

# ZAMBIA HIV EPIDEMIC PROFILE

# 2014

## ZAMBIA

### Overview

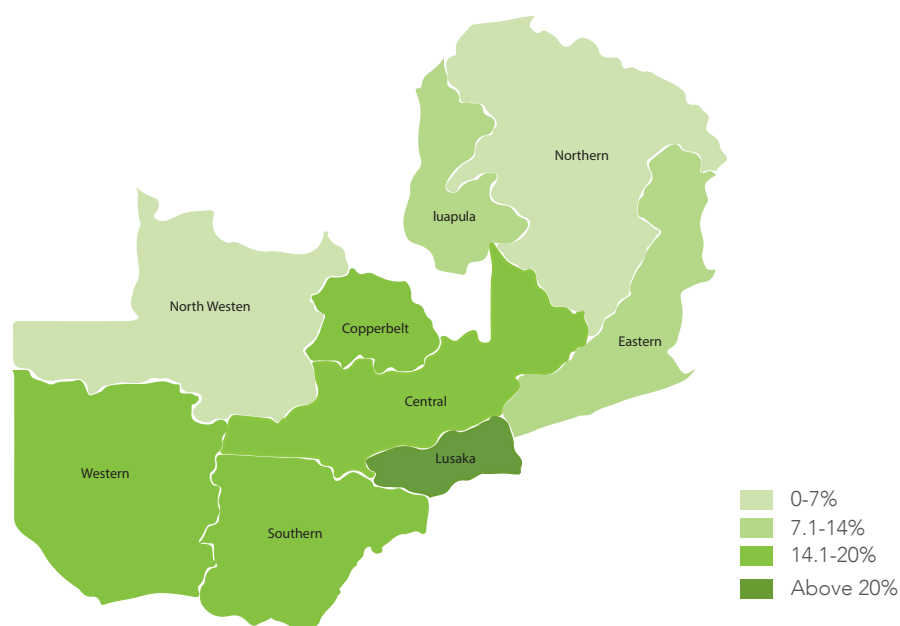
Zambia is a country in southern Africa and shares common boundaries with Angola, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The 2010 population census estimated the population at 13.1 million people. Zambia has enjoyed stability and peace since independence in 1964. In 2011 it was classified as a low-middle income country. Despite efforts to diversify the economy, copper mining remains the main economic driver for Zambia. High HIV prevalence, estimated at 12.5% in 2013, has posed a serious threat to national development. The National AIDS Council which was established by an Act of Parliament in 2002 coordinates the multi-sectoral AIDS response in the country.

**Table 1**  
**HIV epidemic indicators**

	2010	2013
People living with HIV	1 100 000 [1 000 000–1 100 000]	1 100 000 [1 100 000–1 200 000]
New HIV infections	71 000 [64 000–79 000]	54 000 [46 000–64 000]
Adult 15+ new HIV infections	56 000 [49 000–63 000]	42 000 [35 000–50 000]
AIDS-related deaths	32 000 [29 000–37 000]	27 000 [23 000–32 000]
HIV prevalence (adults aged 15-49)	13.1% [12.6–13.8%]	12.5% [11.9–13.3%]
HIV incidence (adults aged 15-49)	1.02% [0.91–1.15%]	0.70% [0.59–0.83%]
Children (0-14 years) living with HIV	160 000 [140 000–180 000]	150 000 [140 000–170 000]
Children (0-14 years) newly infected with HIV	15 000 [14 000–17 000]	12 000 [9 800–15 000]
Adults 15+ living with HIV	890 000 [850 000–940 000]	960 000 [910 000–1 000 000]
Women 15+ living with HIV	460 000 [430 000–490 000]	500 000 [470 000–530 000]
HIV prevalence among young women (15-24 years)	5.1% [4.7–6.1%]	4.5% [4.0–5.4%]
HIV prevalence among young men (15-24 years)	3.8% [2.7–5.5%]	3.4% [2.5–4.8%]
New HIV infections among young women (15-24 years)	12 000 [10 000–13 000]	8 700 [7 200–11 000]
New HIV infections among young men (15-24 years)	9 300 [7 200–11 000]	7 000 [5 200–9 000]
HIV-positive incident TB cases*	—	—
Percentage of men circumcised (adults aged 15-49) †	—	21%

Sources: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates<sup>1</sup>; † Global AIDS Response Progress Report (GARPR) 2013.

Fig. 1  
HIV prevalence by geographical region



Source: Zambia Demographic and Health Survey, 2007.

Table 2  
HIV prevalence among populations at high risk of infection

Population group	HIV Prevalence
Sex workers	NA
Men who have sex with men	NA
Prison inmates	27.4%

Source: Prison AIDS Survey, 2011.

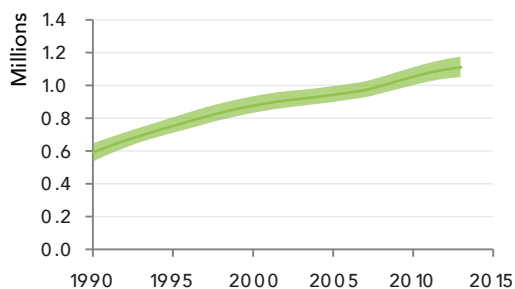
Table 3  
HIV programme data

	2010	2013	June 2014
Number of adults living with HIV receiving ART	319 019	530 702	556 002
Number of children living with HIV receiving ART	25 407	49 389	44 985
Adult ART coverage (of all adults living with HIV)	36% [34–37%]	55% [52–59%]	
Child ART coverage (of all children living with HIV)	16% [15–18%]	33% [29–36%]	
Number of women receiving PMTCT services	74 856	59 227	
Number of women needing PMTCT services	80 000 [72 000–87 000]	78 000 [70 000–87 000]	
PMTCT coverage	94% [86–>95%]	76% [68–84%]	

UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates; UNAIDS 2014 Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting.

## HIV trend data

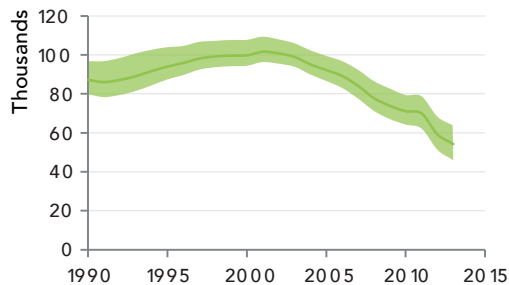
**Fig. 2**  
Number of people living with HIV



Number of people living with HIV has increased steadily to 1 100 000 in 2010.

Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

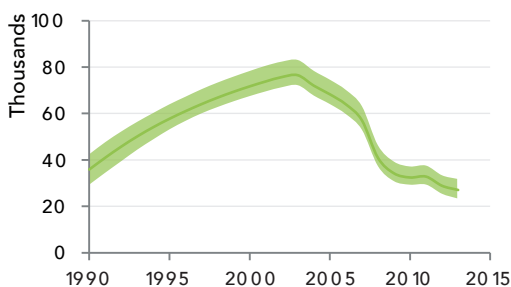
**Fig. 3**  
Number of new HIV infections



New HIV infections declined to less than 54 000 people in 2013, from about 100 000 people per year in 2001.

Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

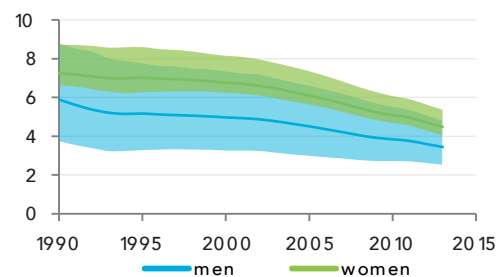
**Fig. 4**  
Number of AIDS-related deaths



HIV-related deaths declined by 60% from 68 000 in 2005 to 27 000 per year in 2013.

Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

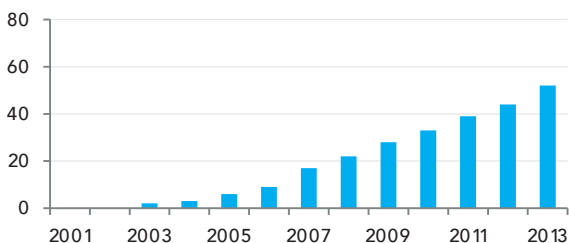
**Fig. 5**  
Prevalence (%) among young people (15–24)



Prevalence among young women fell from about 6.7 % in 2001 to 4.5% in 2013.

Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

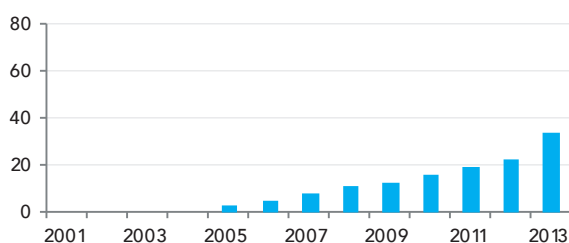
**Fig. 6**  
ART coverage (%) of all people living with HIV



About 50% of people living with HIV received antiretroviral therapy in 2013.

Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

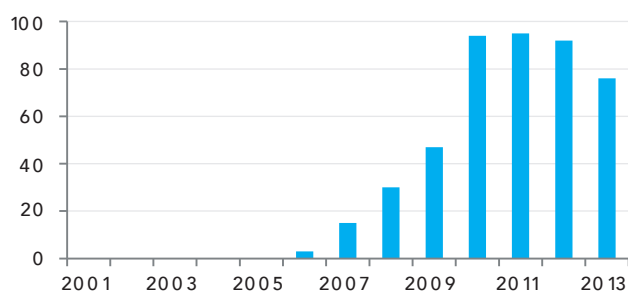
**Fig. 7**  
ART coverage (%) of children living with HIV



3 out of 10 children living with HIV received treatment in 2013.

Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

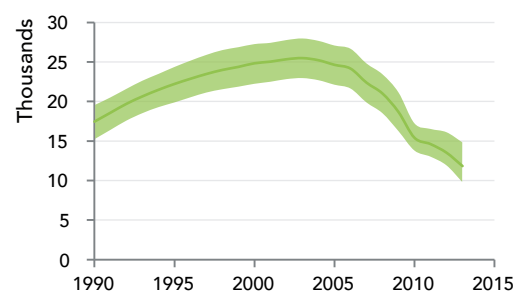
**Fig. 8**  
PMTCT coverage (%)



Between 2010 and 2012 more than 9 out of 10 women and their infants had access to antiretroviral drugs during delivery and while breastfeeding, to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. However, in 2013 this figure dropped to about 8 in 10.

Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

**Fig. 9**  
Number of new child HIV infections



Source: UNAIDS 2013 HIV estimates

**Table 4**  
HIV knowledge, attitude and practice

	Men	Women	Total
Percentage of young women and men aged 15–24 who correctly identified ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and who reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission and prevention	36.9%	34%	35.3%
Percentage of young women and men aged 15–24 who have had sexual intercourse before age 15	16%	13.5%	14.6%
Percentage of adults aged 15–49 who had sexual intercourse with more than one partner in the last 12 months	14.3%	2.0%	7.9%
Percentage of adults aged 15–49 with more than one sexual partner in the past 12 months who reported the use of a condom during last intercourse	17.6%	1.4%	8.6%
Percentage of sex workers reporting the use of a condom with their most recent client	NA	NA	NA
Percentage of men reporting the use of a condom the last time they had anal sex with a male partner	NA	NA	NA
Percentage of women and men aged 15–49 who received an HIV test in the last 12 months and who know their results.	11.7%	18.5%	15.4%

Source: Zambia Demographic and Health Survey, 2007.

**Fig. 10**  
**Gender equality**

**Present at national level**

- Women living with and affected by HIV participated in CEDAW monitoring
- Integrating services for sexual and reproductive health and for HIV
- Funding gender equity programmes for men and boys
- Women living with HIV participated in response review
- Data on resources used for women’s programmes
- Data available on gender based violence and HIV
- Disaggregated data available (age and sex)
- Social protection includes women living with HIV
- Health sector policy on gender based violence
- Female condoms procured and distributed

**Available on project basis**

- National Response gender review undertaken
- Response budget for women’s organization

**Not Available**

- HIV plans and budgets in ministries responsible for gender
- Qualitative assessments conducted

Source: Scorecard on gender equality in national HIV responses, 2013.

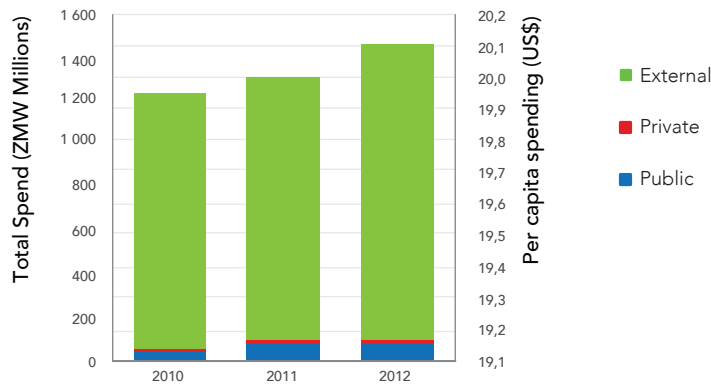
**Spending on HIV response**

**Table 5**  
**Amount spent annually on HIV programmes**

Year	US \$
2010	\$257 million
2011	\$269 million
2012	\$283 million

Source: Zambia NASA Report 2010–2012.

**Fig. 11**  
**Spending proportions by source of funding**



Source: Zambia NASA Report 2010–2012.

**Fig. 12**  
**Distribution per AIDS spending categories**



Source: Zambia NASA Report 2010–2012.

### Commitment to HIV prevention, treatment and care

- Zambia is committed to, and is on course to achieve most of the global targets outlined in the 2011 United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS.
- Zambia has revised its National AIDS Strategic Framework (2014–2016) which is fully aligned to its Investment Framework.
- Zambia has developed and launched the Consolidated Guidelines for Treatment and Prevention. These guidelines have been adapted from the revised WHO Guidelines of 2013.
- The Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) has been integrated with the primary school and pre-service teacher training curricula. Phased implementation of the primary school curriculum is underway.
- The innovative youth-friendly platform called “Zambia U-Report”, designed to improve HIV knowledge among young people and adolescents, has provided real time interactive counselling and education on HIV and sexually transmitted infections using SMS messaging. By December 2013 a total of 150 000 adolescents and youth had benefited from the initiative.

### Achievements/progress in the national HIV response

- Political commitment has been demonstrated by an increase in the government’s contribution to the ART programme, to US\$ 45 million in 2013, and a commitment to further increase domestic resources for the HIV response in subsequent years.
- The scale-up of services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission has resulted in a decline in the number of new HIV infections among children by 37% between 2009 and 2012.
- AIDS-related deaths have fallen by 63% between 2001 and 2012.
- A total of 378 626 medical male circumcisions had been performed on men aged 15-49 by December 2013.
- A joint HIV/TB Concept Note has been submitted to the Global Fund to mobilise additional resources for the response to the dual epidemics.

### Challenges in the national HIV response

- Declining external resources due to Zambia’s classification as a low-middle income country in 2011.
- Human resources for health to support the roll out of the Consolidated Guidelines for HIV treatment and prevention.
- Slow uptake of male medical circumcision particularly among traditionally non-circumcising communities.
- Condom use remains low and multiple sexual partnerships remains highly prevalent.
- HIV testing rates remain low.



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