

ZIMBABWEAN WOMEN AND HIV

Clara M. Gona, PhD, FNP-BC

OBJECTIVES

- To describe the current state of the HIV pandemic in Zimbabwe
- Discuss the burden for HIV for Zimbabwean women
- Analyze the factors that make women vulnerable to HIV infection



DISCLOSURE

No conflict of interest to disclose

EXPERIENCE
OF BEING
DIAGNOSED
WITH HIV

*The Context and Experience of Becoming
HIV Infected for Zimbabwean Women:
Unheard Voices Revealed*



Clara M. Gona, PhD, RN, FNP-BC
Rosanna DeMarco, PhD, RN, ACRN, FAAN

WOMEN
LIVING
WITH HIV

*“What Will Become of Me if They Take
This Away?” Zimbabwean Women’s
Perceptions of “Free” ART*



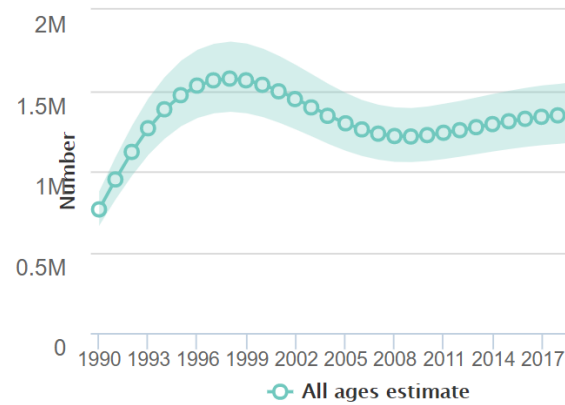
Clara M. Gona, PhD, RN, FNP-BC*

Eileen McGee, PhD, RN

Rosanna DeMarco, PhD, RN, ACRN, FAAN

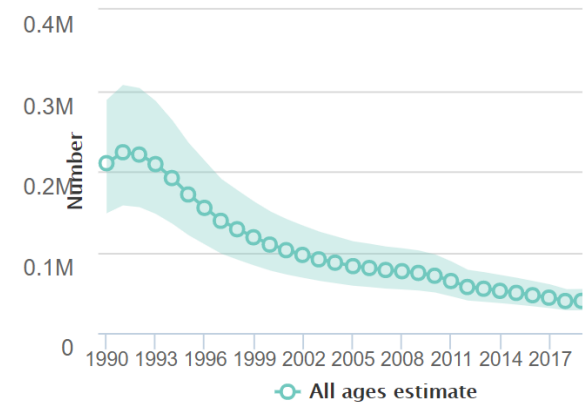
THE STATE OF THE HIV PANDEMIC IN ZIMBABWE

People living with HIV (all ages)



Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2020

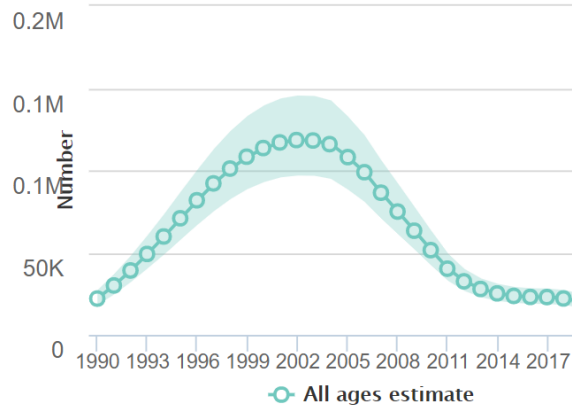
New HIV infections (all ages)



Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2020

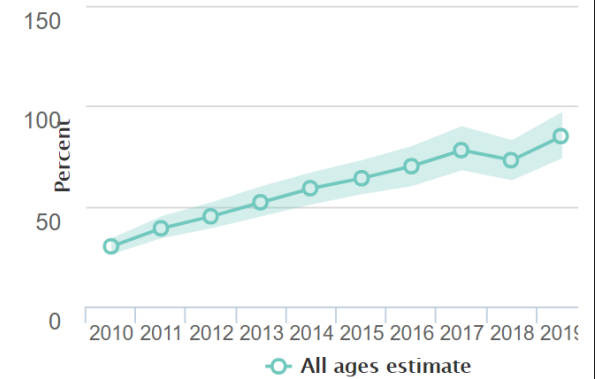
CURRENT STATE OF THE HIV PANDEMIC

AIDS-related deaths (all ages)



Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2020


Coverage of people receiving ART (all ages)



Source: Global AIDS Monitoring 2020; UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2020

THE HIV BURDEN: THE FEMINIZATION OF HIV

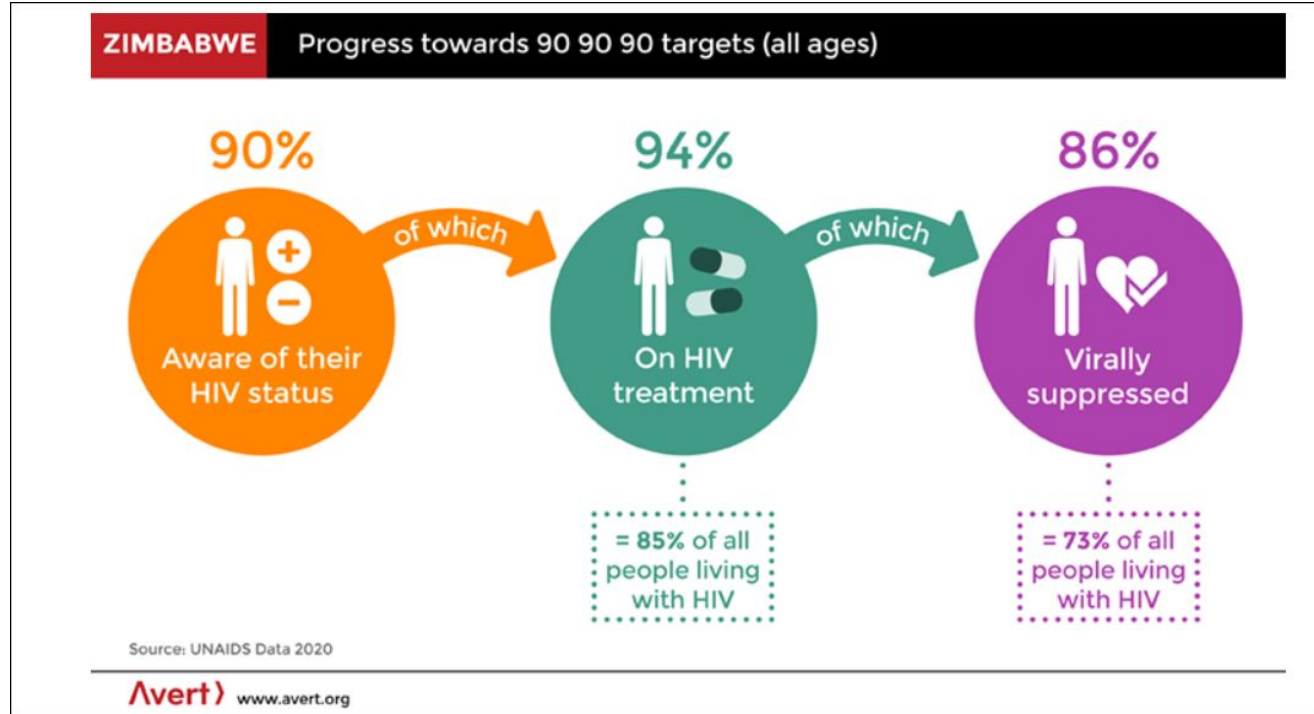
- 1.2 million adults living with HIV Women are disproportionately affected by HIV in Zimbabwe
- Of the 1 200 000 adults living with HIV, 730 000 (60.83%) were women.
- New HIV infections among young women aged 15–24 years were more than double those among young men (9000 vs 4200)
- 93% of adult women living with HIV on treatment, compared to 83% of adult men
 - UNAIDS



WOMEN AND
THEIR
VULNERABILITY
TO HIV

- i. Household poverty
- ii. Transactional sex
- iii. Policy gaps and inconsistencies
- iv. Child marriages
- v. Gender inequality and disparities in opportunities and economic benefits
- vi. Negative cultural and social norms and religious practices and male domination in decision making
- vii. Higher infection rates among females than their male counterparts
- vii. Gender Based Violence
- viii. HPV

ZIMBABWE MAKING PROGRESS





WOMEN AND HIV

- Despite the progress that has been made, HIV is wrecking havoc among women.
- Unequal gender power relations continue to be a risk factor for heterosexual transmission of HIV
- Marriage does not protect women
- Poverty as a major driver
- Interventions have to go beyond safe sex to address the social, cultural and gender issues



WHERE DO
WE GO
FROM
HERE?

- HIV prevention should remain the cornerstone of HIV programming in the country
- Treatment as prevention
- PrEP for women in high relationships and sex workers
- Need for research for comprehensive prevention targeting women and their partners
- Concern over NCDs
- Research on aging and HIV in women

QUESTIONS

REFERENCES

- Mugweni et al. (2012) Traditional gender roles, forced sex and HIV in Zimbabwean marriages
- Mugweni et al. (2015). Concurrent sexual partnerships among married Zimbabweans – implications for HIV prevention. *International Journal of Women's Health*. 7 (819-832)
- [Mikaela Smit](#), [Jack Olney](#), [Nathan P. Ford](#), [Marco Vitoria](#), [Simon Gregson](#), [Anna Vassall](#), and [Timothy B. Hallett](#) (2018). The growing burden of noncommunicable disease among persons living with HIV in Zimbabwe. *AIDS*. doi: [10.1097/QAD.0000000000001754](https://doi.org/10.1097/QAD.0000000000001754)
- Pascoe SJS, Langhaug LF, Mavhu W, Hargreaves J, Jaffar S, Hayes R, et al. (2015) Poverty, Food Insufficiency and HIV Infection and Sexual Behaviour among Young Rural Zimbabwean Women. *PLoS ONE* 10(1): e0115290. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0115290
- **Rwafa et al. (2019). Relationship power and HIV sero-status: an analysis of their relationship among low-income urban Zimbabwean postpartum women.** *Rwafa et al. BMC Public Health* (2019) 19:792 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-019-7137-y>
- Schaeffer R et al. *Age-disparate relationships and HIV incidence in adolescent girls and young women: evidence from a general-population cohort in Zimbabwe.*
- **UNAIDS (2020). Zimbabwe** <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/zimbabwe>
- **Zimbabwe NATIONAL GENDER AND HIV IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2017 – 2020.** <http://nac.org.zw/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Zimbabwe-National-Gender-HIV-Implementation-Plan-2017-2020.pdf>