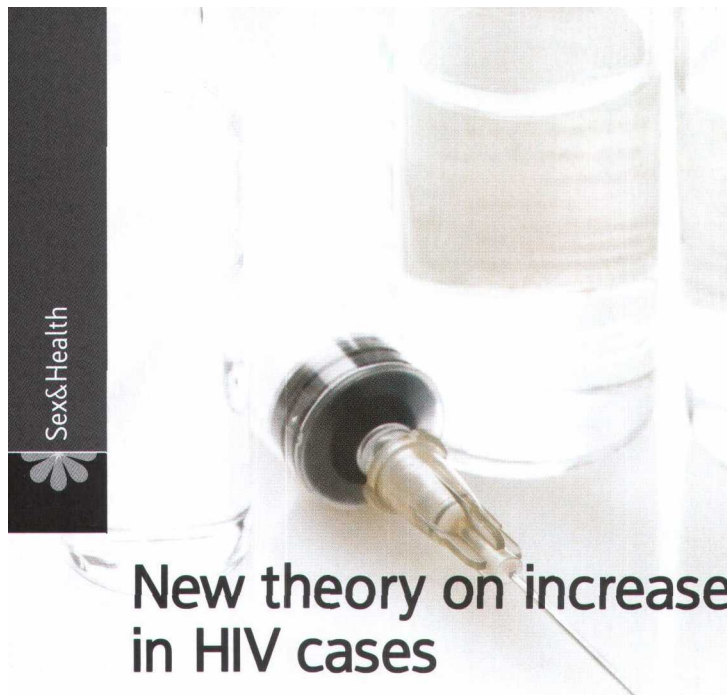


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Sex & Health

## New theory on increase in HIV cases

Researchers at George Washington University and the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) have come up with a hypothesis on what caused the increase in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) cases in the mid-20th century. The deadly smallpox has officially been wiped out, thanks to vaccination. The vaccines against smallpox were slowly withdrawn in the 1950s to 1970s, roughly about the same time when HIV began to gain ground. Incidentally, research has shown that the vaccinia immunisation, which was given to prevent the spread of smallpox, results in a drastic reduction in HIV replication (up to five times less, based on a lab study). Much more research needs to be done to prove this theory, but could it be a step in the right direction to preventing HIV?