Portrait of a Slowing Epidemic

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A new UNAIDS report found significant drops in the rate of new global HIV cases as well as AIDS-related deaths in recent years, while estimating that 19 million of the 35 million people living with HIV worldwide don't know their status.

The estimated 2.1 million new HIV infections in 2013 represents a 13 percent decrease in HIV incidence in three years and is the lowest level found this century. The Caribbean has seen the greatest drop in new HIV infections, with a 40 percent decline since 2005. After peaking in 2005, annual global AIDS-related deaths have fallen 35 percent. However, the Middle East and North Africa have experienced a 66 percent increase in AIDS-related deaths since 2005.

"As we consider the state of our HIV response and our path forward, we must collectively work to close these gaps and scale up testing and treatment for all those who need it," says Elya Tagar, senior director of HIV, TB and health financing programs at the Clinton Health Access Initiative.

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