



Lessons from HIV for the Covid-19 response

Gairdner Global Perspectives Panel, 21 October 2020

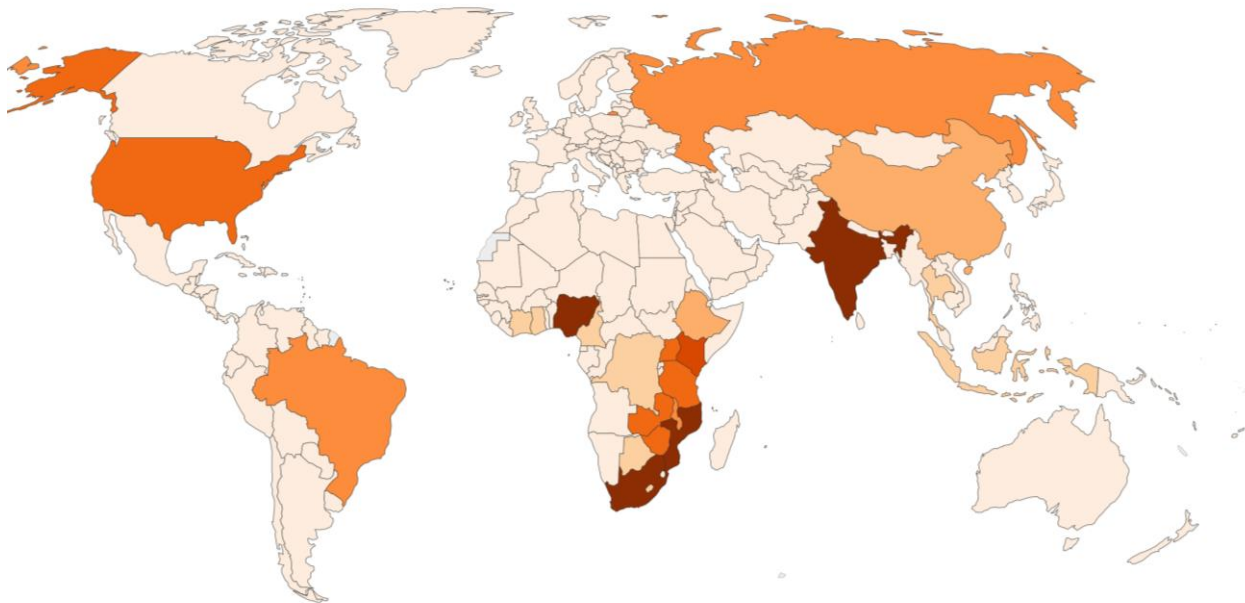
Salim S. Abdool Karim, FRS & Quarraisha Abdool Karim, PhD

Global burden of COVID-19 and HIV



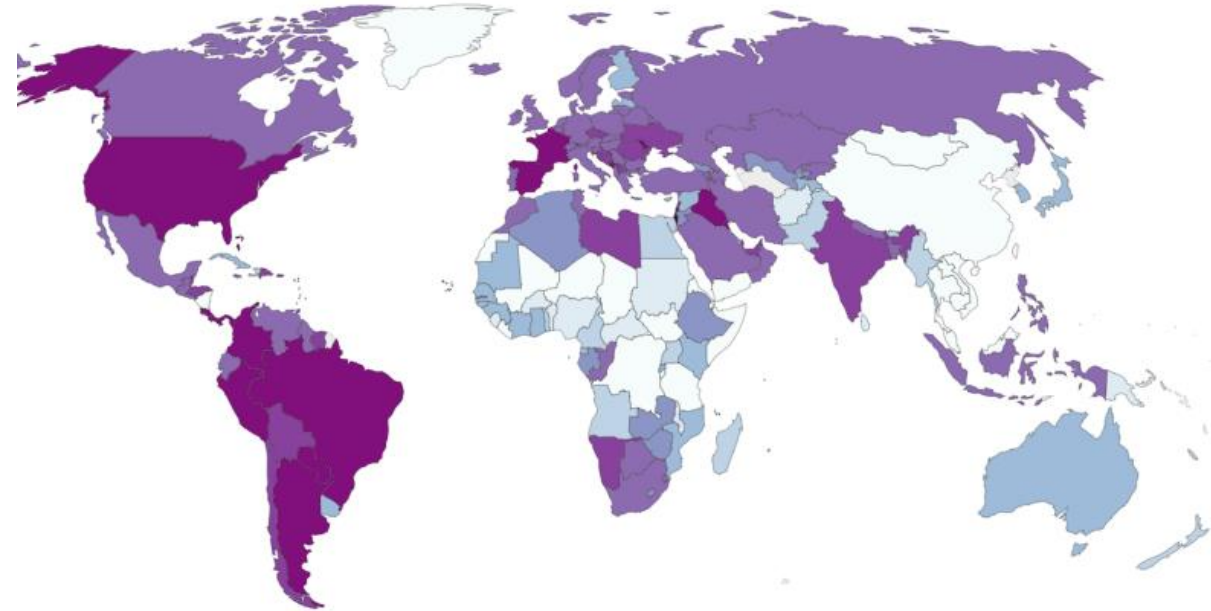
In 2019, worldwide there were:

38M PLHIV | 690,000 HIV deaths | **1.7M new infections**

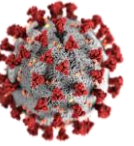


1 Jan – 16 Oct 2020, worldwide there were:

39M Covid-19 cases | 1,1M deaths



No data 0 300,000 600,000 900,000 1.2 million 1.5 million 1.8 million >2.1 million



10 lessons from HIV for the Covid-19 response



1. Centrality of scientific evidence in the response
 2. Leaders need to be consistent role models
 3. Know your epidemic – Know your response
 4. Testing - value of a rapid point-of-care diagnostic
 5. Importance of mutual interdependence
-



6. Prevention toolbox essential
7. Challenge of behaviour change
8. Community engagement
9. Addressing gender inequity
10. Striving for Universal Health Care

Centrality of scientific evidence in the response

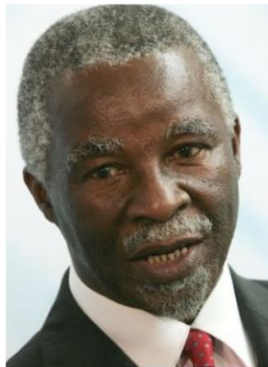


UNAIDS
DATA
2020



LET OUR
ACTIONS COUNT

SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN ON
HIV, TB and STIs 2017-2022



Does HIV cause AIDS? Can a virus cause a syndrome? How? It can't, because a syndrome is a group of diseases resulting from acquired immune deficiency.

Thabo Mbeki



The NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

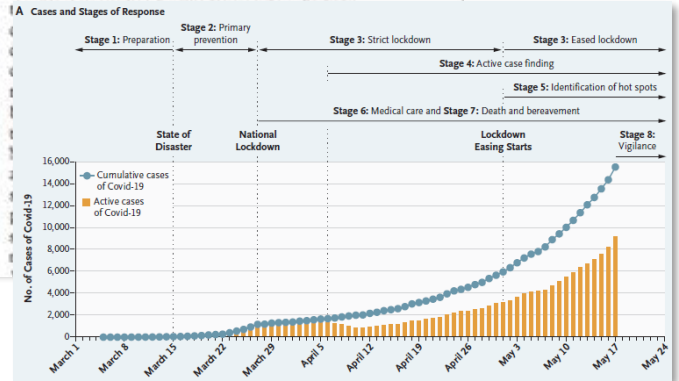
The South African Response to the Pandemic

Salim S. Abdool Karim, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D.

The first person with confirmed Covid-19 in South Africa was a traveler who had returned from Italy and was diagnosed on March 5, 2020. When 402 cases had been identified after 18 days, the government announced a national lockdown, which was implemented 4 days later when the doubling time was 2 days and there were 1170 identified cases (Fig. 1A). During 35 days of strict lockdown, the doubling time slowed to 15 days, and there were 5647 cases (including 103 deaths) by April 30. As of May 19, when a less strict lockdown was in place, South Africa had recorded 17,200 cases and 312 deaths and had conducted 488,609 tests (www.gov.za/Coronavirus).

South Africa's national Covid-19 response has

During Stage 4, which was initiated on day 33,



"We bought a tremendous amount of... hydroxychloroquine, ...And there are signs that it works on [coronavirus], some very strong signs,"
April 5

Donald Trump

Leaders need to be consistent role models



BBC NEWS

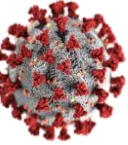
Sex-ban Swazi king pays fine



King Mswati III faced protests outside his palace

By Hilary Andersson in Johannesburg

The King of Swaziland, bowing to pressure from angry young women, has fined himself a cow for violating a chastity vow he imposed on the rest of the country.



The Telegraph

Dominic Cummings facing calls to be sacked after breaching lockdown rules

The Prime Minister's chief adviser was spotted near his parents' home despite Downing Street saying he was self-isolating at home



“Know your epidemic - Know your response”

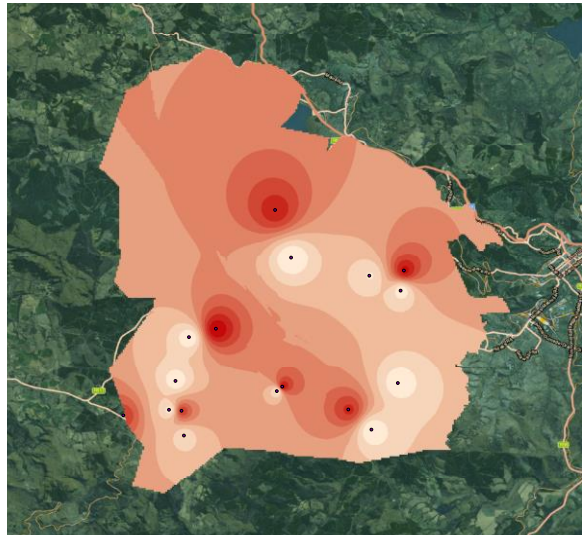


Data-driven plan for the response

07

UNAIDS Annual Report
Knowing your epidemic

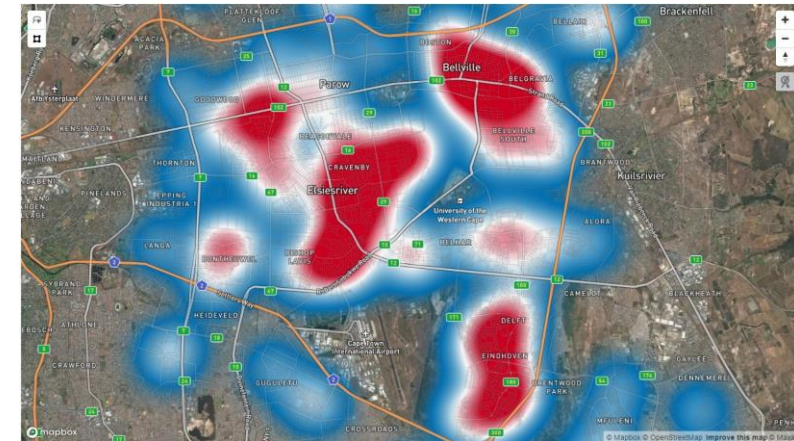
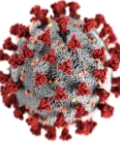
HIV hotspots



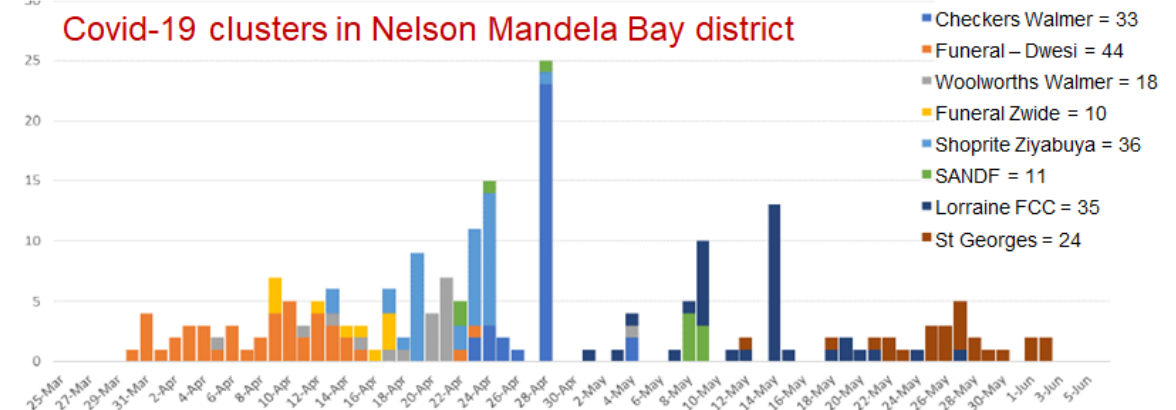
UNAIDS

Guidelines for second
generation HIV surveillance: an
update: Know your epidemic

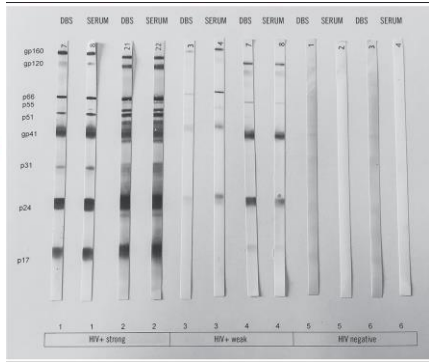
South Africa: Hotspot identification and mitigation



Covid-19 clusters in Nelson Mandela Bay district



Testing: Value of a rapid point of care diagnostics



Western blot



Rapid point-of-care test

- Testing for HIV initially cumbersome – ELISA needed to be confirmed by WB
- Rapid evolution in technology – rapid PoC antibody test
- Testing important gateway to prevention and treatment

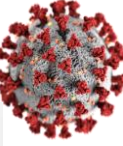


Laboratory-based PCR



Rapid point-of-care test

- Rapid sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 → quickly established PCR testing
- Rapid evolution in technology – rapid PoC PCR, antibody or antigen test now available
- Testing is the gateway to quarantine / isolation and treatment





Importance of mutual interdependence in HIV

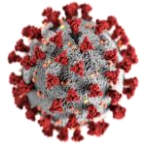


“The AIDS movement demonstrates that with a shared vision, shared responsibility and through global solidarity and leadership of people living with HIV, affected communities and individual action, we can change the course of history.”
– UNAIDS 2015

- **Global solidarity** – essential for access to life-saving medication, e.g. Global Fund, UNITAID, PEPFAR



Importance of mutual interdependence in Covid-19



COVAX

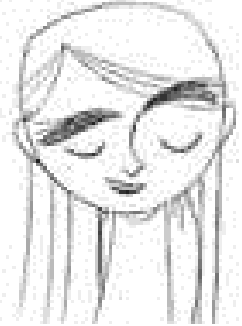
*Initial -
government
action*



Anxiety

**Institutional
power
over people**
Stay-at-home
orders /
Lockdown

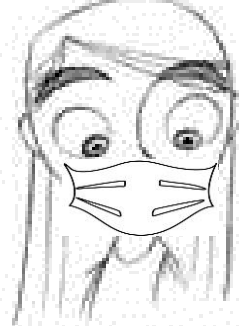
*Pivot –
prevention
approach*



Agency

**Individuals
power within
people**
Public health
interventions

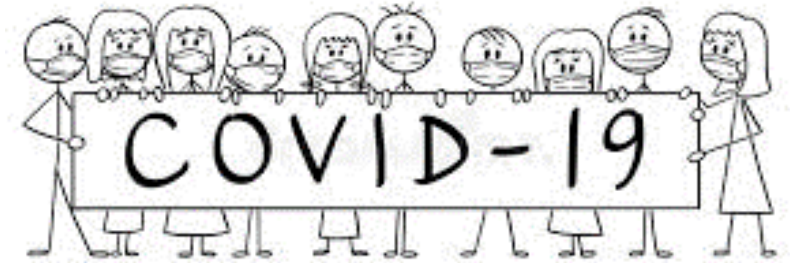
*Subsequent -
Individual
action*



Self-efficacy

**Motivated
individuals
power to
act for
prevention**

*To reach –
collective
community action*



Collectivism

**Motivated communities
power for collective action**

Ubuntu
“I am, because you are”

10 lessons from HIV for the Covid-19 response

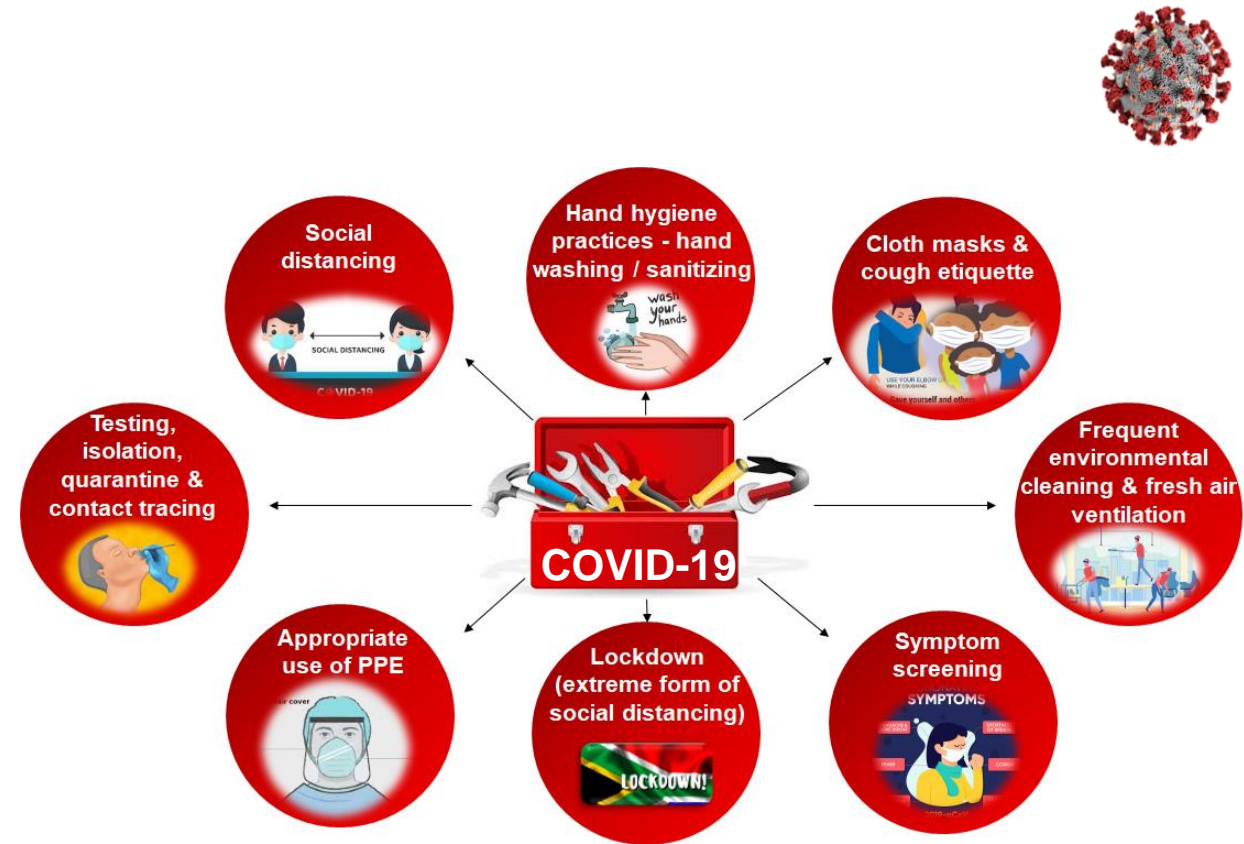
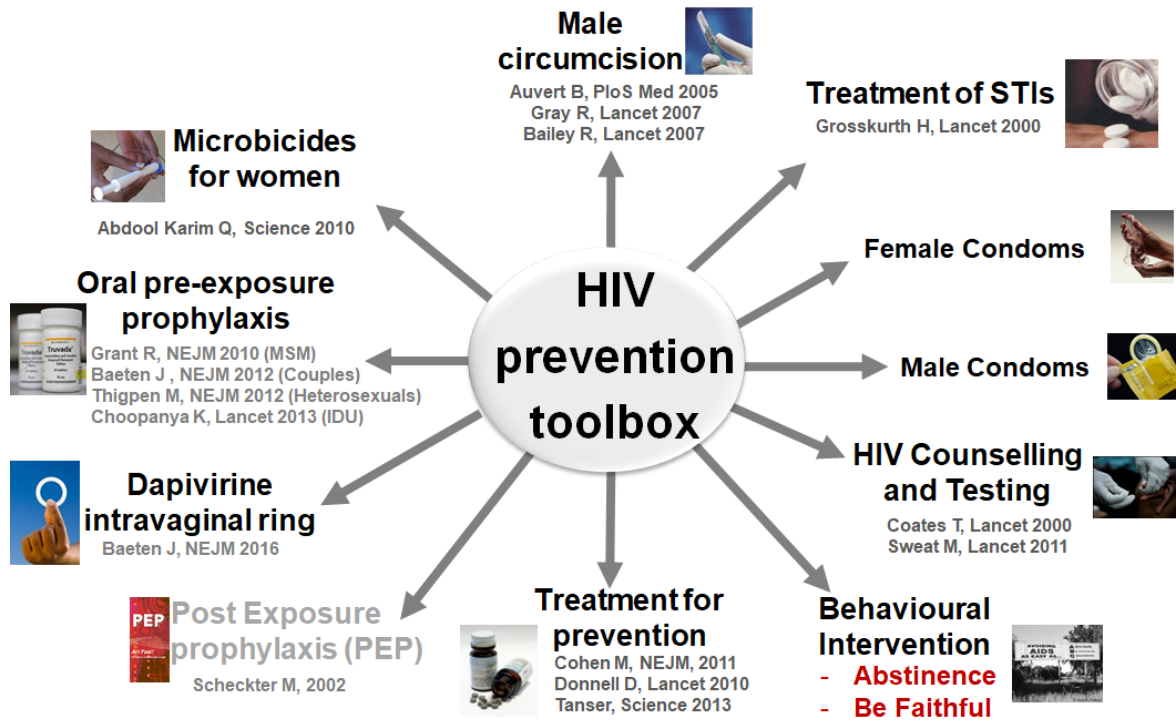


1. Centrality of scientific evidence in the response
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6. Prevention toolbox essential
7. Challenge of behaviour change
8. Community engagement
9. Addressing gender inequity
10. Striving for Universal Health Care

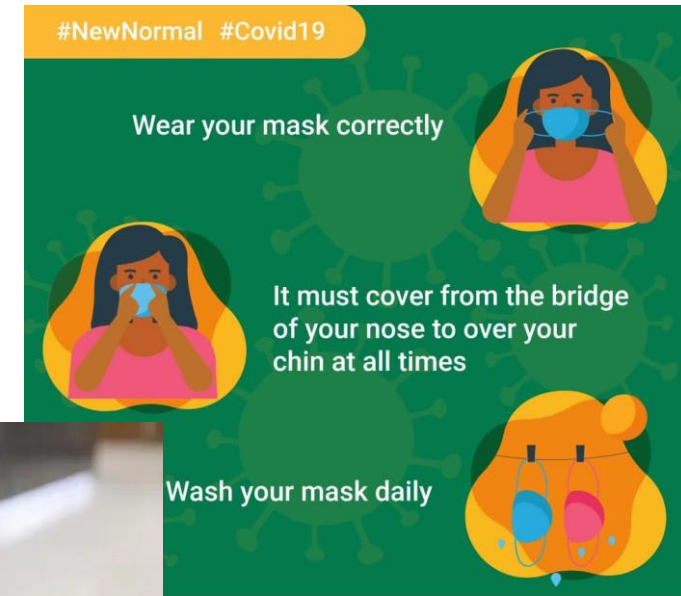
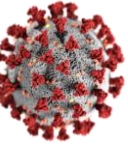
Prevention toolbox essential - Choose the combination of strategies appropriate to the situation



Challenge of behaviour change



- Challenge of “Know - Do” gap
- Counterproductive scare tactics
- Importance of supporting behaviour change



Community engagement: “Do things *with* people - not *on* people”



Mkhize launches MAC for Social Behavioural Change



The team consists of leaders from faith-based organisations, civil society and labour unions.



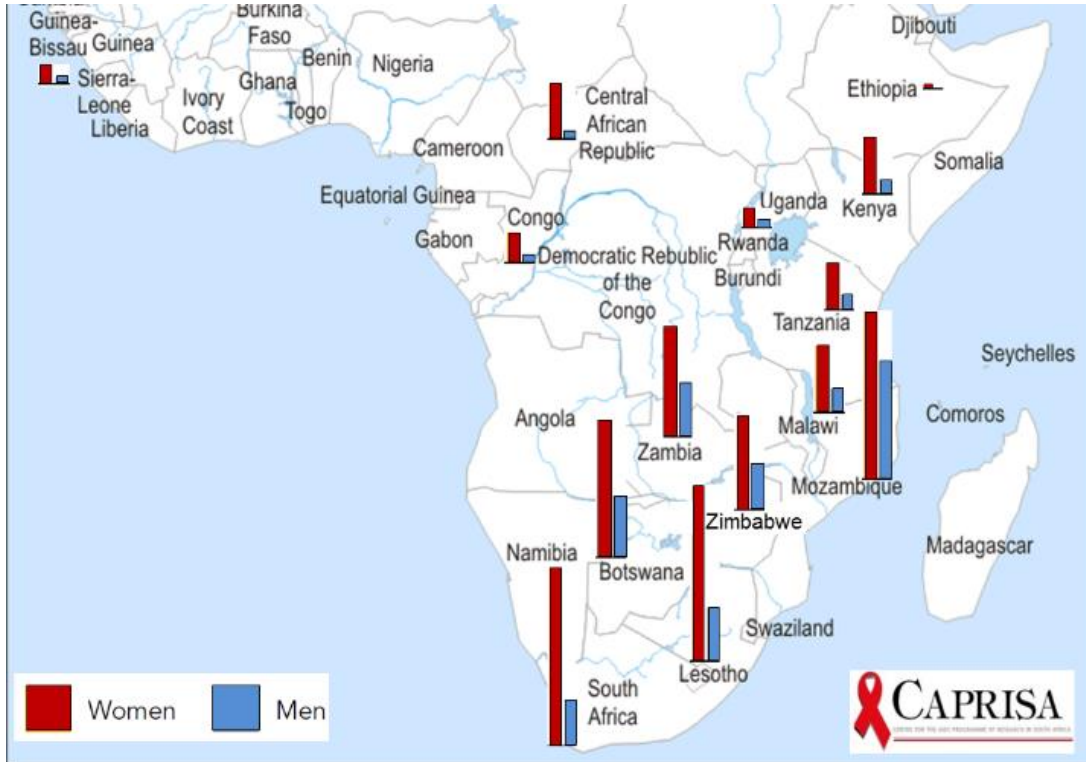
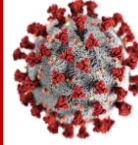


Addressing gender inequity



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



Coronavirus putting women's careers at risk

Helen Letchfield, JUNE 22, 2020



Women are losing more jobs than men in the coronavirus economy

THE KNOWLES GROUP

The Economic Virulence of COVID Weighs Heavily on both Women and the Young

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

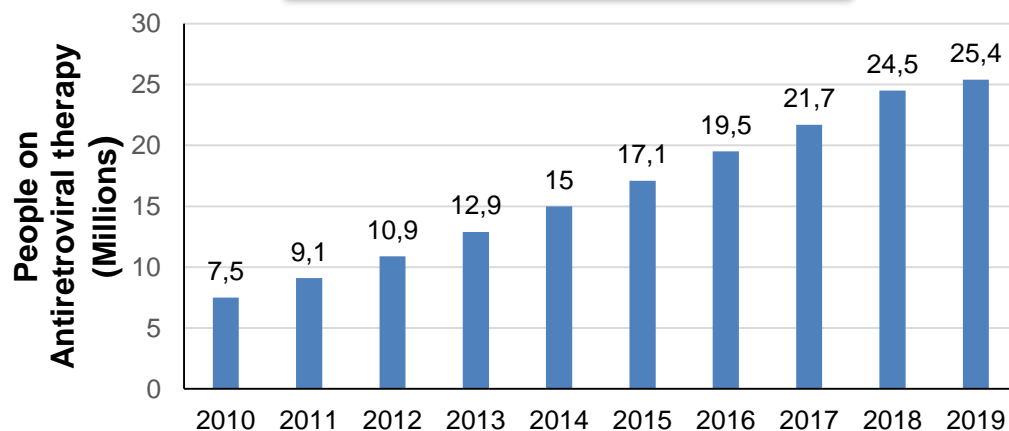
Striving for Universal Health Care



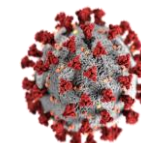
AIDS 2000 conference
Galvanised the call for
universal access to HIV
treatment

Scaling-up Towards Universal Access
to HIV Prevention, Treatment and Care

Report of the WHO-UNAIDS Joint Regional Technical
Briefing on Universal Access



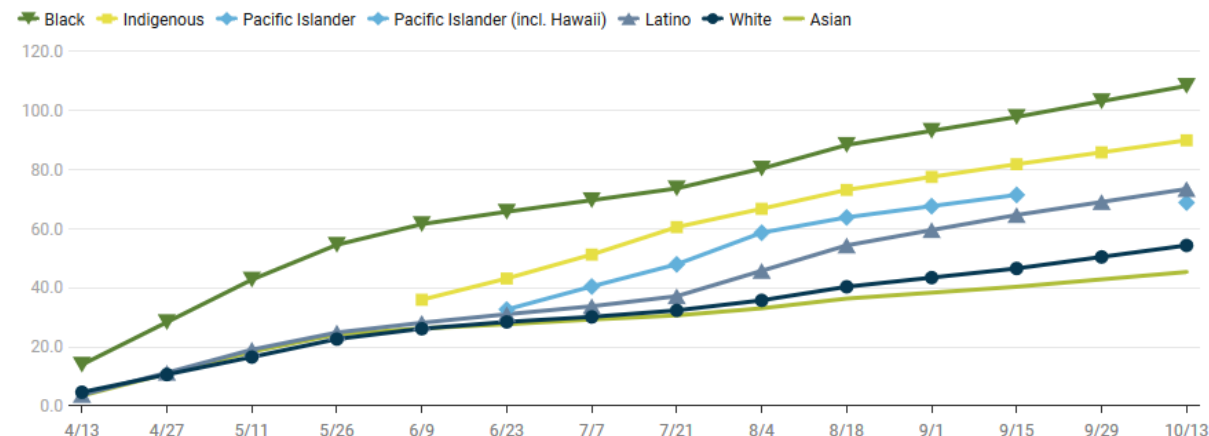
Number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy: 2010–2019



Racial disparities in Covid

Black & Indigenous Americans experience highest death tolls from COVID-19

Cumulative actual COVID-19 mortality rates per 100,000, by race and ethnicity, April 13-Oct. 13, 2020



- 1 in 920 Black Americans has died (or 108.4 deaths per 100,000)
- 1 in 1,840 White Americans has died (or 54.4 deaths per 100,000)
- 1 in 2,200 Asian Americans has died (or 45.4 deaths per 100,000)

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