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Forum of
International
Respiratory
Societies

United for Lung Health

WORLD AIDS DAY
DECEMBER 1

AIDS: Despite Progress, A Serious, Often Deadly Disease

- Around the world in 2016, 1 million people died from AIDS, 36.7 million were living with HIV/AIDS, and 1.8 million had become newly infected. (Source: World Health Organization)
- AIDS has hit Africa the hardest. The continent has 11 percent of the world population, but 60 percent of those living with HIV/AIDS and nearly two-thirds of the new infections. .AIDS is the leading cause of adult deaths in Africa. (WHO)
- Between 2010 and 2016, the number of new HIV infections declined in most regions of the world, but remained the same in Latin American and climbed by 60 percent in Eastern Europe and central Asia. (United National program on AIDS)
- There are about 5,000 new HIV infections a day across the globe. Of those, about 400 are children under the age of 15. (UNAIDS)
- Worldwide the adult populations at greatest risk of HIV infection are female sex workers, people who inject drugs, and men who have sex with men. (UNAIDS)
- HIV remains a significant health problem in the developed world. In 2016, 2.1 million people were living with the disease, 73,000 were newly infected with HIV, and 18,000 people died in Western and Central Europe and in North America. (UNAIDS)
- Only 70 percent of those infected with HIV know their status. (WHO)
- Globally, about 54 percent of adults and 43 percent of children living with HIV are receiving lifelong antiretroviral therapy. About 76 percent of HIV-positive pregnant women now receive antiretroviral medicines to prevent transmission of the virus to their babies. (UNAIDS)

AIDS and Respiratory Disease

- Shortly after it emerged, HIV/AIDS fueled a global resurgence of tuberculosis that continues in many low- and middle-income countries. HIV infection is the strongest risk factor for progressing from latent to active TB. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- People living with HIV are twice as likely to die during TB treatment compared with TB patients who are HIV-negative. (UNAIDS)
- In 2015, 400,000 died of AIDS-related TB, making it the leading cause of death among those with HIV. (UNAIDS)
- In 2015, 57 percent of HIV-associated TB cases went untreated. (UNAIDS)
- Those infected with HIV are also at greater risk of dying from pneumocystis jiroveci pneumonia (PCP) and appear more likely to develop lung cancer, dyspnea, and COPD. (Proceedings of the American Thoracic Society)



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The FIRS Response

The Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) calls on governments, health care programs, clinicians, public health specialists, and non-government organizations to strengthen their responses to HIV/AIDS by:

- Increasing awareness of the continuing global threat of HIV-related disease and its connection to TB and other respiratory diseases.
- Improving HIV education of at-risk communities to reduce the incidence of new HIV infections and decrease health disparities.
- Reducing the incidence and severity of HIV-related disease by strengthening mother-to-child transmission prevention programs and increasing the early use of antiretroviral therapy.
- Ending HIV-associated TB through TB infection control, preventive therapy, and widespread use of antiretroviral therapy.
- Adequately funding research into improved treatments for both HIV and TB.

About FIRS

The Forum of International Respiratory Societies is an organization comprising the world's leading international respiratory societies and working together to improve lung health globally. The members of FIRS are the American Thoracic Society (ATS), American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST), Asociación Latinoamericana De Tórax (ALAT), Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR), European Respiratory Society (ERS), International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (The Union) and Pan African Thoracic Society (PATS). Through education and advocacy, FIRS unites and enhances the efforts of 70,000 physicians, nurses, and other health care providers; biomedical researchers; and public health experts to improve lung health around the world.

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