

HIV ANTENATAL SURVEY REPORT FOR 2003

1. INTRODUCTION:

The information should be interpreted correctly. All the figures indicate the % positive i.e. if you read 41.5% women were 25-29 years, then it means that of the total women tested of that age group, 41.5% were HIV positive.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE HIV SURVEY:

The aim of the survey is to obtain data that will help health personnel in planning, decision-making, implementing and evaluating programmes that are aiming at the prevention and control of the HIV/ Aids epidemic.

Specific objectives of the HIV/ Antenatal survey:

- To determine the prevalence of HIV in women attending antenatal care clinics.
- To monitor trends of HIV infection in women attending antenatal clinics.
- To determine the prevalence of HIV in each region and in different age categories.

3. SURVEY METHODOLOGY:

3.1 Sample size and sentinel sites:

A systematic cluster random sample was used. This sample is similar to the techniques used in previous years i.e. **58** sites were selected in the Free State province and the sample size of the Free State was **1200** but due to problems only **1039 (86.6%)** blood specimen were taken. The clinics were selected on the basis of high first antenatal visits. At each selected site/ clinic all first time antenatal clinic attendants were selected. As only public sector are sampled there is an inherent under representation of race groups e.g. number of White and Indian women are typically small.

3.2 Data collection:

Data was collected by the health personnel in the selected sites over a period of one month e.g. the survey started on the 1 October to 31 October 2003. Every consecutive woman attending antenatal clinics for the first time during the current pregnancy was included in the sample. Before withdrawing the blood from the client's permission, consent and information on the reasons for taking blood was given to clients.

3.3 Quality control:

Managers, coordinators and statistical advisors did quality control from the provincial office. Of the total clinics **(58), 35 (60.3%)** were visited for quality control.

4. HISTORICAL SURVEY RESULTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA:

4.1 National HIV prevalence 1990 – 2002

The national HIV prevalence rate amongst antenatal women has increased with 25.8% from 0.7% in 1990 to 26.5% in 2002. There was a dramatic increase from 1994 to 1998, but from 1998 to 2002 the trend was more stable.

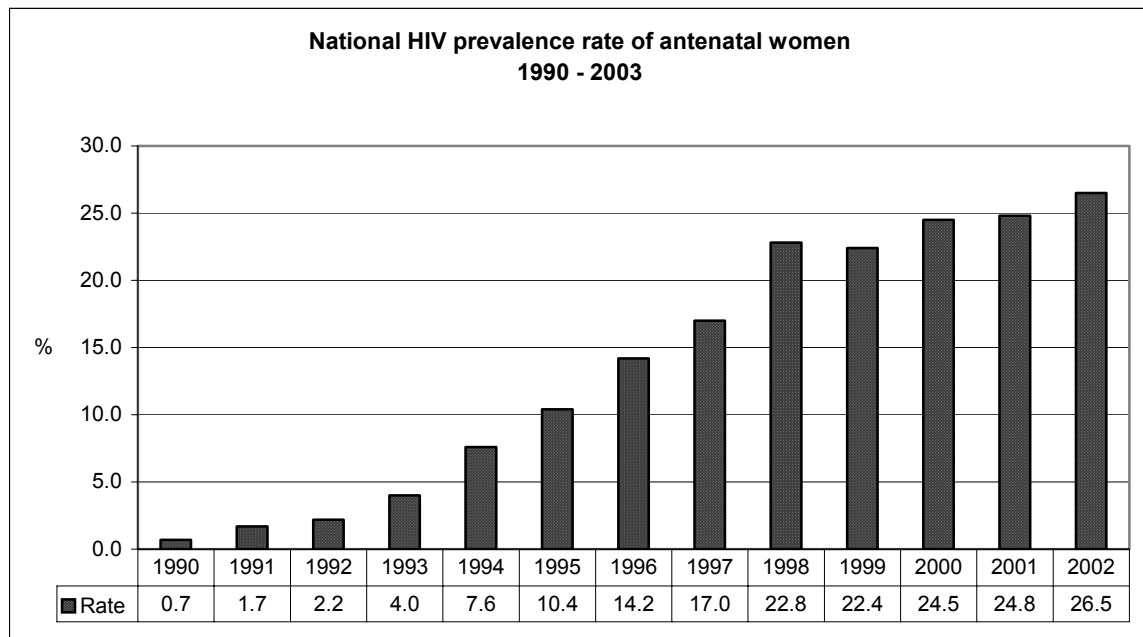


Diagram 1: HIV prevalence rates for South Africa 1990 – 2002

4.2 HIV prevalence by province among antenatal clinic attendees 2001-2002

If you compare the HIV prevalence rate among antenatal clinic attendees per province, it is evident that most provinces (77.8%) had shown an increase from 2001 to 2002, but only Free State and Mpumalanga had a decrease in HIV prevalence rate during that period. During 2001 Free State had second highest prevalence rate, but in 2002 Free State was third.

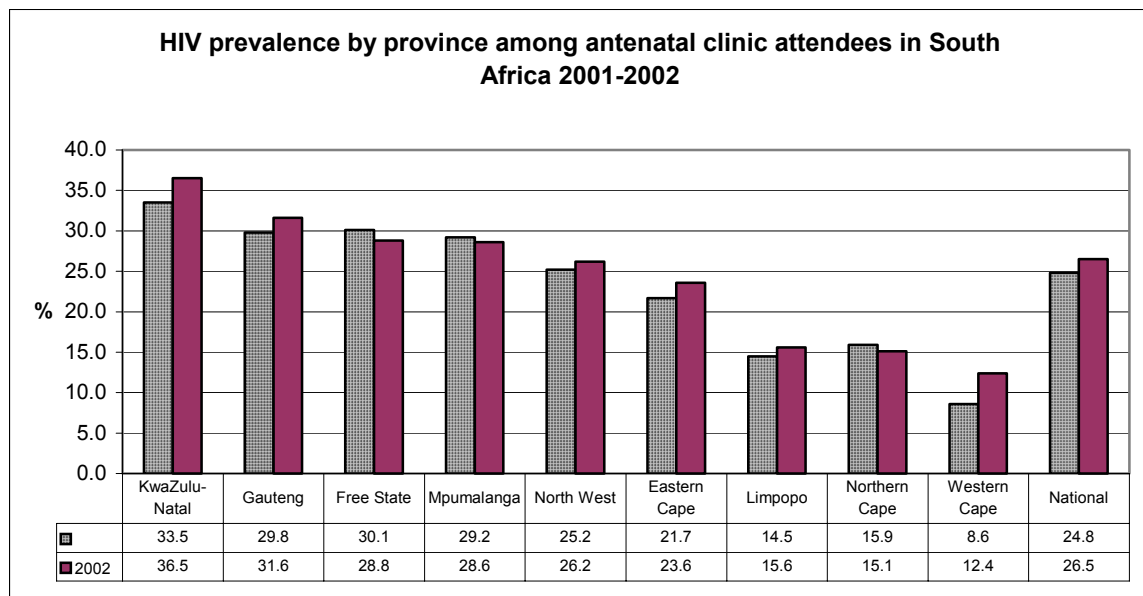


Diagram 2: HIV prevalence rates for South African provinces for 2001 – 2002

5. FREE STATE SURVEY RESULTS:

5.1 Comparison of HIV prevalence rates for Free State province 1996 – 2001

The prevalence rate had increased in the Free State with 12.6% from 1996 to 2003.

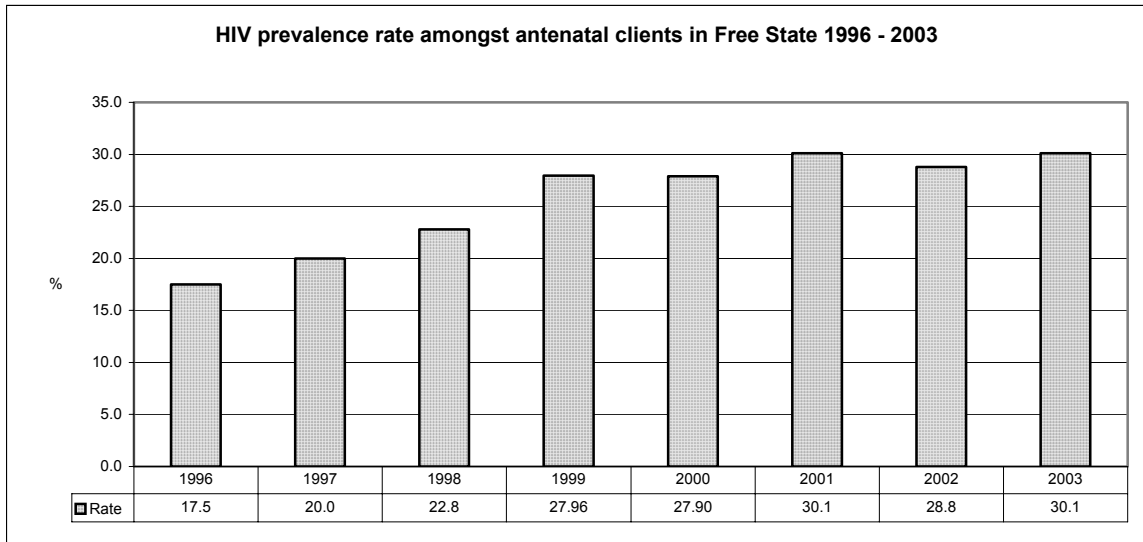


Diagram 3: HIV prevalence rates for Free State for 1996 – 2003

5.2 HIV prevalence rate for DC's of the Free State

DC16 is partaking in the survey for the first time during 2003. Looking at the graph below it is evident that only DC20 had a decrease (4.4%) in 2003. Some districts had a significant increase during 2003 i.e. DC17 (increase of 5.3%) and DC18 (increase of 3.5%). DC19 had a slight increase of 2.0%.

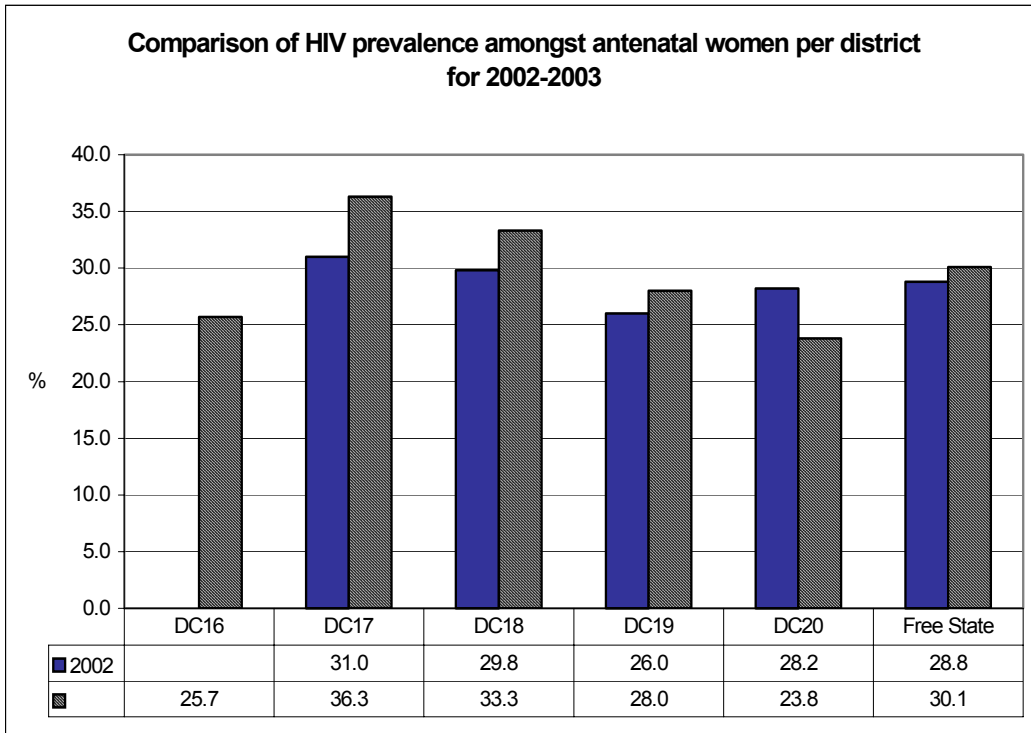


Diagram 4: Comparison of HIV prevalence rate for DC's for 2002 and 2003

5.3 HIV prevalence rate for DC's of Free State for 1998 – 2003

Table 1: Comparison of HIV prevalence rate for DC's of Free State for 1998 – 2003

DC	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
DC16	-	-	-	-	-	25.71
DC17	23.84	26.64	29.61	28.54	31.0	36.29
DC18	25.75	31.88	30.06	41.14	29.81	33.33
DC19	21.50	27.90	27.10	27.75	26.04	28.03
DC20	20.92	27.55	21.05	29.41	28.18	23.81
Free State	22.80	27.96	27.93	30.13	28.75	30.13

DC17 has the highest HIV prevalence rate amongst antenatal women for 2002 and 2003. There was a quite dramatic increase in most districts from 1998 to 1999.

5.4 HIV prevalence rate by age group

The trend of the age group of HIV positive pregnant women changed from 2001 to 2003. During 2001 and 2002 the highest prevalence rate was amongst women 25 – 29 years {42.9% (2001) and 40.6% (2002)}, followed by 30 –34 years {40.6% (2001) and 38.1%(2002)} but during 2003 the highest prevalence rate is amongst women 30 – 34 years (39.5%) and 40 – 44 years (35.0%).

5.4.1 HIV prevalence rate by age group for Free State province 2001 - 2003

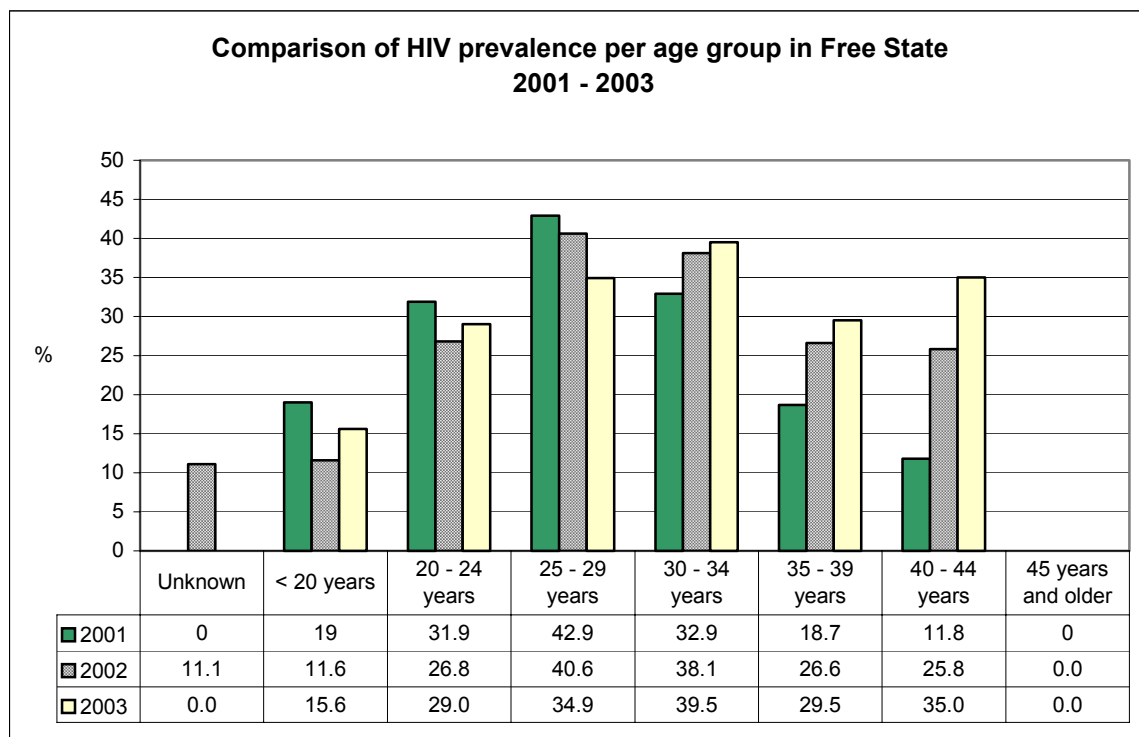


Diagram 5: HIV prevalence by age for the Free State province for 2002 and 2003

5.4.3 Age of the father of the unborn babies for Free State province 2002 – 2003

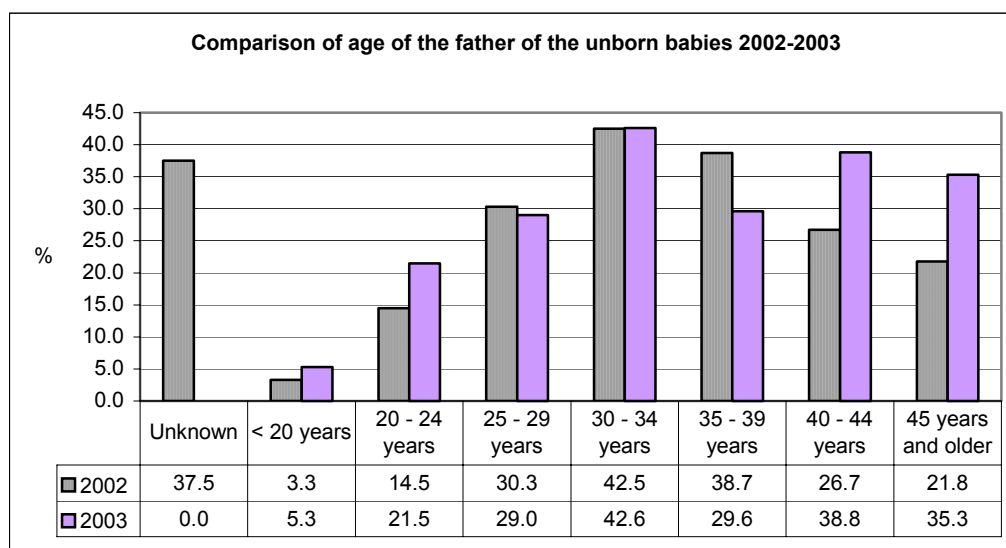


Diagram 6: HIV prevalence by age of the father for the Free State province for 2002 and 2003

If a comparison is drawn of the ages of the tested women and her partner, the results are the following:

Table 2: Comparison of tested women and their partners per age group for 2002-2003

	2002		2003	
	Women	Partner	Women	Partner
Unknown	11.1	37.5	0.0	0.0
< 20 years	11.6	3.3	15.6	5.3
20 – 24 years	26.8	14.5	29.0	21.5
25 – 29 years	40.6	30.3	34.9	29.0
30 – 34 years	38.1	42.5	39.5	42.6
35 – 39 years	26.6	38.7	29.5	29.6
40 – 44 years	25.8	26.7	35.0	38.8
45 years and older	0.0	21.8	0.0	35.3

5.4.2 Age group of tested women per district in the Free State province for 2002 - 2003:

Table 3: Percentage positive pregnant women per age group per district for 2002-2003

	DC16		DC17		DC18		DC19		DC20	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Unknown	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.2	0
< 20 years	-	22.2	5.8	10.0	8.3	7.5	8.5	10.8	9.7	1.7
20 – 24 years	-	22.2	24.8	21.1	37.5	28.8	28.3	29.7	29.0	43.3
25 – 29 years	-	11.1	31.4	37.8	33.3	31.3	34.0	23.0	29.0	31.7
30 – 34 years	-	33.3	26.3	16.7	14.6	25.0	17.9	21.6	22.6	16.7
35 – 39 years	-	11.1	9.5	12.2	4.2	5.0	8.5	10.8	3.2	6.7
40 – 44 years	-	0	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.5	2.8	4.1	3.2	0
45 years and older	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

5.5 Educational background

Table 4: Educational background of tested women for the Free State for 2002-2003

	2002			2003		
	# Pos	# Tested	% Pos	# Pos	# Tested	% Pos
Grade 0	6	25	24.0	9	35	25.7
Grade 1	0	0	0.0	0	4	0
Grade 2	2	8	25.0	0	3	0
Grade 3	4	12	33.3	1	5	20.0
Grade 4	5	11	45.5	3	16	18.8
Grade 5	7	25	28.0	13	31	41.9
Grade 6	16	48	33.3	13	35	37.1
Grade 7	19	89	21.4	29	86	33.7
Grade 8	39	97	40.2	34	96	35.4
Grade 9	35	142	24.7	36	109	33.0
Grade 10	47	180	26.1	41	152	27.0
Grade 11	50	163	30.7	57	161	35.4
Grade 12	90	307	29.3	76	294	25.9
Tertiary education	2	13	15.4	1	12	8.3

6. CONCLUSION:

Due to the fact that some of the clinics from 2002 to 2003 were changed it could therefore give the higher prevalence rate for 2003, with the rise of 1.38%.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I would like to thank the Head of Department of Health for making it possible for us to conduct the survey. A sincere thanks goes to Bennie de Winnaar for supporting throughout the 2003 HIV antenatal survey.

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- Yvonne Mokgatlhe and Mieta van Niekerk: For support and help where needed.
- Jonel Jonker for capturing the data.
- District managers: For support throughout the survey.
- All the staff at the clinics that participated in the survey.