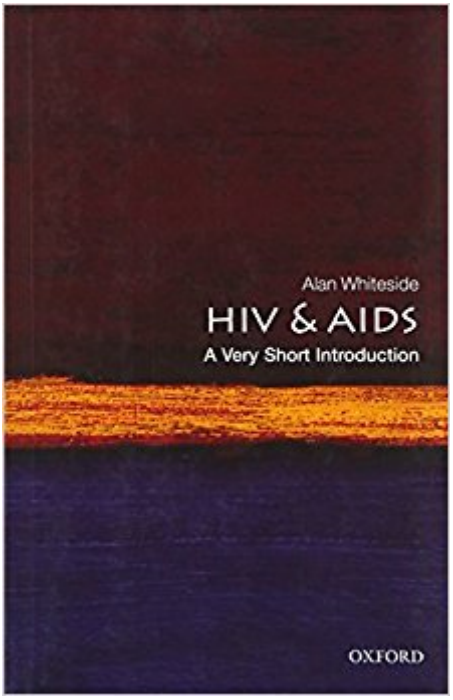
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HIV & AIDS: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



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Synopsis

In 2008 it was believed that HIV/AIDS was without doubt the worst epidemic to hit humankind since the Black Death. The first case was identified in 1981; by 2004 it was estimated that about 40 million people were living with the disease, and about 20 million had died. Yet the outlook today is a little brighter. Although HIV/ AIDS continues to be a pressing public health issue the epidemic has stabilised globally, and it has become evident it is not, nor will it be, a global issue. The worst affected regions are southern and eastern Africa. Elsewhere, HIV is found in specific, usually, marginalised populations, for example intravenous drug users in Russia.Although there still remains no cure for HIV, there have been unprecedented breakthroughs in understanding the disease and developing drugs. Access to treatment over the last ten years has turned AIDS into a chronic disease, although it is still a challenge to make antiviral treatment available to all that require it. We also have new evidence that treatment greatly reduces infectivity, and this has led to the movement of 'Treatment as Prevention'. In this Very Short Introduction Alan Whiteside provides an introduction to AIDS, tackling the science, the international and local politics, the fascinating demographics, and the devastating consequences of the disease. He looks at the problems a developing international 'AIDS fatigue' poses to funding for sufferers, but also shows how domestic resources are increasingly being mobilised, despite the stabilisation of international funding. Finally Whiteside considers how the need to understand and change our behaviour has caused us to reassess what it means to be human and how we should operate in the globalizing world. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

Book Information

Series: Very Short Introductions
Paperback: 168 pages
Publisher: Oxford University Press; 2 edition (February 1, 2017)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0198727496
ISBN-13: 978-0198727491
Product Dimensions: 6.7 x 0.6 x 4.4 inches
Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #140,011 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 inÃ Â Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Internal Medicine > Pathology > Diseases > AIDS & HIV #92 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Clinical > Diseases

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Alan Whiteside is Emeritus Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He been involved with AIDS for over 30 years at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban and and has followed its effects on both the economic and the personal level (having seen several colleagues die of AIDS). He has since taken a position in Canada as CIGI Chair in Global Health Governance at the Balsillie School of International Affairs with a cross appointment at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo Ontario. His books include AIDS in the Twenty-First Century: Disease and Globalization (AIAA, 2006), with Tony Barnett.

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