

## The Conflict and HIV/AIDS Nexus: An Empirical Assessment

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### Authors:

Davenport, Christian  
Loyle, Cyanne E.

### Organizations:

AIDS, Security and Conflict Initiative, ASCI

### Collection:

ASCI Research Report

### Description:

Within this report, we outline what is generally known about HIV/AIDS and the influence of conflict on the disease. We then discuss the first systematic effort to explore the relationship as well as some limitations with this analysis, prompting the current investigation. Following this, we present our general argument, the data and the research design that we use to explore it. In the next section, we discuss our empirical findings from the global and Rwandan analyses. What do we find? Essentially, our global results disclose that the increased interactions between infected and non-infected populations as well as the availability of resources are the strongest predictors of a country's HIV prevalence rate. Here, conflict has no direct impact on the spread of HIV/AIDS and if solutions are to be found they must confront indirect and somewhat complex effects of political violence such as the health conditions of those displaced by conflict and those intervening into hostile situations. In contrast, our investigation of Rwanda suggests that conflict does have a direct impact on HIV prevalence. Again, however, there is an indirect impact exhibited through interactions prompted by the conflict itself (interveners and displaced/refugees). Indeed, these factors offer an alternative explanation for the first finding, once again leading us to focus on the importance of indirect influences. We conclude the report with a general overview of the project as well as some of the implications of this work for scholarship, policymaking and advocacy.

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