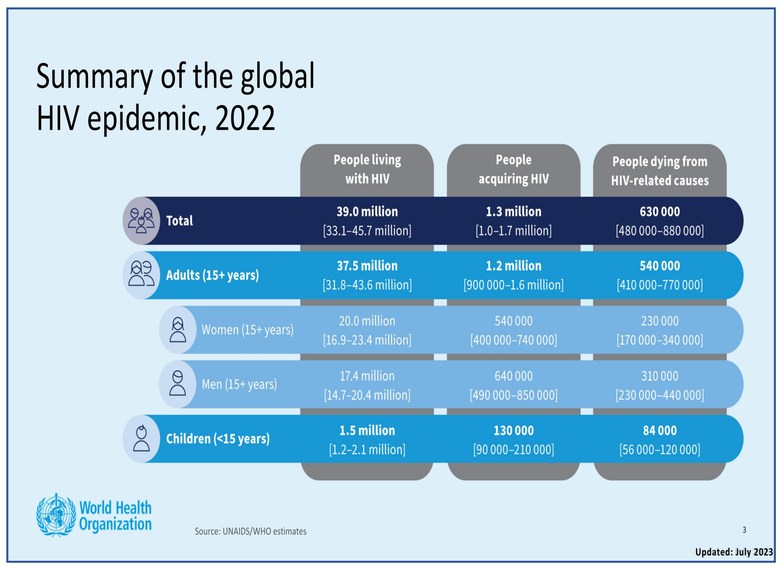
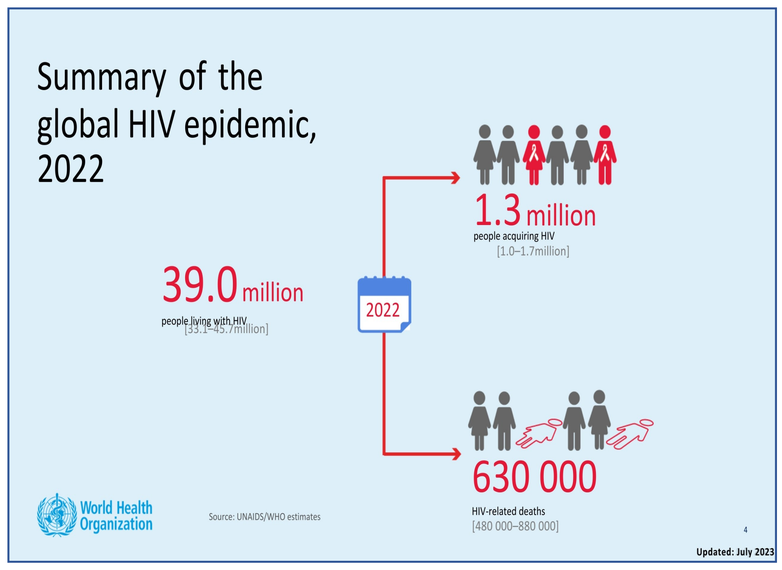
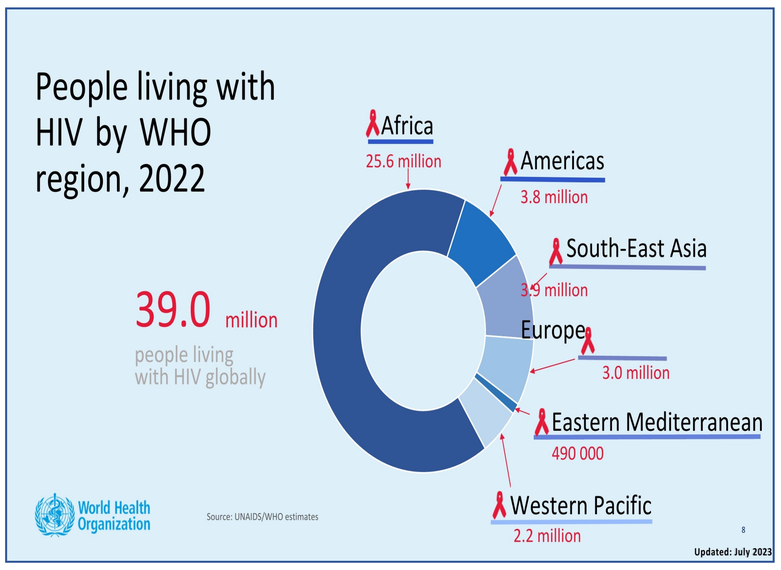
Someday This Will Be Over
Memorialize and Forget

"Memorialize and forget it. By that I mean, memorialize the past and its heroes, but forget the present and those who are still in the trenches. The big difference, of course, is that the memory of AIDS activism hasn't reached far beyond very small circles of academics and community activists. Nationally, the genocidal moment of the AIDS crisis has recessed into oblivion without its ever having been fully acknowledged in the first place."

Caron, David. "Introduction: Respect, One Dessert Spoon at a Time"
in *Cytomegalovirus: A Hospitalization Diary*. Fordham University Press, 2015.





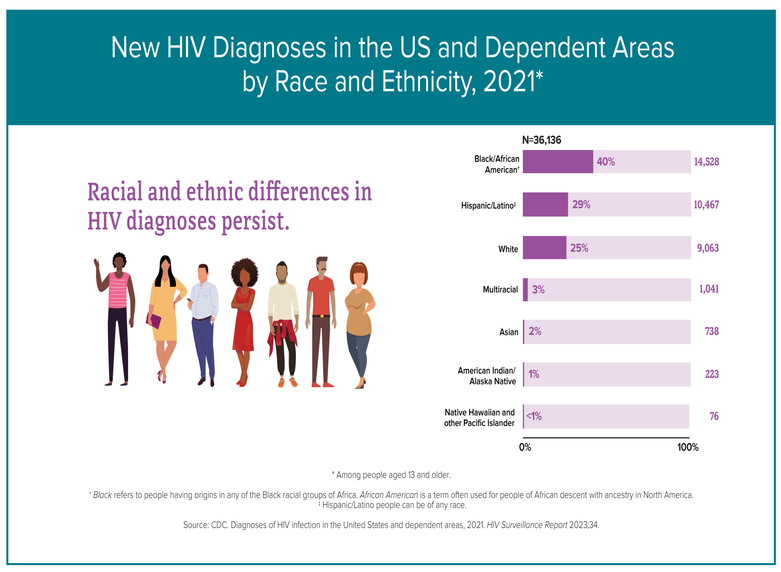


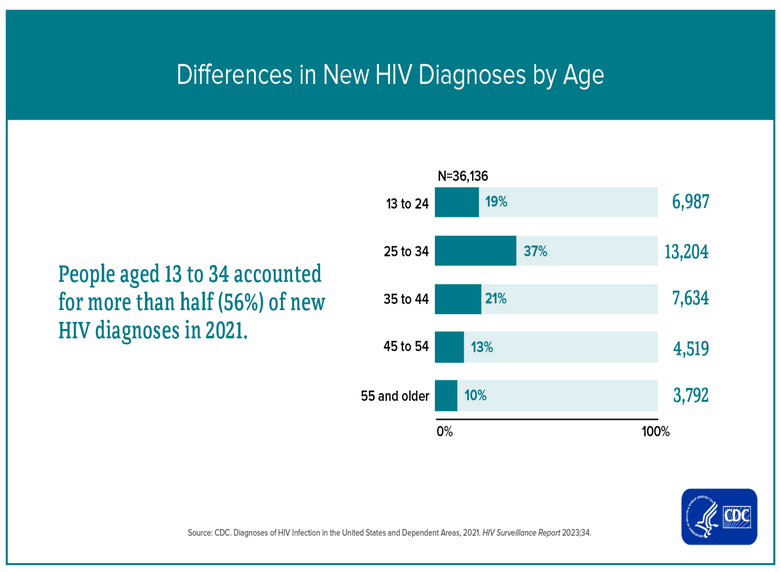
For many of us, AIDS is history. Though a vaccine has yet to materialize, current treatments have ended the crisis. However according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in 2021 there were 4,977 deaths in the United States due to HIV/AIDS and worldwide the figure is still a devastating 630,000 (World Health Organization). Since that first *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR) announcement of "five young men" with pneumocystis pneumonia in 1981, an estimated 40.4 million people have died from HIV/AIDS globally; of those, 700,000 deaths were in the United States.

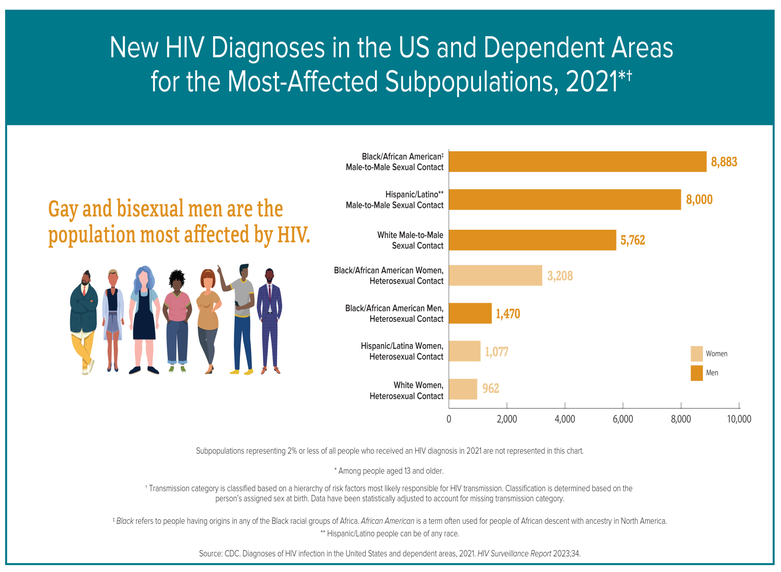
The United Nations is committed to end the HIV/ANDS epidemic by 2030. This goal will be considered achieved when HIV reaches an endemic level, "when the number of new HIV infections and 'AIDS-related deaths' decline by 90% between 2010 and 2030."

"The end of AIDS is an opportunity for a uniquely powerful legacy for today's leaders. They could be remembered by future generations as those who put a stop to the world's deadliest pandemic. They could save millions of lives and protect the health of everyone. They could show what leadership can do."

Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)







Even though the diseases are not comparable in ease of transmission and mortality rates, it is interesting to note that the cumulative global death toll from COVID-19 is 6,981,236 (World Health Organization, 23 Nov. 2023); of those, 1,155,145 deaths were in the United States (CDC, 18 Nov. 2023).

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