

Some Facts on AIDS

During the 1980s AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) became an international rapidly increasing epidemic. The World Health Organization believes that by the end of this century more than 40 million people around the world could be infected by the virus. According to some specialists there are countries which might lose 25 percent of their populations to AIDS.

AIDS is a contagious and lethal disease caused by the HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). The virus disables the body's immune system. This leaves the body unable to defend itself even against infections and some cancers.

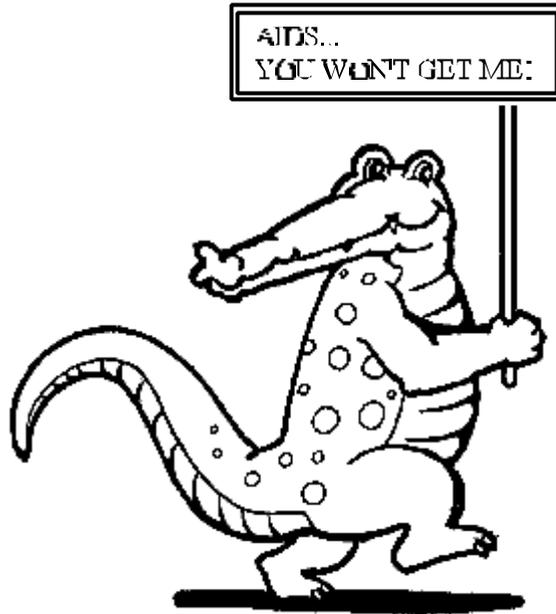
Despite intense medical research science is not able to defeat this terrible disease.

AIDS could be called the "plague" of the 20th century.

To date there is no effective vaccine or cure for AIDS.

The only protection against AIDS is

PREVENTION!



How AIDS is transmitted

AIDS spreads most often through **sexual contact** with an infected partner. The AIDS virus is carried in some **body fluids** (blood, semen, and vaginal secretions). Infection can also occur when a person is injected with infected blood, such as when using street drugs, or when receiving untested blood, or being injected with an improperly sterilized needle at a health care establishment.

We all remember the scandal when AIDS-infected blood was used for transfusions.

You cannot get AIDS

when shaking hands
when eating out in a restaurant
by using public telephones
in public toilets
in public pools
when seeing the doctor/dentist.

AIDS is **not** passed on
by sneezing or coughing
when hugging a person
through mosquito or insect bites or
by cuddling pets.

... nor is the virus transmitted by living with people who have AIDS **so long as there is no sexual contact or contact with infected body fluids** (blood, semen, and vaginal secretions).



How to prevent AIDS

1. Avoid sexual activity before marriage.
2. Keep sex within marriage with an uninfected spouse.
3. Use oral medication rather than injections whenever possible.
4. For injections use only sterilized or single-use needles or syringes.
5. Should a transfusion be necessary, make sure that blood has been properly tested.
6. Avoid risky sexual behaviors.
7. The use of condoms may reduce the risk, but does not eliminate the risk.



Extract from the Statement about AIDS from the SDA Church

Human sexuality is God's gift to humanity. God created sexuality and called it "very good". In our sexuality we experience God's love. Giving, serving another, intimately sharing love with another is the Biblical view of human sexuality. Biblical sexuality prevents the trivializing of sex and the consequent exposure to HIV-infection.

AIDS is preventable!

It can be prevented by avoiding sexual contact before marriage and maintaining a faithful, monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner in marriage for life.

AIDS can be prevented by avoiding illicit intravenous drugs.

AIDS can be prevented by ensuring sterile needles and equipment for medical care.

Through educational efforts all known measures that reduce the risk of AIDS transmission should be encouraged.



AIDS

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT AIDS

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