

Plan for
World
AIDS
Day



December 1

Webinar: Wednesday, December 1st, 2010
@ 1:00pm-2:00pm (EST)

<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/phewa/presbyterian-aids-network/>



Our Panelists

- **Donna Stroup**, Statistical Researcher and Consultant with the World Health Organization.
- **Janet Guyer**, HIV and AIDS Consultant for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for Southern Africa
- **Keith Riddle**, Minister-at-Large within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



Objectives

- **The HIV and AIDS pandemic through the most recent research and statistics.**
- **How HIV and AIDS effects and affects people both in the United States and Internationally.**
- **How individuals and congregations can partner in raising HIV and AIDS awareness.**



A Famine of the Words of the Lord: A View of the Church's Response to HIV and AIDS from a Public Health Practitioner

Donna F. Stroup, PhD, MSc

The time is surely coming, says the Lord God, when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. (Amos 8:11)



A Human Rights Perspective

It is time to take health rights as seriously as other human rights, and that intellectual recognition is only a necessary first step toward pragmatic solidarity, that is, toward taking a stand by the side of ***those who suffer most*** from an increasingly harsh “new world order.”

Paul Farmer, MD

Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2005), 246.



Status of the Pandemic

- In 2009, about 33.3 million people were living with HIV
- Prevalence continues to increase in Eastern Europe, Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa
- AIDS-related deaths peaked in 2004 at 2.2 million (25 million people have died since beginning)
- In 2008, 430,000 new infections occurred among children under age 15



Who suffers the most?

- 80% of new infections are transmitted sexually and could be prevented by consistent condom use
- Women constitute 35% of all HIV infections in Asia -- more than 90% of 1.7 million women living with HIV in Asia were infected by their husbands/partners while in long term relationships
- In 2008, 61 000 maternal deaths were due to HIV
- Increasingly, women exchange sex for money due to economic necessity



Who suffers the most?

- 10% of new infections are caused by unsafe injecting drug use
- Opioid substitution therapy with methadone or buprenorphine (with provision of sterile equipment) reduces HIV infection and does not increase injecting drug use.
- Laws criminalizing the possession of injecting equipment or substitution therapy are major barriers in the HIV response.
- Problem is worse in prisons



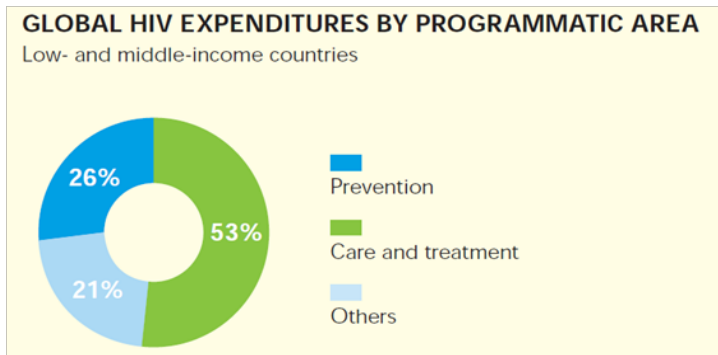
Who suffers the most?

- Unprotected sex between men accounts for 5% -- 10% of HIV infections and is resurging as the predominant mode of HIV transmission in the developed world.
- 80 countries criminalize same sex behavior along with extreme stigma.
- Only a small share of funding is focused on this population



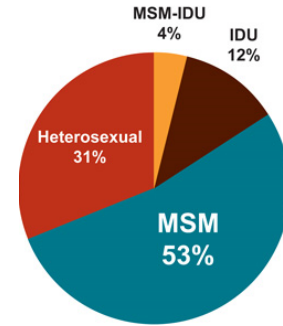
Living with HIV

- For every 2 people on HIV treatment, 5 are becoming newly infected
- 1/3 of people living with HIV are co-infected with tuberculosis
- 45% of pregnant women living with HIV received treatment in 2008
- 4 million people living with HIV are receiving treatment; 10 million more need it



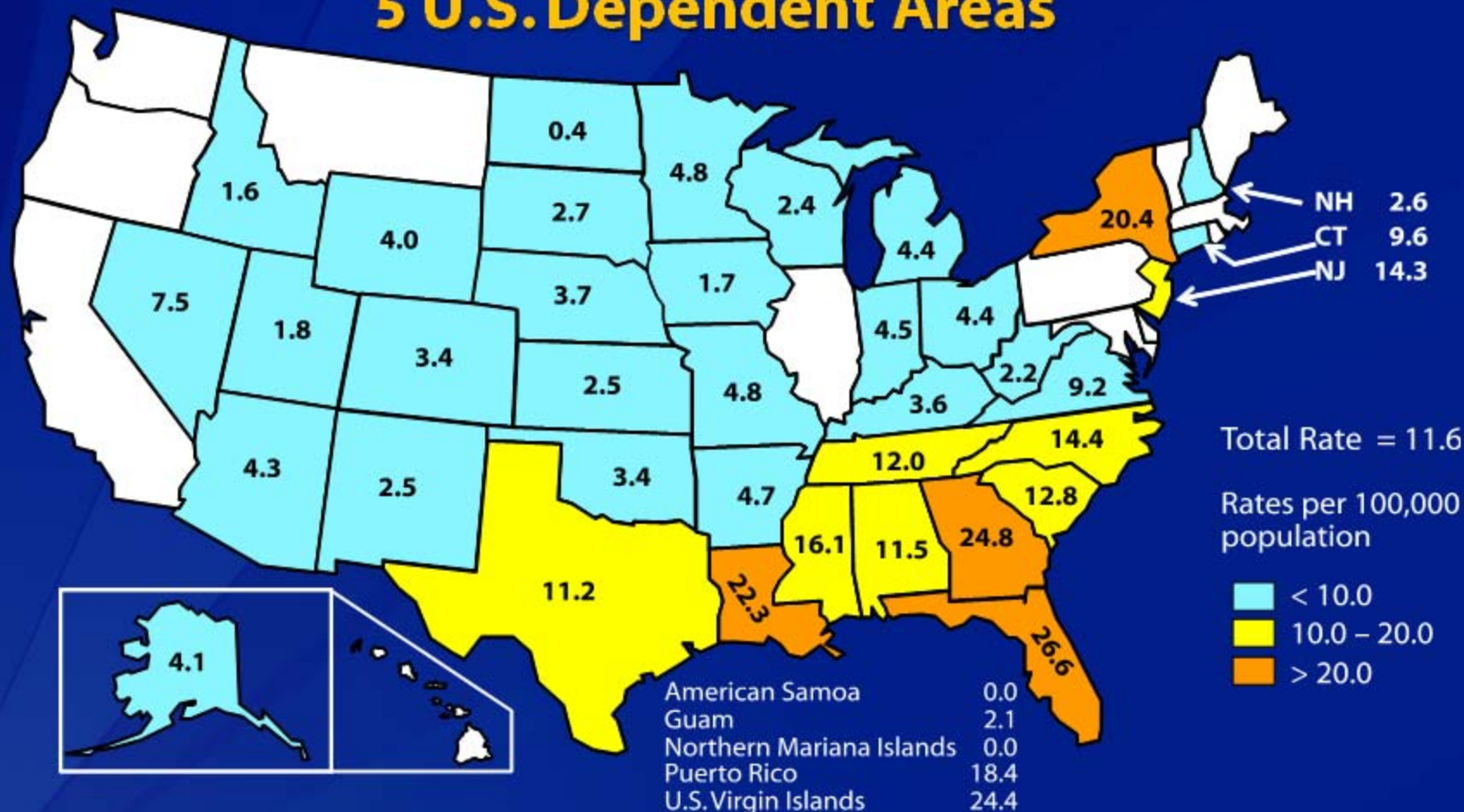


And in Our Country



- More than 1 million people are living in the U.S. with HIV; 21% of those are unaware of their infection.
- Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men account for more than half of new infections each year; rate of infection for MSM is more than 40 times that for other men or for women
- Injection drug users represent 12% of annual new HIV infections and 19% of those living with HIV.
- Although more men than women have HIV, if new HIV infections continue at their current rate, women with HIV may soon outnumber men with HIV.

Rates of Diagnoses of HIV Infection among Adult and Adolescent Females, 2008—37 States and 5 U.S. Dependent Areas



Note. Data include persons with a diagnosis of HIV infection regardless of stage of disease at diagnosis. Data from 37 states and 5 U.S. dependent areas with confidential name-based HIV infection reporting since at least January 2005. All displayed data have been estimated. Estimated numbers resulted from statistical adjustment that accounted for reporting delays, but not for incomplete reporting. Rates are per 100,000 population.





The Church's Response

- Prophetic Voice
- Human Dignity
- Rights and responsibility of society
- Justice
- Grace and forgiveness



Famine of hearing the Word of the Lord

- Biblical training/interpretation – links between disease and guilt
- Lack of information on causes and interventions
- Misperception that church members are not infected or affected



Response of a Compassionate Church

Reality itself makes demands and the [theological] method must follow; reality offers itself in different ways, and our cognitive intellect must receive it in different ways.

Paul Tillich

Sin is not just lynching or shooting Negroes or killing six million Jews. It is having contempt for any human being (Matthew 5:21-24). It is not only actively murdering people, but simply letting them starve to death.... The desire to be like God, knowing good and evil is enmity against our fellowmen... [and] self destructive.

Shirley Guthrie



Q & A

Questions for Donna Stroup?



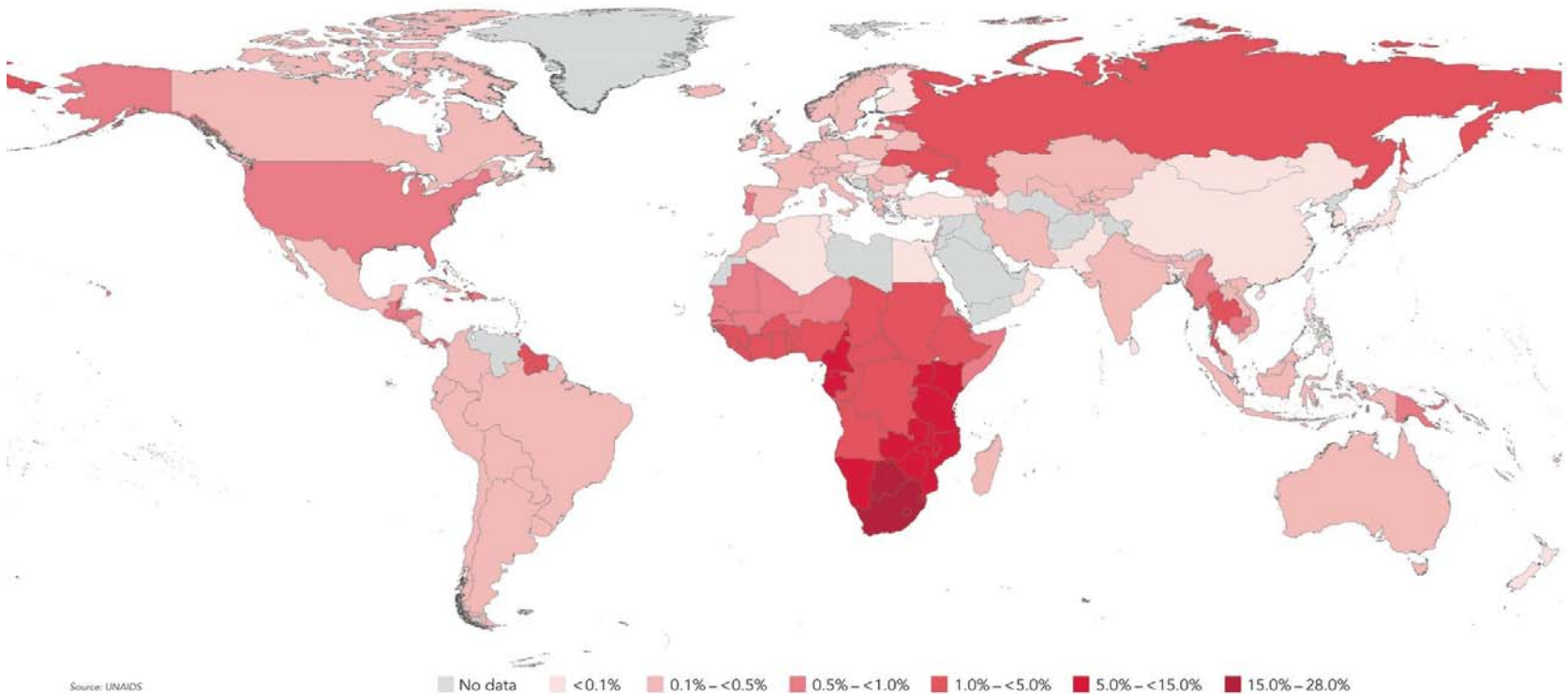
Walking with AIDS Partners



Janet Guyer, HIV and AIDS Consultant for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for Southern Africa



33.3 million people [31.4–35.3 million] living with HIV, 2009





New HIV infections

Over 7,000 new HIV infections each day

- About 97% are in low and middle income countries
- About 1,000 are in children under 15 years of age
- About 6,000 are in adults aged 15 years and older of whom:
 - almost 51% are women
 - about 41% are among young
 - people (15 – 24)



What are churches in Africa . . .

. . . doing for World AIDS Day?

- Not just a day but a part of life
- 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children



What are churches in Africa . . .

. . . doing for World AIDS Day?

Church of Central Africa Presbyterian – Synod of Zambia





What are churches in Africa . . .

. . . doing for World AIDS Day?

- Candle Light Memorial Services
- Health Screening – Diabetes, High Blood pressure and HIV
- Sermons addressing AIDS related issues in a compassionate and non-stigmatizing way
- Taking up collections of either cash to help support the AIDS work of the church or goods to share with people in need.



What can U.S. churches do?

Understand that we are all in this together

- Learn what you can and share what you learn
- Develop a relationship with a congregation overseas
 - Networks
 - Presbytery to presbytery
 - Congregation to congregation



What can U.S. churches do?

- Acts of Solidarity
 - Testing
 - Advocacy
 - Letter writing
 - Financial gifts
- Develop your congregation into an informed and welcoming congregation
- Pray

When you pray, move your feet.
African Proverb



What can U.S. churches do?



“The church must have something to say in the midst of this crisis. If not, she will have nothing to say when it is over.

A Botswanan Pastor



Q & A

*Thank you for your interest
and joining us today.*

*A joyous Christmas
to you and yours...*

Questions for Janet Guyer?



From Pulpit to Pew: The Silence Must End

Keith Riddle, Minister-at-Large
within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).





Recognizing the challenge to fulfill the commitments of baptism....

“Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture N. by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him/her to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of his church?”

--Book of Common Worship, Pastoral Edition



A young man's death . . .
leads to a call to ministry . . .
and a challenge to the Church.



To the person seated in the
pew . . . to the person standing in
the pulpit . . . the challenge
is this:

Love me
as Christ loves me.





For those living, and dying, with the virus, denomination does not matter as much as compassion, understanding, and that sense of “walking alongside” them.





“If I am diagnosed with cancer tomorrow, I have no doubt that people wouldn’t care how I got it, but people would care for me unconditionally.

But if I am diagnosed as HIV-positive, I know many people would care how I got it, and people would care for me conditionally.”

- Donald E. Messer

Breaking the Conspiracy of Silence: Christian Churches and the Global AIDS Crisis (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004)

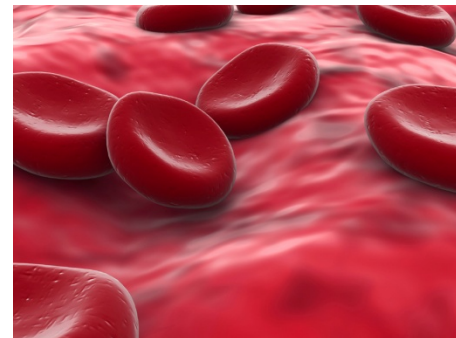


What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Question 1, *The Heidelberg Catechism*, 1563-1963,
400th Anniversary Edition

It all begins with a drop of blood...





As a congregation and community
of faith . . .

Struggle



Struggle

- ...to acknowledge the presence of this virus in the lives and families of your congregations....and pastors.
- ...with how your members and pastors understand this virus.
- ...with your congregation's long-established notions about the virus and those living with it



Struggle

- ...with how your church can and *will* minister to those living among us who want to know they are still loved by God *and* the church
- ...to be that prophetic voice...to be bold
...to be BOLD.



Struggle

- *We have to learn to live as if we could not move towards God without the gift of one another, in the recognition that my healing and my freedom are only thinkable in union with the healing and freedom of all, and that my liberation commits me to the creation of the kind of community in which all can be involved in nurturing and re-creating each other, in the power of God's Spirit.*

- Archbishop Rowan Williams, 9 June 1990



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Q & A

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Resources

- **Janet Guyer** – missionconnections@pcusa.org In the subject line, type in Janet Guyer.
- **Donna Stroup** - donnastroup@dataforsolutions.com
- **Keith Riddle** - kriddle595@aol.com
- <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/aids-international> - To download the 2010 Advent AIDS Packet, to find information about PCUSA's international partners and what churches can do to become involved or how to give.
- <http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/phewa/presbyterian-aids-network/> - To view the DVD 'The Changing Face of HIV/AIDS' this tells the story of ministries of compassion, support and advocacy as the church and our communities respond.

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Thank you for joining us.