

Children, HIV and AIDS

Regional snapshot: Eastern and Southern Africa

DECEMBER 2018

Eastern and Southern Africa is home to more than 60 per cent of children and adolescents living with HIV. This is the region where most progress in the HIV response has been made. Coverage of maternal antiretroviral treatment for pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV reached 93 per cent in this region in 2017. Sustaining these gains and continuing to reach children, adolescents and women at risk and living with HIV is critical. In 2017, an estimated 120,000 adolescents aged 10–19 years and 94,000 children aged 0–9 years were newly infected with HIV. They are now part of the estimated 1.9 million children and adolescents living with HIV in the region. Despite ongoing progress, 65,000 of the region's children and adolescents died of an AIDS-related cause in 2017.

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

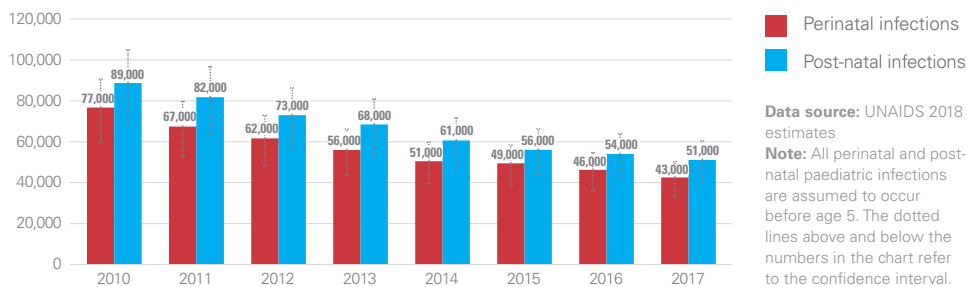


FIGURE 2. Annual number of new HIV infections among adolescents aged 10–19, by sex, 2010–2017

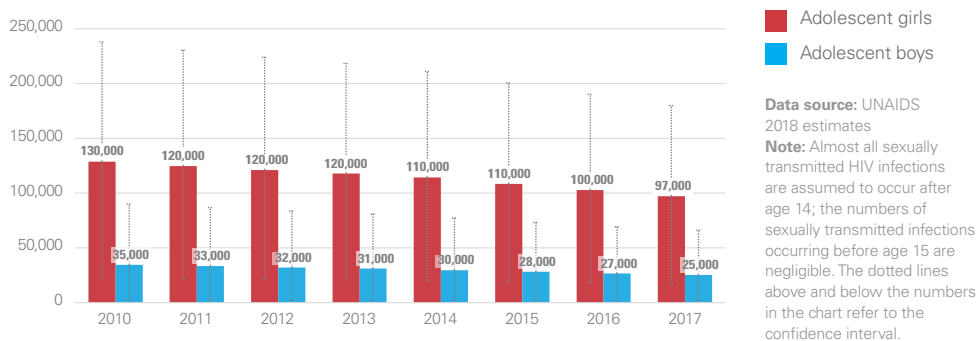
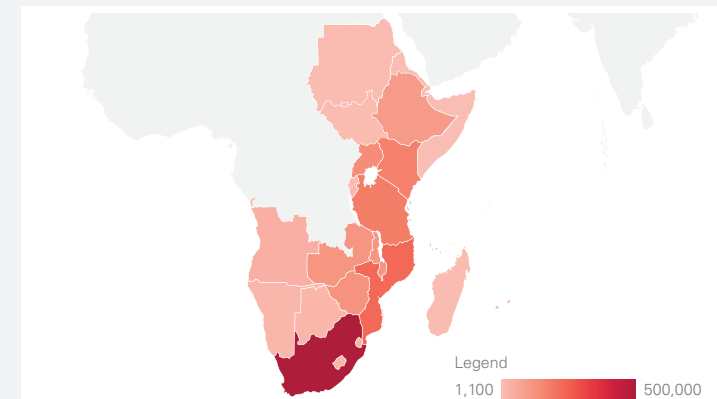


FIGURE 3. Number of children and adolescents aged 0–19 living with HIV, by country, 2017



Country	Estimate	Lower	Upper
South Africa	500,000	330,000	690,000
Mozambique	230,000	140,000	320,000
United Republic of Tanzania	180,000	130,000	230,000
Kenya	170,000	120,000	230,000
Uganda	140,000	110,000	170,000
Zimbabwe	120,000	85,000	160,000
Zambia	110,000	88,000	140,000
Malawi	110,000	77,000	130,000
Ethiopia	98,000	61,000	140,000
Angola	35,000	23,000	45,000
Lesotho	25,000	19,000	31,000
Botswana	20,000	15,000	27,000
Eswatini	20,000	15,000	24,000
South Sudan	18,000	12,000	25,000
Namibia	18,000	13,000	22,000
Rwanda	18,000	11,000	24,000
Burundi	13,000	8,800	17,000
Sudan	6,200	3,200	11,000
Madagascar	4,400	3,200	6,100
Somalia	2,000	1,900	2,200
Eritrea	1,800	1,200	2,500
Djibouti	1,100	<1,000	1,500
Eastern and Southern Africa	1,850,000	1,250,000	2,440,000

Data source: UNAIDS 2018 estimates.

Note: This map does not claim any official position by the United Nations. Countries are classified according to the Eastern and Southern Africa geographical region. HIV estimates are not available for Mauritius and Seychelles. Countries with no data and countries outside of the geographical region are shown in grey.

KEY FACTS:

Children, HIV and AIDS in Eastern and Southern Africa, 2017

Epidemiology	Estimate	Lower	Upper
Number of children and adolescents living with HIV	1,850,000	1,250,000	2,440,000
Children aged 0–9	760,000	570,000	950,000
Adolescents aged 10–19	1,090,000	680,000	1,500,000
Number of new HIV infections, children and adolescents	220,000	91,000	370,000
Children aged 0–9	94,000	62,000	140,000
Adolescents aged 10–19	120,000	30,000	240,000
Adolescent girls	97,000	17,000	180,000
Adolescent boys	25,000	1,900	66,000
New HIV infections per 1,000 adolescents aged 15–19	2.24	0.54	4.29
Adolescent girls	3.58	0.63	6.62
Adolescent boys	0.92	0.07	2.39
Number of AIDS-related deaths, children and adolescents	65,000	38,000	99,000
Children aged 0–9	43,000	26,000	64,000
Adolescents aged 10–19	22,000	13,000	35,000
Number of pregnant women living with HIV	940,000	740,000	1,100,000
Mother-to-child transmission rate of HIV, final	9.9	8.0	12.1
Perinatal transmission	4.5	3.8	5.8
Post-natal transmission	5.4	4.6	7.0
HIV response	Estimate	Lower	Upper
PMTCT coverage (ART) (%)	93	72	>95
Early infant diagnosis (%)	62	53	80
ART coverage, children 0–14 (%)	59	39	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.



Perinatal and post-natal HIV infections have fallen by

43 per cent since 2010



PMTCT coverage increased from 61 per cent in 2010 to

93 per cent in 2017



4 in 5 HIV infections

occurring among 10- to 19-year-olds are among girls

Analysis

Of the 94,000 new HIV infections among children aged 0–9 years in 2017 in Eastern and Southern Africa, the majority (51,000) occurred after birth, which reflects a failure of PMTCT programmes during breastfeeding. The ‘last mile’ towards elimination of vertical transmission relies on overcoming gaps in ongoing HIV testing, treatment and care for vulnerable mothers and their infants after birth.

Continued and accelerated progress in PMTCT programming cannot be achieved without improved HIV prevention efforts among adolescents, particularly adolescent girls and young women. The total number of annual new HIV infections among those aged 10–19 years in 2017 was only about 25 per cent lower than it was in 2010. Demographic trends indicating ongoing steep rises in adolescent populations by 23 per cent between 2018 and 2030 lend further urgency to the importance of expanded and sustained prevention efforts targeting that age group.

FIGURE 3. Number of pregnant women living with HIV and number receiving antiretrovirals for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, 2010–2017

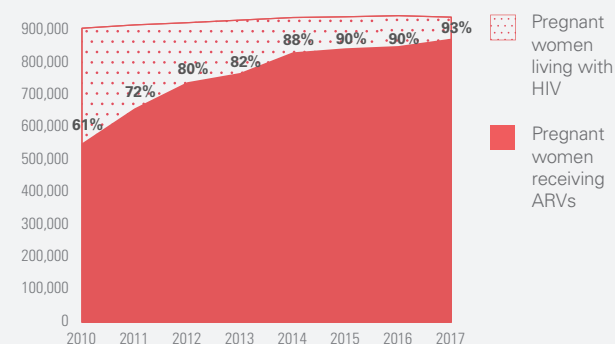


FIGURE 4. Number of HIV-exposed infants and number tested for HIV within two months of birth, 2010–2017

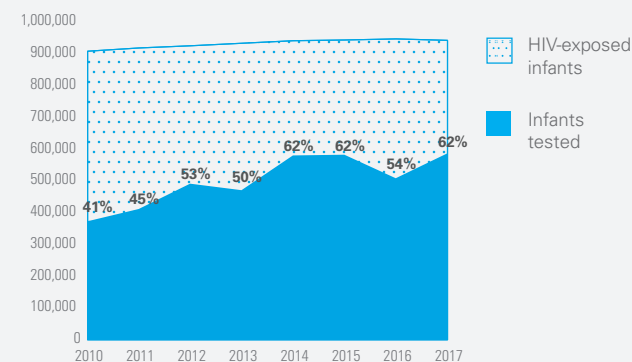
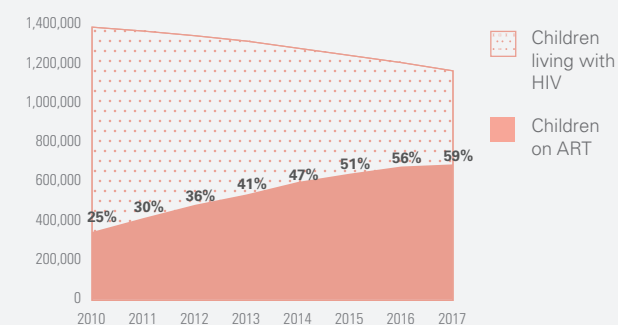


FIGURE 5. Number of children aged 0–14 living with HIV and number receiving ART, 2010–2017



Data source: Global AIDS Monitoring 2018 and UNAIDS 2018 estimates

Note: PMTCT coverage includes most effective antiretroviral regimens, excluding single-dose nevirapine. The percentages in the figures refer to coverage rates.