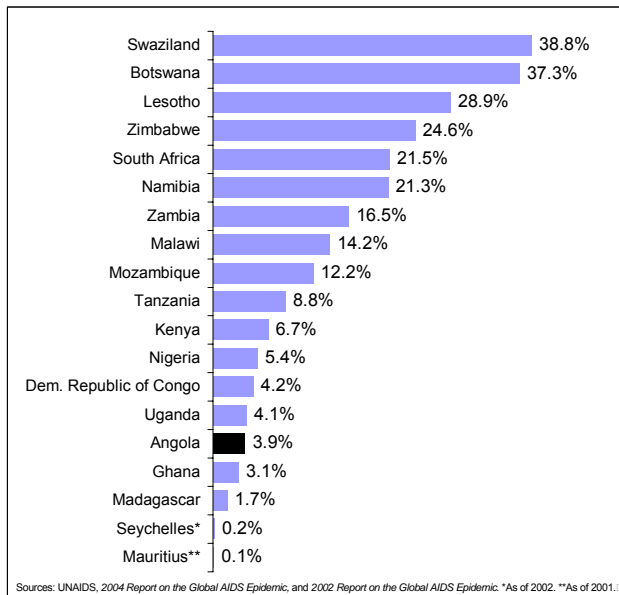
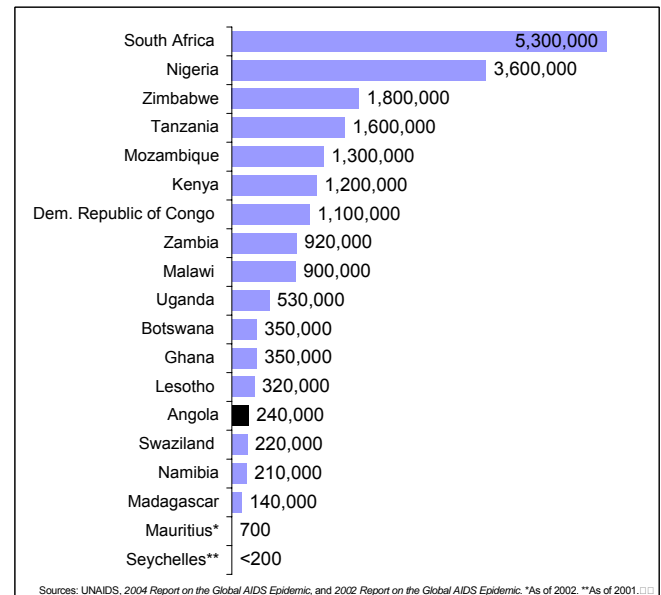


Figure 2: Number of People Estimated to be Living with HIV/AIDS, 2003



Overview

- The first case of AIDS in Angola was diagnosed in 1985.⁶
- Angola has almost a quarter of a million people estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS (240,000 as of the end of 2003).¹
- The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate⁷ in Angola was 3.9% in 2003, compared to 7.5% in sub-Saharan Africa overall and 1.1% globally.¹
- In 2003, an estimated 21,000 Angolans died of HIV/AIDS.¹
- HIV is spread primarily through heterosexual sex in Angola.⁵

Populations and Regions Affected

- Women account for more than half (59%) of adults estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Angola.¹
- Among young people ages 15-24, the estimated number of young women living with HIV/AIDS was more than twice that of young men.⁸
- In 2003, 23,000 children⁹ were estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in Angola, and there were an estimated 110,000 AIDS orphans.^{1,10}
- HIV prevalence rates vary across the country, with the highest rates found in those provinces bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo and Namibia.⁵

Other Key Data

- *Concern about HIV/AIDS:* Angolans are concerned about HIV/AIDS. More than four in five (87%) say that HIV/AIDS and other epidemics are a "very big" problem in Angola. Over three quarters (79%) of Angolans feel that HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases are the greatest threat to the world.¹¹
- *Knowledge of HIV/AIDS:* A recent study of young Angolans, ages 15-24, in urban areas found that 76% of young men and 71% of young women knew that a healthy looking person could be infected with HIV. However, young people in Angola still harbor significant misconceptions about HIV transmission and prevention.¹²
- *Access to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART):* Access to ART is limited. As of December 2004, an estimated 3,000–3,500 people were receiving ART in Angola (about 10% of the estimated 34,500 people in need of ART).¹³

International Support/Major Donors

- Several donor governments provide funding and other support to address Angola's HIV/AIDS epidemic including: the United States, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Spain and Italy.^{3,6} The U.S. Government provides bilateral assistance to Angola for its HIV/AIDS activities, although Angola is not one of the 15 focus countries of the United States' President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).¹⁴ The U.S. also provides support for HIV/AIDS efforts around the world through its contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund).
- The Global Fund has approved one HIV/AIDS grant in Angola.¹⁵
- UNAIDS and the UN Family support a variety of HIV/AIDS activities in Angola.² The World Bank has approved \$21 million in funding for Angola to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.¹⁶

Table 1: HIV/AIDS in Angola^{1,8,13}

Indicator	Angola	Sub-Saharan Africa	Global
Estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS, 2003	240,000	25 million	37.8 million
Percent of adult population estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS, 2003	3.9%	7.5%	1.1%
Estimated number of deaths due to HIV/AIDS, 2003	21,000	2.2 million	2.9 million
Women as percent of adults estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS, 2003	59%	57%	48%
Percent of young women, ages 15-24, estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS, 2001	4.1 – 7.3%	8.9%	1.4%
Percent of young men, ages 15-24, estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS, 2001	1.6 – 2.8%	4.4%	0.8%
Estimated number of AIDS orphans, 2003	110,000	12.1 million	15 million
Number of people estimated to be receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART), December 2004	3,000 – 3,500	310,000	700,000
Number of people estimated to be in need of ART, December 2004	34,500	4.0 million	5.8 million

Key Sources/Websites

- Government of Angola: www.angola.org
- UNAIDS Angola Country Page: www.unaids.org/en/geographical+area/by+country/angola.asp
- World Health Organization, Angola Office: www.who.int/hac/network/who/co_angola/en/

References

- ¹ UNAIDS, *2004 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic*, July 2004.
- ² UNAIDS Angola Country Page: <http://www.unaids.org/en/geographical+area/by+country/angola.asp>.
- ³ UNAIDS, *UNAIDS at Country Level: Progress Report, 2004*.
- ⁴ World Bank, "Country Classification: Country Groups": http://www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm#Low_Income.
- ⁵ USAID, "Health Profile: Angola", December 2004, http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/aids/Countries/africa/angola_04.pdf.
- ⁶ WHO, "Angola: Summary Country Profile for HIV/AIDS Treatment Scale-Up", June 2005.
- ⁷ Among adults ages 15-49.
- ⁸ UNAIDS, *Youth and HIV/AIDS: Opportunity in Crisis*, 2002.
- ⁹ Under age 15.
- ¹⁰ Ages 0-17, living in 2003.
- ¹¹ Pew Research Center for The People and The Press, "What the World Thinks in 2002", December 2002.
- ¹² Population Services International, USAID and UNICEF, "Sexual knowledge, attitudes and behaviour among urban youth in Angola", 2003.
- ¹³ WHO, "3 by 5" *Progress Report*, December 2004.
- ¹⁴ U.S. Department of State, Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator: www.state.gov/s/gac/.
- ¹⁵ The Global Fund: www.theglobalfund.org.
- ¹⁶ World Bank Portfolio for Angola, as of August 2005.

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