

# HIV/AIDS in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

# Summary

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# Map of Congo DRC



# 1 .Background information


- ▶ Located in central Africa, DRC is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest African country after Sudan and Algeria
  - ▶ It borders nine countries including Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Sudan, Central African Republic and Congo Brazzaville
  - ▶ Capital city: Kinshasa
  - ▶ Population: 61.5 million (est.2007)
  - ▶ Languages: French, Swahili, Lingala, Tshiluba and Kikongo
  - ▶ Religion: Catholic, Protestant, Kimbangu, Muslim and traditional beliefs
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# Epidemiology


- ▶ The first case discovered in 1983
  - ▶ 1,5 million PLWA (4,5% of population)
  - ▶ However rates vary in provinces and main towns (for instance Kalemie 27%, Kananga 18%, Goma 16%, Lubumbashi 6,6%, Tshikapa 8%, Kisangani, Matadi and Mbandaka 6% )
  - ▶ Adult HIV prevalence (5,07 adults 15–49)
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# Epidemiology (continued)

- ▶ Higher prevalence in most-at-risk population: sex workers in Kinshasa: 22%
  - ▶ PLWA receiving ARV: 8.6% (end 2006)
  - ▶ HIV among raped women: 20%
  - ▶ 120,000 children under 15 yrs infected with HIV
  - ▶ 3,6% pregnant women (15–49)
  - ▶ 900,000 developed AIDS (PNLS)
  - ▶ 100.000 children orphaned to AIDS
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# Epidemiology (continued)

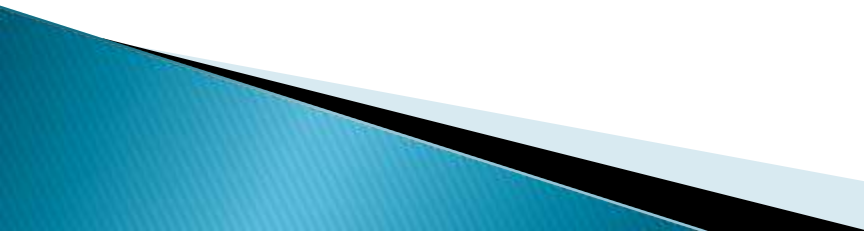
- ▶ No available data for IDU and MSM
  - ▶ No available data for hepatitis C
  - ▶ Main mode of HIV/AIDS transmission is heterosexual activity (87%)
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# 3. Contributing factors


- ▶ HIV/AIDS remain a hidden and taboo issue in DRC
  - ▶ Political instability and armed conflicts
  - ▶ Rape and sexual violence
  - ▶ Unprotected paid sex
  - ▶ Poor transport infrastructures
  - ▶ Movement of large internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees and soldiers
  - ▶ Scarcity and high cost of blood transfusion in urban areas
  - ▶ Promiscuity
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# Contributing factors

- ▶ Insufficient health facilities and qualified personal to tackle HIV/AIDS
  - ▶ Few HIV testing sites and counselling
  - ▶ High level of untreated STIs among sex workers and their clients
  - ▶ Low availability of condoms outside Kinshasa
  - ▶ High rates of sexual violence especially in the eastern of the country
  - ▶ Cultural belief toward HIV/AIDS (HIV associated with witchcraft)
  - ▶ Religious barriers etc.
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# National response

- ▶ The national AIDS control programme established in 1987 provides leadership in the health sector for HIV/AIDS and STIs control
  - ▶ Voluntary counselling and testing (VCT)
  - ▶ The US government works with the DRC government to develop HIV/AIDS programming
  - ▶ 8,106,863 condoms distributed in 2007 in Bukavu
  - ▶ Strategies for prevention of Mother-to-child transmission
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# Sources

- ▶ Programme National de lutte contre le sida (DRC)
  - ▶ USAID (2008) HIV/AIDS health profile
  - ▶ USAID (2007) Sub Sahara Africa AIDS epidemic update regional summary
  - ▶ Rotberg, R (2005) Democratic Republic of Congo, Mason Crest Publishers, United Kingdom of Jordan
  - ▶ Barber, N. (2005) Flash points central Africa, Franklin, London UK
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