

2021 HIV and AIDS Eastern and Southern Africa Snapshot

Pregnant Women, Children and Adolescents November 2021

Figure 1: Number of children and adolescents aged 0-19 years living with HIV, by country, 2020

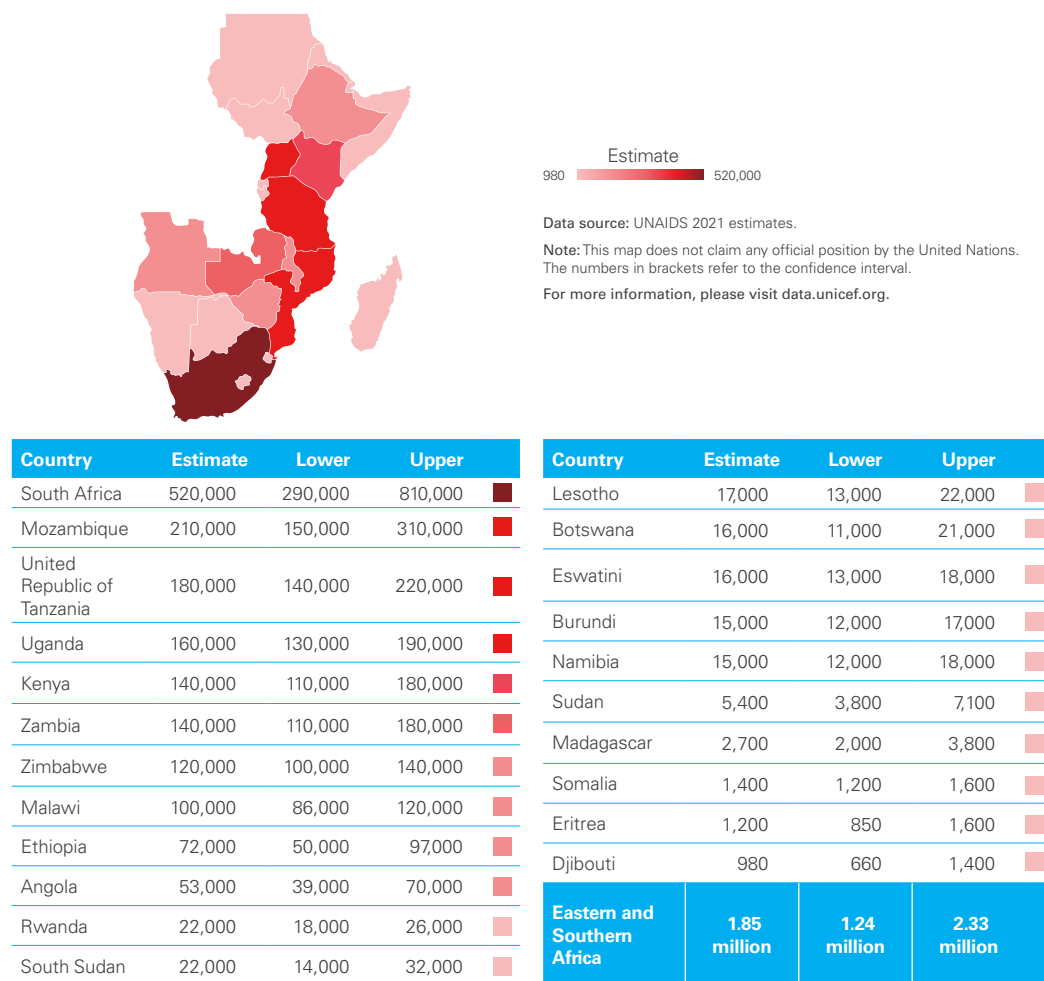


Figure 2: Situation of children and adolescents with HIV and AIDS, 2020

Overview	Estimate	Lower	Upper
Number of children and adolescents living with HIV	1.85 million	1.24 million	2.33 million
Children aged 0–9 years	630,000	450,000	780,000
Adolescents aged 10–19 years	1.22 million	790,000	1.55 million
Number of new HIV infections, children and adolescents	177,000	73,000	340,000
Children aged 0–9* years	77,000	50,000	130,000
Adolescents aged 10–19 years	100,000	23,000	210,000
Adolescent girls	88,000	12,000	170,000
Adolescent boys	15,000	1,000	40,000
HIV incidence per 1,000 population, adolescents aged 15–19 years	1.74	0.39	3.46
Adolescent girls	2.99	0.40	5.76
Adolescent boys	0.51	0.03	1.34
Number of AIDS-related deaths, children and adolescents	60,000	44,000	98,000
Children aged 0–9 years	40,000	29,000	69,000
Adolescents aged 10–19 years	20,000	15,000	29,000
Number of children aged 0–17 years who lost one or both parents due to AIDS	8.33 million	5.65 million	11.3 million
Number of pregnant women living with HIV	900,000	680,000	1.1 million
Mother-to-child transmission rate of HIV, final	8.4	6.7	11.4
Perinatal transmission	4.3	3.2	6.8
Post-natal transmission	4.1	3.5	4.6
HIV response	Estimate	Lower	Upper
Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) coverage (%)	95	78	>95
Early infant diagnosis (%)	74	60	>95
Antiretroviral treatment (ART) coverage, children aged 0–14 years (%)	57	39	71

Data source: Global AIDS Monitoring 2021 and UNAIDS 2021 estimates

*Almost all new HIV infections among younger children occur among those aged 0-4 years, either through pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding.

Indicator definitions

Mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) rate: Number of children aged 0–4 years newly infected with HIV per 100 pregnant women living with HIV

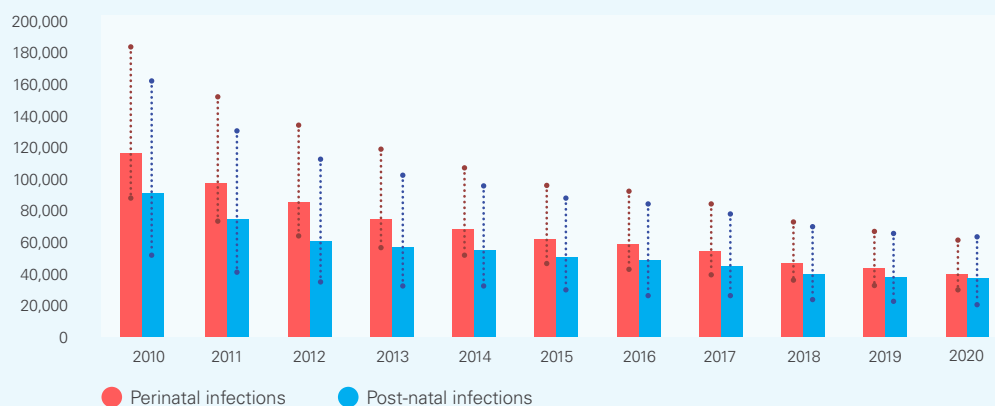
HIV incidence per 1,000 adolescents: Number of new HIV infections among adolescents aged 15–19 years per 1,000 adolescents at risk of HIV infection

PMTCT coverage: Percentage of pregnant women living with HIV who received antiretrovirals 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 years: Percentage of children aged 0–14 living with HIV who are receiving antiretroviral treatment.

Figure 3: Annual number of new HIV infections among children aged 0-14 years, by period of transmission, 2010–2020

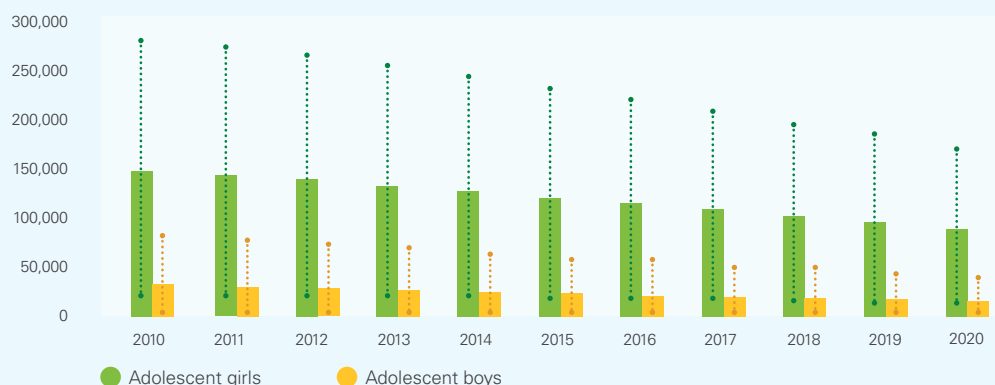


Data source: UNAIDS 2021 estimates.

Note: Almost all new HIV infections among younger children occur among those aged 0-4 years, either through pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding. The 95 per cent reduction by 2020 refers to Super-Fast-Track targets. The dotted lines above and below the numbers in the chart refer to the confidence interval.

In Eastern and Southern Africa, new HIV infections among younger children have dropped by 63 per cent since 2010. A similar reduction in child infections is observed during pregnancy or birth and the breastfeeding period. No matter the period of infection, the HIV response did not reach the global target of reducing new HIV infections from mother-to-child transmission to under 10,500 children.

Figure 4: Annual number of new HIV infections among adolescents aged 10-19 years, by sex, 2010–2020

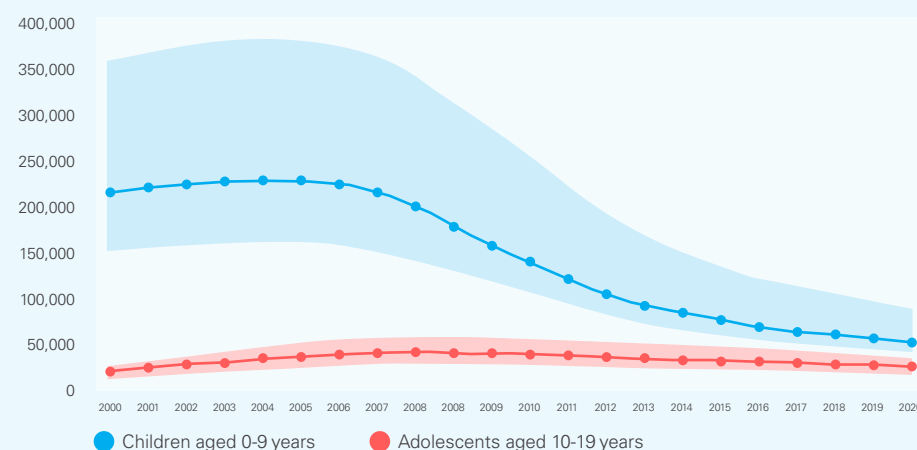


Data source: UNAIDS 2021 estimates.

Note: Almost all sexually transmitted HIV infections are assumed to occur after age 14, since negligible numbers of sexually transmitted infections occur before age 15. The 75 per cent reduction by 2020 refers to Super-Fast-Track targets. The dotted lines above and below the numbers in the chart refer to the confidence interval.

Overall, new HIV infections among adolescents have dropped by two-fifths (39 per cent). While 85 per cent of new HIV infections among adolescents occur in girls, new HIV infections have declined more for boys than girls in the last ten years. A reduction of more than 60 per cent is needed to meet the global target.

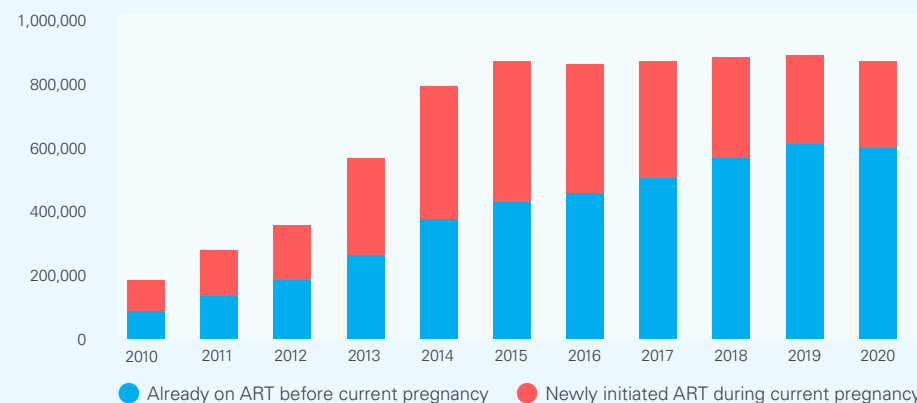
Figure 5: Number of AIDS-related deaths among children aged 0-9 years and adolescents aged 10-19 years, 2000-2020



Data source: UNAIDS 2021 estimates.

The number of annual AIDS-related deaths among children has declined by 79 per cent since its peak in 2003, while the number of annual AIDS-related deaths among those aged 10-19 years has only decreased by 13 per cent since 2003. Deaths among children have dropped by 67 per cent since 2010 to 2020 while those among adolescents have dropped by one-third (37 per cent) in the same time period.

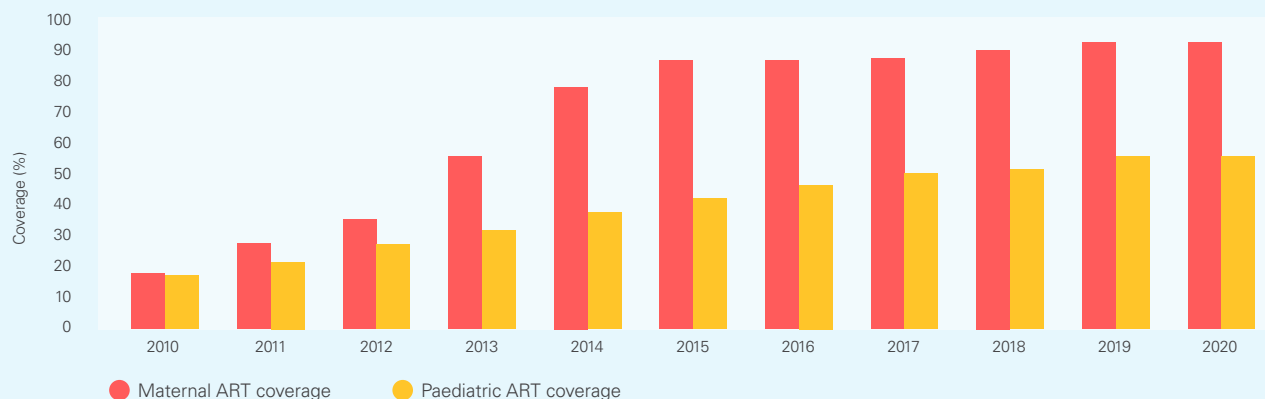
Figure 6: Pregnant women already on ART for prevention of mother-to-child-transmission (PMTCT) before current pregnancy compared to those that started ART for PMTCT during current pregnancy, 2010–2020



Data source: UNAIDS 2021 estimates.

About 2 in 3 pregnant women were already on antiretroviral treatment prior to their current pregnancy in 2020. Great gains have been made since 2010 to ensure that pregnant women are on lifetime antiretroviral medicines to prevent mother-to-child-transmission.

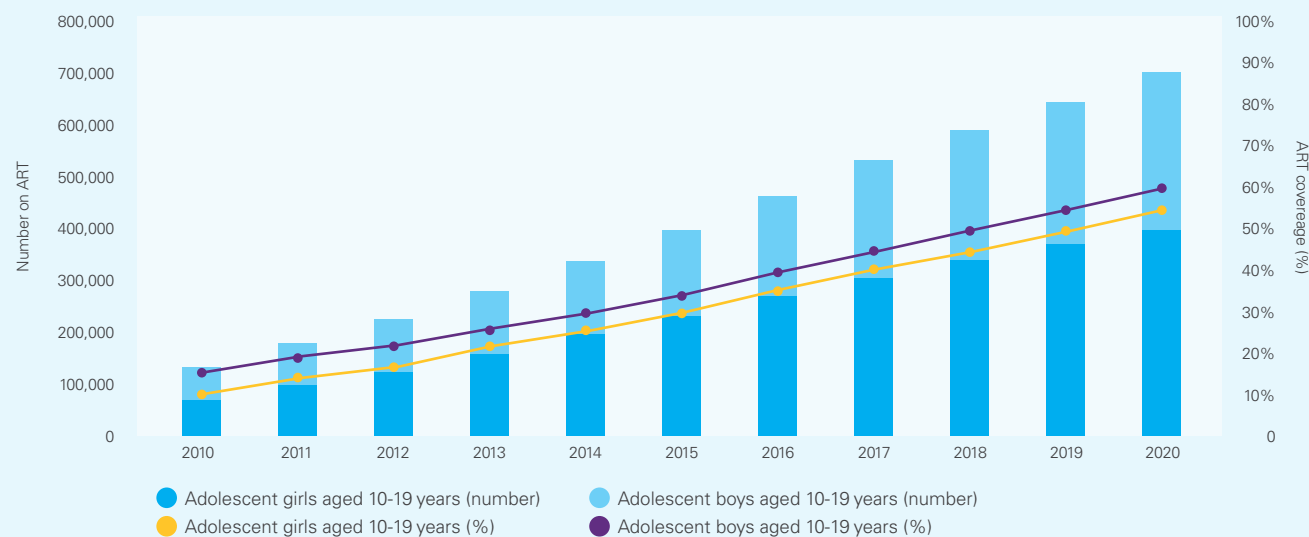
Figure 7: Percentage of children aged 0–14 living with HIV and pregnant women living with HIV receiving ART, 2010–2020



Data source: Global AIDS Monitoring and UNAIDS 2021 estimates
 Note: Maternal antiretroviral treatment (ART) includes only Option B+ regimens

While the per cent of pregnant women living with HIV receiving lifelong ART has increased from 19 to >95 per cent, the per cent of children receiving ART has only increased from 18 to 57 per cent over the same 2010-2020 period.

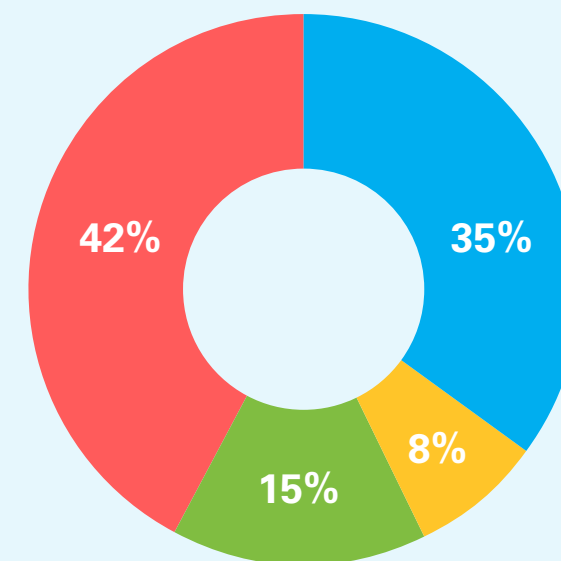
Figure 8: Number and coverage of ART among adolescents aged 10-19 years by gender, 2010-2020



Source: UNAIDS 2021 estimates.

Antiretroviral treatment coverage is low in Eastern and Southern Africa (57 per cent). ART coverage among girls has increased from 10 per cent to 55 per cent from 2010 to 2020 and among boys it has increased from 14 per cent to 60 per cent in the same time period.

Figure 9: Knowledge of status, coverage of antiretroviral therapy, and viral load suppression among all children aged 0-14 years living with HIV, 2020



- Children living with HIV with unknown HIV status
- Children living with HIV with known HIV status and who are not on ART
- Children living with HIV who are on ART and not virally suppressed
- Children living with HIV who are on ART and virally suppressed

Source: UNAIDS 2021 estimates

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