

Children, HIV and AIDS

Regional snapshot: Latin America and the Caribbean

DECEMBER 2018

Outside of sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean is the region with the highest HIV incidence rate among adolescents aged 10–19 years, and key indicators show only limited progress in meeting their HIV prevention needs. Since 2010, for example, the estimated 19,000 new HIV infections annually among 10- to 19-year-olds is essentially unchanged. The situation is roughly the same among younger children. Levels of HIV treatment coverage for children aged 0–14 years living with HIV have increased, but slightly, and the estimated number (3,500) of children aged 0–9 who were newly infected with HIV in 2017 is only slightly lower than in previous years.

FIGURE 1. Annual number of new HIV infections among children aged 0–9, by period of transmission, 2010–2017

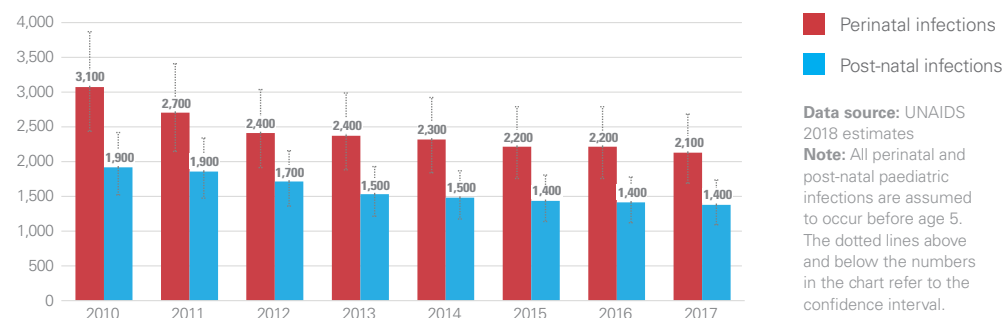


FIGURE 2. Annual number of new HIV infections among adolescents aged 10–19, by sex, 2010–2017

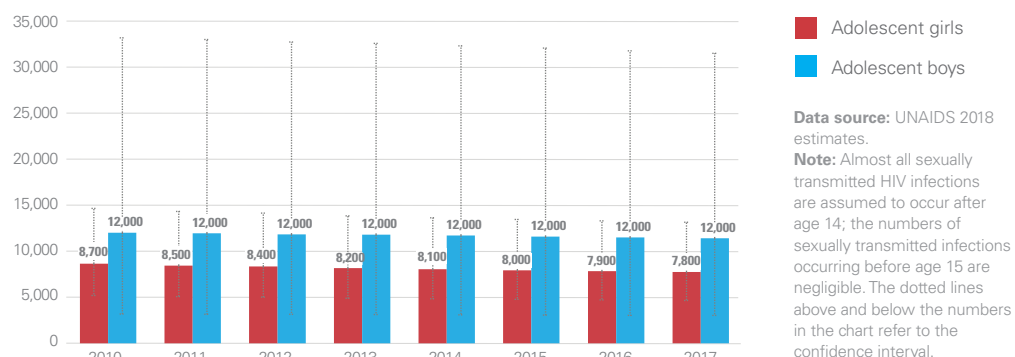
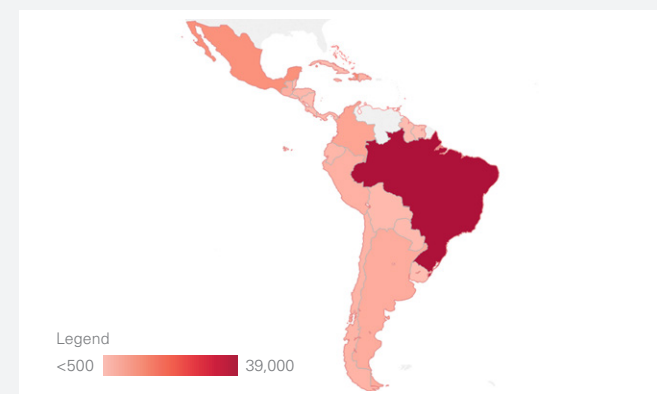


FIGURE 3. Number of children and adolescents aged 0–19 living with HIV, by country, 2017



Country	Estimate	Lower	Upper
Brazil	39,000	24,000	55,000
Haiti	12,000	7,800	16,000
Mexico	10,000	7,600	13,000
Colombia	5,900	4,200	8,400
Argentina	4,300	3,300	5,400
Guatemala	3,500	2,800	4,400
Peru	3,100	2,100	5,100
Dominican Republic	2,700	1,900	4,400
Chile	2,600	1,900	3,200
Ecuador	1,900	1,000	3,800
Honduras	1,700	1,200	2,200
Jamaica	1,400	1,100	2,000
El Salvador	1,400	1,100	1,700
Panama	1,300	<1,000	1,600
Bolivia	1,200	<1,000	2,000
Paraguay	1,200	<1,000	3,000
Cuba	<1,000	<1,000	1,100
Guyana	<1,000	<500	<1,000
Costa Rica	<1,000	<500	<1,000
Nicaragua	<500	<500	<1,000
Uruguay	<500	<500	<1,000
Belize	<500	<500	6,900
Trinidad and Tobago	<500	<500	<500
Suriname	<500	<500	<500
Latin America and the Caribbean	100,000	69,000	150,000

Data source: UNAIDS 2018 estimates.

Note: Due to rounding, estimates may not add up to the total. This map does not claim any official position by the United Nations. Countries are classified according to the Latin America and the Caribbean geographical region. Data are not available for the Bahamas, Barbados and Venezuela. Countries with no data and countries outside of the geographical region are shown in grey.

KEY FACTS:

Children, HIV and AIDS in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2017

Epidemiology	Estimate	Lower	Upper
Number of children and adolescents living with HIV	100,000	69,000	150,000
Children aged 0–9	24,000	18,000	33,000
Adolescents aged 10–19	77,000	51,000	110,000
Number of new HIV infections, children and adolescents	23,000	11,000	43,000
Children aged 0–9	3,500	2,500	5,500
Adolescents aged 10–19	19,000	8,500	38,000
Adolescent girls	7,800	4,700	13,000
Adolescent boys	12,000	3,100	32,000
New HIV infections per 1,000 adolescents aged 15–19	0.35	0.15	0.69
Adolescent girls	0.29	0.18	0.49
Adolescent boys	0.41	0.11	1.14
Number of AIDS-related deaths, children and adolescents	3,000	1,800	5,200
Children aged 0–9	2,100	1,400	3,500
Adolescents aged 10–19	900	500	1,700
Number of pregnant women living with HIV	29,000	23,000	37,000
Mother-to-child transmission rate of HIV, final	11.9	10.0	14.7
Perinatal transmission	7.2	5.7	9.1
Post-natal transmission	4.7	3.7	5.9
HIV response	Estimate	Lower	Upper
PMTCT coverage (ART) (%)	73	58	92
Early infant diagnosis (%)	47	36	59
ART coverage, children aged 0–14 (%)	54	35	77

Note: Due to rounding, estimates may not add up to the total.

Indicator definitions: **Mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) rate:** Number of new HIV infections among children under 5 per 100 pregnant women living with HIV in the last year. **New HIV infections per 1,000 adolescents:** Number of new HIV infections among adolescents age 15–19 per 1,000 adolescents. **PMTCT coverage:** Percentage of pregnant women living with HIV who received lifelong ART to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. **Early infant diagnosis:** Percentage of infants born to HIV-positive mothers who were tested for HIV within two months of birth. **ART coverage among children aged 0–14:** Percentage of children aged 0–14 living with HIV who are receiving antiretroviral therapy.



60 per cent of children

and adolescents living with HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean reside in three countries: **Brazil, Haiti and Mexico**



Since 2010, **new HIV infections have decreased**

more slowly for boys than for girls



59 per cent

of AIDS-related deaths among children and adolescents occur before age 5

Analysis

Continued stalled progress in the region will hinder efforts to sustain achievements to date or to make the necessary gains towards ending HIV as a threat among children and adolescents. However, there are signs pointing to areas where concentrated efforts could have significant impacts: Early infant diagnosis (EID) coverage rates that have changed only slightly since 2014 and estimates that 61 per cent of new HIV infections among children aged 0–9 years in 2017 occurred during pregnancy or delivery indicate notable gaps in prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) programmes, including access to testing for newborns and pregnant mothers.

Meanwhile, it is evident that improving results among adolescents requires greater focus on boys, who in 2017 accounted for about 60 per cent of all new HIV infections among those aged 10–19 in the region. Between 2010 and 2017, the annual number of new HIV infections among boys in that age group fell by only 5 per cent compared with a decline of 10 per cent among girls.

FIGURE 4. Number of pregnant women living with HIV and number receiving antiretrovirals for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, 2010–2017

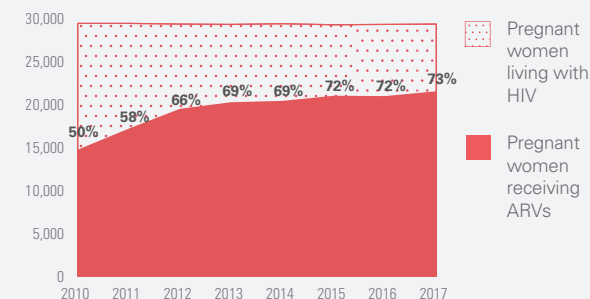


FIGURE 5. Number of HIV-exposed infants and number tested for HIV within two months of birth, 2010–2017

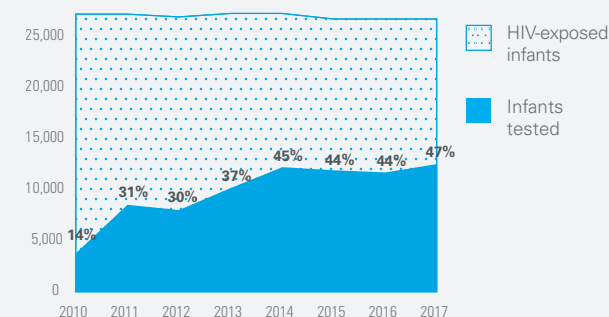
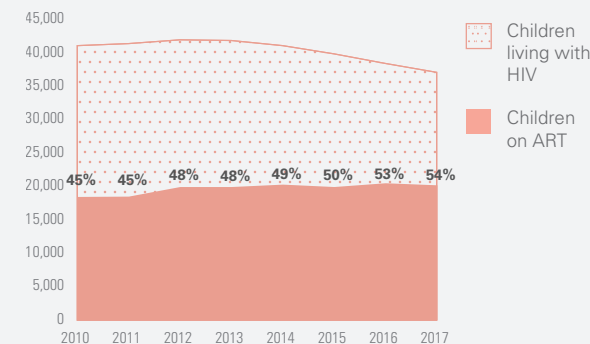


FIGURE 6. Number of children aged 0–14 living with HIV and number receiving ART, 2010–2017



Data source: Global AIDS Monitoring 2018 and UNAIDS 2018 estimates. **Note:** PMTCT coverage includes most effective antiretroviral regimens, excluding single-dose nevirapine. Infant HIV testing coverage includes only those countries reporting, representing 91 per cent of HIV-exposed infants. The percentages in the figures refer to coverage rates.

Source for all data: Global AIDS Monitoring 2018, UNAIDS 2018 estimates and UNICEF Global Databases of nationally representative population-based surveys 2010–2017. For more information, visit data.unicef.org.