

A Plan for Social Change: Global Perspective on the Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS

As the number of people affected with HIV/AIDS is on the rise every year, it is important to focus on the preventative measures to enable people to protect themselves from this infection. As a nurse, it is important to constantly advocate safe sex, use of condoms, avoiding drug abuse and sharing of injections, and ensuring safety of blood products prior to transfusion.

On a global scale, it is imperative that large-scale awareness programs be conducted for vulnerable populations such as sex workers, homosexuals, youth, people who engage in women and child trafficking, and people who abuse drugs. Education programs also need to be mandated in schools and colleges so that young adults are well aware of the modes of transmission of HIV.

Taking a global perspective in the fight to end HIV requires a lot of courage on the part of nurses as most of the people susceptible to HIV lack education and resources to seek appropriate treatment for their condition. As HIV weakens the immune system leading to several secondary infections, oftentimes, treatment of the secondary infections can shift focus from their primary cause. Nurses all over the world need to be trained to understand the characteristics of the susceptible population and encourage HIV testing if HIV is suspected. This will help targeted HIV testing recommended by educated nurses, thus narrowing focus on the vulnerable population, conserving resources, and ensuring timely diagnosis and treatment.