

# WHAT THE DATA TELL US: Projections for the HIV epidemic in Asia and the Pacific in 2030

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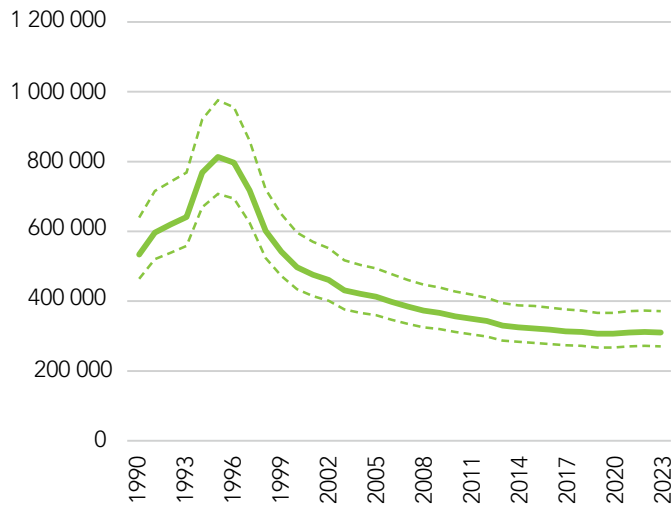
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# Where are we now?

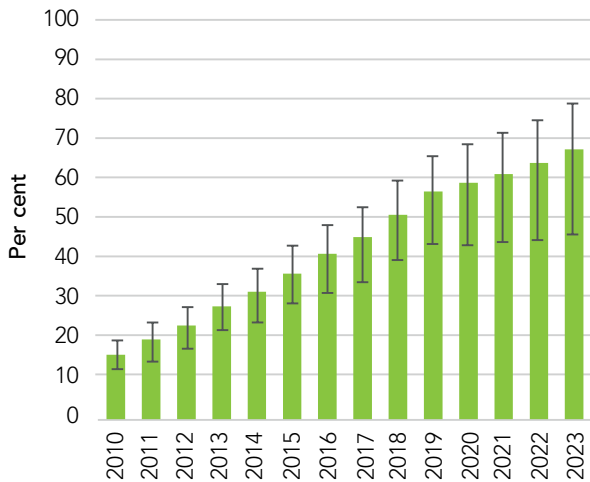
**Number of new HIV infections, Asia and the Pacific, 1990-2023**



New HIV infections have decreased steadily in the Asia and the Pacific region, amounting to 300 000 (270 000–370 000) in 2023, a 13% decrease from 2010. Antiretroviral treatment coverage among people living with HIV reached 67% (53–78%) in 2023, well below the treatment targets set for 2025.<sup>1</sup>

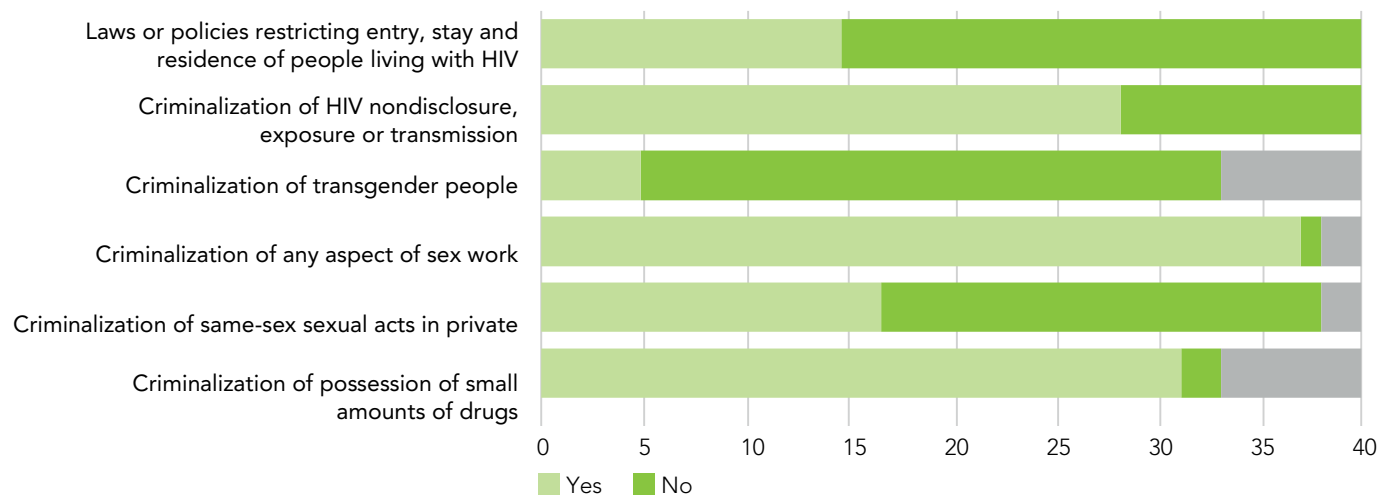
Out of 41 reporting countries, 38 still criminalize sex work, 32 criminalize possession of small amounts of drugs, 29 criminalize HIV non-disclosure, exposure or transmission, and 17 criminalize same-sex sexual acts. These persisting discriminatory and punitive laws expose certain communities to stigma, discrimination and violence and lead to poor health outcomes. Stigma and discrimination in the past 6 months were reportedly experienced by: 13% of gay men and other men who have sex with men in Mongolia; 58% of people who inject drugs in the Islamic Republic of Iran and 13% in Indonesia; and 72% of transgender people in Mongolia and 60% in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**ARV treatment coverage, Asia and the Pacific, 2010-2023**



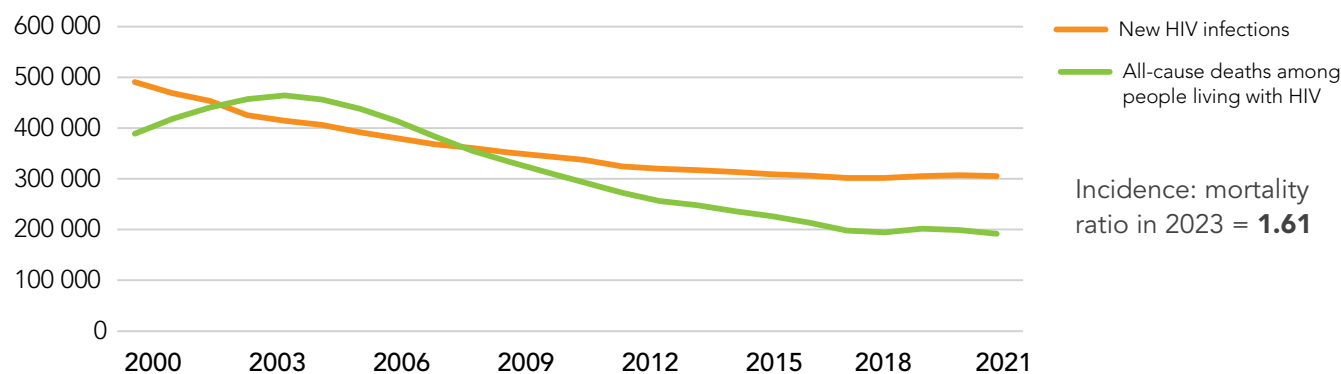
<sup>1</sup> Note: the 2025 targets are for 95% of people living with HIV to know their HIV status, 95% of these people to be receiving HIV treatment, and 95% of these people to have viral suppression. For further explanation see [https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/progress-towards-95-95-95\\_en.pdf](https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/progress-towards-95-95-95_en.pdf) Health and community system

**Number of countries with HIV-related discriminatory and punitive laws, Asia and the Pacific, 2024**



# What factors might contribute to epidemic control?

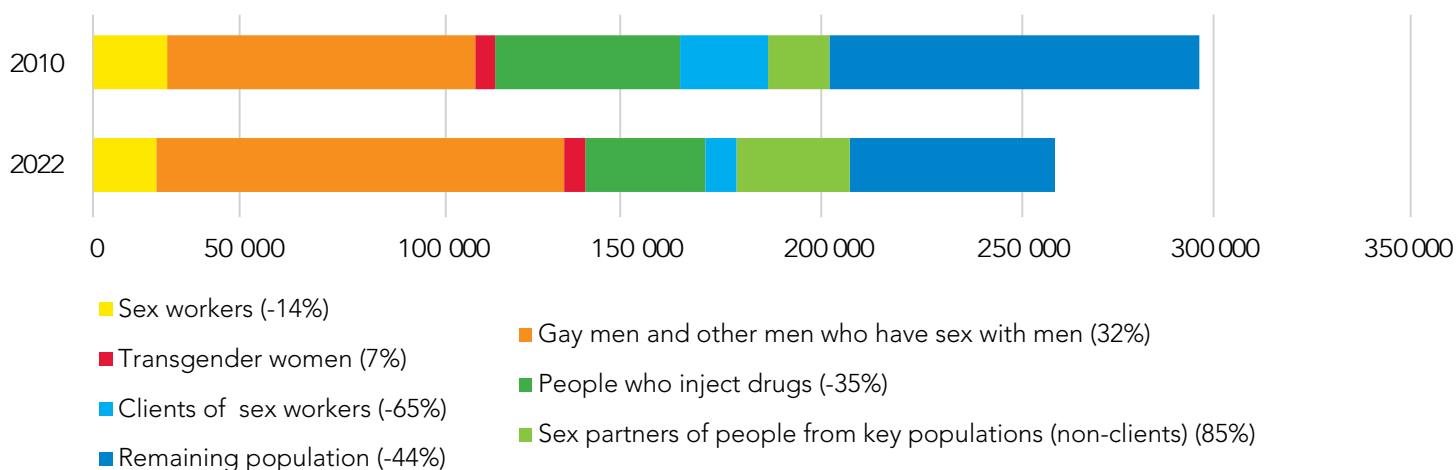
HIV incidence to mortality ratio, 2000–2023



An estimated incidence:mortality ratio (IMR) of 1.61, which is above the benchmark of 1, indicates that the population of people living with HIV in the region is still increasing. This ratio suggests that new infections are outpacing deaths, underscoring the need to scale up prevention interventions, including ensuring that people living with HIV receive treatment. When the value is less than 1, the size of the population living with HIV decreases, contracting the epidemic burden and lowering the costs of antiretroviral therapy and services. An incidence:mortality ratio can reach the goal of being lower than one if mortality is very high. For this reason the incidence:mortality ratio should be interpreted with caution when treatment coverage (which determines mortality) is low as is the case in this region.<sup>2</sup>

Prevention interventions are particularly important among people from key populations and their sex partners who in 2022 accounted for 79% of new HIV infections in the region. The estimated numbers of new HIV infections among gay men and other men who have sex with men increased by 32%, and by 85% among non-client sex partners of people from key populations.

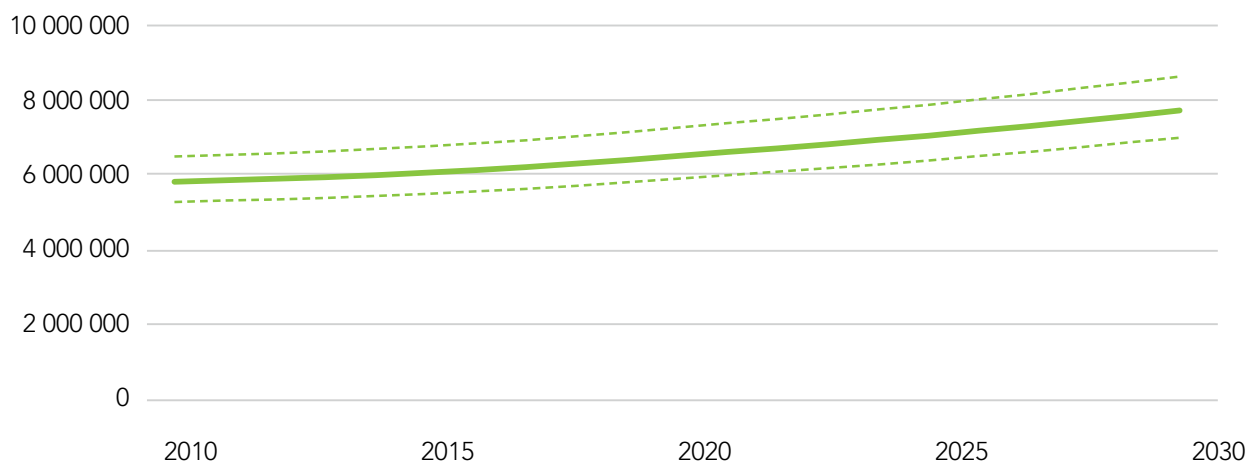
Distribution of number of new HIV infections and percentage change among adults (15+), Asia and the Pacific, 2010 and 2022



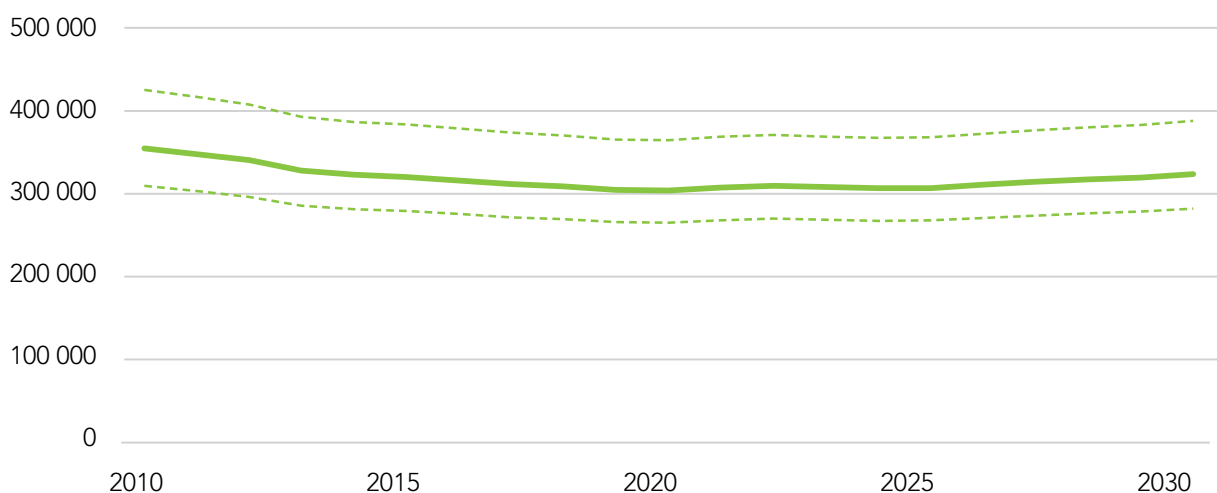
<sup>2</sup> See: Ghys PD, Williams BG, Over M, Hallett TB, Godfrey-Faussett P (2018) Epidemiological metrics and benchmarks for a transition in the HIV epidemic. PLoS Med 15(10): e1002678. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002678>

# What is projected to happen in the future if coverage remains at 2023 level for treatment and prevention?

Projections of numbers of people living with HIV by 2030, Asia and the Pacific

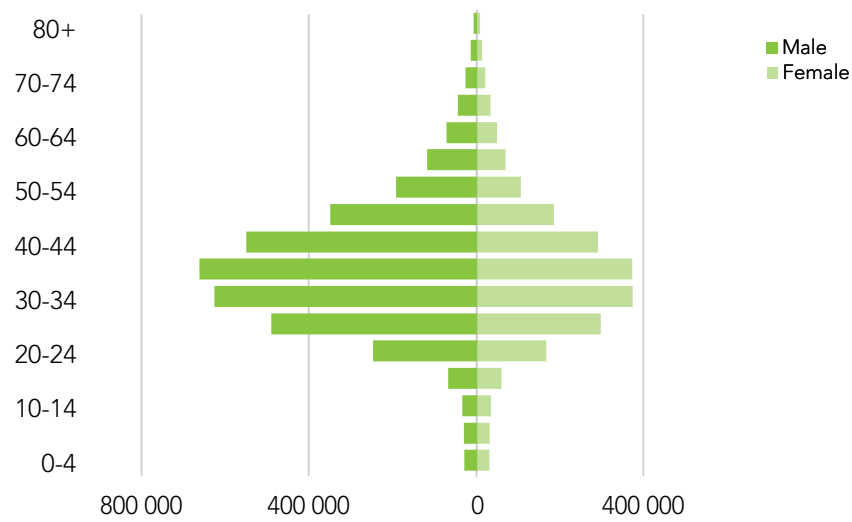


Projections of numbers of new HIV infections by 2030, Asia and the Pacific

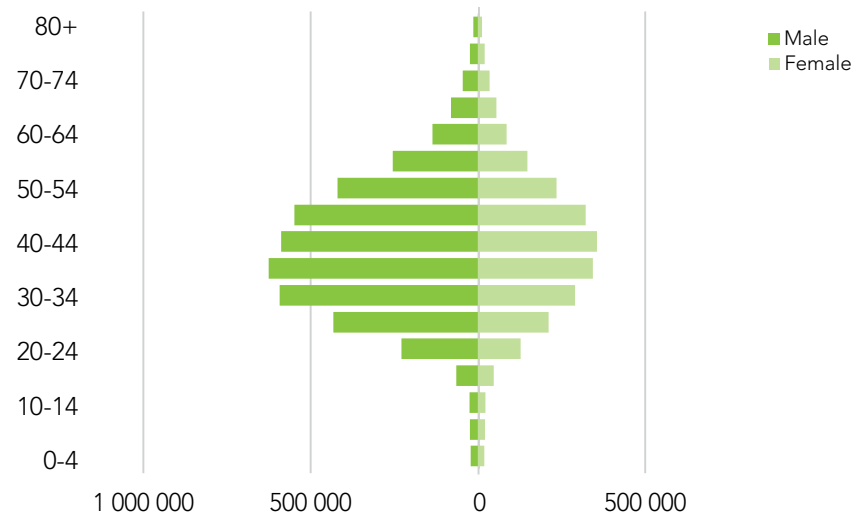


By 2030, without accelerated scale-up of prevention and treatment coverage there may be an estimated 320 000 new HIV infections and 7.6 million people living with HIV in the Asia and the Pacific region. The population of people living with HIV is projected to age, with the population of people living with HIV aged 40 years and above increasing from 38% in 2010 to 52% in 2020, and to 62% in 2030. Gender disparity among people living with HIV is projected to persist, with boys and men making up 67% of people living with HIV in 2030.

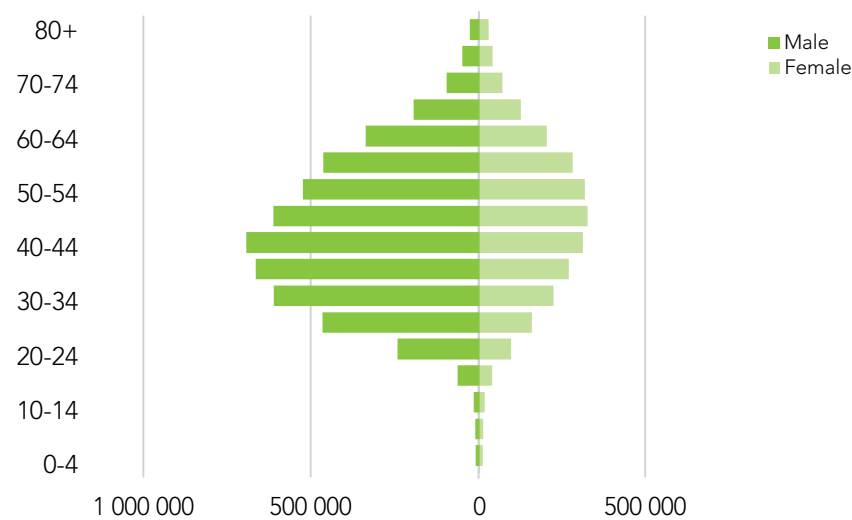
Age distribution of people living with HIV, Asia and the Pacific, 2010



Age distribution of people living with HIV, Asia and the Pacific, 2020



Age distribution of people living with HIV, Asia and the Pacific, 2030



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