

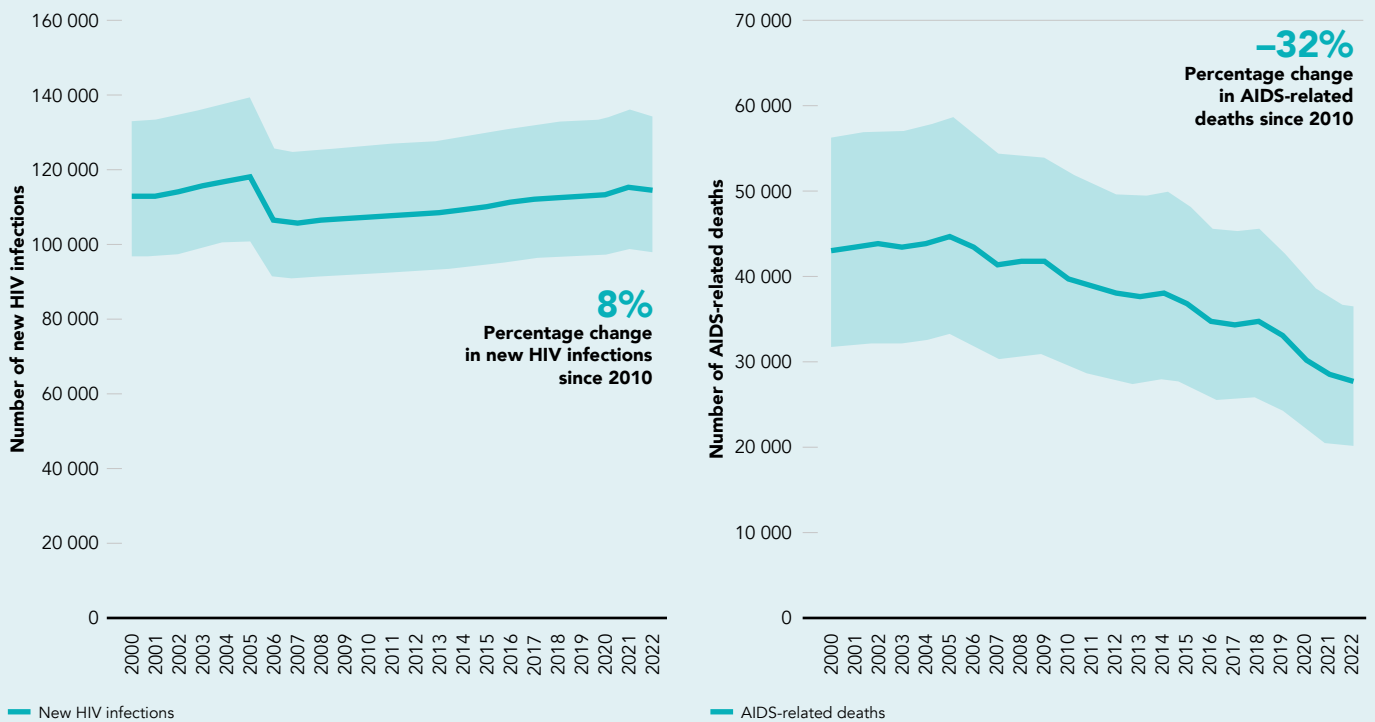
# Latin America



Latin American countries have achieved important progress in expanding access to HIV treatment, but they have made fewer gains in prevention. Numbers of AIDS-related deaths have decreased by 32% since 2010, but annual numbers of new HIV infections have increased by 8% (Figure 8.1). Ten countries in the region have seen increases in numbers of new infections since 2010.

There are marked disparities in HIV prevention. Numbers of new HIV infections decreased by 14% among women but increased by 17% among men in 2010–2022. Median HIV prevalence among key populations is significantly higher than in the general population, reaching 9.5% among gay men and other men who have sex with men (data from 12 countries) and 14.7% among transgender people (data from nine countries) (Figure 8.2).

**Figure 8.1** Numbers of annual new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths, Latin America, 2000–2022



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

## 2022 DATA

- **8%** increase in new HIV infections since 2010
- **32%** decrease in AIDS-related deaths since 2010
- People living with HIV:  
**2.2 million [2.0 million–2.5 million]**
- New HIV infections:  
**110 000 [94 000–130 000]**
- AIDS-related deaths:  
**27 000 [21 000–35 000]**

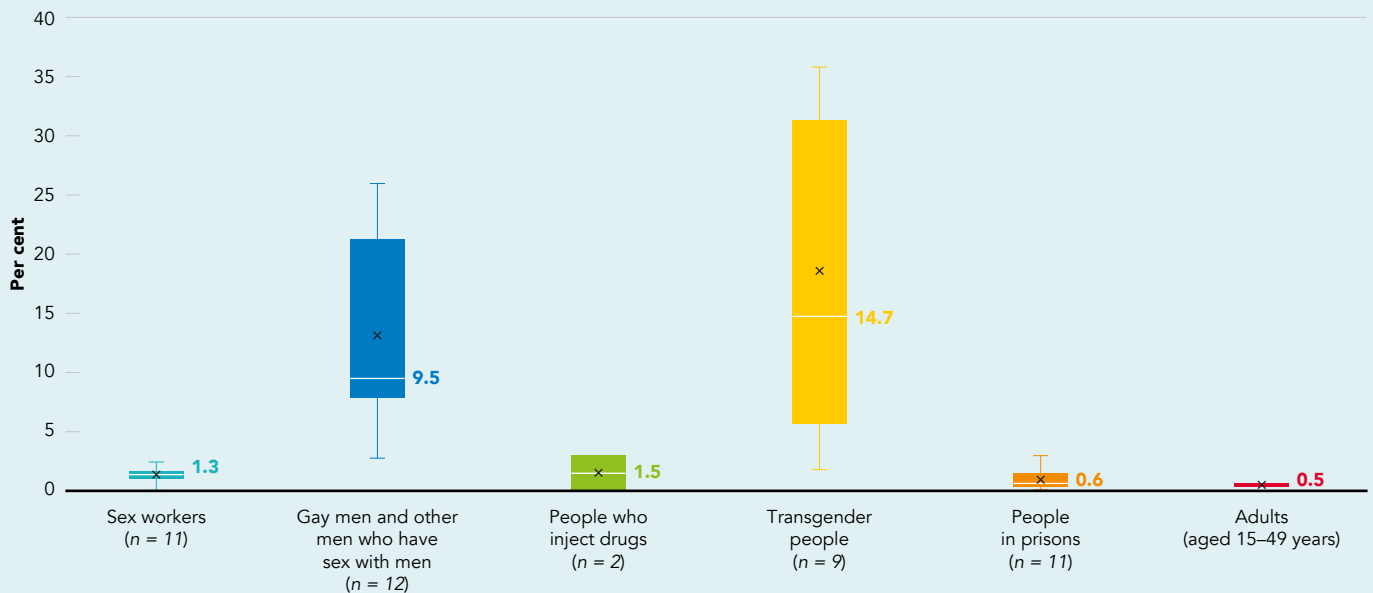
### Testing and treatment cascade (all ages):

- % of people living with HIV who know their HIV status:  
**85 [76–95]**
- % of people living with HIV who are on treatment:  
**72 [64–80]**
- % of people living with HIV who are virally suppressed:  
**66 [59–74]**

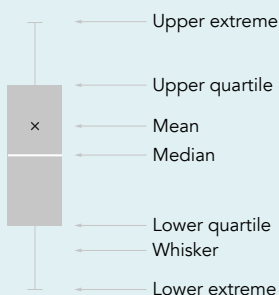
### Financing of the HIV response:

- Resource availability for HIV:  
**US\$ 3.2 billion [16% gap to meet the 2025 target]**

**Figure 8.2** HIV prevalence among key populations compared with adults (aged 15–49 years), reporting countries in Latin America, 2018–2022



### How to read



The median HIV prevalence among countries that reported these data in Latin America was:

- 1.3%** among sex workers.
- 9.5%** among gay men and other men who have sex with men.
- 1.5%** among people who inject drugs.
- 14.7%** among transgender people.
- 0.6%** among people in prisons.

The estimated HIV prevalence among adults (aged 15–49 years) is **0.5% [0.4–0.5%]**.

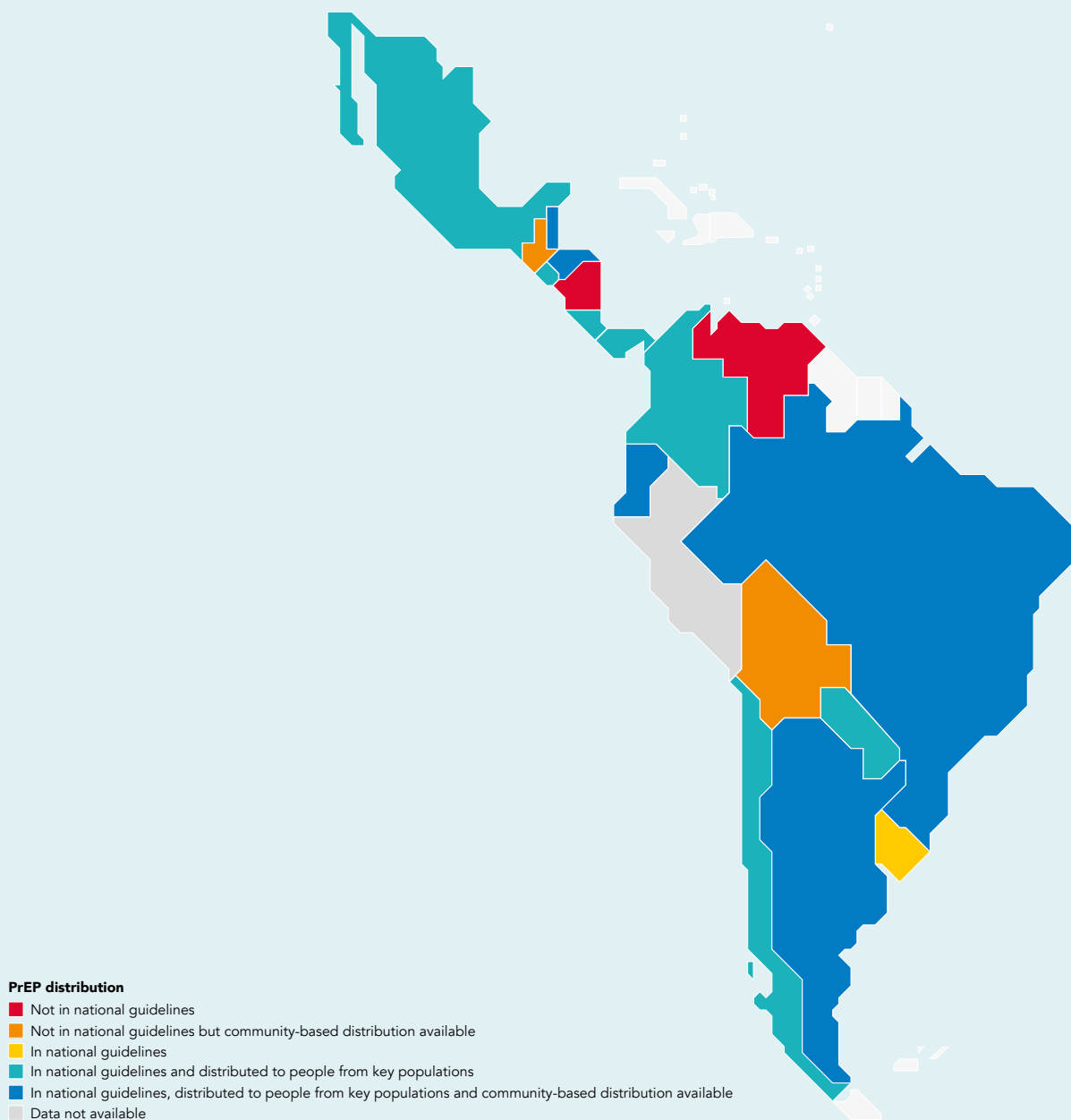
Sources: UNAIDS Global AIDS Monitoring, 2023; UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2023 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

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.

In 2022, the proportion of people living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy increased to 72%, but service gaps hamper access to treatment and care programmes in many countries in the region. Due to failure to achieve timely diagnosis of HIV infection (which is associated with better outcomes for people living with HIV, decreased risk of ongoing HIV transmission and lower health-care costs) (1), advanced disease remains common among people newly diagnosed with HIV. In 13 countries in the region, at least 25% of new diagnoses are classified as advanced HIV infection, with CD4 counts below 200/mm<sup>3</sup>.

**Figure 8.3** Countries with PrEP in national guidelines by type of distribution, Latin America, 2022



Source: UNAIDS Global AIDS Monitoring, 2023 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

Coverage of prevention of vertical HIV transmission has declined to 64% from a pre-COVID estimate of 67% in 2019, with three countries reporting coverage below 50%. Coverage of antiretroviral therapy for children (aged 0–14 years) lags far behind coverage for adults. Only 39% of children living with HIV were receiving treatment in 2022, compared with 72% of people aged 15 years or over.

Thirteen countries in the region include PrEP in national guidelines, but only 10 provide oral and on-demand PrEP to people from key populations, and only five allow for community-based distribution (Figure 8.3). Although still less than 5% of the projected need by 2025, due to the expansion of targeted prevention services, the number of people on PrEP has increased by over 55% since 2021.

The region continues to experience humanitarian crises, with approximately six million Venezuelan migrants now living in other Latin American countries (primarily Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) (2), and an estimated two million people having fled worsening poverty and unrest in Central America (especially from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras) (3). Among Venezuelan migrants and displaced people, high levels of HIV-related stigma, fear of deportation, and limited access to services have led to insufficient engagement with HIV programmes. Service coverage gaps between migrants and local people are aggravated when health insurance systems in host countries do not grant uninsured people access to health and laboratory services. The internal displacement of people in Colombia has negatively affected people's access to preventive and health services (4).

Domestic spending on HIV comprised 97% of all resources available for HIV in the region, although there is considerable variation between countries. The HIV programmes in larger countries in South America are financed almost entirely from domestic resources, but HIV prevention programmes in some countries in Central America, including programmes for people from key populations, still rely on donor funding for an estimated 14–57% of total HIV prevention expenditure.

**Table 8.1** Reported estimated size of key populations, Latin America, 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)
Argentina	23 200 000									114 100	0.50%
Bolivia	6 300 000										
Brazil	114 000 000									837 400	0.73%
Chile	10 000 000			123 000	1.24%			19 600	0.20%	42 800	0.43%
Colombia	26 800 000			300 000						97 900	0.37%
Costa Rica	2 700 000							420		14 900	0.55%
Guatemala	9 800 000			120 700	1.23%			4400	0.04%	24 100	0.25%
Honduras	5 900 000										
Mexico	68 500 000	244 000	0.37%	1 226 000	1.85%			123 000	0.19%	202 000	0.31%
Nicaragua	3 800 000									21 200	0.55%
Panama	2 200 000	8700		19 756				2100			
Paraguay	3 600 000	9000		32 200				1200			
Peru	17 900 000			260 000	1.52%					89 900	0.50%
Uruguay	1 700 000			28 600	1.68%			1600	0.09%		
Venezuela	14 000 000							14 600	0.10%		
<b>Estimated global median proportion as per cent of adult population (15–49)<sup>a</sup></b>			<b>0.34%</b>		<b>1.41%</b>		<b>0.10%</b>		<b>0.10%</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;

<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 1: 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.

Note 2: The regions covered by the local population size estimate are as follows:

Bolivia (Plurinational State of): Cochabamba, El Alto, La Paz and Santa Cruz.

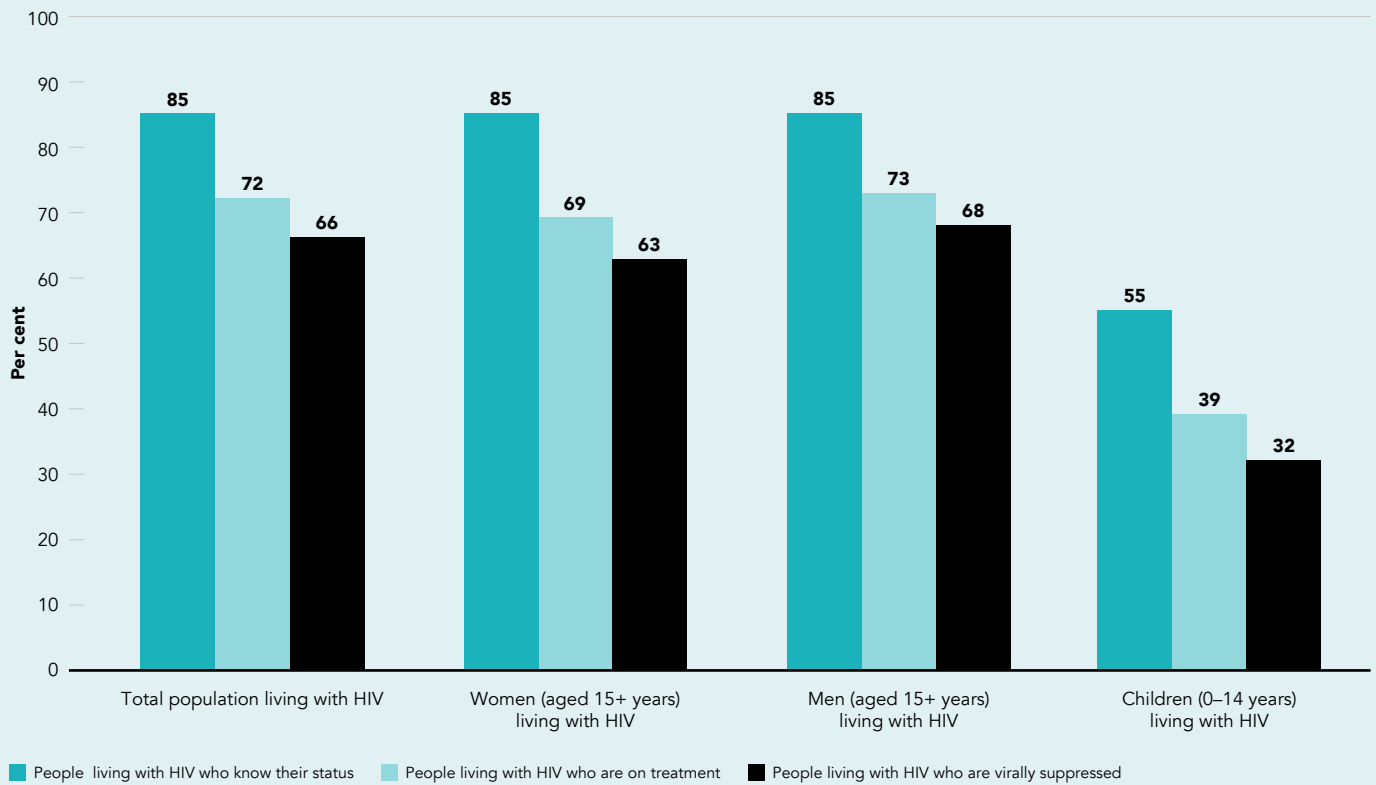
Colombia: Bogotá, Cali and Medellín.

Costa Rica: Gran Área Metropolitana.

Panama: Azuero, Bocas del Toro, Chiriquí, Coclé, Comarca Ngäbe-Buglé, Panamá Centro, Panamá Este, Panamá Norte, Panamá Oeste and Veraguas.

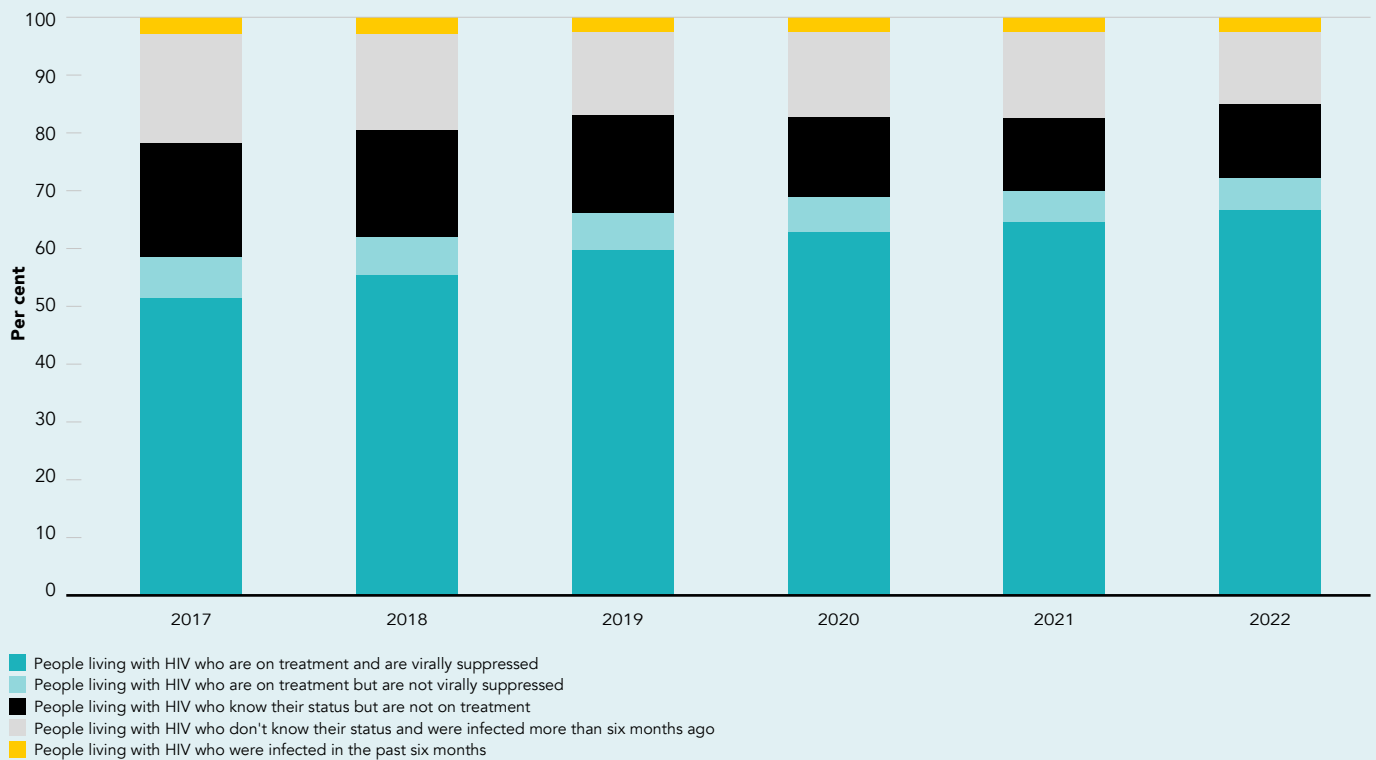
Paraguay: Sex workers: Alto Paraná, Amambay, Área Metropolitana (Asunción and Central) and Caaguazú. Gay men and other men who have sex with men: Alto Paraná, Asunción, Caaguazú and Central. Transgender people: Amambay, Asunción and Central.

**Figure 8.4** HIV testing and treatment cascade, by age and sex, Latin America, 2022



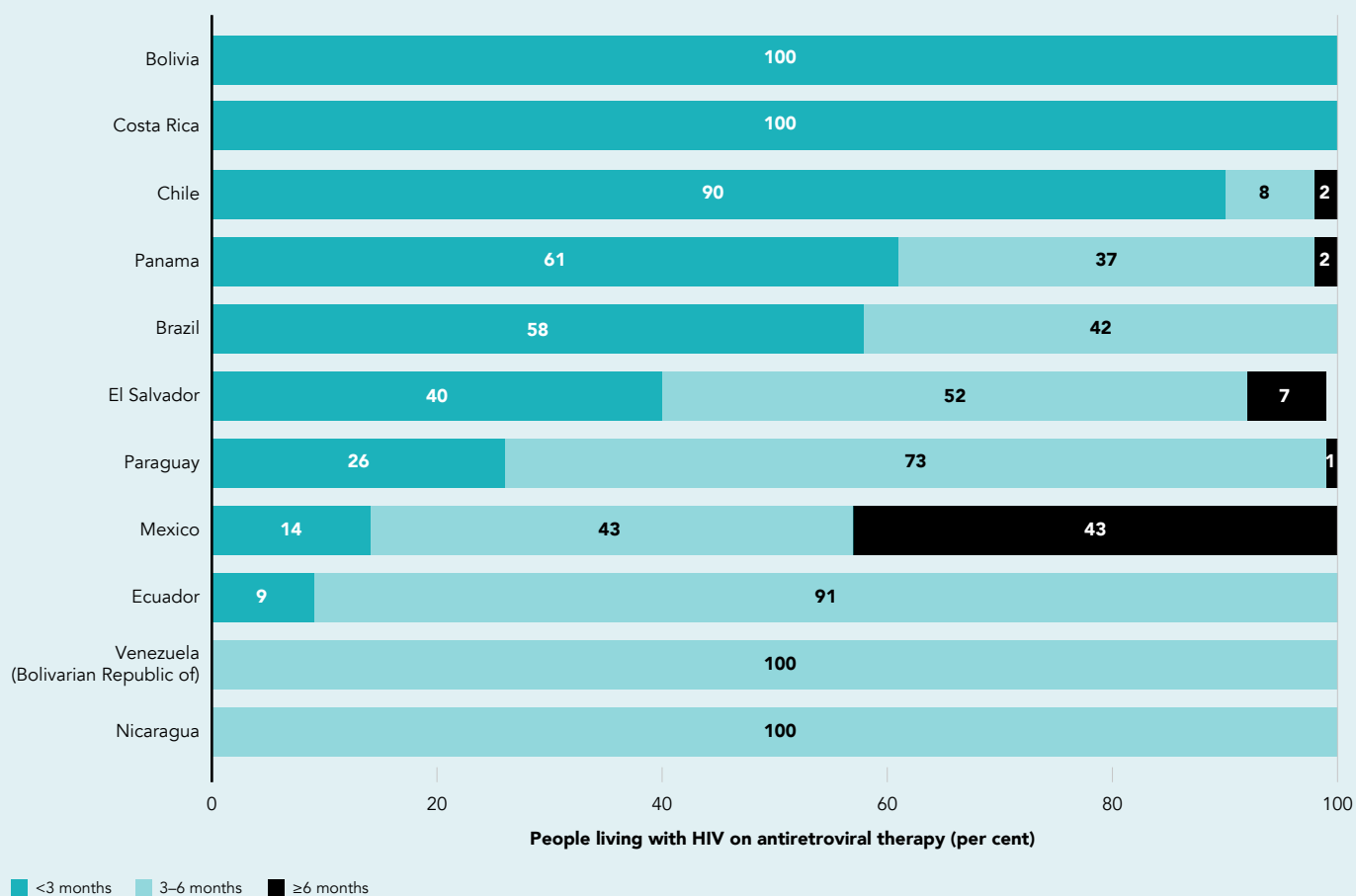
Source: UNAIDS special analysis of epidemiological estimates, 2023.

**Figure 8.5** Distribution of people living with HIV by recent infection, knowledge of status, treatment and viral load suppression, adults (aged 15+ years), Latin America, 2017–2022



Source: UNAIDS special analysis of epidemiological estimates, 2023.

**Figure 8.6** Percentage of people living with HIV on antiretroviral therapy by length of multimonth dispensing, selected countries, Latin America, 2022



Source: UNAIDS Global AIDS Monitoring, 2023 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

Table 8.2 Laws and policies scorecard, Latin America, 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>3</sup>	Parental consent for adolescents to access HIV testing
Argentina	1	1	1	1	17		1
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1	4	1	1	1		1
Brazil	1	1	1	1	1		1
Chile	1	1	1	1	1		1
Colombia	1	1	1	1	1		1
Costa Rica	1	1	1	2	1		1
Ecuador	1	1	1	1	12		1
El Salvador	1	14	1	13	5		1
Guatemala	1	15	1	1	1		1
Honduras	2	2	2	2	1		19
Mexico	2	9	2	2	8		2
Nicaragua	1	22	1	1	1		1
Panama	1	1	1	1	21		20
Paraguay	1	1	1	1	1		1
Peru	2	10	18	11	16		6
Uruguay	4	4	4	4	1		4
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1	7	1	1	1		1

**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>
Argentina	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Brazil	1	1	1	1	1	1
Chile	1	1	1	1	1	1
Colombia	1	1		1	1	4
Costa Rica	1	1	1	1	1	2
Ecuador	1	1	1		1	1
El Salvador	1	1	1	1	1	1
Guatemala	1	1	1	1	1	1
Honduras	2	2	2	2	2	2
Mexico	2	1	2		2	4
Nicaragua	1	1	1	1	1	1
Panama	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paraguay	1	1	1	1	1	1
Peru	2					
Uruguay	2	4				4
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1	1	1	1	1	1

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

- 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 sex work

- 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 gender identity

- 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).
- 2 UNAIDS National Commitments and Policy Instrument 2021. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; 2021 (<https://lawsandpolicies.unaids.org/>, accessed 6 July 2023).
- 3 United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations Development Programme. Explainer: still not welcome: HIV-related travel restrictions. Geneva: United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; 2019 ([https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/hiv-related-travel-restrictions-explainer\\_en.pdf](https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/hiv-related-travel-restrictions-explainer_en.pdf), accessed 6 July 2023).
- 4 UNAIDS National Commitments and Policy Instrument 2019. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; 2019 (<https://lawsandpolicies.unaids.org/>, accessed 6 July 2023).
- 5 Ley de Prevencion y Control de la Infeccion Provocada por el virus de la inmunodeficiencia humana: Article 15. San Salvador: Government of El Salvador ([http://asp.salud.gob.sv/regulacion/pdf/ley/ley\\_proteccion\\_control\\_infeccion\\_provocada\\_por\\_vih.pdf](http://asp.salud.gob.sv/regulacion/pdf/ley/ley_proteccion_control_infeccion_provocada_por_vih.pdf), accessed 6 July 2023).
- 6 NTS N 167-2020-MINSA/2020/DGIESP "Norma Tcnica de Salud para el Atencion Integral de la Nias, Nios y Adolescentes infectados por el Virus de la Inmunodeficiencia Humana (VIH)": Article 6.2.2. Lima: Government of Peru (<https://cdn.www.gob.pe/uploads/document/file/1402571/RM%20N%C2%B0882-2020-MINSA.PDF.PDF>, accessed 6 July 2023).
- 7 Penal Code: Article 382. Caracas: Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela ([http://oas.org/juridico/spanish/mesicic3\\_ven\\_anexo6.pdf](http://oas.org/juridico/spanish/mesicic3_ven_anexo6.pdf), accessed 6 July 2023).
- 8 Codigo Penal Federal: Article 199bis. Mexico City: Government of Mexico ([http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf\\_mov/Codigo\\_Penal\\_Federal.pdf](http://www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf_mov/Codigo_Penal_Federal.pdf), accessed 6 July 2023).
- 9 Codigo Penal para el Estado de Baja California: Article 267. ([https://www.congresobc.gob.mx/Documentos/ProcesoParlamentario/Leyes/TOMO\\_V/20210226\\_CODPENAL.PDF](https://www.congresobc.gob.mx/Documentos/ProcesoParlamentario/Leyes/TOMO_V/20210226_CODPENAL.PDF), accessed 6 July 2023).
- 10 Decreto Legislativo N635 Codigo Penal: Articles 179 and 181. Lima: Government of Peru (<https://lpderecho.pe/codigo-penal-peruano-actualizado/>, accessed 6 July 2023).
- 11 Decreto Legislativo N635 Codigo Penal, Dcimo Segundo Edicin Oficial: Article 299. Lima: Government of Peru (<https://lpderecho.pe/codigo-penal-peruano-actualizado/>, accessed 6 July 2023).
- 12 Ley 11, Registro Oficial 58, 14 de abril de 2000: Ley Para la Prevencion y Asistencia Integral del VIH SIDA. Quito: Government of Ecuador ([https://oig.cepal.org/sites/default/files/2002\\_reglamentoleyvih\\_ecu.pdf](https://oig.cepal.org/sites/default/files/2002_reglamentoleyvih_ecu.pdf), accessed 6 July 2023).
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- 15 Decreto 9-2009: Article 39. Guatemala City: Government of Guatemala (<https://www.refworld.org/pd/4a03e3d22.pdf>, accessed 6 July 2023).
- 16 Peru. Amsterdam: HIV Justice Network (<https://www.hivjustice.net/country/pe/>, accessed 6 July 2023).
- 17 Argentina. Amsterdam: HIV Justice Network, <https://www.hivjustice.net/country/ar/>, accessed 6 July 2023).
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- 19 Ley Especial sobre VIH/SIDA, 1999: Article 60 (<http://www.poderjudicial.gob.hn/CEDIJ/Leyes/Documents/LeyEspecialVIHSIDA.pdf>). Ley Especial sobre VIH/SIDA, 1999: Article 60. Tegucigalpa: Government of Honduras ([https://siteal.iiep.unesco.org/sites/default/files/sit\\_accion\\_files/hn\\_0290.pdf](https://siteal.iiep.unesco.org/sites/default/files/sit_accion_files/hn_0290.pdf), accessed 6 July 2023).
- 20 Normas tecnicas y administrativas del programa nacional de salud integral de los y las adolescentes. Panama City: Ministry of Health of Panama; 2006 ([https://data.miraquetemiro.org/sites/default/files/documentos/norma\\_adolescentes\\_panama\\_0.pdf](https://data.miraquetemiro.org/sites/default/files/documentos/norma_adolescentes_panama_0.pdf), accessed 6 July 2023); Articulo 19.2 de la Ley 68 que regula los derechos y obligaciones de los pacientes en materia de informacion y de decision libre ([https://www.hospitalsantotomas.gob.pa/download/transparencia/otros\\_documentos\\_y\\_normas/9.6.0-LEY-68-DERECHOS-PACIENTE.pdf](https://www.hospitalsantotomas.gob.pa/download/transparencia/otros_documentos_y_normas/9.6.0-LEY-68-DERECHOS-PACIENTE.pdf)).
- 21 Codigo Penal: Article 308. City of Panama: Government of Panama (<https://en.calameo.com/read/0005798491847eb9f9501>, accessed 6 July 2023).
- 22 Penal Code amended by Law No. 641, 2007: Article 178. Managua: Nicaragua ([https://www.poderjudicial.gob.ni/arc-pdf/CP\\_641.pdf](https://www.poderjudicial.gob.ni/arc-pdf/CP_641.pdf), accessed 6 July 2023).

**Figure 8.7** Resource availability for HIV, Latin America, 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.  
 Note: the resource estimates are presented in constant 2019 US dollars.

## References

- 1 Croxford S, Stengaard AR, Brännström J, et al. Late diagnosis of HIV: an updated consensus definition. *HIV Med.* 2022; 3(11):1202–1208.
- 2 Venezuela situation factsheet. Geneva: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; 2023 (<https://reporting.unhcr.org/venezuela-situation-factsheet>), accessed 18 July 2023.
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