

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

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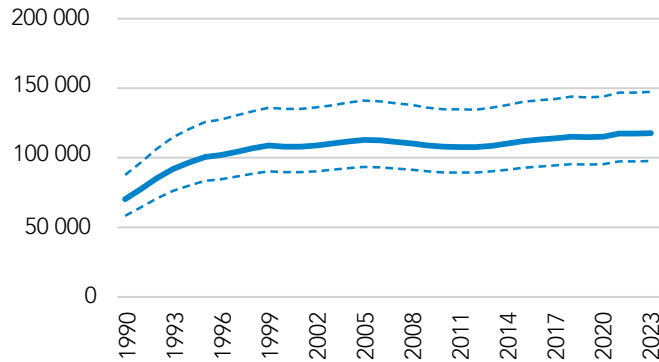
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Where are we now?

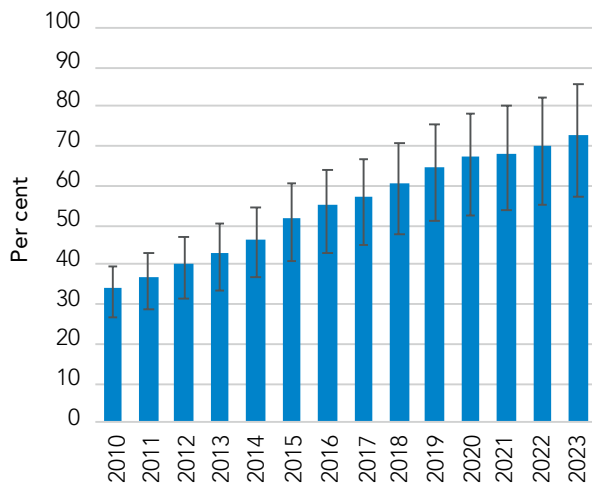
Estimated number of new HIV infections, 1990–2023



New HIV infections are steadily increasing in Latin America, amounting to an estimated 120 000 (97 000–150 000) in 2023, a 9% increase from 2010. Antiretroviral treatment coverage among people living with HIV reached 73% (57–85%) in 2023, well below the treatment targets set for 2025.¹

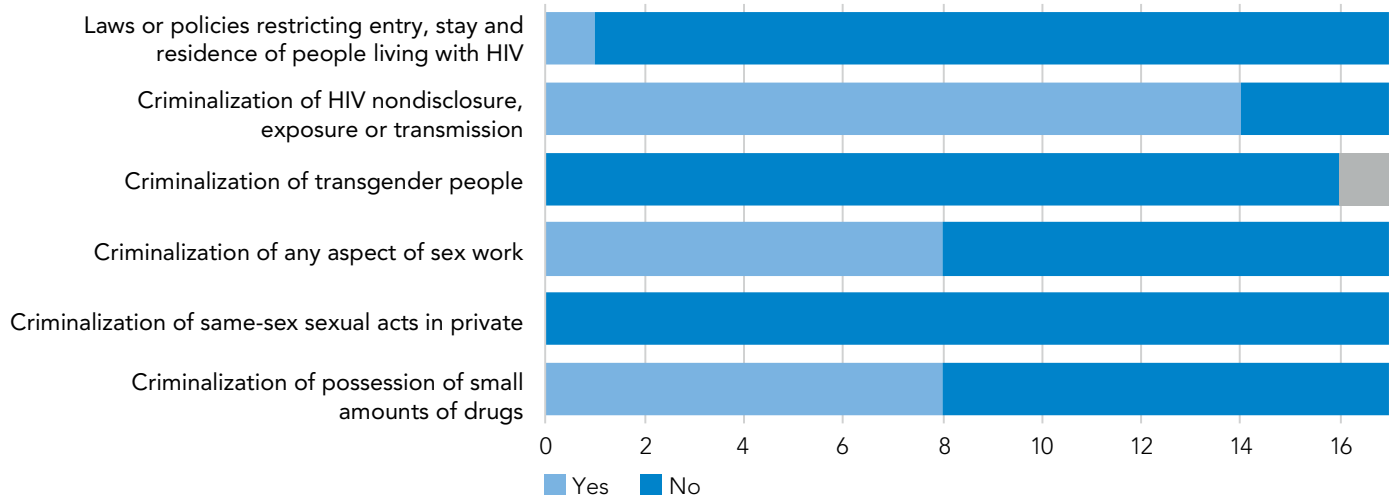
Out of 17 countries in the region, 8 still criminalize sex work, 8 criminalize possession of small amounts of drugs, and 15 criminalize HIV non-disclosure, exposure or transmission based on either HIV-specific or general criminal laws. No countries in the region criminalize same-sex sexual acts. These persisting discriminatory and punitive laws expose certain communities to stigma, discrimination and violence and lead to poor health outcomes. In Bolivia 15% of gay men and other men who have sex with men and in Venezuela 7.5% of sex workers said that they avoided health care because of stigma and discrimination in the past 12 months.

Treatment coverage, 2010–2023



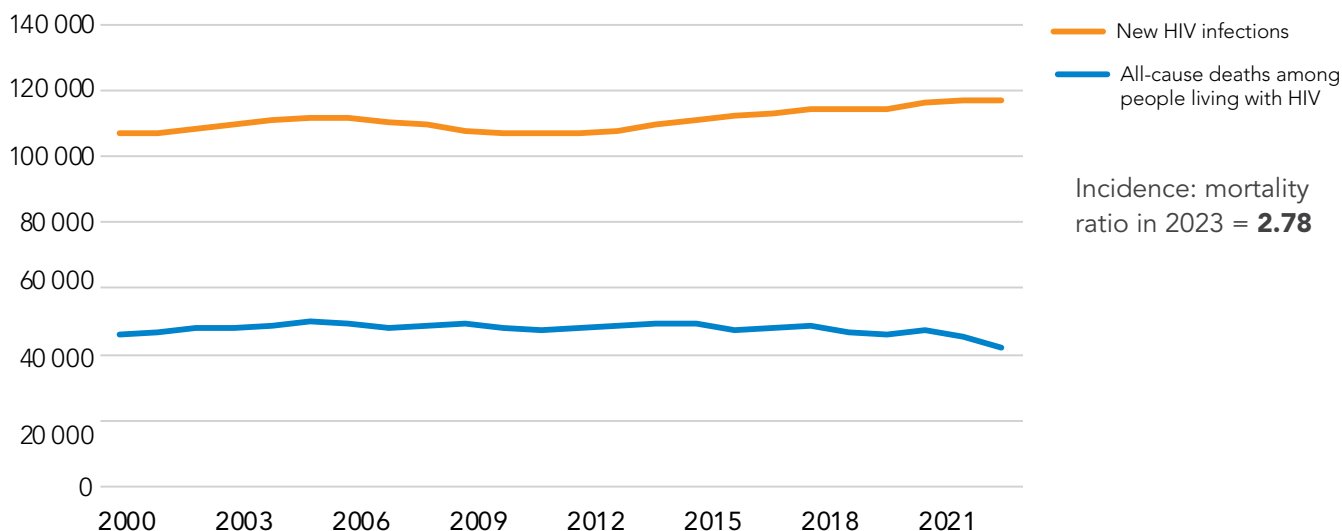
¹ Note: the 2025 targets are for 95% of people living with HIV to know their HIV status, 95% of these people to be receiving HIV treatment, and 95% of these people to have viral suppression. For further explanation see https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/progress-towards-95-95-95_en.pdf

Countries with HIV-related discriminatory and punitive laws, 2024



What factors might contribute to epidemic control?

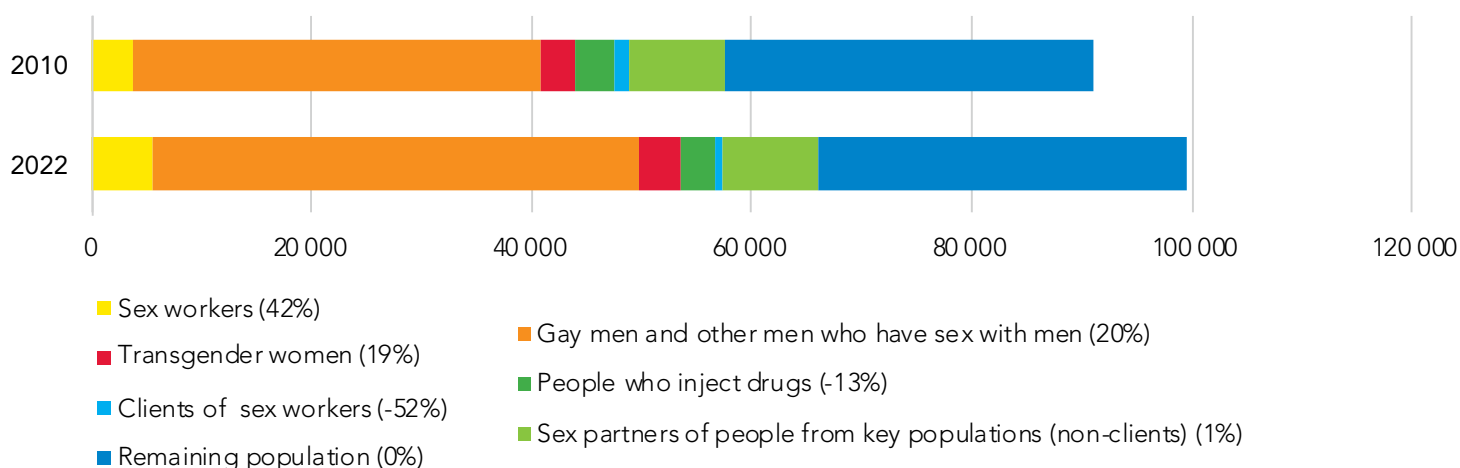
Estimated HIV incidence to mortality ratio, 2000-2023



An estimated incidence:mortality ratio (IMR) of 2.78, which is notably 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 2.78 suggests that new infections are significantly outpacing deaths, underscoring the importance of scaling up and sustaining prevention interventions, including ensuring that people living with HIV receive treatment.

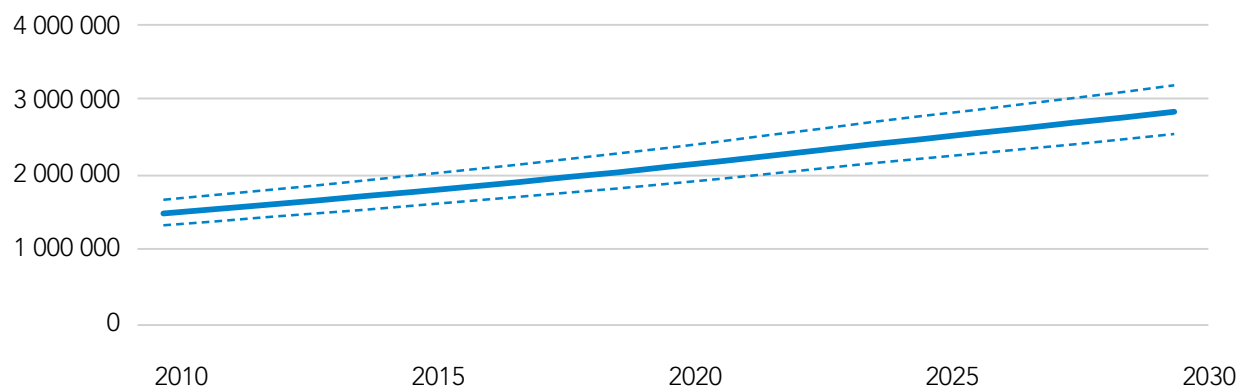
Prevention interventions are particularly important among people from key populations and their sex partners who accounted for an estimated 66% of new HIV infections in the region in 2022. The estimated number of new HIV infections was 20% higher than in 2010 among gay men and other men who have sex with men, 42% higher among sex workers, and 19% higher among transgender women.

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

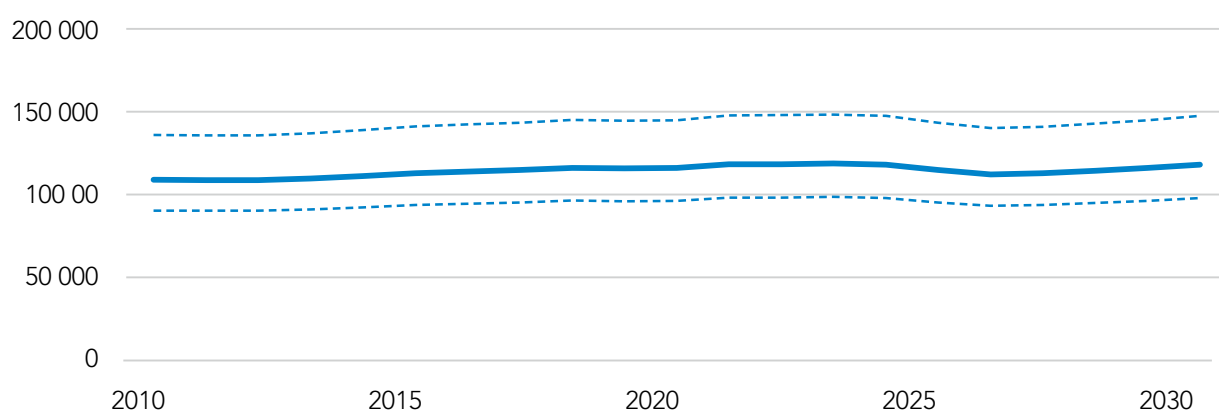


What is projected to happen in the future if coverage remains at the 2023 level for treatment and prevention?

Projections of numbers of people living with HIV by 2030

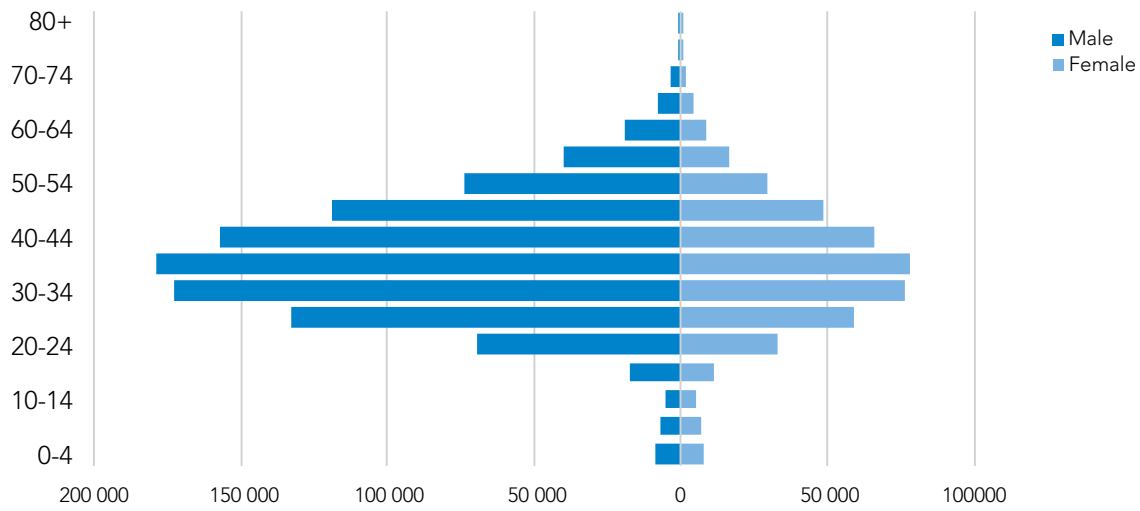


Projections of numbers of new HIV infections by 2030

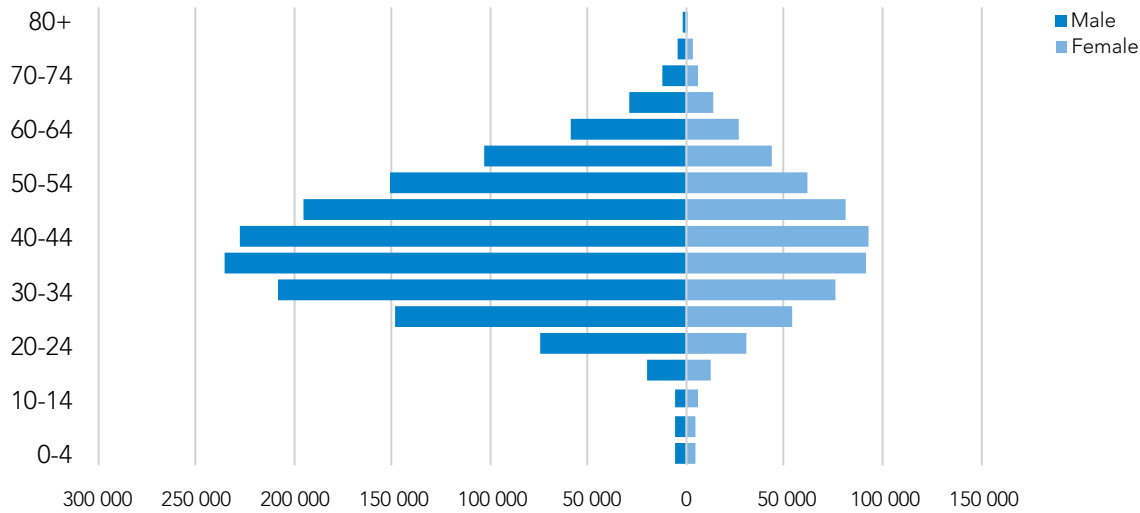


By 2030, without accelerated scale-up of prevention and treatment coverage, there may be an estimated 120 000 new HIV infections and 280 000 people living with HIV in Latin America. The population of people living with HIV is projected to age, with the proportion of older adults aged 45+ years living with HIV increasing from 26% in 2010 to 38% in 2020, and to 50% in 2030. Gender disparity among people living with HIV is projected to persist, with boys and men making up 69% of people living with HIV in 2010, 71% in 2020 and 73% in 2030.

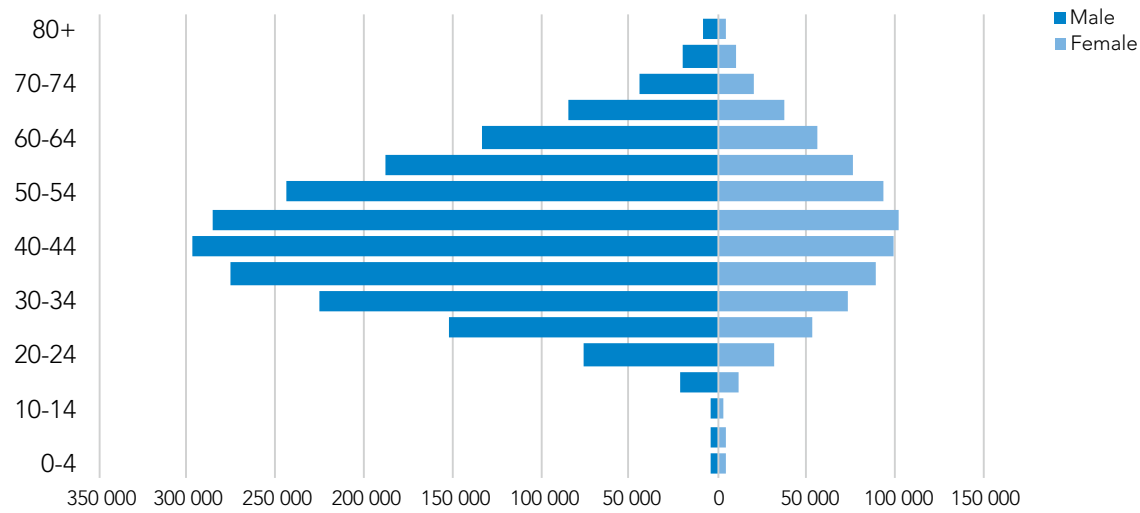
Age distribution of people living with HIV, 2010



Age distribution of people living with HIV, 2020



Age distribution of people living with HIV, 2030



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