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An assessment of the Johannesburg's Human Development Strategy and its appropriateness in dealing with HIV/AIDS in informal settlements

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2008-10-06T07:59:59Z
http://hdl.handle.net/10539/5722

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DEFINITIONS OF THE KEY TERMS

HIV- Human Immunodeficiency Virus is the virus that causes AIDS. HIV can remain in the body for years before any damage shows up as visible symptoms.

AIDS- Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
Acquired- means that the virus is not spread through casual contact like flu or chicken pox. In order to be infected, a person has to do something that exposes them to the virus.
Immunodeficiency- relates to the fact that the virus attacks a person's immune system and makes it less capable of fighting infections. Thus the immune system becomes deficient.
Syndrome- AIDS is regarded as a syndrome, and not one disease as it presents itself as a number of diseases that come about as the immune system fails[1]
In medical term this refers to the last, fatal stage of HIV infection, which is often also called "full-blown AIDS". In non-medical literature the term is used loosely, to refer to earlier stages of HIV infection. However in general, the terms HIV and AIDS now mean one and the same thing.

*This research project uses the term HIV/AIDS and HIV and AIDS interchangeably. Both are regarded as the same explanation.

[1] Whiteside and Sunter (2000), page 1.