

# **WHAT THE DATA TELL US:** Projections for the HIV epidemic in western and central Europe and North America in 2030 and beyond

© Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), 2025

Some rights reserved. This work is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/>).

Under the terms of this licence, you may copy, redistribute and adapt the work for non-commercial purposes, provided the work is appropriately cited, as indicated below. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that UNAIDS endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the UNAIDS logo is not permitted. If you adapt the work, then you must license your work under the same or equivalent Creative Commons licence. If you create a translation of this work, you should add the following disclaimer along with the suggested citation: "This translation was not created by UNAIDS. UNAIDS is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original English edition shall be the binding and authentic edition".

Any mediation relating to disputes arising under the licence shall be conducted in accordance with the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization (<http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules>).

**Suggested citation.** The urgency of now: AIDS at a crossroads. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; 2024. Licence: [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/).

**Third-party materials.** If you wish to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, it is your responsibility to determine whether permission is needed for that reuse and to obtain permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

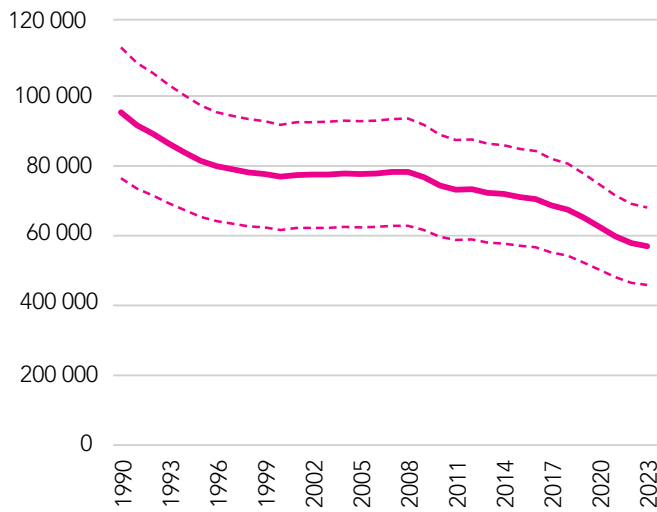
The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNAIDS concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by UNAIDS in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

All reasonable precautions have been taken by UNAIDS to verify the information contained in this publication. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall UNAIDS be liable for damages arising from its use.

# Where are we now?

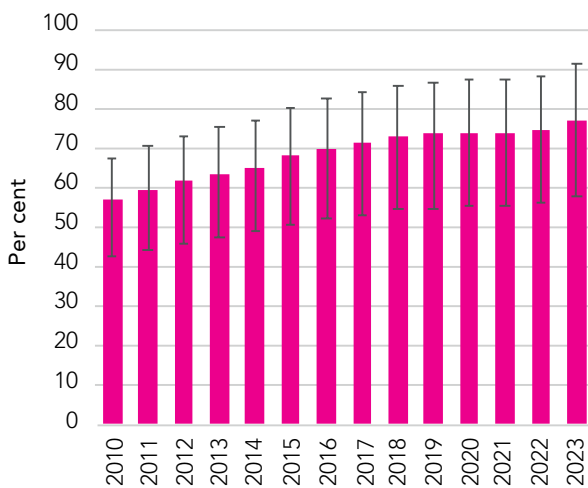
Number of new HIV infections, 1990–2023



New HIV infections are decreasing slowly in the western and central Europe and north America region, amounting to 56 000 (45 000–67 000) in 2023, a 24% decrease from 2010. Antiretroviral treatment coverage among people living with HIV reached 77% (57–91%) in 2023, steadily progressing towards the treatment targets set for 2025.<sup>1</sup>

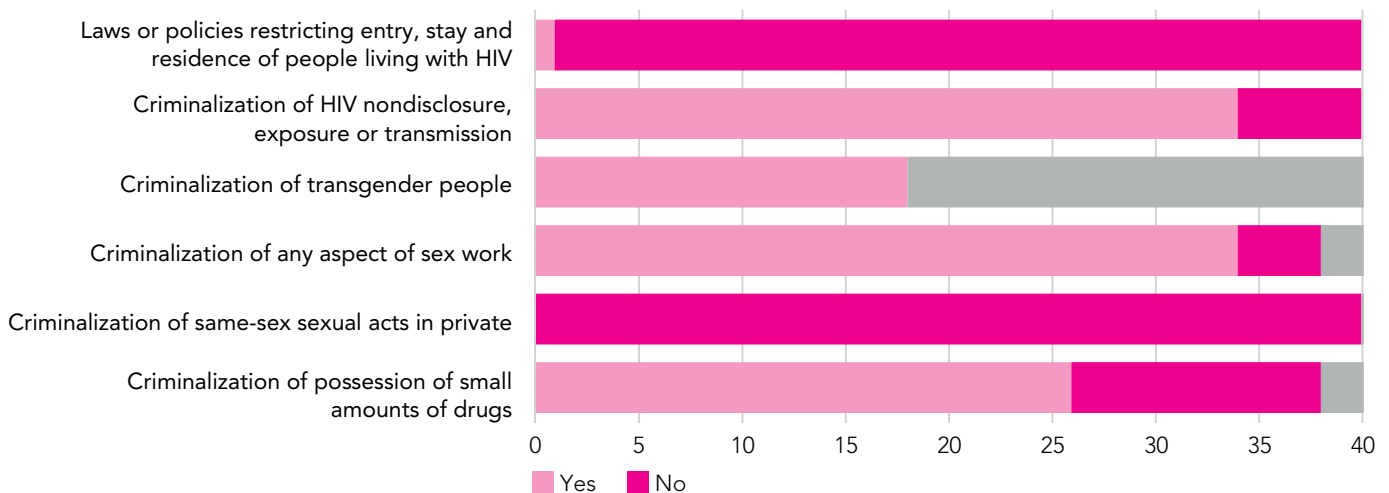
Out of 41 reporting countries, 34 still criminalize sex work, 26 criminalize possession of small amounts of drugs, 18 criminalize transgender people, and 34 criminalize HIV non-disclosure, exposure or transmission. These persisting discriminatory and punitive laws expose certain communities to stigma, discrimination and violence and lead to poor health outcomes. Stigma and discrimination were reportedly experienced in the past 6 months by 22% of sex workers in Serbia, 45% of gay men and other men who have sex with men in Ukraine, and 55% of people who inject drugs in Serbia.

Treatment coverage, 2010–2023



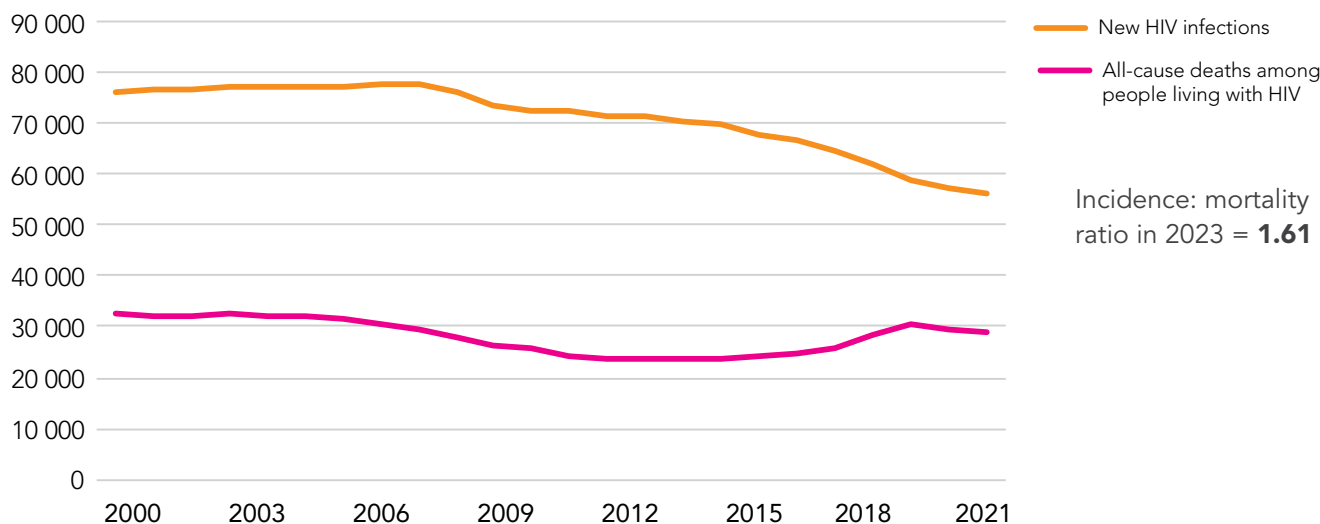
<sup>1</sup> Note: the 2025 targets are for 95% of people living with HIV to know their HIV status, 95% of these people to be receiving HIV treatment, and 95% of these people to have viral suppression. For further explanation see [https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/progress-towards-95-95-95\\_en.pdf](https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/fil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

Countries with HIV-related discriminatory and punitive laws, 2024



# What factors might contribute to epidemic control?

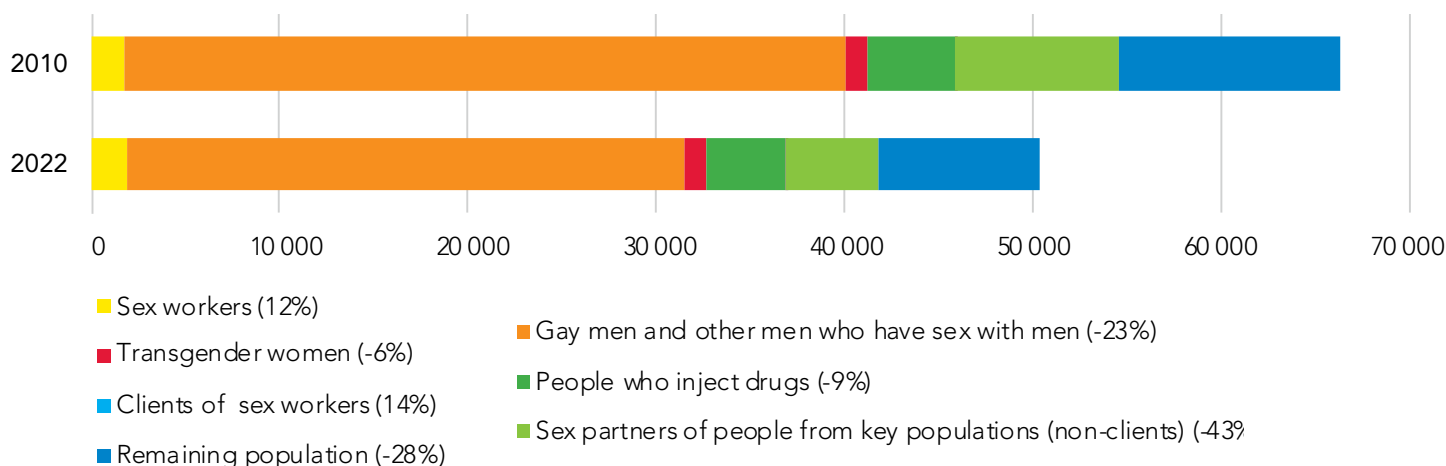
HIV incidence to mortality ratio, 2000–2023



An estimated incidence:mortality ratio (IMR) of 1.95, 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 importance of scaling up and sustaining prevention interventions, including ensuring that people living with HIV receive treatment. When the IMR value is less than 1, the size of the population living with HIV decreases, contracting the epidemic and lowering costs of antiretroviral therapy and services.

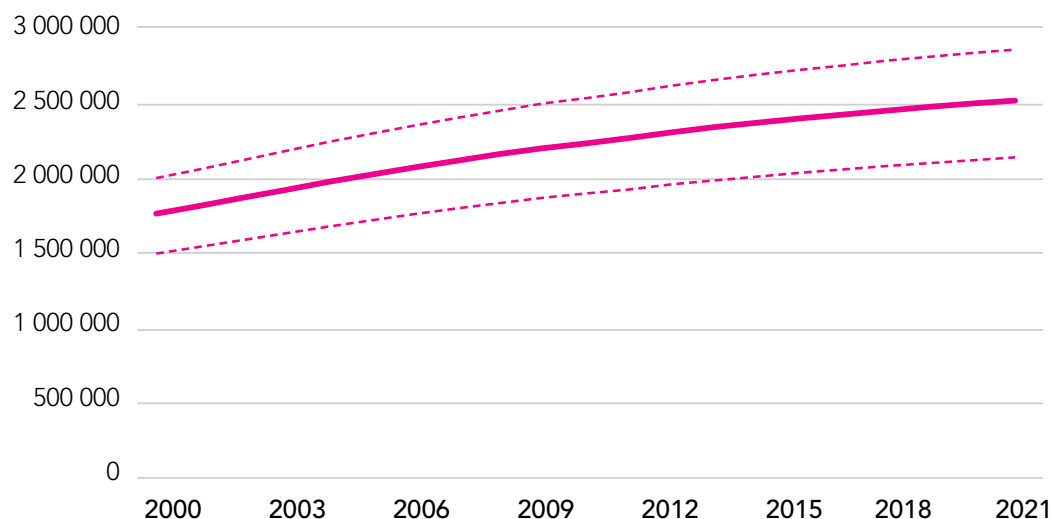
Prevention interventions, are particularly important among people from key populations and their sex partners who in 2022 accounted for 82% of new HIV infections in the region. Up to; 70% of those occurred among gay men and other men who have sex with men. The number of new HIV infections among sex workers and their clients increased by 12% and 14%, respectively.

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

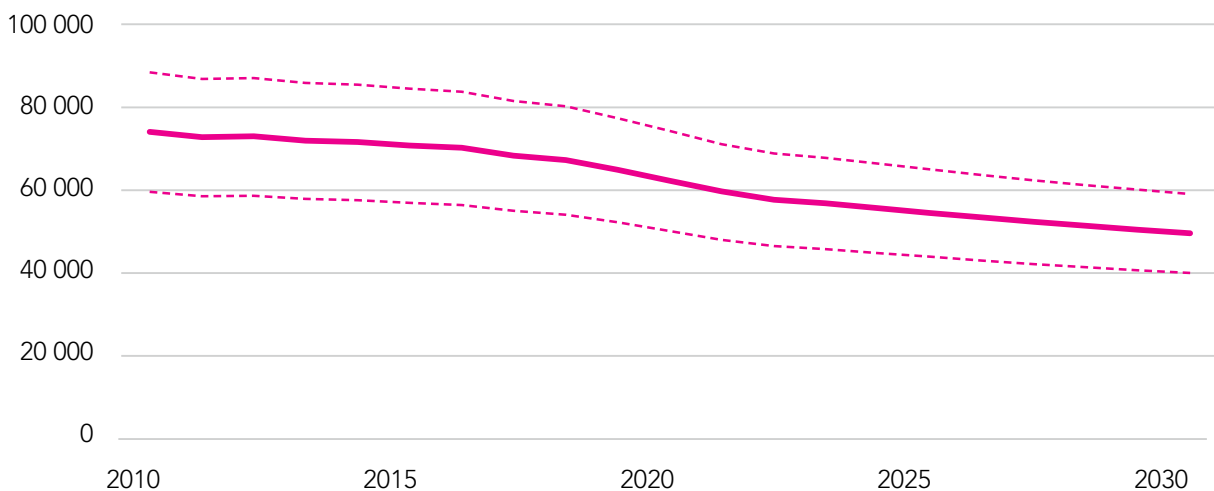


# What is projected to happen in the future without acceleration of treatment and prevention coverage?

Projections of numbers of people living with HIV by 2030

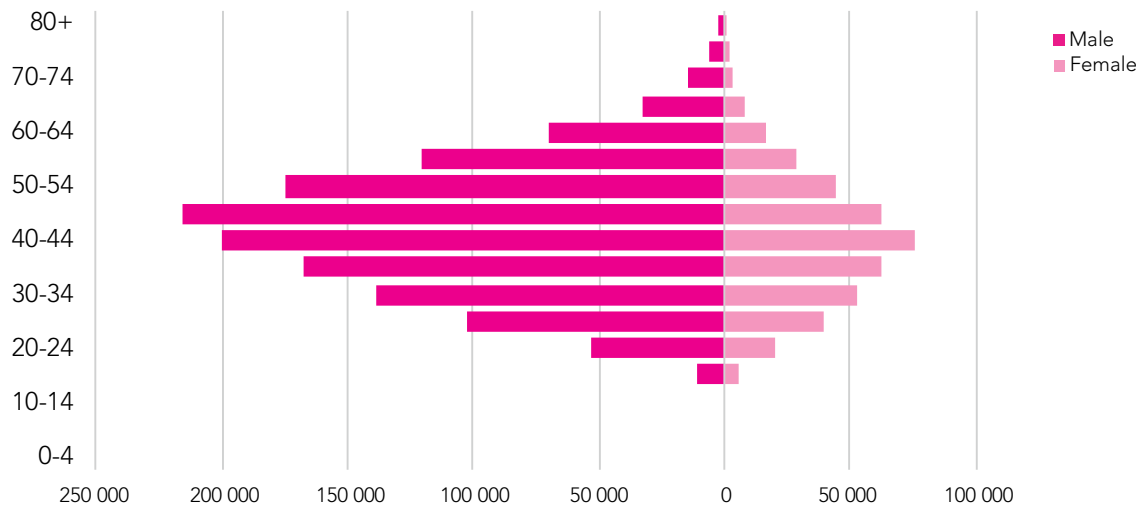


Projections of numbers of new HIV infections by 2030

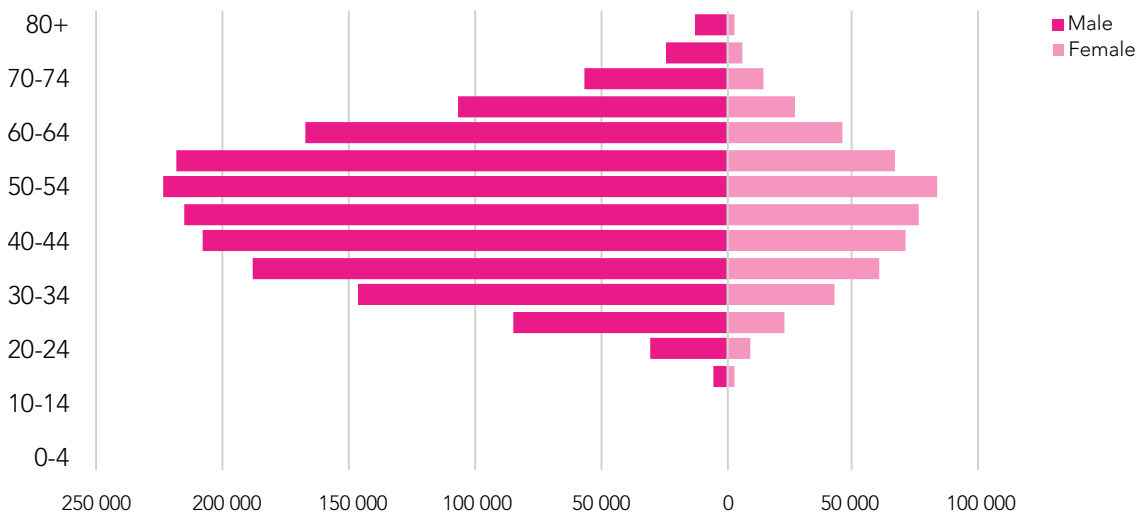


By 2030, without accelerated scale-up of prevention and treatment coverage, there may be an estimated 49 000 new HIV infections and 2.5 million people living with HIV in the western and central Europe and north America regions. The population of people living with HIV is projected to age, with the proportion of older adults (aged 55+ years), increasing from 18% in 2010 to 34% in 2020, and to 47% in 2030. Gender disparity among people living with HIV is projected to persist, with boys and men continuing to account for about 76% of all people living with HIV between 2010 and 2030.

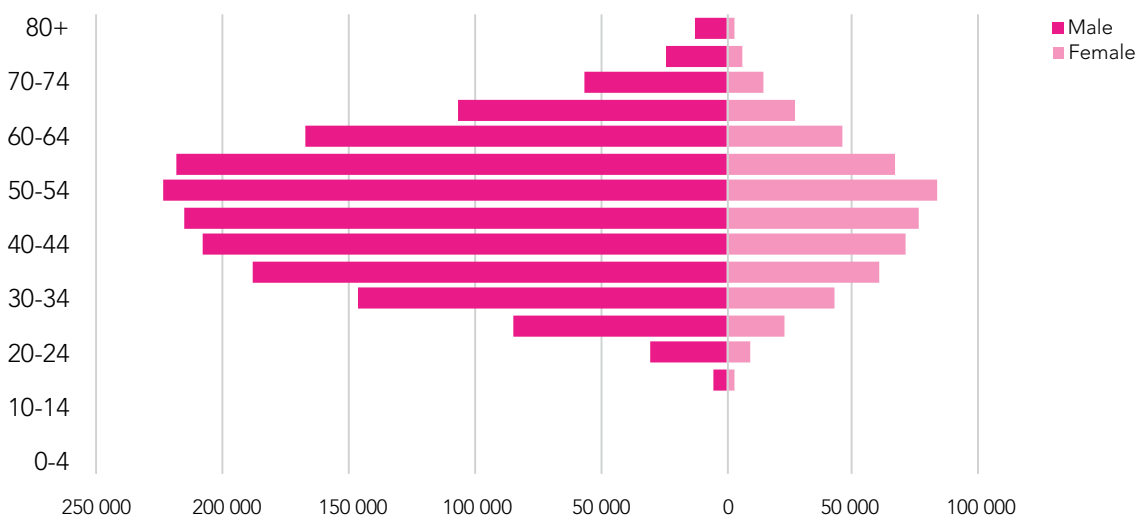
### Age distribution of people living with HIV, 2010



### Age distribution of people living with HIV, 2020



### Age distribution of people living with HIV, 2030



# Bibliography

---

Korenromp EL, Sabin K, Stover J, Brown T, Johnson LF, Martin-Hughes R, et al. New HIV infections among key populations and their partners in 2010 and 2022, by world region: a multisources estimation. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 2024;95(1S):e34–e45. doi:10.1097/QAI.0000000000003340.

National commitments and policy instrument 2017–2024. Geneva: UNAIDS; 2024 (<http://lawsandpolicies.unaids.org/>).

UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2024. Geneva: UNAIDS; 2024 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

UNAIDS Methods for deriving HIV estimates, 2024; [https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/2024-unaids-global-aids-update-annex2-methods\\_en.pdf](https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/2024-unaids-global-aids-update-annex2-methods_en.pdf)

**UNAIDS**  
**Joint United Nations**  
**Programme on HIV/AIDS**

20 Avenue Appia  
1211 Geneva 27  
Switzerland

+41 22 595 59 92

[unaids.org](http://unaids.org)