

GLOBAL FACTS ON HIV/AIDS

Worldwide, AIDS kills more than 8,000 people every day or one person every 10 seconds.

HIV accounts for the highest number of deaths by any single infectious agent.

Since the beginning of the epidemic, AIDS has claimed more than 25 million lives; more than 14 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS.

Every year, an estimated 3 million people die of AIDS of whom 500,000 are children under the age of 15 years.

Nearly 5 million persons (4.2 million adults and 700,000 children) are newly infected with HIV each year; more than 95% of them belong to developing countries.

Almost 50% of newly HIV-infected adults in 2003 were women and 50% were young adults in the 15-24 years age group.

Unsafe sex is the predominant mode of transmission of HIV worldwide accounting for 80-90% of infections.

There are 40 million persons living with HIV/AIDS, worldwide. Of these, 2.5 million are children less than 15 years of age.

Six million people in developing countries have HIV infections that urgently require antiretroviral treatment to keep them alive and healthy but fewer than 300,000 are being treated.

side in a crowded factory with other HIV infected persons, even share the same cup of tea, but this will not expose one to the risk of contracting the virus.

Can someone get infected with HIV from mosquito bites?

No. From the start of the HIV epidemic there has been concern about HIV transmission of the virus by biting and bloodsucking insects, such as mosquitoes. However, studies conducted by the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, USA (CDC) and elsewhere have shown no evidence of HIV transmission through mosquito bites or any other insects even in areas where there are many cases of AIDS and large populations of mosquitoes. Lack of such outbreaks, despite intense efforts to detect them, supports the conclusion that HIV is not transmitted by insects.

It is important to know that:

HIV is not an airborne or food-borne virus, and it does not live long outside the body. HIV can be found in the



PHOTO: ZAHEDUL I KHAN

Providing accurate information regarding the risks of unsafe sex and needle-sharing could save many young lives.



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Teenagers being a high risk group, need to be educated about HIV/AIDS as early as possible.

blood, semen, or vaginal fluid of an infected person.

The three main ways HIV is transmitted:

Through having sex (anal, vaginal, or oral) with someone infected with HIV.

Through sharing needles and syringes with someone who has HIV.

Through exposure (in the case of infants) to HIV before or during birth, or through breast feeding.