



SAASWIPP AIDS BRIEFINGS

The IPT HIV/AIDS Briefings are a means of sharing messages and information on HIV/AIDS with IPT associates and staff.

WORLD-WIDE HIV INFECTION

As at 09.08am on Tuesday 23 October 2001 the estimated number of people infected with HIV world-wide was 43 844 748

(Source: Red Ribbon)

AIDS HAS A BIRTHDAY

The HIV/AIDS epidemic turned 20 years old on 5 June 2001. The AIDS Bulletin Editorial (July 2001) notes...

"Who would have thought in 1981 that a relatively insignificant article in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* would have heralded the beginning of the most devastating epidemic the modern world has seen?"

RAPE WEBSITE

www.speakout.org.za is a voluntary website established by South African rape survivors and those with HIV/AIDS.

THE UNITED NATIONS

Multinational pharmaceutical companies need to "strike 'a new deal' with society" and significantly reduce prices on their patented antiretroviral drugs for developing nations so that more people have access to "lifesaving AIDS medicines," UNAIDS said in a statement released on 15/02/01 in Geneva. UNAIDS joins this week's call from Oxfam for reduced prices of AIDS drugs for developing nations.

(Red Ribbon, 2001)

GOVERNMENT AIDS BUDGET

According to Hickey (in AIDS Bulletin, 2001) Government has budgeted approximately R319 million within the National budget for HIV/AIDS programmes.

In a breakdown of the National HIV/AIDS allocations for 2001/02 Hickey shows that the bulk of the funding is allocated to the Government AIDS Action Plan. The breakdown is as follows:

- Government AIDS Action Plan : R111,4 million
- Other Dept of Health Programmes : R57,9 million
- Integrated Strategy – Life Skills Education : R71 million
- EU Funding to Department of Health : R24,8 million
- Volunteer Counselling 7 testing Programme : R26 million
- Community Home-based Care & Support Programme : R28 million.

It must be noted that additional funds from provincial budgets are not shown in the figures above – these provincial allocations supplement the national allocations.

When compared to relative needs, Hickey (2001) noted that the allocations for KZN and Gauteng are 'worrisome':

- KZN has the largest estimated share of HIV positive citizens but only receives 18% of the total grant funds available for HIV/AIDS
- Gauteng has aprox 19.7% of the country's HIV positive population and only receives 11% of the total available funds.

(Source, AIDS Bulletin, July 2001)