- Estimated rate of adults (15 years and older) dying of HIV/AIDS (per 1 000)
- Estimated rate of children below 15 years of age dying of HIV/AIDS (per 1 000)

Rationale for use

Adult and children below 15 mortality rate are leading indicators of the level of impact of HIV/AIDS epidemic and impact of interventions specially scale up of treatment and prevention to mother to child transmission in countries.

Definition

Estimated mortality due to HIV/AIDS is the number of adults and children that have died in a specific year based in the modeling of HIV surveillance data using standard and appropriate tools.

Associated terms

Adult mortality rate and children mortality rate, are strictly speaking, rates, ie: the number of deaths divided by the number of population at risk during a certain period of time and expressed as rate per 100 000 people.

Data sources

Adult and children -specific mortality rates are calculated from HIV surveillance data derived from sentinel surveillance and or household surveys.

Methods of estimation

Empirical data from different HIV surveillance sources are consolidated to obtain estimates of the level and trend in adults and children mortality by using standard methods and tools for HIV estimates appropriate to the level of HIV epidemic. However, to obtain the best possible estimates, judgment needs to be made on data quality and how representative it is of the population. UNAIDS/WHO produce country specific estimates every two years.

Disaggregation

By sex for adults mortality.

References

- Methods and tools for HIV/AIDS estimates and projections. Edited by Helen Ward, Neff Walker, and Peter D Ghys. Sexually Transmitted Infections 2004 Aug; 80 (Suppl 1) : 1

Database

- Demographic and Health Surveys: (http://www.measuredhs.com)
- WHO Mortality Database: Civil registration data (http://www.who.int/healthinfo/morttables)
- UNICEF: statistics and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey: (http://www.childinfo.org)

Comments

Even though many countries have collected information on adult and children mortality in recent years, many countries present underreporting systems due in part to stigma and lack of diagnosis. High quality of civil registration systems (completeness of registration) and high quality of survey or census data collection are crucial - WHO does estimate the level of underestimation of civil registration systems and there clearly is substantial variation in data quality and consistency across countries.