

HIV in a woman's life—challenges and opportunities

50+

Biological changes can put sexually active older women at higher risk of acquiring HIV

RISK

RISK

HIV self-testing enables older women to know their status without fear of stigma

50+

Weak health systems and unequal distribution of caregiving responsibilities present a unique challenge for older women living with HIV

HEALTH SYSTEMS

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Women living with HIV who are taking antiretroviral therapy can have life expectancies comparable to people who have not acquired HIV

30–49

Intimate partner violence is associated with lower adherence to ART adherence

Women living with HIV are five times more likely to develop cervical cancer

HEALTH SYSTEMS

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Empowering community health workers can increase access to antiretroviral therapy

Women living with HIV have the right to access sexual and reproductive health services and programmes that prevent and address violence.

30–49

20–29

In 29 countries women require the consent of a spouse/partner to access sexual and reproductive health services

INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICES

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Regular screening and treatment for precancerous cervical lesions could prevent 250 000 women from dying each year

20–29

In high HIV prevalence settings women experiencing intimate partner violence are 50% more likely to have acquired HIV than women who have not experienced violence

PROTECTION FROM INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

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Community-based programmes like SASA! in Kampala, Uganda, combined community mobilization on HIV and intimate partner violence prevention, helped change norms around intimate partner violence

Female sex workers are 10 times more likely to acquire HIV than other women

PREVENTION

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Provision of a comprehensive package of community-based prevention and treatment services for female sex workers resulted in zero new HIV infections in a cohort in Burkina Faso

Globally only 55% of women participate in the labour force

Women still earn 50% less than men for the same work

EMPLOYMENT

EDUCATION

The cash transfer programme in Malawi reduced the school dropout rate of girls by 35% and had a 40% reduction in early marriages and a 30% reduction in teenage pregnancies and a 64% reduction in HIV risk

15–19

Young people require the consent of parents or legal guardians to access sexual and reproductive health services in at least 79 countries

POLICY AND LEGAL BARRIERS

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Lowering the age of consent in South Africa increased knowledge of HIV status among young women

15–19

23 girls below the age of 18 are married every minute

CHILD MARRIAGE

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Women with more education tend to marry later, bear children later and exercise greater control over their fertility

In sub-Saharan Africa, 7 in 10 young women do not have comprehensive knowledge about HIV

In the least developed countries in the world 6 out of 10 girls do not attend secondary school

EDUCATION

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Providing information on gender and power results in lower rates of sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies

In Botswana every additional year of school was shown to reduce risk of HIV infection by 11.6% among girls

16 million girls aged 15–19 years give birth every year

Globally, adolescent girls and young women (15–24 years), account for close to 7,000 new HIV infections every week

HEALTH SERVICES

HEALTH SERVICES

Providing integrated HIV and sexual and reproductive health services prevents HIV infection and unwanted pregnancies and increases safe deliveries

0–14

120 million girls have experienced rape or other forced sexual acts at some point in their life

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The proportion of women who were married as children decreased by 15% in the last decade

0–14

Many children are diagnosed late with HIV, leading to high infant mortality

Only 43% of children aged 0–14 years have access to antiretroviral therapy globally

INTEGRATED HEALTH SERVICES

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HPV vaccine given to girls between 9 and 13, before they become sexually active, prevents cervical cancer

HPV vaccine costs as little as US\$ 8

200 children are born with HIV every day

More than 50% of rural women between the age of 15 and 24 years in sub-Saharan Africa have had a pregnancy before their 18th birthday

MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH

MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH

98% new HIV infections among children are preventable

Another 200 children are infected through breastfeeding every day

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