

WHAT THE DATA TELL US: Projections for the HIV epidemic in the Caribbean in 2030

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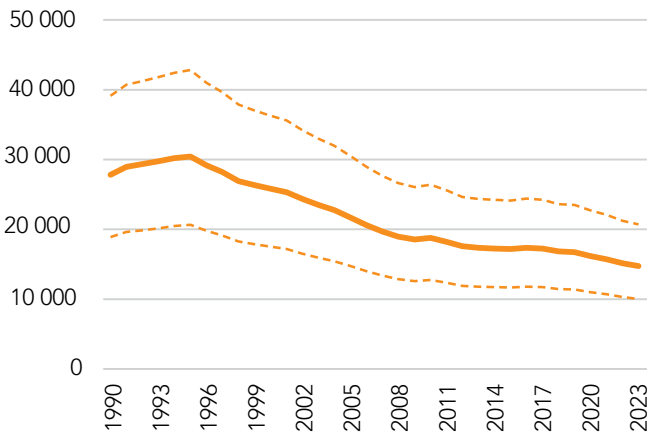
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Where are we now?

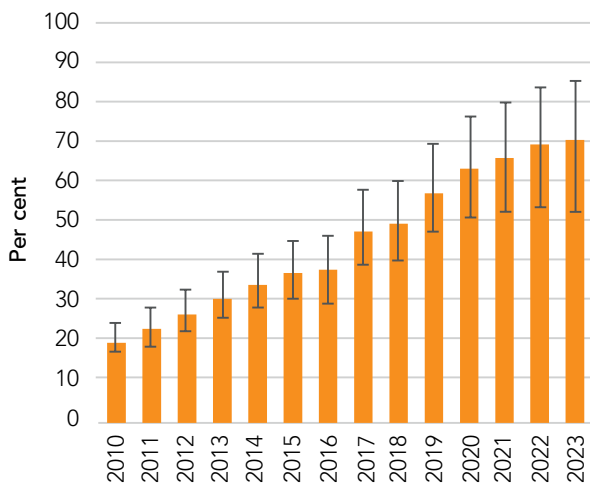
Estimated number of new HIV infections, 1990–2023



New HIV infections have decreased steadily in the Caribbean, falling to an estimated 15 000 (9 900–21 000) in 2023, a 22% decrease from 2010. Antiretroviral treatment coverage among people living with HIV reached 70% (52–85%) in 2023, well below the treatment targets set for 2025.¹

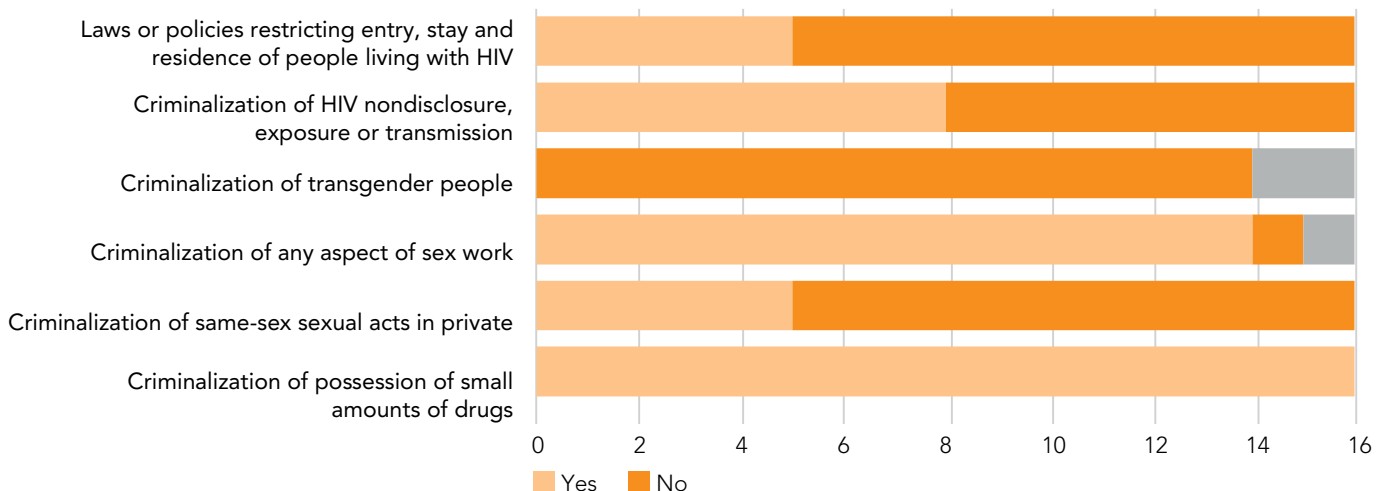
Out of 16 countries, 14 still criminalize sex work, all 16 criminalize possession of small amounts of drugs, 8 criminalize HIV non-disclosure, exposure or transmission based on either HIV-specific or general criminal laws, and 5 criminalize same-sex sexual acts. These persisting discriminatory and punitive laws expose certain communities to stigma, discrimination and violence and lead to poor health outcomes. Stigma and discrimination in the past 6 months have reportedly been experienced by: 22% of gay men and other men who have sex with men and 37% of transgender people in Haiti.

Treatment coverage, 2010–2023



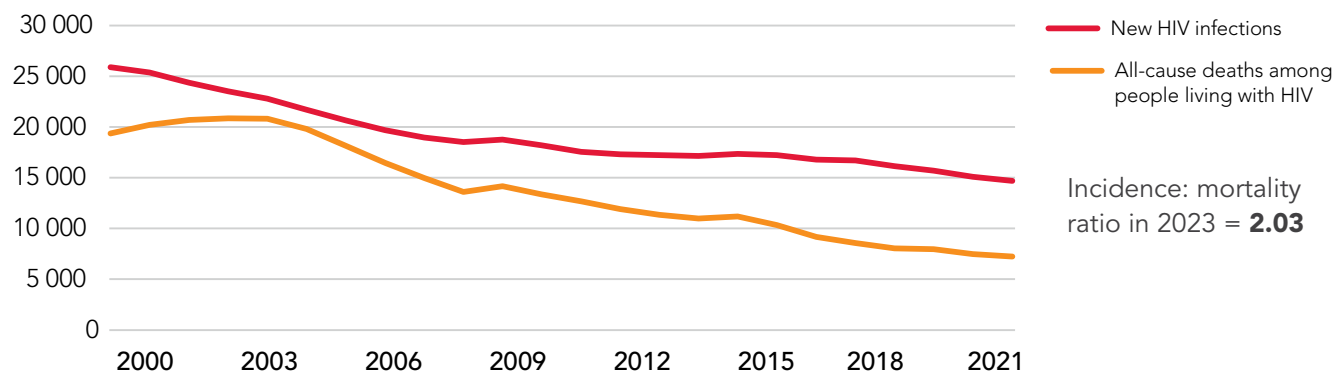
¹ Note: the 2025 targets are for 95% of people living with HIV to know their HIV status, 95% of these people to be receiving HIV treatment, and 95% of these people to have viral suppression. For further explanation see https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/progress-towards-95-95-95_en.pdf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

Countries with HIV-related discriminatory and punitive laws, 2024



What factors might contribute to epidemic control?

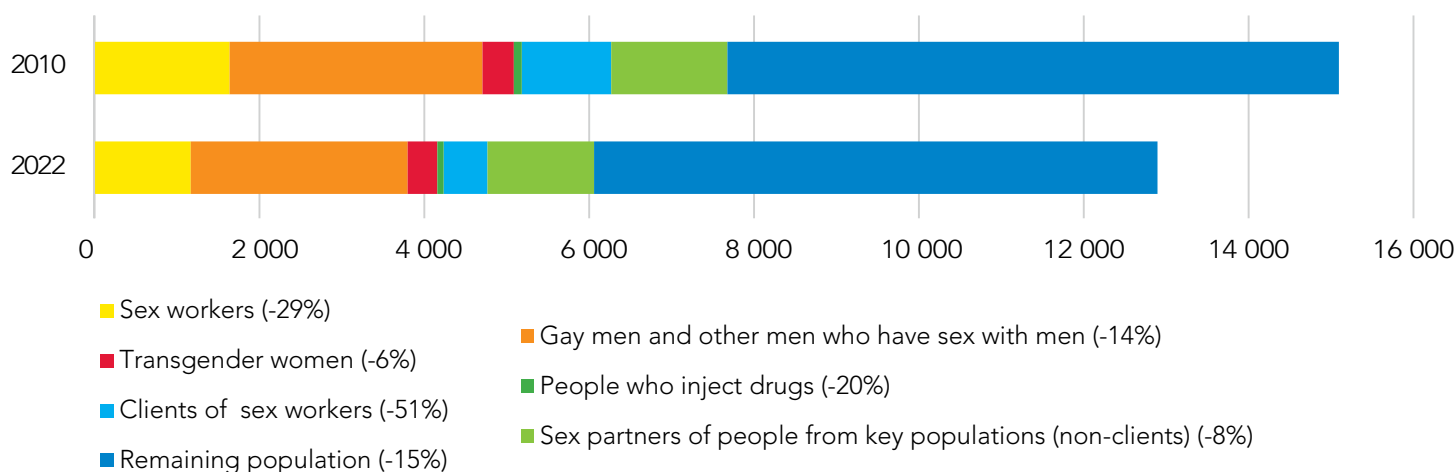
Estimated HIV incidence to mortality ratio, 2000-2023



An estimated incidence:mortality ratio (IMR) of 2.03, which is significantly above the benchmark of 1, indicates that the population of people living with HIV in the region is increasing. When the IMR value is less than one, the size of the population living with HIV decreases, contracting the epidemic and lowering costs of antiretroviral therapy and services. The ratio of 2.03 in the Caribbean suggests that new infections are significantly outpacing deaths, underscoring the need for upscaling prevention interventions, including ensuring that people living with HIV receive treatment. When the IMR value is less than one, the size of the population living with HIV decreases, contracting the epidemic and lowering the costs of antiretroviral therapy and services.

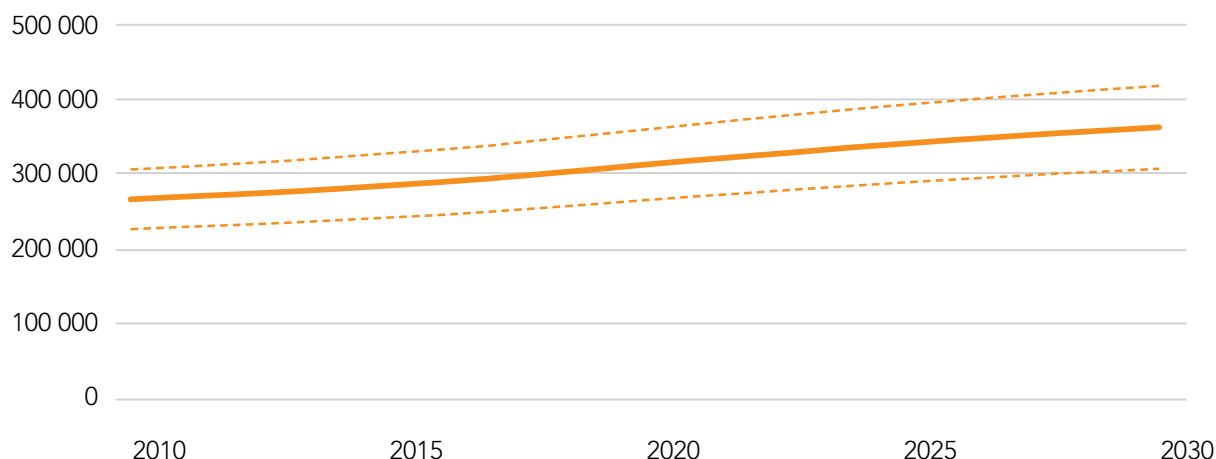
Stigma free and gender transformative prevention interventions are particularly important among people from key populations and their sex partners, who accounted for 47% of all new HIV infections in the region in 2022.

Distribution of new HIV infections and percentage change among adults, 2010 and 2022

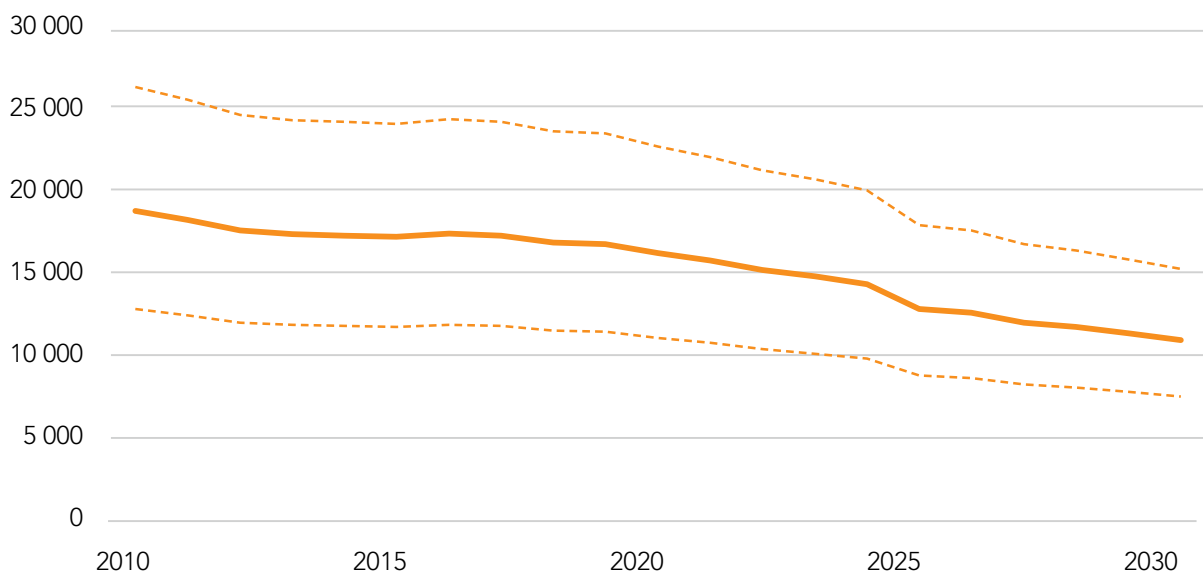


What is projected to happen in the future if coverage remains at the 2023 level for treatment and prevention?

Projections of numbers of people living with HIV by 2030

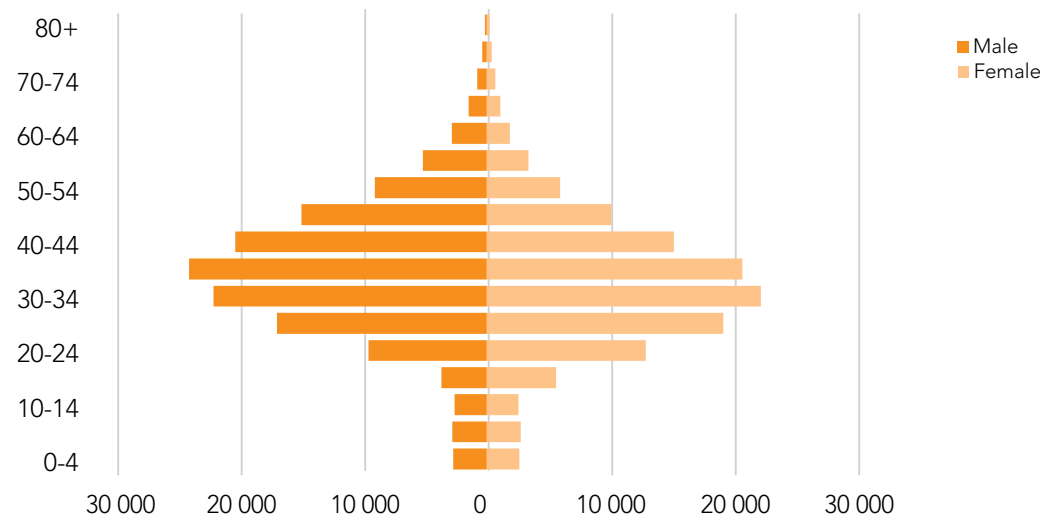


Projections of numbers of new HIV infections by 2030

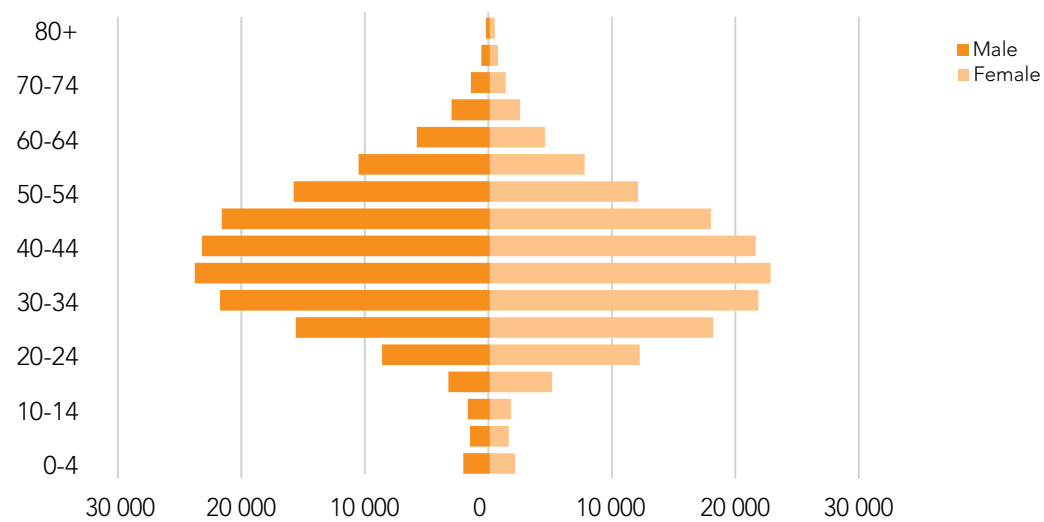


By 2030, without accelerated scale-up of prevention and treatment coverage there may be an estimated 11 000 new HIV infections and 370 000 people living with HIV in the Caribbean by 2030. The population of people living with HIV is projected to shift towards middle age and older, with individuals aged 40 years and above accounting for 62% of people living with HIV in the region in by 2030. The percentage of people living with HIV aged 60–80+ years is also projected to increase significantly, from 4% in 2010 to 14% in 2030.

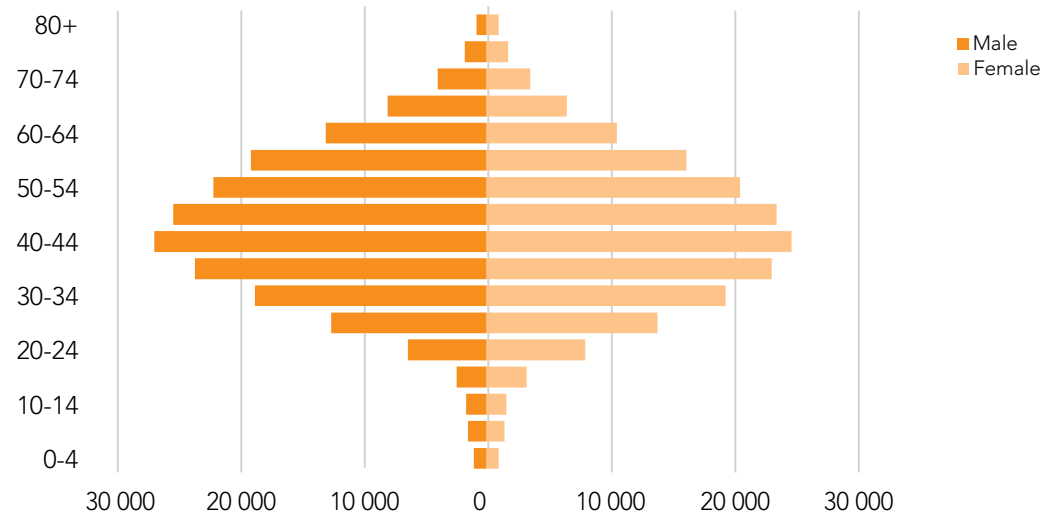
Age distribution of people living with HIV, 2010



Age distribution of people living with HIV, 2020



Age distribution of people living with HIV, 2030



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