

AIDS in Africa

Introduction:

AIDS is disease that continues to claim the lives of numerous people worldwide. It affects rich and poor, young and old. The AIDS epidemic in a given population can be studied from three different points of view. First there is a high transmission probability per sexual intercourse. Second, there is a high probability that HIV infection increases with increasing number of partners. Third, since each carrier transmits the infection a number of times, it results in an exponential rise in the number of infected. Today there are a lot of diverging theories about the AIDS disease and its ways of transmissions. Scientist can estimate the percentage of infections per year, but that prediction varies and depends on the population size. I choose to study this topic because I am from Africa and, I was curious to know more about the effects of the disease on the population over there.

Section 1: Background and Problem Statement

Africa Renewal

<http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/vol20no2/202-aids-battle.html>

I like this Web site because it takes us briefly into the history of the disease in West Africa and the population has reacted as a result. It even talks about some of the program of distribution of condoms to the local people.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/globalaids/default.html>

I found this site outstanding. Although it presents some of the accomplishments of the Center for Disease Control, It mainly put the emphasis on the various partners that that institution deals with and partners with in order to fight against diseases and epidemics toward the globe.

National Center for Biotechnology Information

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19014013?ordinalpos=8&itool=EntrezSystem2>

I like this site because it is probably one of the few that takes into consideration the background and culture of the people that are affected by the disease. It talks about the use of coded language to refer to those who are infected so their medical condition will not be exposed to the general public.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/globalaids/CHCTintervention/>

This Web site is very informative. It is mainly about the mentality to adopt toward the disease and the ways to reduce it rapid spreading. In fact it helps couples and partners to be educated about the disease, and if needed, to be tested together and to be counseled together.

Section 2: Research

National Center for Biotechnology Information

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19014013?ordinalpos=8&itool=EntrezSystem2>

Research: In this ethnographic article, we explore the character of local discourse about AIDS in an affected township community in South Africa, describing the "indirection" that characterized communication about suspected cases of AIDS.

Results: First, a normative injunction on naming potentially fatal conditions; second, an interest in pursuing different therapeutic options and the need to maintain hope of recovery; and third, a wish to avoid the "disrespect" entailed in referring directly to the nature of the problem in a context where, discursively, stigma was still present.

AVERT International AIDS Charity

<http://www.avert.org/aidssouthafrica.htm>

Research: A number of factors have been blamed for the increasing severity of South Africa's AIDS epidemic, and debate has raged about whether the government's response has been sufficient. This page looks at the impact that AIDS has had on South Africa, the historical context of the epidemic, and the major issues surrounding the crisis.

Results: AIDS deaths are alarmingly common throughout the country. It is thought that almost half of all deaths in South Africa, and a staggering 71% of deaths among those aged between 15 and 49, are caused by AIDS.² So many people are dying from AIDS that in some parts of the country, cemeteries are running out of space for the dead.³ A recent survey found that South Africans spent more time at funerals than they did having their hair cut, shopping or having barbecues. It also found that more than twice as many people had been to a funeral in the past month than had been to a wedding.⁴

AIDS in Africa

<http://www.globalissues.org/article/90/aids-in-africa>

Research: Impact of AIDS in Africa

Results: [2000] began with 24 million Africans infected with the virus. In the absence of a medical miracle, nearly all will die before 2010. Each day, 6,000 Africans die from AIDS. Each day, an additional 11,000 are infected.

National Center for Biotechnology Information

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19007095?ordinalpos=11&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_DefaultReportPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum

Research: The study sought to investigate whether there are discriminatory practices towards HIV/AIDS patients among dental professionals in Nigeria, how receptive are dental professionals and institutions to treating People Living with Aids (PLWA), and what underlying factors if any that may contribute to any discriminatory practices

Results: The results of the study suggest that significant number of dental professionals in Nigeria reported attitudes and behavior towards HIV patients, which are discriminatory.

Section 3: Statistics

Africa Renewal

<http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/vol19no4/194brief.html#aids>

I found this site easy to understand. I liked it because it takes us briefly into the history of the disease in West Africa and some of the numerical values concerning its overall progression. It also presents population reaction compared to the numbers that are collected from the rest of the world in general.

UNICEF: Unite for Children

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_45486.html

I did not like this site. It is based on approximations and gives the impression of non-updated information. From a statistical point of view, this Web site is not very detailed. The numbers and values are not broken down into categories to really reflect the expectation of the reader.

AVERT International AIDS Charity

<http://www.avert.org/aafrica.htm>

I did not like the statistics found at this Web site. They are presented in a vague manner and do not really target a specific location. When it refers to places such as the sub Saharan, it is difficult to know how many countries that involved, and how many people actually live there. The site is just telling people what they want to hear and what they already know.

Economic Commission for Africa

http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Press_Releases/2008_pressreleases/mainpressreleases0908.htm

From its title, one will have the impression that this site will give all there is to know about the financial impact that AIDS has on the African continent. In reality it just

generalizes the problem by giving the opinion of an editorial that happened to be written on the subject. I did not like it. The site is the worse of all I have visited.

Section 4: Consumer Information

AVERT International AIDS Charity
<http://www.avert.org/safricastats.htm>

The site does not readily answer the question such as: what is AIDS? Or how was the disease manifested? I generally give numbers from the devastating reality that some countries, and provinces of countries. For those with limited education, the site will be very difficult to follow.

UNICEF: Unite for Children
http://www.unicef.org/aids/index_documents.html

This site is really one of the best. The information is straight forward, and the references that were made came from reputable sources. The development does not go into too many technical terms but the point is conveyed from such a simple and clear outline.

Africa Action
http://www.africaaction.org/campaign_new/arth.php

This site is very difficult to follow. Some of the terms used do not even pertain to the subject. The content is presented in a political way without stating the real target of the messages. The subject of AIDS is slightly mentioned but nothing specific leads to the central point of the argument being made.

National Center for Biotechnology Information
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19020325?ordinalpos=1&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_DefaultReportPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSu

This Web site is a great place to get some valuable information. It provides a great deal of accurate information that instructs about the disease, and also gives hope in the effort that is actually being carried on to find new remedy. Visiting this site really make it see that science is doing something about the disease.

Conclusion

Section 1: Background and Problem Statement

Best Web site:
<http://www.cdc.gov/globalaids/default.html>

I was not able to categorize any of the sites as worst, but this site is definitely the best of them all. The topic was clearly covered and contains a lot of valuable information.

Section 2: Research

There has been many research done to try to understand and eradicate the disease AIDS. Some of them revealed some of the aspect of the tremendous work that is done in the fight against AIDS disease, even when it come to respecting people privacy and culture. In one case it took us into the case of a family of infected people and really clarified the high points of the research that was done.

Section 3: Statistics

After reviewing the various Web sites, I was able to see that there is a new and updated understanding of the virus, the disease, and the treatments available. The clarification also comes in the distinction of the two terms AIDS and HIV. The research defined AIDS as the clinical manifestation of HIV. Today we have made a lot of progress as a society, and there is a lot more information available today than there was twenty years ago. The sad reality is that in many countries, the education part is still the major problem.

Section 4: Consumer Information

For this section the best site for my point of view is the one from Pub Med. National Center for Biotechnology Information. That Web site is a great place to get some valuable information. It provides a great deal of accurate information that instructs about the disease, and also gives hope in the effort that is actually being carried on to find new remedy. Visiting this site really make it see that science is doing something about the disease.

I thought that the following was the worse:

http://www.africaaction.org/campaign_new/arth.php

Indeed it was very difficult to follow. Some of the terms used did not even pertain to the subject. Also the content is presented in a political way without stating the real target of the messages.

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| Back to Betty C. Jung's Web site | http://www.bettyjung.net/ |
| Back to Web site Critique Reports Directory | http://www.bettyjung.net/Pch201wsreports.htm |

Aids in Africa (Class Handout)

-After analyzing the background and the problem of AIDS in Africa, I came to the conclusion that the best site was: Center for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/globalaids/default.html>

I found this site outstanding because it presents some of the accomplishments of the Center for Disease Control, and put the emphasis on the various partners that the institution deals with in order to fight against diseases and epidemics toward the globe.

-The most helpful Web site when it came to researching the area of study was: National Center for Biotechnology Information
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19014013?ordinalpos=8&itool=EntrezSystem2>

They have conducted a study in the ethnographic part of Africa and explored the character of local discourse about AIDS. The work was done in an affected township community in South Africa, and focused in describing the "indirection" that characterized communication about suspected cases of AIDS.

-The Web site, which is statistically found to be the best was: Africa Renewal
<http://www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec/vol19no4/194brief.html#aids>

I found this site easy to understand. It takes the reader briefly into the history of the disease in West Africa and some of the numerical values concerning its overall progression. It also presents population reaction compared to numbers that are collected from the rest of the world.

-When it came to customer information, the undeniably best of the entire sites was: National Center for Biotechnology Information
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19020325?ordinalpos=1&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_DefaultReportPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSu

This Web site is a great place to get some valuable information. It provides a great deal of accurate details that instructs about the disease, and also gives hope in the effort that is actually being carried on to find new remedy.