

## MERCURY PHOENIX TRUST HIV/AIDS FACTS AND FIGURES

The first 5 known cases of HIV in the United States were reported in 1981

### WHAT EXACTLY IS AIDS

Human Immunodeficiency Virus, which infects cells of the immune system and destroys the bodies CD4 immune cells which help fight disease.

### HOW IS IT TRANSMITTED

Unprotected sexual intercourse  
Transfusions of contaminated blood  
Sharing of contaminated needles, syringes or sharp instruments.  
Transmission between a mother and her baby during pregnancy, childbirth  
And breastfeeding

### IS THERE A CURE

NO. There is still no cure for AIDS but Anti Retroviral Therapy (ART)  
Provides effective treatment.

### AIDS (ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME)

You can have HIV for years or decades without progressing to AIDS.  
AIDS is diagnosed when you have HIV as well as certain opportunistic  
infections or your CD4 cell count drops below 200.

### PREVENTION

Safe sex using condoms  
Get tested and treated  
Avoid drug injecting. Use disposable needles. Don't share needles.  
Ensure all blood and blood products, you use are HIV tested  
ART stops reproduction of the AIDS virus and enables the body's immune cells to  
live longer and provide the body with protection from infection

If one of a couple is on ART the likelihood of sexual transmission to  
The HIV negative partner decreases by 96%!!!

HIV - The strongest risk factor is developing active TB.  
¼ of estimated AIDS related deaths are from tuberculosis.

### GLOBAL STATISTICS

35 million people worldwide are currently living with AIDS, of these  
3.2 million are children aged up to 15.  
2.1 million new infections in 2013 so still a long way to go  
12 million people were on ART in 2013  
16 million women globally are living with HIV  
29 million people are estimated to have died from AIDS related causes

HIV is the world's leading infectious killer

### AIDS AND ADOLESCENTS - FOCUS ON ADOLESCENTS

It is shocking that while in every other category AIDS related deaths have  
dropped, the number of adolescents dying of AIDS is not decreasing.

The vast majority who died of AIDS related illnesses acquired HIV  
during pregnancy, delivery or in the first months of life.

Of the 250,000 15 to 19 year olds infected in 2013 (figures for 2014 not

out yet) the overwhelming majority were girls. In that age group, girls account for 2 out of every 3 new HIV infections globally.

The remainder of young people who acquire HIV during adolescence are often gay and bi sexual boys and boys and girls engaged in using drugs or selling sex.

Girls are more vulnerable to HIV because they are more vulnerable generally - to violence, including sexual violence, forced marriage and trafficking.

HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age in developing countries.

In 2013 60% of all new infections among young people occurred amongst adolescent girls and young women

That ' s 1,000 young women newly infected EVERY DAY!!!

#### A BEACON OF HOPE

In the mid 90s Cambodia had one of the most serious epidemics in Asia.

The Government initiated a large-scale prevention and education programme cutting the adult infection rate in half and providing treatment to 80% of eligible individuals. They have become a global leader in the fight against AIDS dramatically reducing the HIV prevalence to 0.7%.

Their goal now is the elimination of new HIV infections by 2020.



