

# **SUMMARY REPORT**

## **NATIONAL HIV AND SYPHILIS PREVALENCE SURVEY SOUTH AFRICA 2006**

National Department of Health  
South Africa 2007

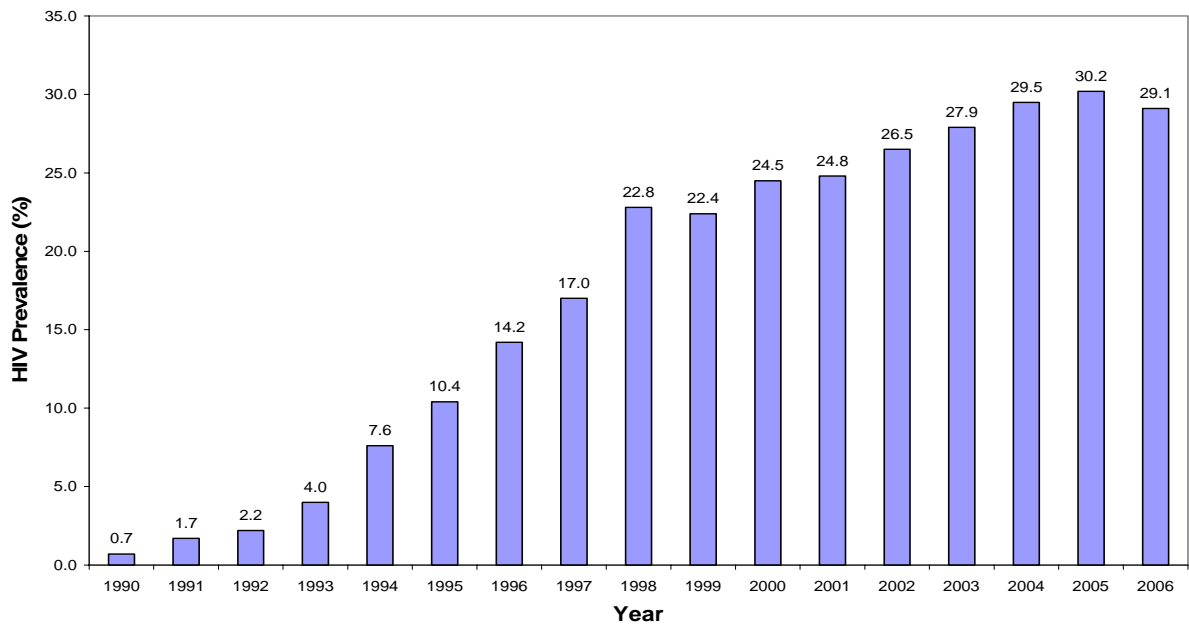
## **Introduction**

The 2006 antenatal survey was conducted to estimate the prevalence of HIV infection the antenatal survey was conducted in all nine provinces using the standard unlinked anonymous methodology (WHO/UNAIDS). To enhance the sensitivity of the estimates and to provide greater robustness the HIV sample size was expanded in 2006 to provide (for the first time) prevalence estimates for each district in the country in addition to the national and provincial rates. A total of 33033 women participated from 1415 health facilities (in comparison to 16510 participants in 2005).

The main findings of this survey are as follows;

### **National Prevalence**

1. HIV national HIV prevalence amongst women in the survey stands at 29.1%. This is compared to 30.2% in 2005.
2. The 2006 estimate represents a statistically significant reduction on HIV prevalence between 2005 and 2006.
3. The HIV prevalence rates have been stable (not increasing nor decreasing for several years, this is the first evidence of a decline in the SA epidemic)

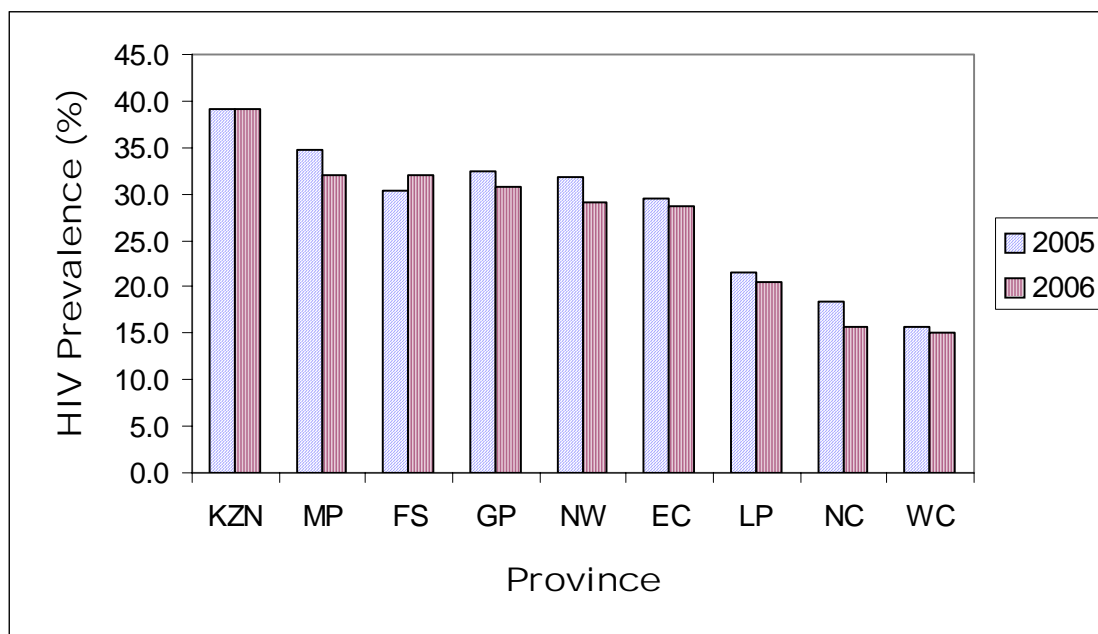


**Fig. 1: HIV Prevalence estimates South Africa: 1990 - 2006**

**Provincial estimates.**

Provincial HIV estimates show geographic variations in the epidemic in the country. The following trends are observed:

There were statistically significant decreases in three provinces (Mpumalanga, North West and Gauteng provinces). All other provinces remained at a stable level (statistically) in comparison to 2005, although the tendency was towards reduction. The Free State province was the only province, which remained stable but showed a tendency towards an increase (although this is not statistically significant increase).



**Figure 2: Provincial prevalence rates, South Africa 2006.**

**Table 1: Provincial HIV prevalence estimates: South Africa 2005-2006**

	HIV pos. 95% CI 2005	HIV pos. 95% CI 2006
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>	39.1 (36.8 – 41.4)	39.1(37.5 – 40.7)
<b>Mpumalanga</b>	34.8 (31.0 – 38.5)	32.1 (29.8- 34.4)
<b>Gauteng</b>	32.4 (30.6 – 34.3)	30.8 (29.6 –32.1)
<b>North West</b>	31.8 (28.4 – 35.2)	29.0 (27.0 – 31.1)
<b>Free State</b>	30.3 (26.9 – 33.6)	31.1(29.2 – 33.1)
<b>Eastern Cape</b>	29.5 (26.4 – 32.5)	29.0 (27.1- 30.4)
<b>Limpopo</b>	21.5 (18.5 – 24.6)	20.7 (19.0 – 22.3)
<b>Northern Cape</b>	18.5 (14.6 – 22.4)	15.6 (12.7 – 18.5)
<b>Western Cape</b>	15.7 (11.3 – 20.1)	15.2 (11.6 – 18.7)
<b>National</b>	<b>30.2 (29.1 – 31.2)</b>	<b>29.1 (28.3 – 3.0)</b>

N.B. The true value is estimated to fall within the two confidence limits, thus the confidence interval is important to refer to when interpreting data.

## Age distribution-

4. HIV prevalence in the <20 year olds is now at 13.7% in comparison to an estimated rate of 15.9% in 2005. This is a statistically significant decline.

5. The decline in the <20 year age group particularly implies a reduction in new infections (incidence) in the population.

6. Similarly HIV prevalence in the 20-24year age group stands at 28.0% in comparison to 30.6% in the previous year. Again this represents a significant decline.

7. HIV prevalence in older age groups (30 – 34, 35 – 39, 40+) is a concern as it remains at similar levels with a tendency towards an increase. These increases are however not statistically significant.

**Table 2. HIV prevalence by age in the 2005-2006 Antenatal Survey in South Africa.**

Age group (Years)	HIV prev (CI 95%) 2005	HIV prev (CI 95%) 2006
< 20	15.9 (14.6 – 17.2)	13.7 (12.8 – 14.6)
20 – 24	30.6 (29.0 – 32.2)	28.0 (26.9 – 29.1)
25 – 29	39.5 (37.7 – 41.3)	38.7 (37.3 – 40.2)
30 – 34	36.4 (34.3 – 38.5)	37.0 (35.5 – 38.5)
35 – 39	28.0 (25.2 – 30.8)	29.6 (27.7 – 31.5)
40+	19.8 (16.1 – 23.6)	21.3 (18.5 – 24.1)

N.B. The true value is estimated to fall within the two confidence limits, thus The Confidence interval (CI) is important to refer to when interpreting data

**Conclusion**

This study has provided the first the status of HIV prevalence in South Africa for 2006. For the first time, the findings of this survey show evidence of a decline in HIV prevalence in South Africa after several years of relative stability.