

2021 HIV and AIDS Latin America and the Caribbean 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

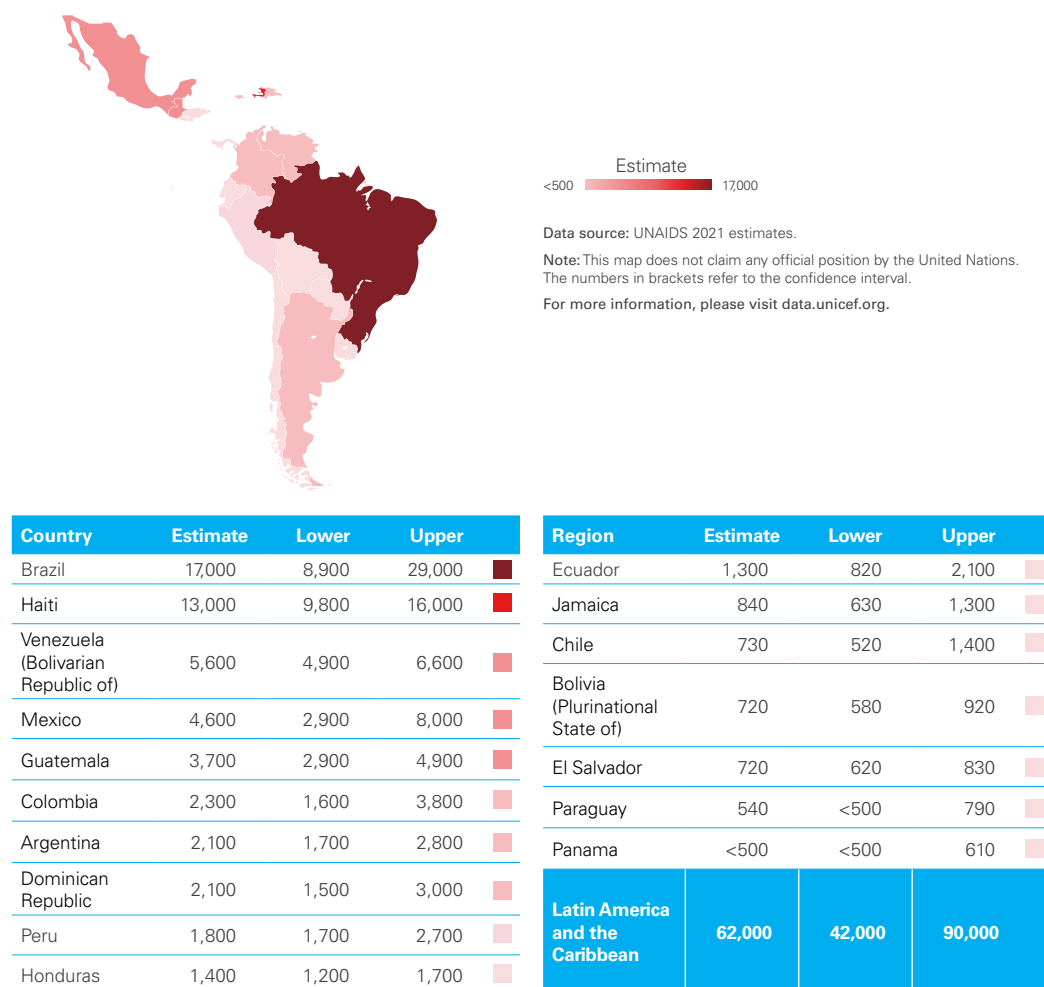


Figure 2: Situation of children and adolescents with HIV and AIDS, 2020

Overview	Estimate	Lower	Upper
Number of children and adolescents living with HIV	62,000	42,000	90,000
Children aged 0–9 years	22,000	15,000	31,000
Adolescents aged 10–19 years	40,000	27,000	60,000
Number of new HIV infections, children and adolescents	8,100	4,200	15,200
Children aged 0–9* years	3,500	2,200	6,000
Adolescents aged 10–19 years	4,600	2,000	9,200
Adolescent girls	2,300	1,200	3,800
Adolescent boys	2,200	580	6,300
HIV incidence per 1,000 population, adolescents aged 15–19 years	0.09	0.04	0.17
Adolescent girls	0.09	0.04	0.14
Adolescent boys	0.08	0.02	0.23
Number of AIDS-related deaths, children and adolescents	2,500	1,400	4,100
Children aged 0–9 years	2,000	1,100	3,400
Adolescents aged 10–19 years	<500	<500	710
Number of children aged 0–17 years who lost one or both parents due to AIDS	630,000	420,000	860,000
Number of pregnant women living with HIV	30,000	20,000	37,000
Mother-to-child transmission rate of HIV, final	12.1	9.7	16.3
Perinatal transmission	7.0	5.2	10.3
Post-natal transmission	5.1	4.5	6.0
HIV response	Estimate	Lower	Upper
Prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) coverage (%)	85	66	>95
Early infant diagnosis (%)	49	41	58
Antiretroviral treatment (ART) coverage, children aged 0–14 years (%)	51	34	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

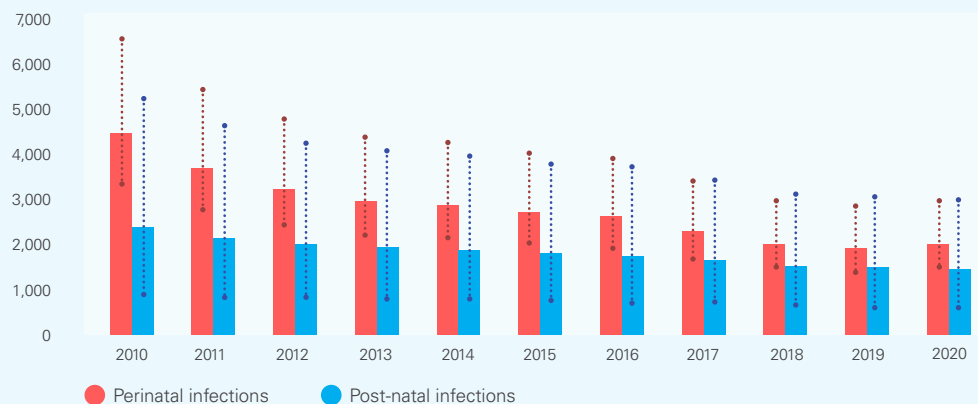
HIV incidence per 1,000 adolescents: Number of new HIV infections among adolescents aged 15–19 years per 1,000 adolescents at risk of HIV infection

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

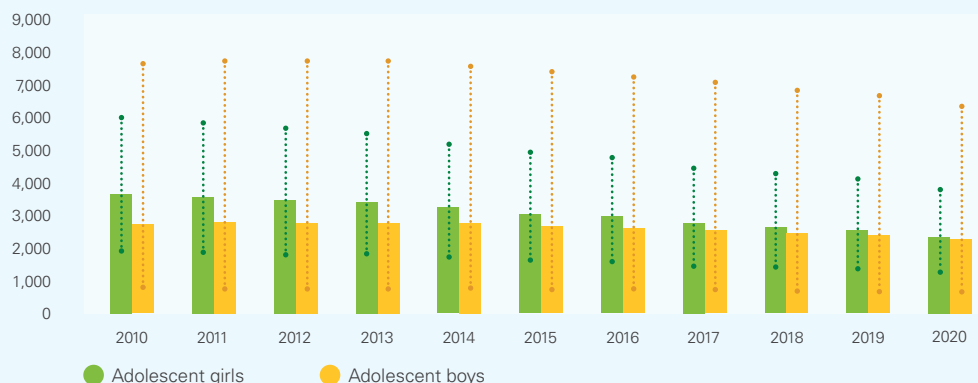


Data source: UNAIDS 2021 estimates.

Note: Almost all new HIV infections among younger children occur among those aged 0-4, 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 Latin America and the Caribbean, new HIV infections among younger children have dropped by 48 per cent since 2010. A similar reduction in child infections is observed during pregnancy or birth and 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 500.

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

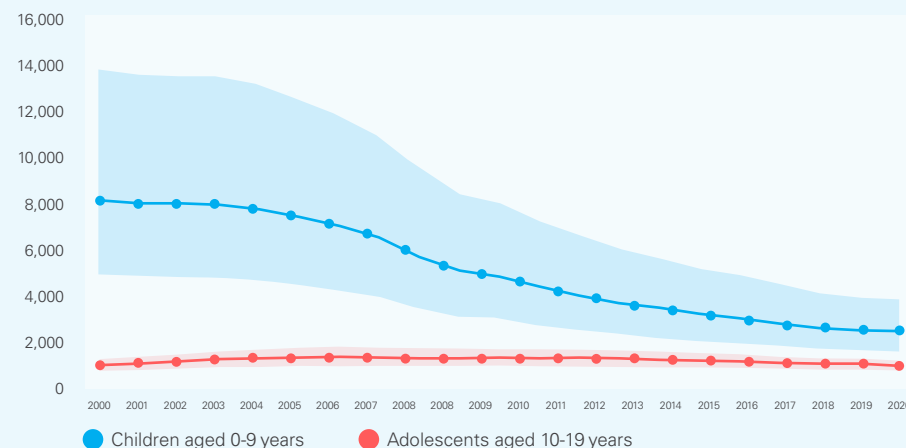


Data source: UNAIDS 2021 estimates.

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 one-fifth (23%). About 50 per cent of new HIV infections among adolescents occur in girls and new HIV infections have declined comparably among girls and boys in the last ten years. A reduction of more than 60 per cent is needed to meet the global target.

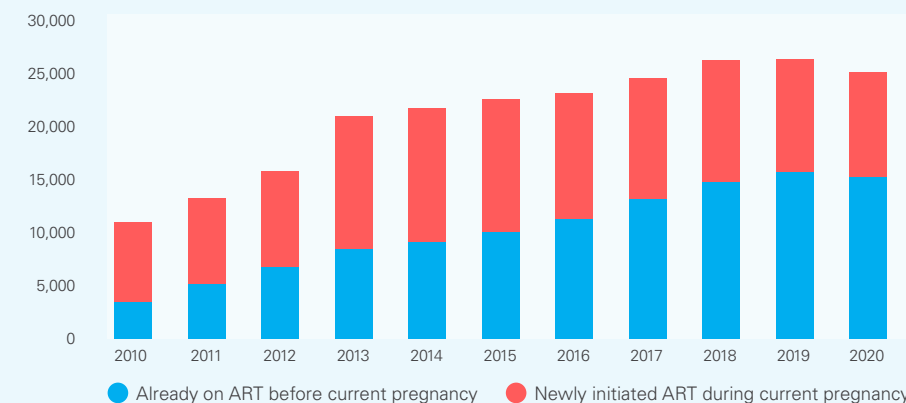
Figure 5: Number of AIDS-related deaths among children aged 0-9 years and adolescents aged 10-19 years, 2000-2020



Data source: UNAIDS 2021 estimates.

The number of annual AIDS-related deaths among children has declined by 74 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 36 per cent since 2003. Deaths among children have dropped by 56 per cent since 2010 to 2020 while those among adolescents have dropped by 42 per cent in the same time period.

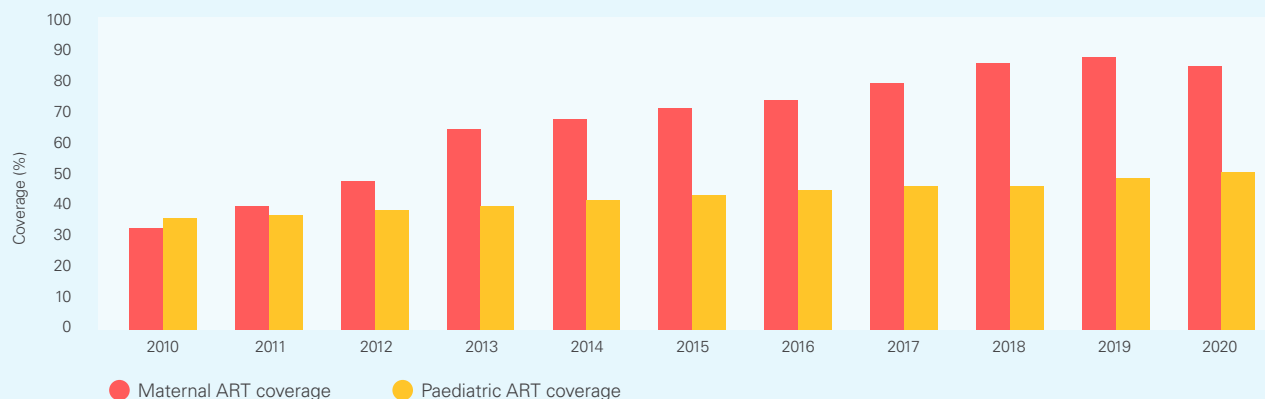
Figure 6: Pregnant women already on ART for prevention of mother-to-child-transmission (PMTCT) before current pregnancy compared to those that started ART for PMTCT during current pregnancy, 2010–2020



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.

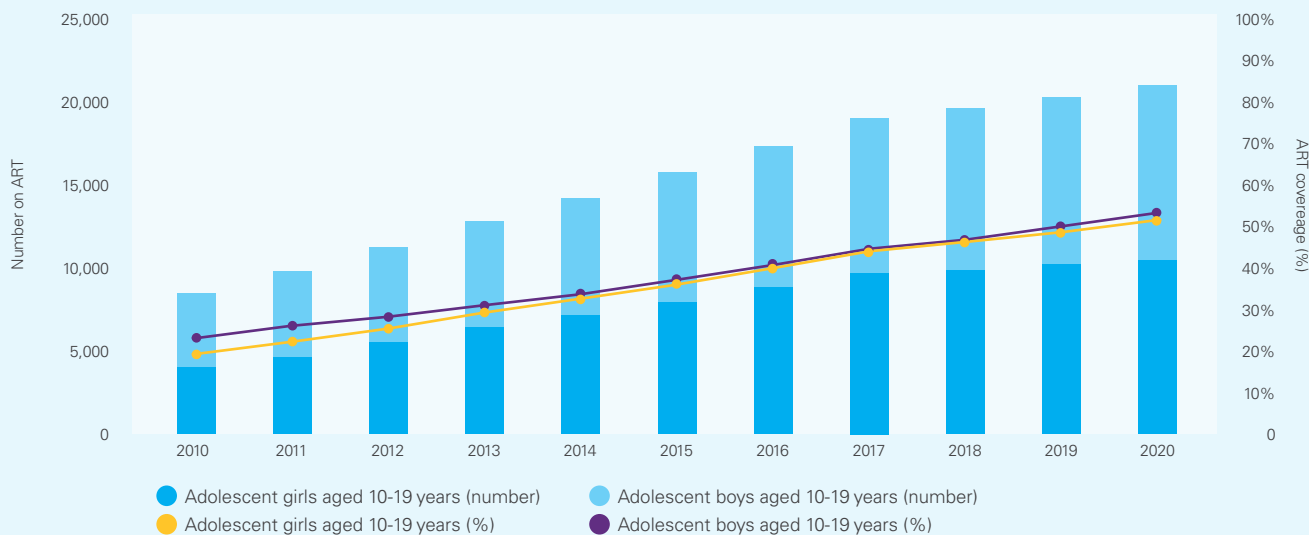
Figure 7: Percentage of children aged 0–14 living with HIV and pregnant women living with HIV receiving ART, 2010–2020



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 33 per cent to 85 per cent, the per cent of children receiving ART has only increased from 36 per cent to 51 per cent over the same 2010-2020 period.

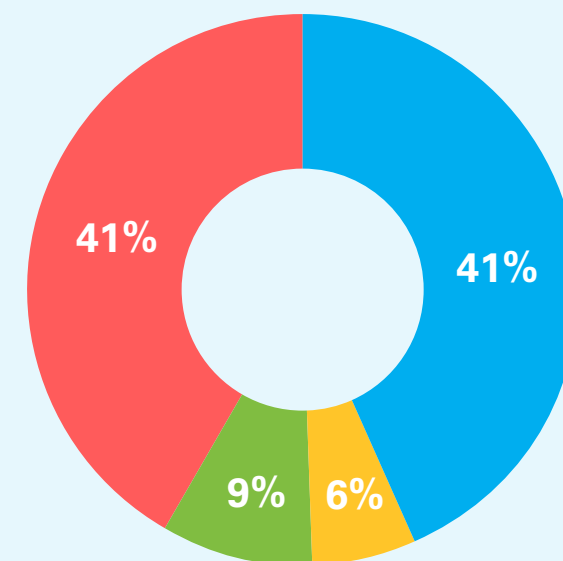
Figure 8: Number and coverage of ART among adolescents aged 10-19 years by gender, 2010-2020



Source: UNAIDS 2021 estimates.

Antiretroviral treatment coverage is low in Latin America and the Caribbean (51 per cent). ART coverage among girls has increased from 20 per cent to 51 per cent from 2010 to 2020 and among boys it has increased from 24 per cent to 52 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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