

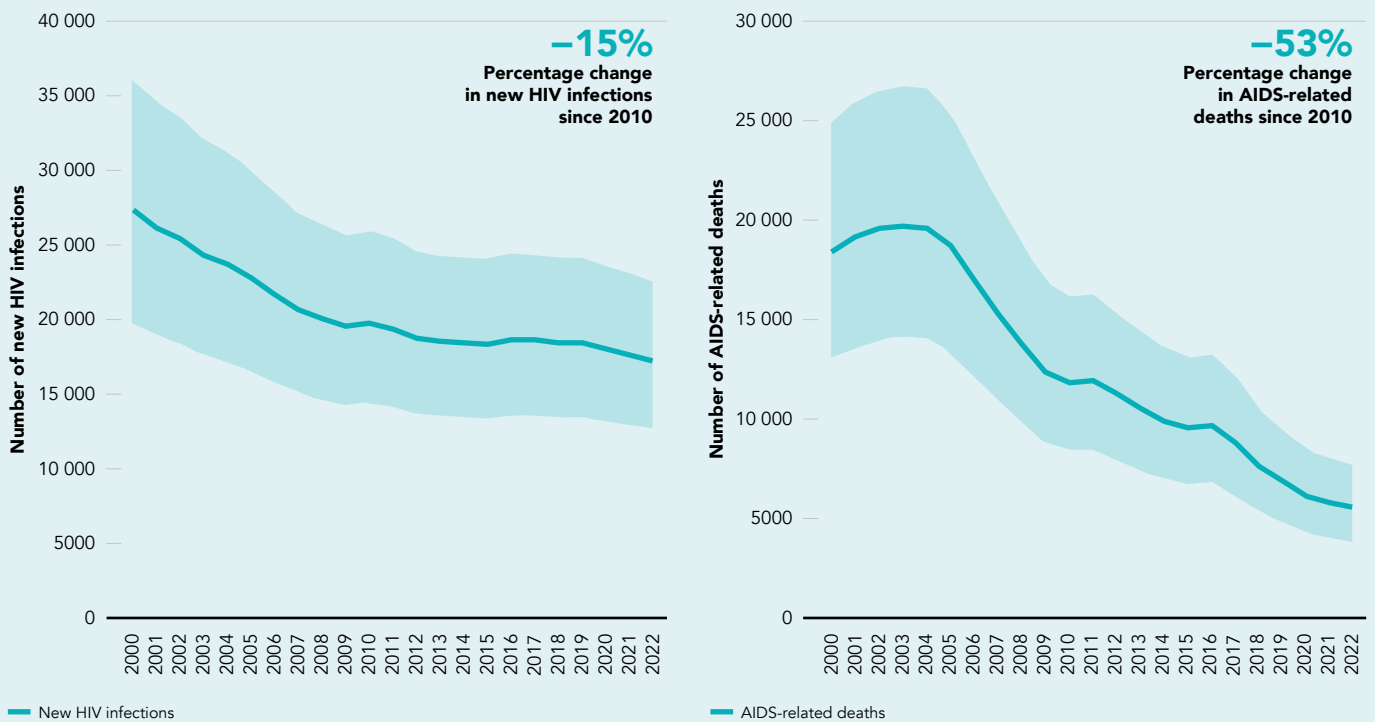
# Caribbean



The number of new HIV infections in the Caribbean reduced by 15% between 2010 and 2022 (Figure 5.1). This trend was slightly stronger among men (18%) than women (10%). Widening coverage of HIV treatment saw numbers of AIDS-related deaths decrease by 53% between 2010 and 2022, although the rate of decline varied across countries. This trend was instead slightly stronger among women (56%) than men (51%).

HIV prevalence is 1.2% among the general population, but it is much higher among key populations (Figure 5.2). Regional median HIV prevalence is 39.4% among transgender people (data from two countries), 11.8% among gay men and other men who have sex with men (data from four countries), 3.6% among people in prisons (data from six countries), and 2.6% among sex workers (data from two countries).

**Figure 5.1** Numbers of new annual HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths, Caribbean, 2000–2022



Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2023 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

## 2022 DATA

- **15%** decrease in new HIV infections since 2010
- **53%** decrease in AIDS-related deaths since 2010
- People living with HIV:  
**330 000 [290 000–380 000]**
- New HIV infections:  
**16 000 [11 000–21 000]**
- AIDS-related deaths:  
**5600 [4100–7500]**

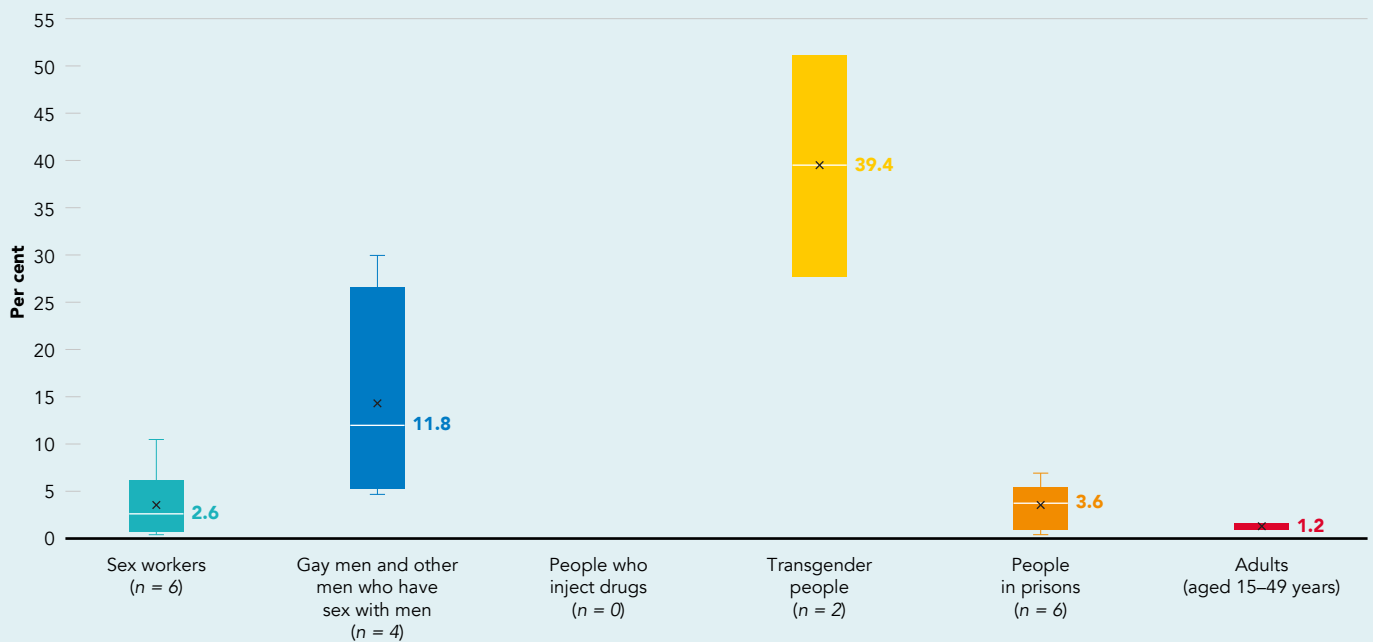
### Testing and treatment cascade (all ages):

- % of people living with HIV who know their HIV status:  
**83 [72–96]**
- % of people living with HIV who are on treatment:  
**68 [59–78]**
- % of people living with HIV who are virally suppressed:  
**57 [49–66]**

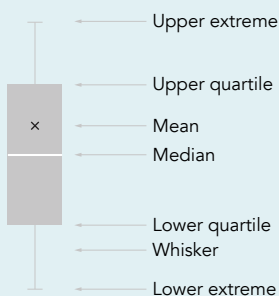
### Financing of the HIV response:

- Resource availability for HIV:  
**US\$ 390 million**

**Figure 5.2** HIV prevalence among key populations compared with adults (aged 15–49 years), reporting countries in the Caribbean, 2018–2022



### How to read



The median HIV prevalence among countries that reported these data in the Caribbean was:

- 2.6%** among sex workers.
- 11.8%** among gay men and other men who have sex with men.
- 39.4%** among transgender people.
- 3.6%** among people in prisons.

The estimated HIV prevalence among adults (aged 15–49 years) is **1.2% [1.0–1.3%]**.

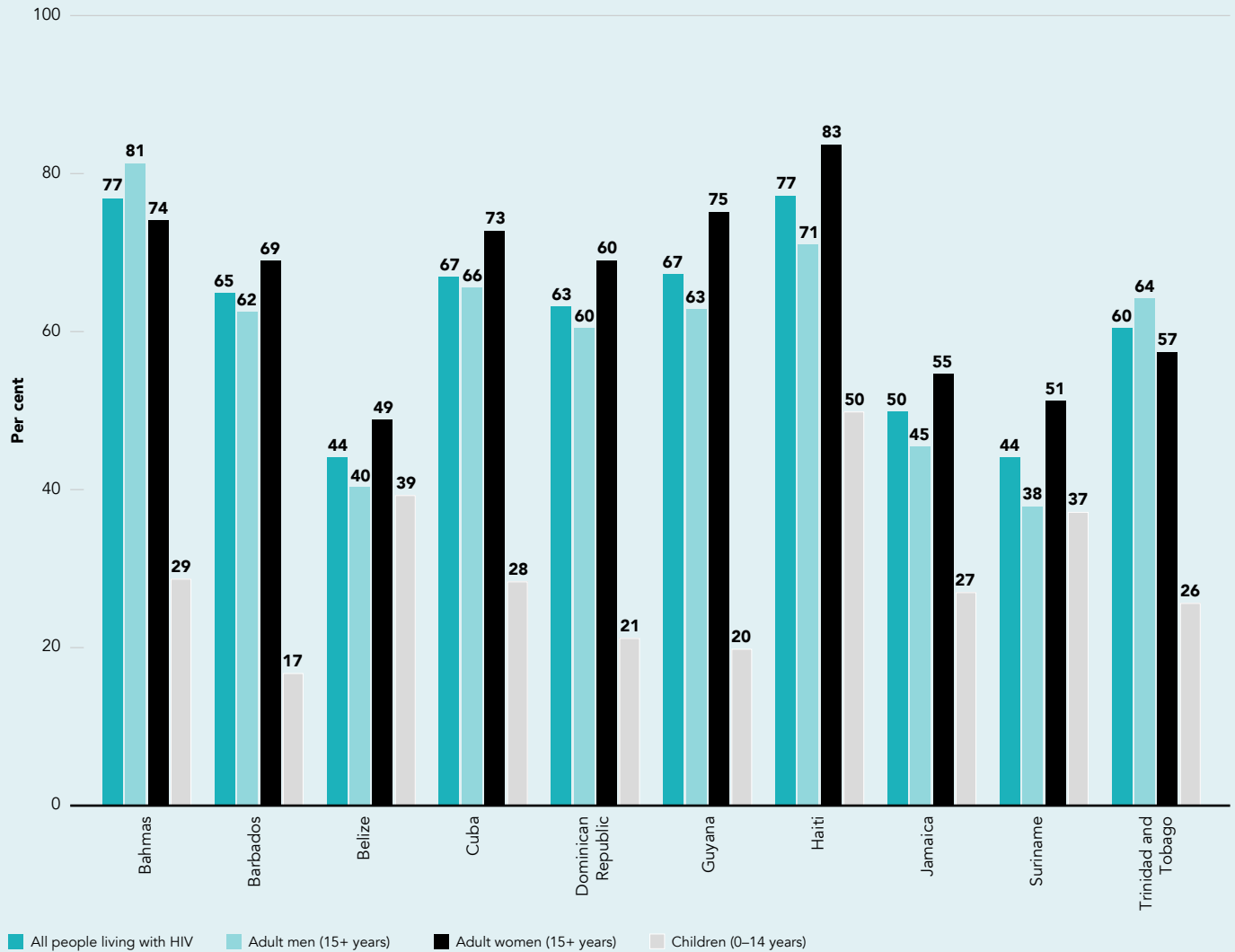
Sources: UNAIDS Global AIDS Monitoring, 2023; UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2023 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

Notes: n = number of countries. Total number of reporting countries = 17.

The adult prevalence uncertainty bounds define the range within which the true value lies (if it can be measured). Narrow bounds indicate that an estimate is precise, while wide bounds indicate greater uncertainty regarding the estimate.

Since 2010, antiretroviral therapy coverage has increased from 19% to 63% among men, and from 21% to 74% among women. Coverage in 2022 continues to be much lower among children (39%) across the region (Figure 5.3).

**Figure 5.3** Antiretroviral coverage by age and sex, selected countries, Caribbean, 2022



Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2023 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

Presentation or diagnosis with advanced HIV disease remains a challenge in the region. Although the percentage of people living with HIV with suppressed viral loads has risen from 39% in 2018 to 57% in 2022, viral load testing coverage (74%) was below pre-COVID-19 levels. If underlying HIV-related inequalities and barriers, including HIV-related stigma, are addressed, treatment coverage and outcomes are likely to improve further.

Coverage of programmes to prevent vertical transmission of HIV rose from 45% to 65% between 2010 and 2022. Eight countries and territories in the Caribbean<sup>1</sup> have been validated by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the elimination of vertical transmission of HIV and syphilis since 2015 (1). Belize, Jamaica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are on track for validation in 2023–2024.

In 2022, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Saint Kitts and Nevis struck down colonial-era laws that criminalized sex between consenting adult same-sex partners. Several other countries, however, still uphold harmful laws and policies that deny human rights and undermine the response to the HIV epidemic.

HIV responses in the Caribbean continue to rely heavily on external funding, with international financing comprising over 70% of all available resources for HIV in 2022—this is despite most countries in the region being classified as upper-middle-income and domestic resources increasing by 15% since 2021. High national debts are a significant constraint in some countries (2). The region also includes low-income countries with a high HIV burden, such as Haiti, which require sustained external financing for the HIV response. Transitioning to sustainable financing for HIV is crucial to build on the current progress and address the structural factors that limit access to services and increase HIV vulnerability in the region.

<sup>1</sup> Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis.

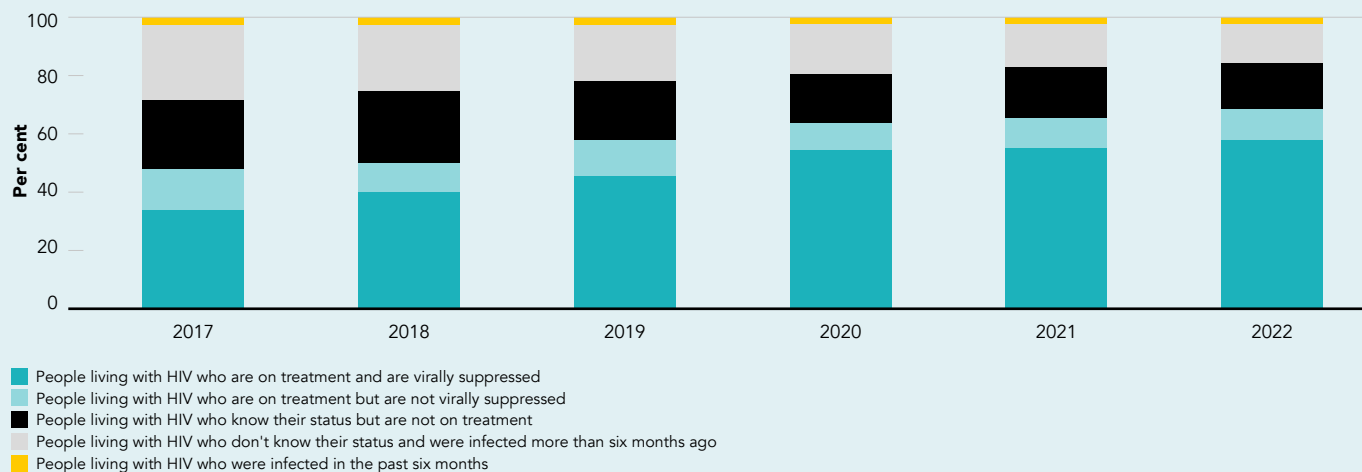
**Table 5.1** Reported estimated size of key populations, Caribbean, 2018–2022

Country	National adult population (aged 15–49 years) for 2022 or relevant year	Sex workers	Sex workers as percentage of adult population (aged 15–49 years)	Gay men and other men who have sex with men	Gay men and other men who have sex with men as percentage of adult population (aged 15–49 years)	People who inject drugs	People who inject drugs as percentage of adult population (aged 15–49 years)	Transgender people	Transgender people as percentage of adult population (aged 15–49 years)	People in prisons	People in prisons as percentage of adult population (aged 15–49 years)
Bahamas (the)	220 000									1100	0.48%
Dominican Republic (the)	5 800 000										
Haiti	6 300 000									11 300	0.18%
Jamaica	1 600 000			42 400	2.62%			3800	0.24%		
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25 000									190	0.77%
Saint Lucia	99 000			3000	1.65%					500	0.51%
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	52 000										
Suriname	320 000										
Trinidad and Tobago	710 000									3400	0.48%
<b>Estimated regional median proportion as per cent of adult population (15–49)<sup>a</sup>:</b>			<b>1.62%</b>		<b>1.40%</b>		<b>-</b>		<b>0.17%</b>		<b>-</b>

■ National population size estimate  
■ Local population size estimate  
■ Insufficient data  
■ No data

Source: UNAIDS Global AIDS Monitoring, 2023 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>); Spectrum DemProj module, 2023; United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2022). World Population Prospects 2022, Online Edition.  
<sup>a</sup>Guide for updating Spectrum HIV estimates, UNAIDS 2023 (<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fhivtools.unaids.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F73D-Guide-for-updating-Spectrum-HIV-estimates.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>).  
 Note: Estimates shown are government-provided estimates reported for 2018–2022. Additional and alternative estimates may be available from different sources, including the Key Populations Atlas (<https://kpatlas.unaids.org/>), academic publications or institutional documents.

**Figure 5.4** Distribution of people living with HIV by recent infection, knowledge of status, treatment and viral load suppression, adults (aged 15+ years), Caribbean, 2017–2022



Source: UNAIDS special analysis of epidemiological estimates, 2023.

Table 5.2 Laws and policies scorecard, Caribbean, 2023

Country	Criminalization of transgender people <sup>a</sup>	Criminalization of sex work <sup>b</sup>	Criminalization of same-sex sexual acts in private	Criminalization of possession of small amounts of drugs <sup>c</sup>	Laws criminalizing transmission of, non-disclosure of or exposure to HIV transmission	Laws or policies restricting the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV <sup>4</sup>	Parental consent for adolescents to access HIV testing
Antigua and Barbuda	3	8	23	1	1		3
Bahamas	2	2	2	2	2		2
Barbados	2	10	9	2	3		3
Belize	14	11	24	12	13		28
Cuba	3	15	24	6	3		3
Dominica	3	16	24	7	6		6
Dominican Republic	1	17	1	1	1		1
Grenada		18	24	19	22		
Guyana	3	20	21	3	1		28
Haiti	1	1	1	1	1		2
Jamaica	1	1	1	1	1		1
Saint Kitts and Nevis	2	2	23	29	2		2
Saint Lucia	1	1	1	1	1		1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		3	26	27	3		
Suriname	6		24	6	6		5
Trinidad and Tobago	2	2	25	2	1		2

**Criminalization of transgender people**

- Yes
- No
- Data not available

**Criminalization of sex work**

- Any criminalization or punitive regulation of sex work
- Sex work is not subject to punitive regulations or is not criminalized
- Data not available

**Criminalization of same-sex sexual acts in private**

- Death penalty
- Imprisonment (14 years–life, up to 14 years) or no penalty specified
- Laws penalizing same-sex sexual acts have been decriminalized or never existed, or no specific legislation
- Data not available

**Criminalization of possession of small amounts of drugs**

- Yes
- No
- Data not available

**Laws criminalizing transmission of, non-disclosure of or exposure to HIV transmission**

- Yes
- No, but prosecutions exist based on general criminal laws
- No
- Data not available

**Laws or policies restricting the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV**

- Deport, prohibit short- and/or long-stay and require HIV testing or disclosure for some permits
- Prohibit short- and/or long-stay and require HIV testing or disclosure for some permits
- Require HIV testing or disclosure for some permits
- No restrictions

**Parental consent for adolescents to access HIV testing**

- Yes
- No
- Data not available

Country	Mandatory HIV testing for marriage, work or residence permits or for certain groups	Laws protecting against discrimination on the basis of HIV status	Constitutional or other non-discrimination provisions for sex work <sup>d</sup>	Constitutional or other non-discrimination provisions for sexual orientation <sup>d</sup>	Constitutional or other non-discrimination provisions for gender identity <sup>d</sup>	Constitutional or other non-discrimination provisions for people who inject drugs <sup>d</sup>
Antigua and Barbuda	3	1				3
Bahamas	2	2		2		2
Barbados	1					2
Belize						
Cuba	3	3				3
Dominica	6					6
Dominican Republic	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grenada						
Guyana	3	3				3
Haiti	1	1	1	1	1	1
Jamaica	1	1	1	1	1	1
Saint Kitts and Nevis	2	3	2	2	2	2
Saint Lucia	1	1	1	1	1	1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	3					
Suriname	5					6
Trinidad and Tobago	2	3	2	2	2	2

#### Mandatory HIV testing for marriage, work or residence permits or for certain groups

- Yes
- No
- Data not available

#### Constitutional or other non-discrimination provisions for sex work

- Yes
- No
- Data not available

#### Constitutional or other non-discrimination provisions for gender identity

- Yes
- No
- Data not available

#### Laws protecting against discrimination on the basis of HIV status

- Yes
- No
- Data not available

#### Constitutional or other non-discrimination provisions for sexual orientation

- Yes
- No
- Data not available

#### Constitutional or other non-discrimination provisions for people who inject drugs

- Yes
- No
- Data not available

Notes: <sup>a</sup>Laws criminalizing transgender people refers to laws that criminalize the gender expression of transgender and gender diverse people, including laws against cross-dressing or impersonating the opposite sex.

<sup>b</sup>Criminalization of sex work refers to criminalization of any aspect of sex work, including buying sexual services, selling sexual services, ancillary activities associated with buying or selling sexual services, and profiting from organizing or managing sex work.

<sup>c</sup>Criminalization of possession of small amounts of drugs refers to the criminalization of possession of any quantity of drugs, including possession of a quantity of drugs sufficient only for personal use. A country is still considered to criminalize possession of small amounts of drugs, even if use or possession of marijuana has been decriminalized.

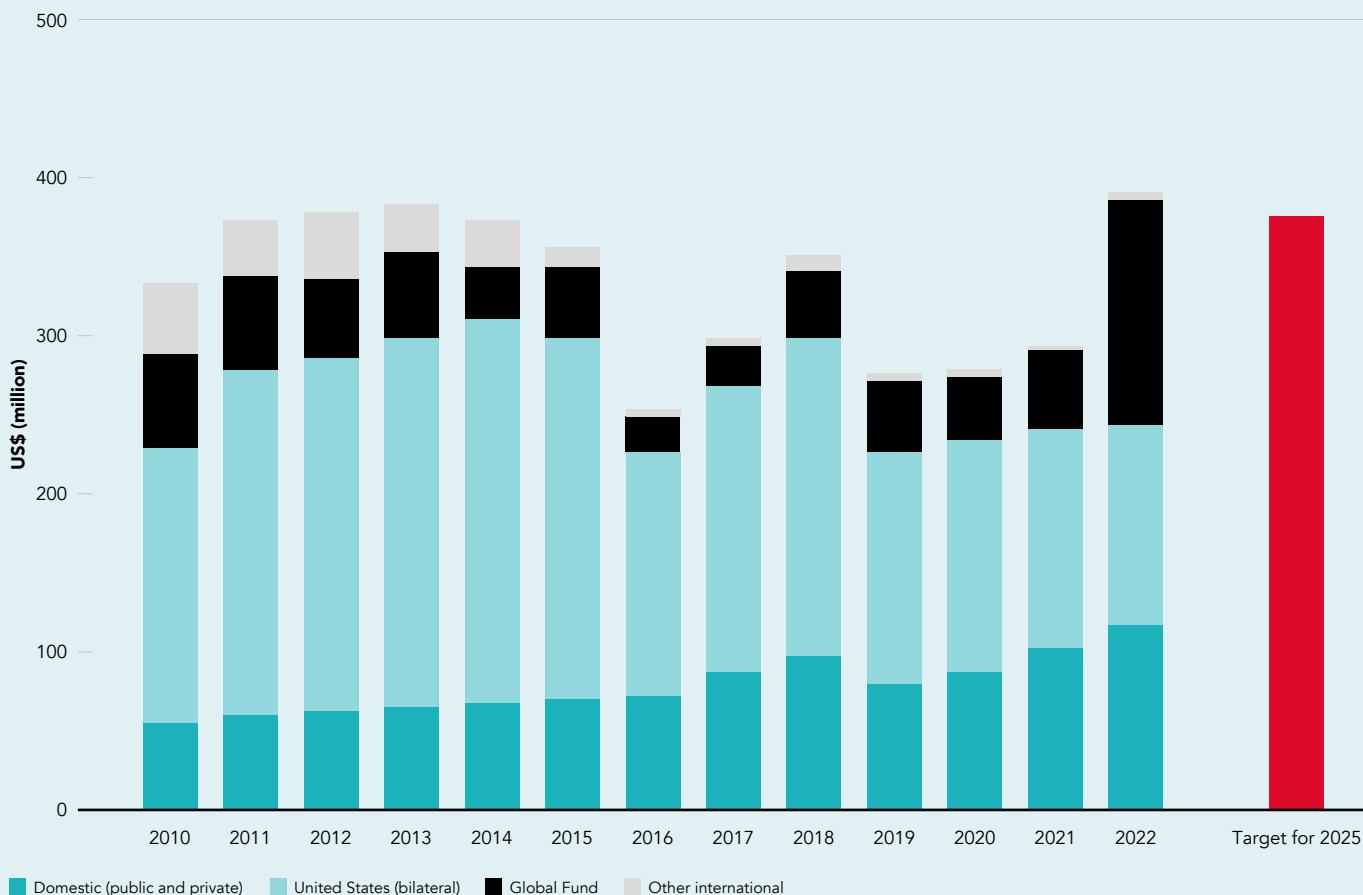
<sup>d</sup>Constitutional or other non-discrimination provisions refer to whether constitutional prohibitions of discrimination have been interpreted to include discrimination on the grounds of sex work/sexual orientation/gender identity/drug use or dependency by courts and/or government policy, and/or whether there are other legislative non-discrimination provisions specifying sex work/sexual orientation/gender identity/drug use or dependency.

Source:

- 1 UNAIDS National Commitments and Policy Instrument 2022. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; 2022 (<https://lawsandpolicies.unaids.org/>, accessed 6 July 2023).
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- 14 Chiam Z, Duffy S, Gonzalez Gil M, et al. Trans legal mapping report 2019: recognition before the law. Geneva: ILGA World; 2020 ([https://ilga.org/downloads/ILGA\\_World\\_Trans\\_Legal\\_Mapping\\_Report\\_2019\\_EN.pdf](https://ilga.org/downloads/ILGA_World_Trans_Legal_Mapping_Report_2019_EN.pdf), accessed 6 July 2023).
- 15 Penal Code: Article 302. Havana: Government of Cuba (<https://www.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/es/cu/cu004es.pdf>, accessed 6 July 2023).
- 16 Sexual Offences Act. Roseau: Government of Dominica (<https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/49696/87821/F1766139650/DMA49696.pdf>, accessed 6 July 2023).
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**Figure 5.5** Resource availability for HIV, Caribbean, 2010–2022, and estimated resource needs for HIV by 2025



Source: UNAIDS financial estimates and projections, 2023 (<http://hivfinancial.unaids.org/hivfinancialdashboards.html>); Stover J, Glaubius R, Teng Y, Kelly S, Brown T, Hallett TB et al. Modelling the epidemiological impact of the UNAIDS 2025 targets to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030. *PLoS Med.* 2021;18(10):e1003831.  
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