

Worldwide spread of AIDS virus

Since 1981 more than 700,000 full-blown AIDS cases have been reported to the World Health Organisation but the world total is estimated to be nearer 2.5 million because of under-reporting in developing countries. Over 13 million adults and 1 million children are thought to be infected with the HIV virus which causes AIDS. WHO forecasts this figure could reach 40 million by the year 2000

North America:
Estimated 1 to 1.5 million HIV infections.

AIDS is biggest killer of men aged 25-44, virus now spreading rapidly among women

Western Europe:
500,000.

HIV virus spreading across heterosexual population

Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union: 50,000.

Fears that increased prostitution and drug abuse resulting from collapse of Communism will lead to massive increase

South America and Caribbean:
1.5 million.

Future course depends on whether Brazil can control spread of virus

Mideast and North Africa: 75,000.

Traditional Muslim attitudes to sexuality confine problem

Sub-Saharan Africa: 8 million.

Bears the brunt of the current epidemic

South and Southeast Asia:
1.5 million.

Explosion in HIV cases in Thailand and India predicted due to increased prostitution