

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*



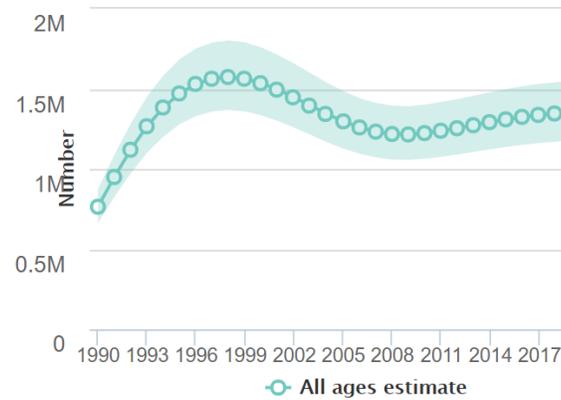
Clara M. Gona, PhD, RN, FNP-BC*

Eileen McGee, PhD, RN

Rosanna DeMarco, PhD, RN, ACRN, FAAN

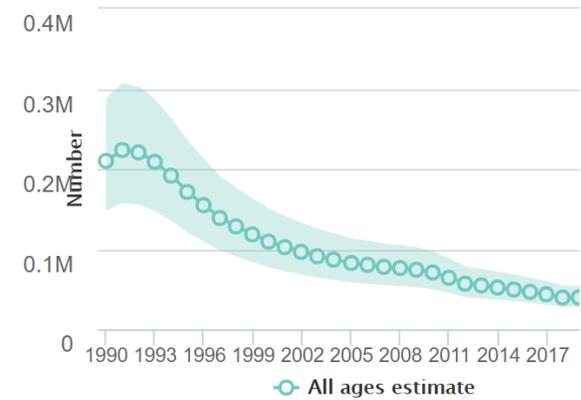
THE STATE OF THE HIV PANDEMIC IN ZIMBABWE

People living with HIV (all ages)



Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2020

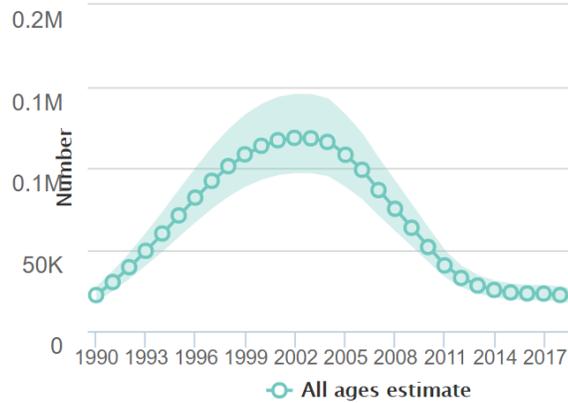
New HIV infections (all ages)



Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2020

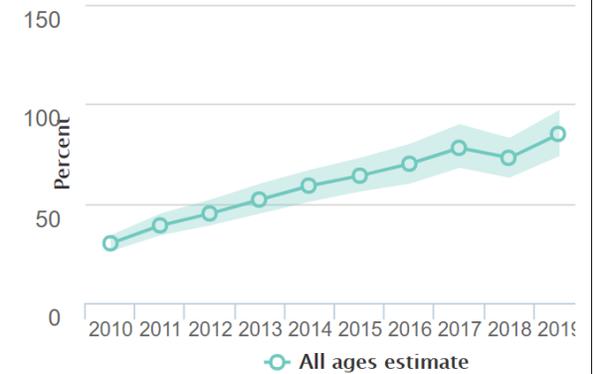
CURRENT STATE OF THE HIV PANDEMIC

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

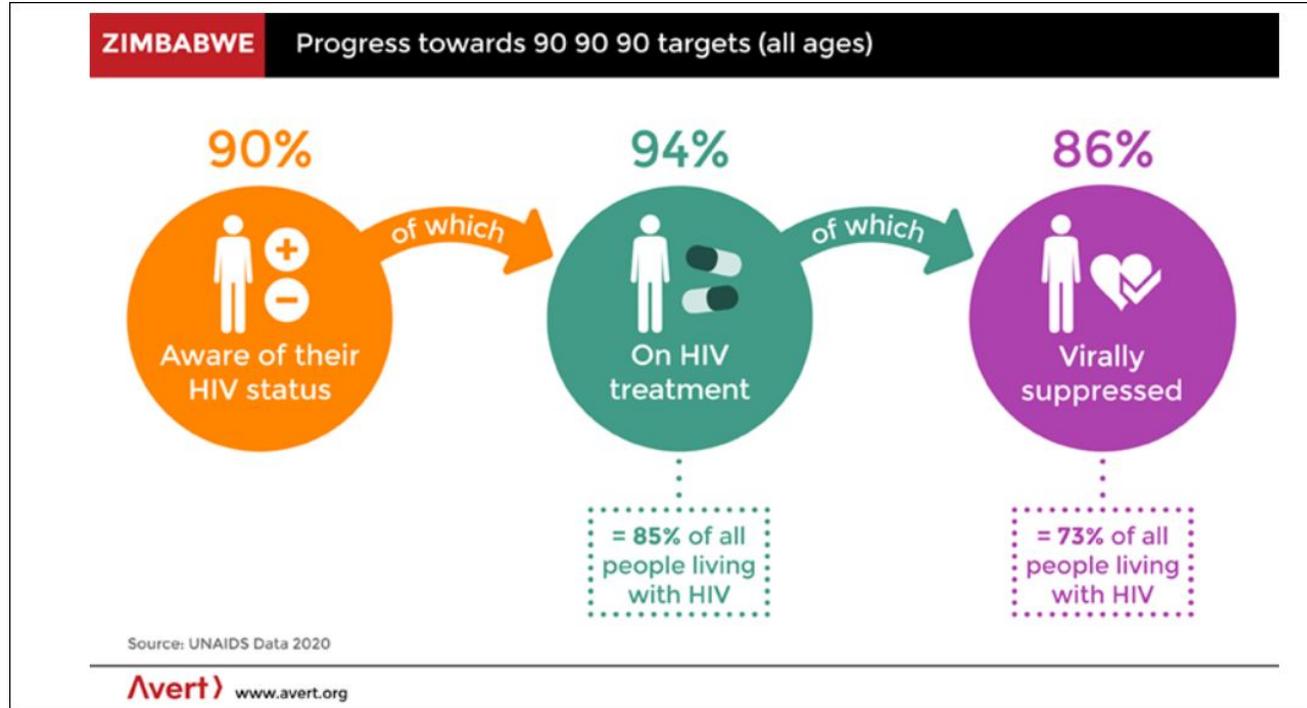
- 1.2 million adults living with HIV Women are disproportionately affected by HIV in Zimbabwe
- Of the 1 200 000 adults living with HIV, 730 000 (60.83%) were women.
- New HIV infections among young women aged 15–24 years were more than double those among young men (9000 vs 4200)
- 93% of adult women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

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