

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SINCE 1996

- Primary Health Care facilities have been developed in areas like Umlazi, KwaMashu, Inanda and Umbumbulu.
- Multi Purpose Community Facilities which provide health services to rural communities are being established in previously disadvantaged areas.
- The eThekwinini Communicable Disease Centre was also launched to monitor and control communicable diseases. This gives easier access to safe water, sanitation and refuse removal in informal settlements such as Indwendwe and Zwelibumvu.
- There are feeding schemes and the creation of food gardens by patients suffering from tuberculosis and malnutrition.
- There are programmes for street traders giving them important information about food hygiene and personal health.

There is a scheme to address the impact of air pollution on people living in the South Industrial Basin of Durban



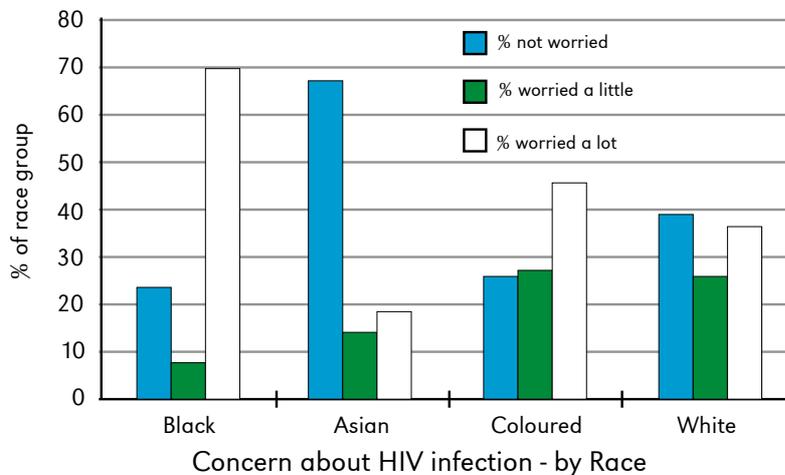
HIV/AIDS AND THE eTHEKWINI RESIDENT

HIV/AIDS is a very topical issue and of great concern in KwaZulu Natal. The infection rate for Durban in 2001 was 34.7%, higher than for the Province at 32%, which in turn was higher than the national average of 22.4 %.

The HIV / AIDS virus is a fast spreading lethal virus. More and more people are being infected regardless of their age, gender or racial group. Most residents have either experienced the loss of a family member, friend or colleague to the virus, or are concerned that someone close to them will be infected.

HIV AIDS is on most peoples' minds and definitely impacts negatively on the general quality of life. This is especially true because at present there is no cure.

The proportion of the population who worry a lot about being infected has increased from 48% last year to 56% this year. We can see which members of our communities are most concerned about HIV/AIDS by looking at this graph:



Asian and white people are least worried, while coloured and black people are most concerned. Concern over HIV/AIDS has increased a lot since 2003, especially among the African population.

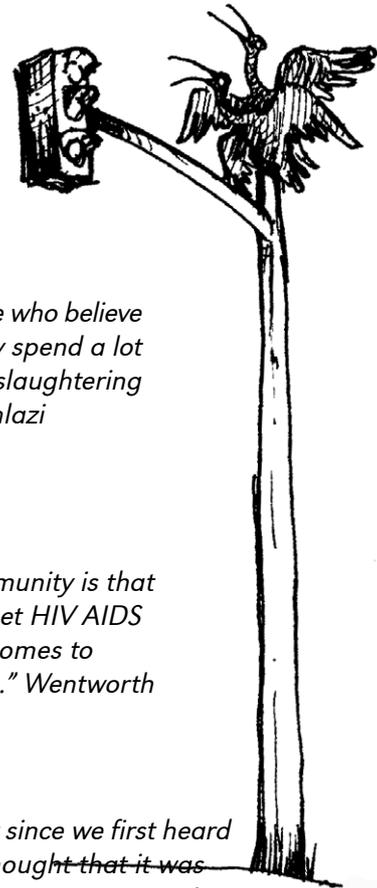
Women have a greater chance of contracting HIV/AIDS and so naturally they are the most concerned.

The least concerned about the disease is the Asian man; the most concerned is the African woman.

HOW BEST TO PREVENT HIV AIDS

People think that the following are top five importance methods to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS

- 1 Condom use
- 2 Abstinence before marriage
- 3 HIV/AIDS education awareness campaigns
- 4 Open and honest relationship with partner
- 5 Free and adequate treatment of HIV/AIDS sufferers.



"In my community there are many people who believe that this disease is a kind of curse. They spend a lot of money on trying to break the curse, slaughtering goats to appease the ancestors...." Umlazi resident



"The big problem in the Coloured community is that our people do not think that they will get HIV AIDS and so they are very careless when it comes to unprotected sex. Especially the youth" Wentworth Social Worker



"Views on HIV AIDS have changed a lot since we first heard about it. In the beginning everybody thought that it was only gays that got AIDS, now the truth is staring us in the face - everybody who is having sex, regardless of their race, sexual persuasion, age or gender is vulnerable..." Morningside Academic



"We don't believe in HIV AIDS in our community. Yet many are suffering from the symptoms. If people want to get well they will need to get tested and start taking medication. But there is a big resistance to getting tested...." Reservoir Hills resident

WHAT IS BEING DONE ABOUT HIV / AIDS?

It is important to any resident's quality of life that they believe that the authorities are doing their best to keep them free from fatal illnesses. The bad news is that a staggering 66.1 % of residents believe that the Health Authorities are not doing enough to educate citizens about HIV/AIDS.



"I am very very worried about HIV...I have lost family members...I don't see any help for the people who have HIV..."
Inanda resident



Has eThekweni Health changed many lives for the better?



"The Department has made a big impact by helping to provide water and sanitation to informal cluster settlements.

We have helped the people from Brook Street and Durban Station informal settlement to move to Kwa-Mashu and Quarry Heights.

Our Community Health Workers Program has volunteers who provide vital information and services to their communities.

Community Health Workers in the northern areas of eThekweni municipality also provide home based care for the terminally ill, including participation in community gardening projects to enable the sick to generate an income through the sale of vegetables.

The rural KZN Craft and HIV / AIDS Awareness Program trained over 100 women in HIV / AIDS prevention, and broadened their design and business skills. The women sold their products to international tourists through the African Arts Centre"