

## BHEKISISA TRACKING EMBED CODE



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**Title:** [WATCH] Why do more teen girls than boys have HIV?

### **Blurb:**

Teen girls and young women in Africa are up to eight times more likely to contract HIV than their male peers. Biology, unequal access to education and bad laws all play a role in this. Find out more from this short video.

### **Byline:**

Dylan Bush & Mia Malan

### **Bullet points:**

- Teen girls and young women in Africa are [up to eight times more](#) likely to contract HIV than their male peers.
- This is because women's bodies increase their chances of getting HIV through sex. Teen girls are also still growing, so their cervixes have lots of soft tissue HIV can infect.
- Fewer girls than boys in Africa go to school. This increases their chances of getting HIV as adults, as they're less likely to find jobs.

## **SCRIPT**

Teen girls and young women in Africa are [up to 8X more](#) likely to contract HIV than their male peers.

Here are three reasons.

### **1. Biology**

When a woman has sex with a man, she has receptive sex, because a penis is inserted into her vagina or anus.

It's easier to get HIV through receptive sex than insertive sex.

There's a [larger area in the receptive partner that comes into contact with fluids](#) such as semen that contain HIV.

There's also more tissue that could tear to make it easy for HIV to enter a woman's bloodstream.

Teen girls' bodies give them an even higher chance to get HIV.

Because they're still growing, their cervixes (the passage at the bottom of the womb) still have [lots of soft tissue](#) that HIV can infect.

## **2. Unequal access to education**

[Fewer girls in Africa](#) have the chance to go to school than boys.

It makes it hard for them to find jobs.

Many young women rely on employed men for money to survive.

This gives the men power over the women.

The men are also often a few years older than the women.

It makes it hard for women in such relationships to ask men to use condoms during sex or to only have sex with them.

Sex without a condom with someone with HIV who is not on treatment is risky.

[Studies show](#) girls' risk of getting HIV goes down by 11% for each extra year they stay in high school.

## **3. Bad laws**

Getting tested for HIV frequently helps to [lower someone's chances](#) of getting the virus.

It helps them to make decisions about safer sex and to know about things such as HIV prevention pills.

But in many countries teens can't get tested without the permission of their parents or caregivers.

Such laws heighten teen girls' chances of getting HIV.

[Research shows](#) in African countries where children of 15 or younger can get tested for HIV without adults' permission, teens are 74% more likely to have tested for HIV in the past year than in countries where the age of consent is 16 years or higher.

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