

**The Impact of the HIV and AIDS Pandemic on Kenya's Economic
Development: A Case Study of Homa Bay County**

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Abstract

The arrival of the HIV and AIDS epidemic in the 20th century, brought with it fear, superstition and prejudice. The disease is not the first one which has resulted in society imposing social stigmas, political agendas, and outright pandemonium. Misunderstandings of other diseases like small pox have caused mass hysteria among populations around the world, but the main difference between previous epidemics and HIV / AIDS, is that the latter is occurring in a world of influential media outlets, politics and new social stigmas.

In order to combat the disease, one needs to understand the disease itself. While referring to HIV and AIDS, one is actually referring to two different parts of the disease. AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is the main disease caused by a virus called Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

To date, there is no any single HIV prevention strategy that is sufficient for controlling the HIV pandemic. However, a growing number of interventions have shown promise in partially protecting against HIV transmission and infection. This includes knowledge of HIV status, behavioral risk reduction (e.g. practicing safe sex), male circumcision, avoiding needle-sharing, treatment of curable sexually transmitted infections, and use of systemic and topical antiretroviral medications by both HIV-infected and uninfected persons.