

Prof Leickness Chisamu Simbayi, D. Phil.

Deputy Executive Director, Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS and Health Research Programme &

Regional Coordinator of Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research Alliance (SAHARA) for Southern Africa Human Sciences Research Council Cape Town, South Africa

Presentation to the School of Public Health and Policy at Morgan State University in Baltimore Maryland USA on 3 December 2007

Social science in al makes a difference



# What we do: vision and mission

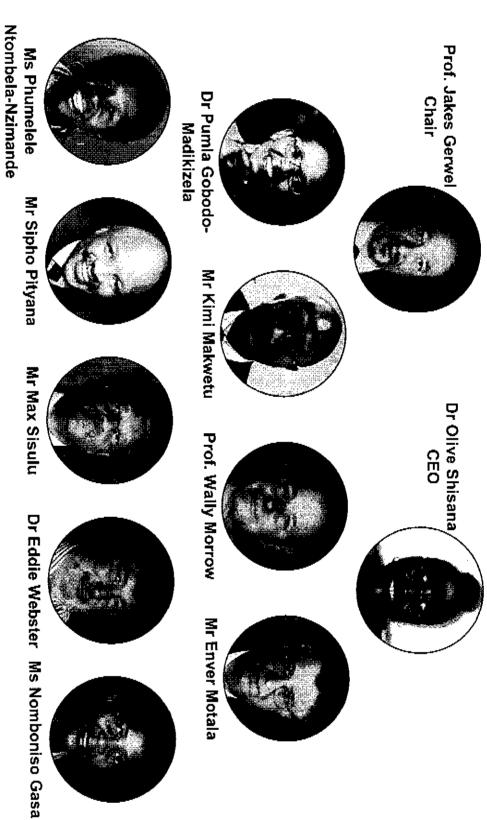
- The HSRC intends to become
- a human and social sciences research council serving as a knowledge hub
- where public policy and discourse on current and future challenges for South intormed, and Africa and the African continent are independently researched, analysed and
- where research-based solutions to human and social problems are developed

# What we do: vision and mission

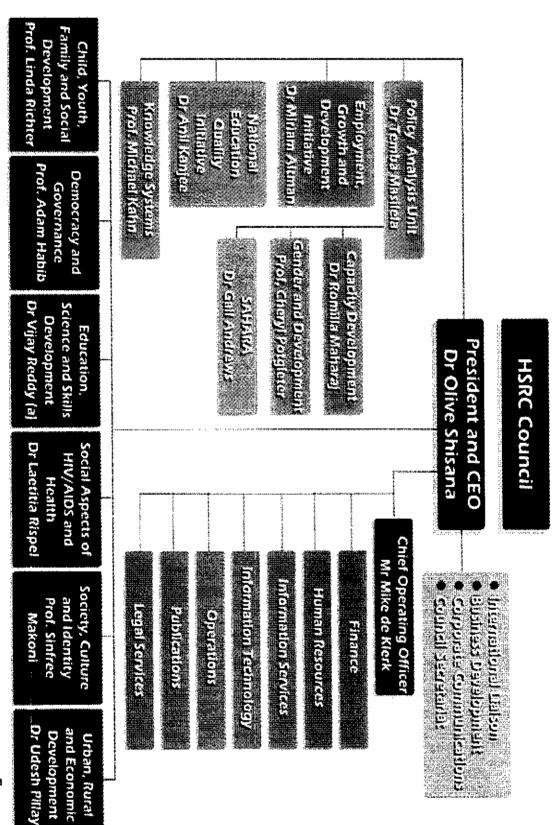
### The HSRC is

- a non-partisan organisation
- that generates scientific knowledge through and human sciences, its research and analytical work in the social
- to provide critical and independent information to different role players, whether in policy decisions debates so that they can make informed development, media analysis, advocacy or in

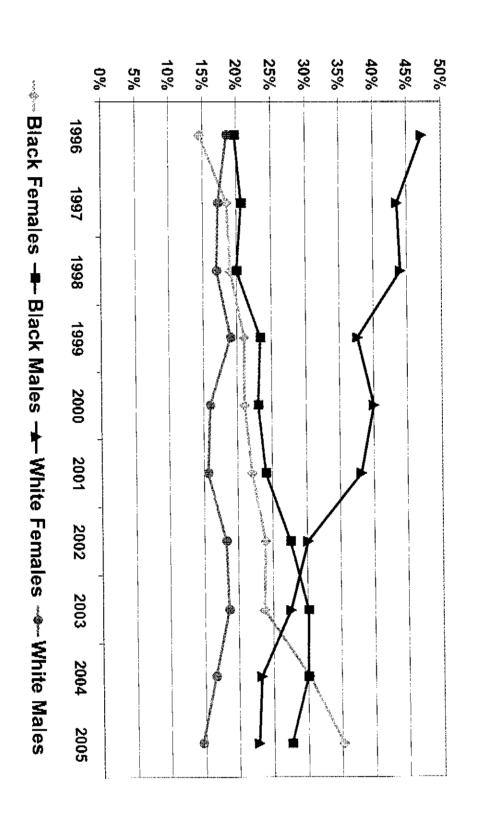
## The HSRC Council



# The structure of the HSRC



## HSRC broad representivity trends, 1996 to 2005



# Thumbnail stats: HSRC 2005

- Staffing (63% Black, 58% female)
- 129 researchers, mainly senior, 90% with Masters or PhD, spread across three centres,
- 0.79 refereed journal articles per senior researcher
- 25 interns, mostly doing Masters, some PhD
- services staff 136 administrative and technical support

# Thumbnail stats: HSRC 2005

- exceeded R79m (US\$12m)Parliamentary grant Earnings from foundation grants (half international) and tenders of R137m (US\$22m)
- Half of projects conducted collaboratively
- Project collaborations in some 30 other African countries
- "Blue chip" list of users especially in national, provincial and local government and public entities
- Some 350 outputs, many disseminated free on the web and widely publicised in the media; 144 journal articles

### SOCIAL ASPECTS OF HIV/AIDS AND **HEALTH (SAHA)**

- What we do: vision and mission
- Focus areas
- Organogram of SAHA
- Staffing: Thumbnail statistics

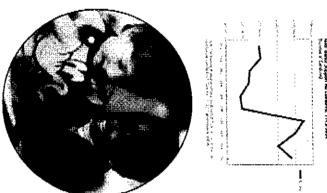
SAHA areas of expertise

# What we do: vision and mission

SAHA is a multi-disciplinary research programme

Strives to undertake scientifically sound and innovative research

- determinants of health Pioneered research on the social
- Best known for HIV/AIDS work
- Also focus on public health in general and going beyond bio-medical paradigm



#### Social prevention, care and impact mitigation Research to inform HIV/AIDS Mission statement lea HSRC Aspects

## Focus areas

# Behavioural and Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS

Understanding social and behavioural factors driving the HIV/AIDS of the SAHARA initiative. epidemic in South Africa as well as in other African countries as part

### research Epidemiology, strategic and health policy

Infectious disease epidemiology with focus on HIV/AIDS survey methodology and epidemiological modelling

## Health system research

Research which facilitates or promotes evidence-based health care social and demographic determinants of health provision in both formal and traditional health sectors and examines

# SAHA areas of expertise & networking

#### **Expertise**

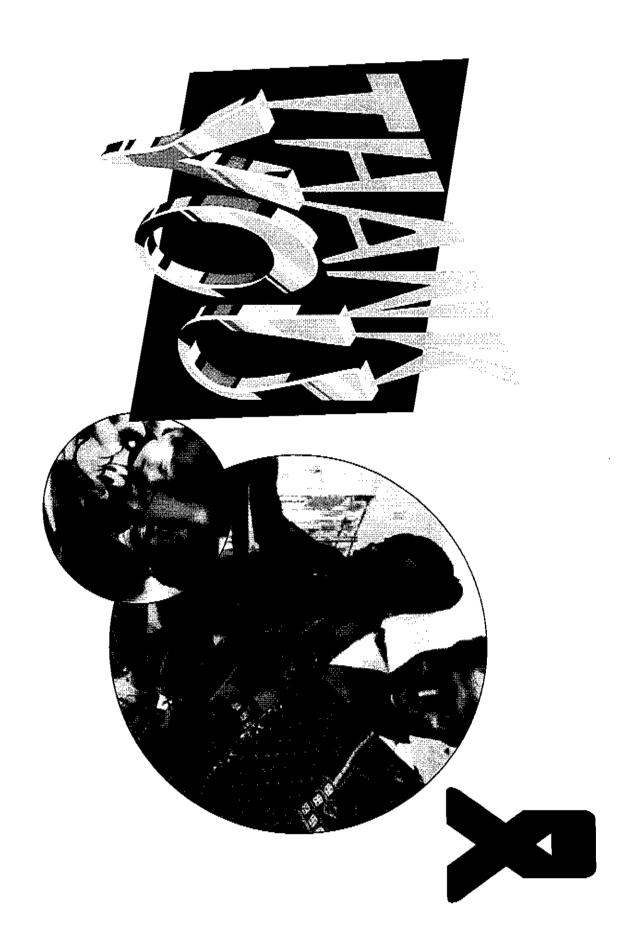
- Programme evaluation
- Qualitative research (Ethnographic, focus-groups)
- Surveillance and analysis of epidemiologic trends

#### Networking

- Extensive networks
- Nationally (researchers & other stakeholders)
- Continental Africa (SAHARA)
- Internationally (bilateral)

# Staffing: Thumbnail statistics

- At end of December 2006, 50 FTEs excluding fieldworkers (both permanent and contract), but
- 86% Black (EEA)
- 56% women
- 8% admin





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# Outline of presentation

- About South Africa
- Background to the study
- ➤ The HSRC's population based survey methodology
- Some key findings on HIV prevalence
- Some key findings on HIV incidence
- Some key findings on the associations some behavioural and social factors between HIV prevalence, HIV incidence and
- Conclusions
- Recommendations

## **About South Africa**

- It is located at the southern tip of the African continent.
- It was the last country on the African continent to gain its independence or majority rule under the leadership of Mr Nelson Mandela.
- diamonds, tauna especially game animals and flora as well It is the most economically developed country in Africa with as rich in agriculture many natural resources such as platinum, gold, uranium and
- The population consists of 48 million people 87% Black (African, coloured & Indian) and 13% White.

### Background

- HIV is hyperendemic in South Africa with an estimated country in the world 5.7 million PLWHA - the largest number of PLWHA in a
- This represents about 20% of the African total or
- One out of every six PLWHA in the world
- It is therefore critically important to understand the magnitude of the epidemic and its determinants
- This information is useful for planning national responses including for the following:
- treatment and care for PLWHA
- interventions to prevent new infections and
- mitigating the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic especially among families and children.

## Global update on the numbers of adults and children estimated to be living with HIV in 2007

North America

1.4 million

880 000–2.2 million

Caribbean 250 000 (190 000-320 000)

Latin America
1.7 million
(1.3-2.5 million)

Western and Central Europe 740 000 (580 000-970 000)

North Africa and Middle East 460 000 (270 000-760 000)

Sub-Saharan Africa 24.7 million (21.8-27.7 million)

Eastern Europe and Central Asia
1.7 million
(1.2–2.6 million)

East Asia 750 000 (460 000-1.2 million)

South and
South-East Asia
7.8 million
(5.2-12.0 million)

Oceania **81 000** (50 000–170 000)

Total: 33.2 (30.6–36.1) million

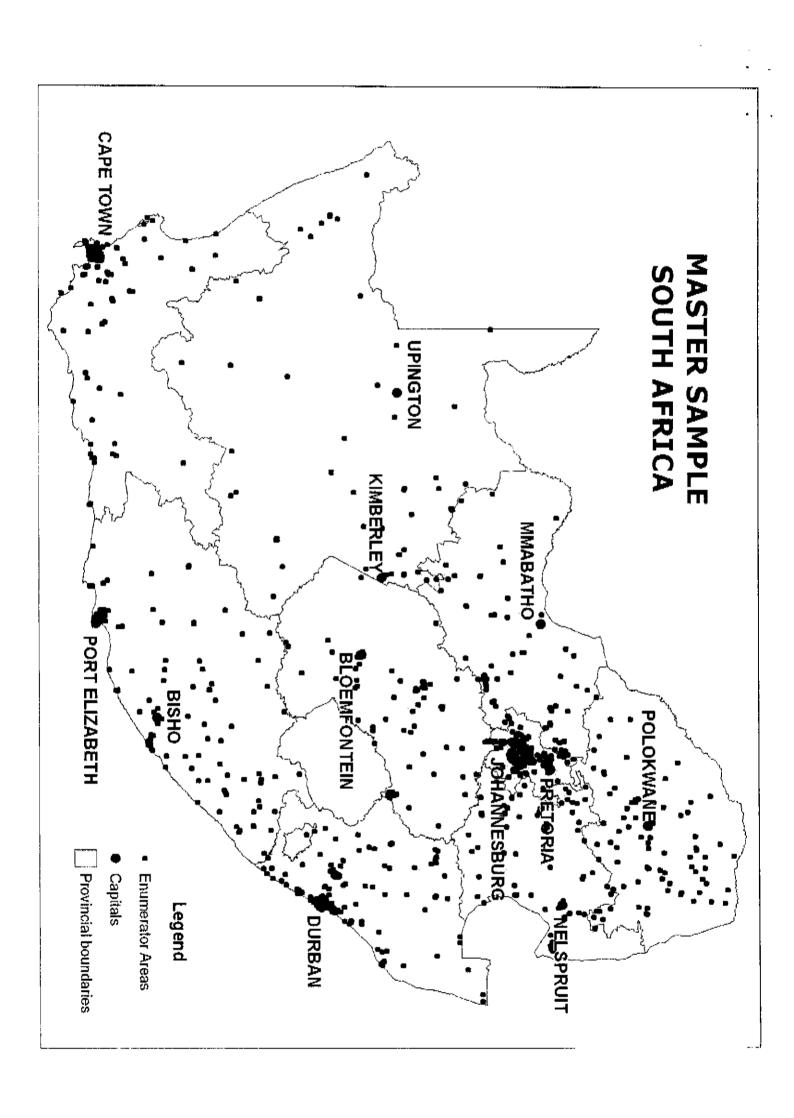
Source: UNAIDS/WHO

# Background to the study (contd)

- The present study is a follow p to an original study conducted in 2002 using the same methodology
- ➤ This was the first national population repeat survey anywhere in the world.
- This time series of surveys is now part of the South Africa. national HIV/AIDS surveillance system and is used by UNAIDS to populate indicators for

### The HSRC's population-based survey methodology

- ➤ A cross sctional population based survey of the older living in households entire South African population aged 2 years and
- Sample included people living in hostels, but excluded prisoners, military and police barracks, children under 2 years ot age university residences, patients in hospitals and
- Sampling is based on a master sample of households developed by the HSRC based on used in the 2001 census in South Africa 1000 randomly selected EAs out of the 86000



### The HSRC's population-based survey methodology (contd)

- geotype of EA This sample is stratified by province and
- were taken through tinger picks In 2002 an oral specimen collection device was used, whereas in 2005 dried blood spots (DBS)
- DBS allowed for incidence testing
- Similar questionnaires used in both surveys
- surveillance approach recommended by UNAIDS/WHO The study uses the second generation

### The HSRC's population-based survey methodology (contd)

- In each household one person is randomly selected from the following three age groups:
- 2-14 years (children)
- > 15-24 (youth)
- 25 and older (adults)

## Summary of the sample realised:

- A nationally representative sample of 23275 participants of of children aged 2-11 years households were interviewed directly or via proxy in the case both sexes aged 2 years of older selected from 15000
- 15851 of them also provided HIV specimens for both HIV status and incidence testing.

## (contd): Response rates in 2005 vs. 2002 HSRC Surveys The HSRC's population based survey methodology

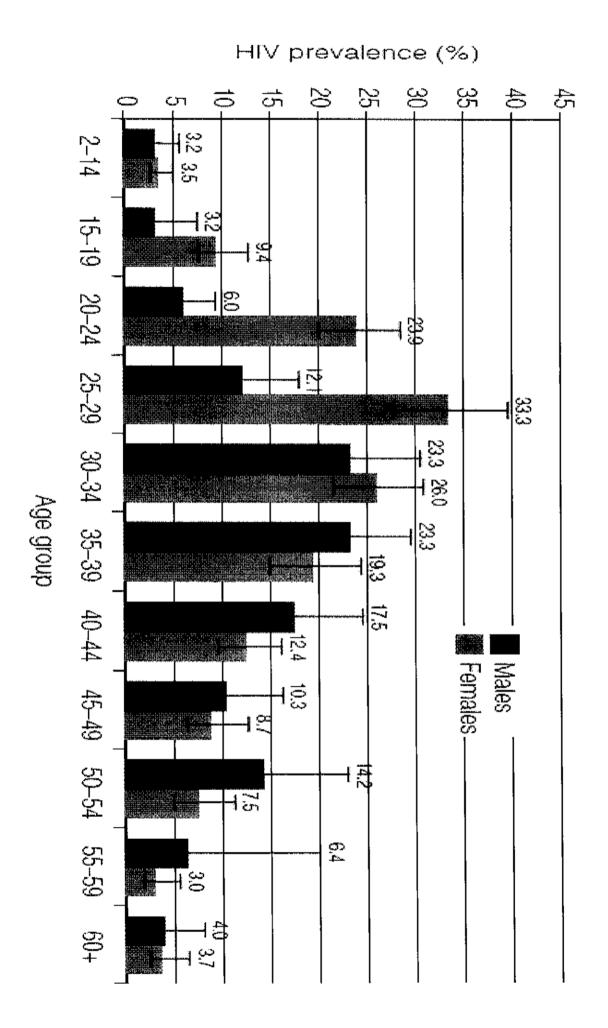
Aspect of the survey	2005	2002
Household level response	84.1%	71.1%
Individuals interviewed	96.0%	73.7%
Sample of respondents tested	15,851	8,428
Interviewed and tested for HIV	65.4%	62.3%
African interviewed and tested	69.8%	64.8%
White interviewed and tested	45.3%	46.4%
Coloured interviewed and tested	72.3%	68.0%
Indian interviewed and tested	51.3%	56.1%

### Some key findings on HIV prevalence

Table 3.8: Overall HIV prevalence by sex, South Africa 2005

***************************************	Total	Female	Male	41.00
	Total 15 851	Female		
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	10.8	13.3	8.2	
				in deep of the second
	9.6	12.1	~	
	9.9-11.6	12.1-14.6	7.1-9.6	
	<b>∵</b> \	13.3 12.1–14.6	) \	
S.				

16.2 14.9-17.7	16.2	9 245	Age group 15–49
4,4-7,4		2 787	Adults (= >50 yrs)
14.2–17.1	15.6	7 912	Adults (= >25yrs)
8.7–12.0	10.3	4 120	Youth (15–24)
3.3 2.3-4.8	3.3	3 815	Children (2–14)
And the second of the second o			
	00.5	Table 3.9: HIV prevalence by age group, South Africa 2005	Table 3.9: HIV prevalence



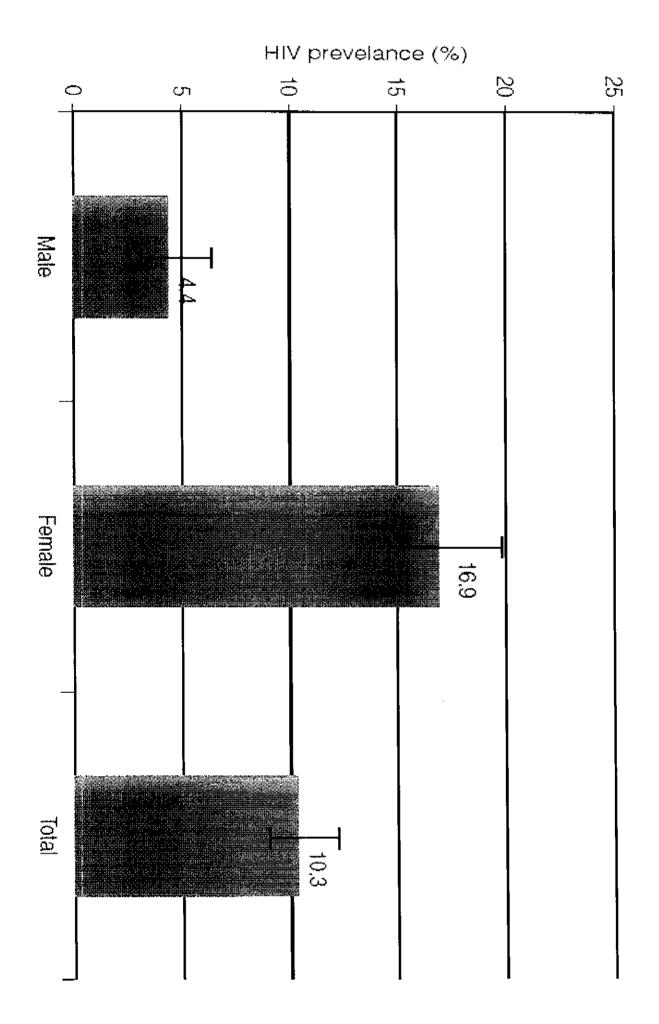


Figure 3.5: HIV prevalence among youth aged 15-24 years by sex, South Africa 2005

Table 3.11: HIV prevalence among youth aged 15-24 years by locality type, South Africa 2005

8.5-14.3		1 088	Rural informal
		estrologista estro	
13.7-22.9	17.8	490	Urban informal
		apaganasang pagagang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang	
5.3-8.9	6.9	2 147	Urban formal

0.2-3.0	0.8	321	Indian
0.9-2.9	488	867	Coloured
0.1-1.2	0.3	219	White
10.4-14.4	12.3	2 707	African
ub Africa 2005	5-24 years by race, Sou	Table 3.12: HIV prevalence among youth aged 15-24 years by race, South Africa 2005	Table 3.12: HIV prevale
$9.3\!\!-\!\!28.1$	16.7	395	Rural formal
8.5–14.3	11,1	1 088	Rural informal
13.7–22.9	17.8	490	Urban informal
5.3-8.9	6.9	2 147	Urban formal

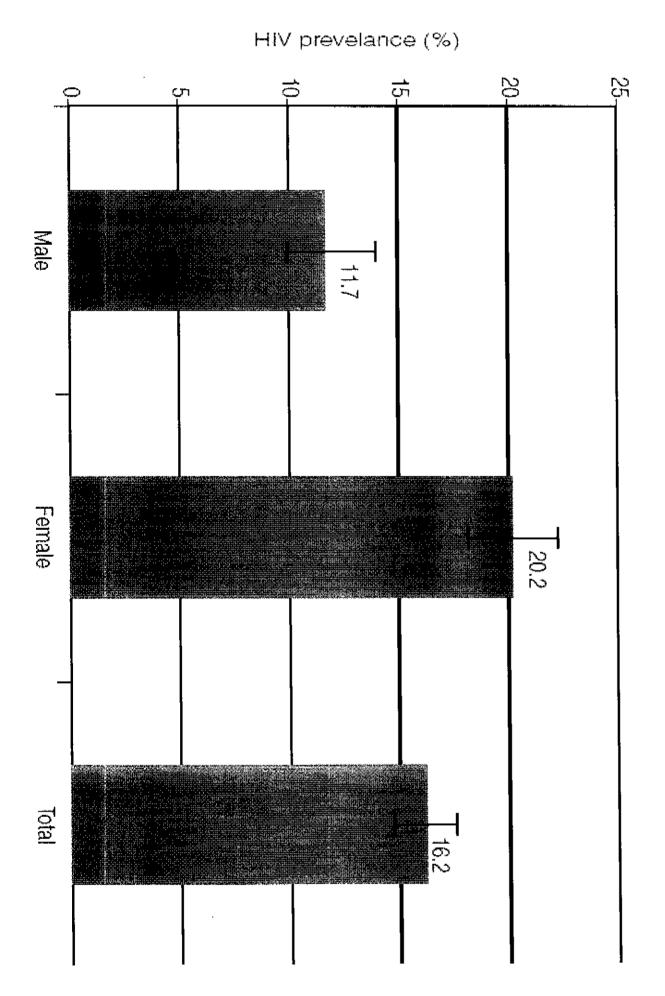
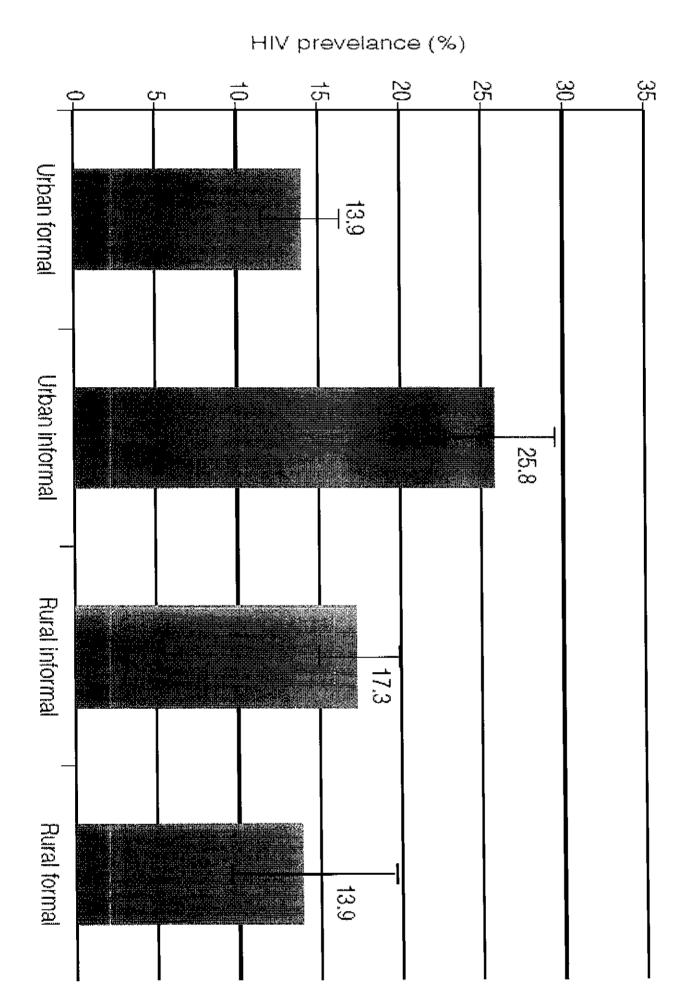


Figure 3.9: HIV prevalence among adults aged 15-49 years by locality type, South Africa 2005



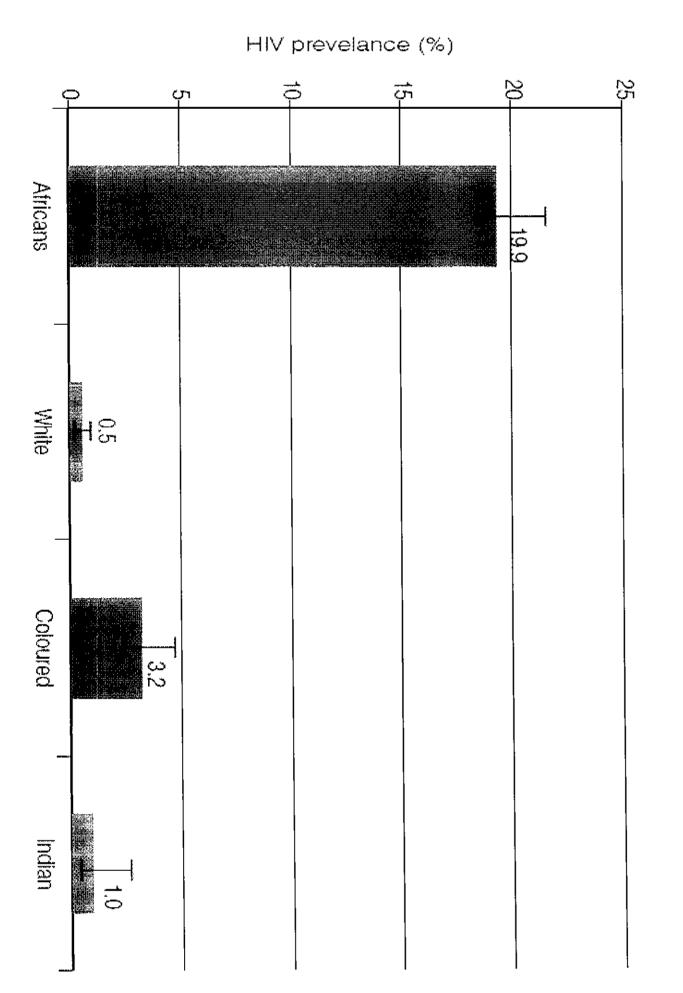


Figure 3.10: HIV prevalence among adults aged 15-49 years by race, South Africa 2005

### HIV prevalence in Children aged 2-14 years

5.1

## HIV prevalence among adults aged 50 years and older, South Africa 2005

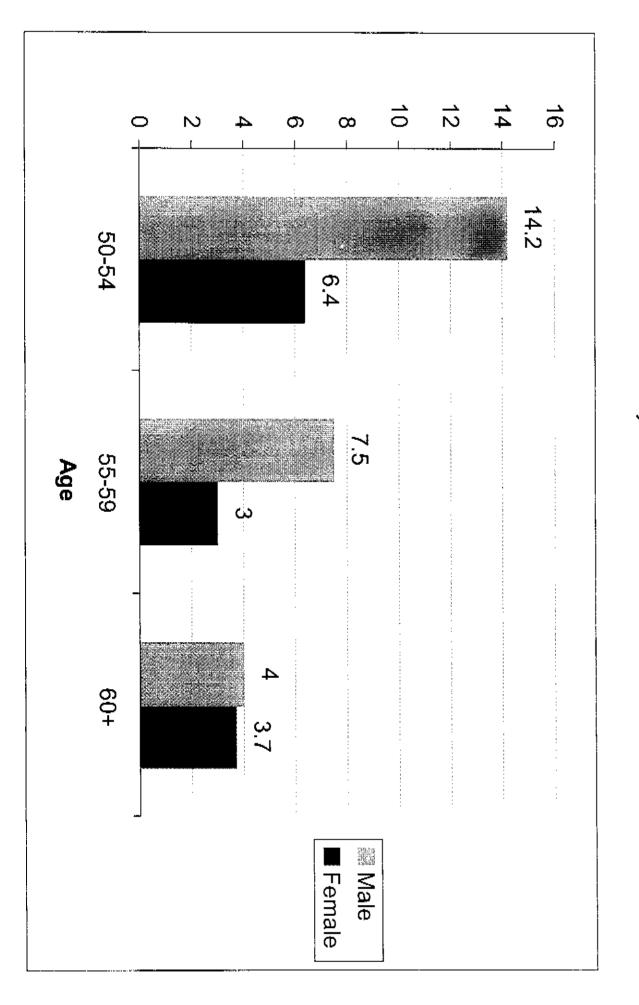
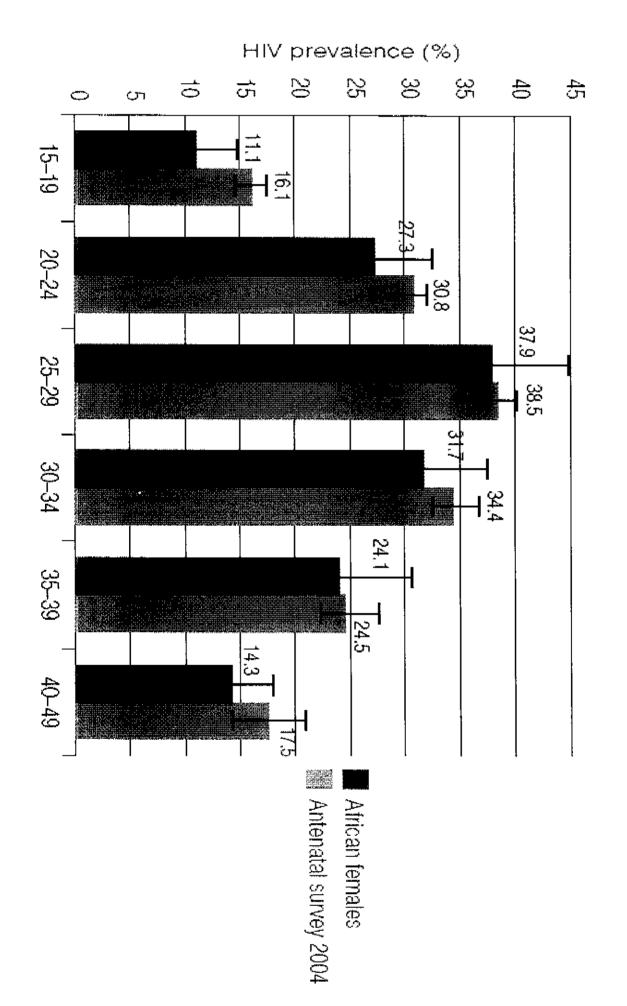


Figure 3.11: HIV prevalence among African females aged 15-49 years surveyed in the 2005 bousebold survey compared to females surveyed in the 2004 antenatal survey



## Some key findings on HIV Incidence

## Estimation of HIV incidence

- New tests allow for identification of recent infection using blood samples (including from DBS specimens) BED capture EIA
- Developed by USA's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Technology is still new and needs further validation
- Almost 16,000 specimens in survey allowed for identification of recent infection (i.e. acquired in the previous 180 days)
- 181 samples with recent infection identified

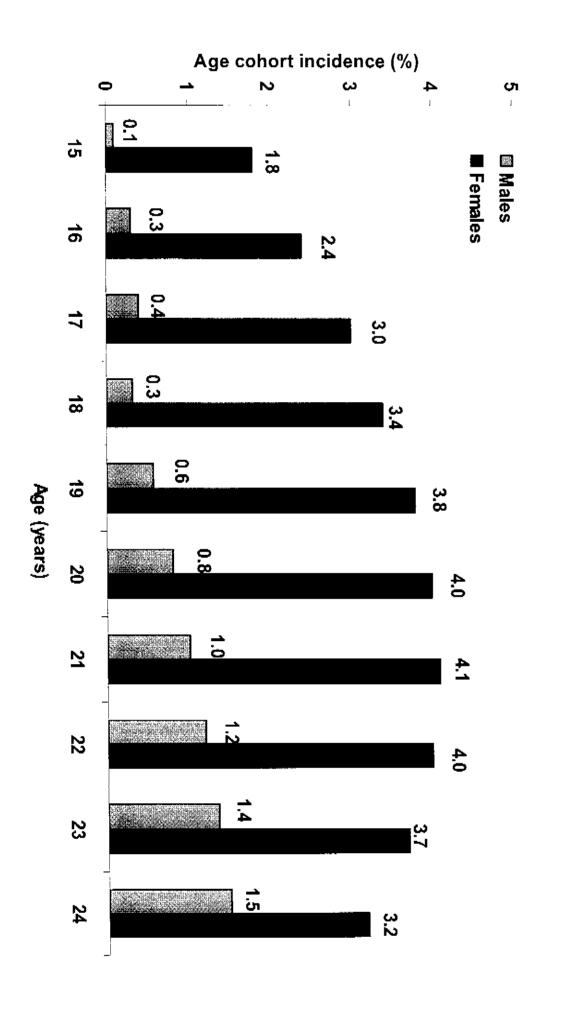
## HIV incidence estimates: 2005

Age group	Number with recent HIV infection (past 6 months)	Estimate for annual HIV incidence in this group (weighted)
2 years and older	181	2.7%
Children (2-14)	1	0.9%
Youth (15-24)	70	3.3%
Males (15-24)	9	0.8%
Females (15-24)	61	6.5%
Adults (≥25)	100	3.6%
Male (≥25)	34	2.4%
Female (≥25)	130	6.3%

### Comparison of adjusted HIV incidence estimates, South Africa 2005

Female	Male	Adult (15-49 years)	Female	Male	Youth (15-24 years)	Female	Male	Overall (≥2 years)	
6.3	2.4	4.4	6.5	0.8	ယ ယ	3.9	1.5	2.7	BED ODn=0.8
2.8	1.1	1.9	3.8	0.3	1.9	1.9	0.7	1.3	BED ODn=0.4
4.0	<u>.</u>	2.6	4.9	0.3	2.3	2.5	0.5	1.5	BED Hargrove
ა. 8	1.0	2.4	4.6	0.3	2.2	2.4	0.5	1.4	BED McDougal
2.5	1.9	2.2	4.1	1.8	2.9	1.5	1.2	1.3	ASSA 2003

### HIV incidence estimates by sex from single year age cohort prevalence in 15-24 year olds



#### HIV incidence and number of new infections by age group, South Africa, 2005 (Source: Rehle et al., 2007).

#### HIV incidence and number of new infections by race, province and locality type (age $\geq$ 2 years), South Africa, 2005 (Source: Rehle et al., 2007).

142 000	0.8 (0.3 - 1.2)	20 563 000	Kural intormal
	1.6 (0.7 - 2.5)	3 577 000	Rural formal
	5.1 (3.2 - 7.0)	3 878 000	Locality type Urban informal
	0.2 (0.0 - 0.4)	871 000	Northern Cape
	0.7 (0.1 - 1.2)	6 777 000	Eastern Cape
	0.8 (0.2 - 1.5)	4 382 000	Western Cape
	1.0 (0.2 - 1.8)	3 642 000	North West
	1.6 (0.3 - 2.8)	5 207 000	Limpopo
	1.7 (0.7 - 2.7)	9 213 000	KwaZulu-Natal
	1.9 (0.8 - 3.0)	8 512 000	Gauteng
	1.9 (0.4 - 3.4)	2 827 000	Free State
	2.4 (0.9 - 3.8)	3 083 000	Mpumalanga
			Province
	02 (0.0 - 0.3)	9 337 000	Other
	1.8(1.3-23)	35 113 000	Black
			Race
Estimated number of new infections per year (N)	HIV incidence (% per year) (95% CI)	Weighted sample (N)	Variable

HIV prevalence (%) and HIV incidence (%) HIV incidence and HIV prevalence by age 8 30, ᆼ ઝ 않 Ćτ and sex, South Africa, 2005 (Source: Rehle et al., 2007). Prevalence (males) Prevalence (females) Incidence (females) Incidence (males)

8

20-29

30-39

40-49

50+

Age group (years)

prevalence, HIV incidence and some behavioural and social associations between HIV Some key findings on the factors

#### Sexual debut

- incidence and prevalence of HIV in younger age groups Delayed onset of sexual activity (sexual debut) reduces
- Very few 12-14 year olds reported having had sex (<2%)
- Amongst 15 year olds surveyed, 11.7% of males and 7.9% of females had previously had sex
- Amongst 20 year olds surveyed, 74.8% of males and 80.0% of females had previously had sex
- Of those who had not had sex before, 71% said they were not ready, and 22.9% said they were not interested in sex
- sex is becoming younger with each generation The current trend identified is that the average age of first

### Secondary abstinence

- who have had sex before, but who have not had Secondary abstinence refers to those individuals sex in the past year
- Secondary abstinence reduces HIV infection risk
- Secondary abstinence levels:
- 23.0% of males vs. 20.0% of females aged 15-24 years
- 9.8% of males vs. 21.3% of females aged 25-49 years
- 30.3% of males vs. 71.3% of females aged ≥50 years

### Multiple sexual partnerships over the past 12 months, South Africa 2005

partner, increases HIV risk Having frequent sexual partner turnover, even if one is faithful to one's

	MΑ	MALES		FEMALES
Age	Z	>partner %	Z	> One partner %
15-24 years	972	27.2	1397	6.0
25-49 years	2059	14.4	3195	1.8
50+	799	9.8	726	0.3

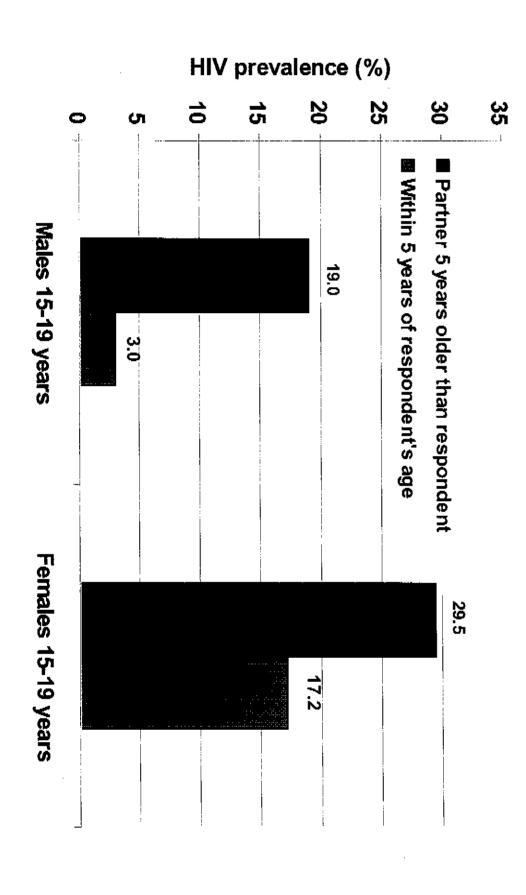
## Multiple sexual partnerships (contd)

- Overall rates were higher for informal settlements
- 20.0% for males vs. 3.5% for females
- HIV prevalence for those with more than 1 partner in past year was higher
- 20.6% for >1 partner vs. 16.3% for 1 partner

#### Age mixing

- Having a partner 5 years older poses high HIV infection risk for youth, as it exposes them to a nigner prevalence age group
- Only 2.0% of sexually active males aged 15-19 had female partners 5 or more years older
- male partners 5 or more years older 18.5% of sexually active females aged 15-19 had





### Condom use at last sex

- Consistent condom use protects against HIV intection
- Condom use at last sex is used to measure uptake and impact of condom promotion programmes
- Reported condom use at last sex is high in South Atrica
- 38% of males vs. 32.8% of females aged 15 years and older used a condom at last sex
- years used a condom at last sex 72.8% of males vs. 55.7% of females aged 15

### Condom use at last sex

- Condom use rates are highest amongst Africans ≥15 years
- 43.6% for males vs. 38.1% for females
- Rates for males were lowest amongst whites -16.7%
- year 62.3% Rates were higher for those with >1 partner in last
- 2002 (30%) status in the two past surveys- 2005 (60%) vs. Most interestingly, there is evidence in increase in those who indicated they knew their HIV positive prevention involving condom us among psitive

#### Perceived vulnerability to HIV infection

- for HIV 66% of respondents think they are at not at risk
- 20.8% of those who thought they were at high risk were found to be HIV positive
- would probably or definitely not get infected 51% of HIV positive respondents thought they with HIV

#### **HIV testing**

- Most people were aware of VCT services nearby (78.8%)
- Of those who have never been tested for HIV, in the past year Of those ever tested, over one third were tested
- 12.8% are HIV positive

### HIV testing (contd)

- facilities were neutral or unsatisfied with the service Only 4.6% of those tested in government
- applying for insurance, being pregnant, or feeling know their HIV status, but other reasons included Most people were tested because they wanted to
- of low risk to HIV infection The main reason for not testing was a perception

## HIV/AIDS knowledge and awareness

- are also an indication of good awareness Overall basic HIV/AIDS knowledge is high, and levels of condom use and VCT service uptake
- such as: There are however a few gaps in knowledge
- Uncertainty about HIV causing AIDS
- Uncertainty about a cure for AIDS
- Uncertainty about condoms preventing HIV infection
- Uncertainty about HIV transmission from mother to child

# HIV/AIDS knowledge and awareness (contd)

- High degree of uncertainty that having tewer sexual partners reduces HIV risk
- Awareness of antiretroviral (ARV) be cured persist drugs is high but beliefs that AIDS can
- Knowledge of research on vaccines low

### **HIV/AIDS attitudes**

- towards people living with HIV/AIDS Overall, participants held positive perceptions
- **AIDS** 90.7% are willing to care for a family member with
- separate from other children to prevent infection 79.8% feel HIV+ children should not be kept

### HIV/AIDS attitudes (contd)

- 74.7% believe it is not a waste of money to train or promote an HIV+ person
- 46.5% say it is not foolish to marry a person with **HIV/AIDS**
- 35.3% would not have a problem having protected sex with an HIV+ person

### **HIV/AIDS Communication**

- 83% of households had a working radio and 70% Overall access to mass media is high – but only had a working television
- more is high >60% Radio and television access a few days a week or
- Newspaper and magazine access is low <40%

## HIV/AIDS Communication (contd)

- Internet access is very low
- taking HIV/AIDS seriously Radio and television emphasised in relation to
- to friends and AIDS statistics also stimulate Knowing people who have died of AIDS, talking sense of seriousness

## Other sources of HIV/AIDS information

- Health facilities most important overall for all age ranges and locales
- Schools perceived as useful for youth audiences
- Friends and other family important
- Workplaces useful over half of employed persons

### Other sources of HIV/AIDS information (contd)

- groups Parents important to around a third of youth age
- than a third of all age groups Faith based organisations important for more
- Traditional healers rated relatively low

#### socio-behavioural factors (age group 15 - 49 years) HIV prevalence and incidence by self-reported (Source: Rehle et al., 2007).

Variable 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10	Survey sample	HIV prevalence (%) (95% CI)	HIV incidence (% per year) (95% CI)
Marital status Sinole	55 88	16.6 (14.9 - 18.5)	3.0 (1.9) • (1.1)
Married	3 240		13 (05 - 2.1)
Microwed  Divorced	318	15.1 (9.5 - 23.0)	0.5 (0.0 : 1.6)
Sexual history			
Never had sex	1747	4.3 (2.7 - 7.0)	1.5 (0.0 - 3.0)
No sex in the past 12 months	1 358	18.0 (14.9 - 21.5)	2.4 (0.8 - 4.1)
Sexually active in the past 12 months	5 803	18.7 (17.0 - 20.6)	2.4 (1.5 - 3.3)
Current pregnancy	215	37.0 (24.9 - 51.0)	5.2 (0.0 - 12.9)
Number of sexual partners  One sex partner in the past 12 months	5 233	18.4 (16.7 - 20.4)	2.1 (1.3 - 3.0)
More than one sex partner in the past			
12 months	468	21.3 (15.9 - 28.0)	3.1 (0.0 - 6.4)
Condom use at last sex			
Yes	1 011 393	14.3 [(11.0 - 18.4) 20.8 (15.3 - 27.8)	2.9 (0.5 - 5.2) 6.1 (0.0 - 12.9)
25 - 49 years		i i i i	
Yes No	1 068	24.9 (21.1 - 29.1) 16.0 (12.3 - 20.6)	2.2 (0.4 - 4.0) 1.9 (0.0 - 3.7)

### **Educational attainment and HIV** prevalence

Tertiary	Matriculation	Secondary	Primary	No school	Educational attainment
1024	2409	4707	2572	1163	בו
5.50%	14.40%	15.20%	16.20%	10.90%	HIV pos %
3.8 - 8.7	12.0 - 17.2	13.4 - 17.1	13.9 - 18.7	8.6 - 13.8	<u>95% Cl</u>

### **Employment Status and HIV** prevalence

Total

11844

83

### Source of household income and HIV prevalence

No income	Other	Grants/donations by private welfare org	Govt pensions/grants	Contributions by younger family members/relatives	Contributions from adult family or relatives	Formal salary/earnings, taxed	Source of household income
521	1291	156	1874	150	4028	3623	۱⊐
16.20%	16.00%	20.60%	10.30%	18.40%	16.20%	10.80%	HIV+
6.20% 11.7 - 22.1	12.8 - 19.8	13.3 - 30.6	8.2 - 12.8	9.7 - 32.2	14.2 - 18.5	9.3 - 12.7	95% CI

11643

Total

#### Conclusions

- HIV prevalence has levelled off
- and incidence levels are high amongst, women, youth, and younger adults and pregnant women Females significantly more vulnerable to infection
- are of concern
- and people aged ≥50 years confirmed HIV prevalence amongst children aged 2- 9years

### Conclusions (contd)

- Behavioural response is positive and increasing in relation to condoms and VCT
- major risk Partner turnover is high and not perceived as a
- are major risk factors for youth Early sexual debut and sex with older partners
- attitudes and involvement in community evel activities Good response in relation to non sigmatising

### Recommendations

- Still a false sense of security needs to be addressed
- Reduction in stigma provides opportunity for HIV disclosure and community action
- Integration of family planning and HIV/AIDS
- Women encouraged to increase condom use
- Periodic HIV testing is crucial

### Recommendations (contd)

- delay sexual debut Young people should be encouraged to
- Sexually active youth should avoid older partners
- Avoid high partner turnover and concurrent sexual partnerships
- sex when one has STIs Getting treated for STIs and never having
- at risk of HIV Warn older South Africans that they too are

### Recommendations (contd)

- HIV infection among children is real and needs emphasis
- and modelling the HIV/AIDS epidemic Include children and older people in surveillance
- Positive Prevention is an important tool for HIV prevention
- Refocus communication strategy to expand areas of focus
- Study implications of ARVs

### **Acknowledgements**

#### Funding:

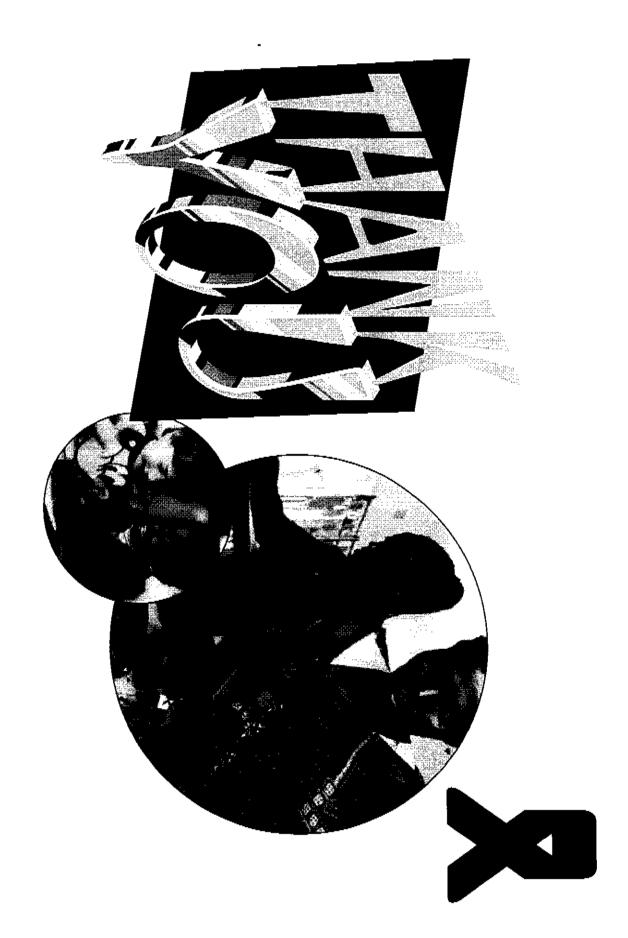
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- The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- USA's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

#### Research consortium:

This study was a collaborative research effort of:

- Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC),
- Medical Research Council (MRC) &
- Centre for AIDS Development, Research and Evaluation (CADRE)



#### References

publications: This presentation is based on the following two

### A. The main research report:

Shisana, O., Rehle, T., Simbayi, L.C., Parker, W., Bhana, A., Zuma, K., Connoly, C., Jooste, S., Pillay, V. et al. (2005). South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence, Behaviour and Communication Survey 2005. Cape Town: HSRC Press

Available on www.hsrc.ac.za or www.hsrcpress.ac.za

#### B. Incidence paper:

Rehle, T., Shisana, O., Pillay, V., Zuma, K., Puren, A. & Parker, W. (2007). National HIV incidence measures – new insights into the South African epidemic. South African Medical Journal, 97(3), 194-199