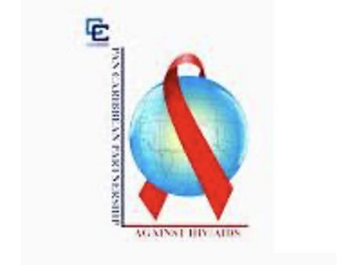




International AIDS Society [iasociety.org](http://iasociety.org)



# The HIV response in the Caribbean

Dr. Shanti Singh Anthony, HIV response in the Caribbean  
November 4, 2024, Trinidad and Tobago

## Global HIV statistics

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- **39.9 million** [36.1 million–44.6 million] people globally were living with HIV in 2023.
- **1.3 million** [1 million–1.7 million] people became newly infected with HIV in 2023.
- **630 000** [500 000–820 000] people died from AIDS-related illnesses in 2023.
- **30.7 million** people [27–31.9 million] were accessing antiretroviral therapy in 2023.
- **88.4 million** [71.3 million–112.8 million] people have become infected with HIV since the start of the epidemic.
- **42.3 million** [35.7 million–51.1 million] people have died from AIDS-related illnesses since the start of the epidemic.



## Adults >15 years

## Adults 15-49 years

Region	2021	2022	2023
Asia and the Pacific	0.2 [0.2 - 0.2]	0.2 [0.2 - 0.2]	0.2 [0.2 - 0.2]
Caribbean	1.0 [0.9 - 1.2]	1.0 [0.9 - 1.2]	1.0 [0.9 - 1.2]
East and Southern Africa	6.4 [5.8 - 7.0]	6.2 [5.7 - 6.9]	6.1 [5.6 - 6.7]
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	0.8 [0.7 - 0.9]	0.8 [0.8 - 0.9]	0.9 [0.8 - 1.0]
Latin America	0.5 [0.4 - 0.5]	0.5 [0.4 - 0.5]	0.5 [0.4 - 0.5]
Middle East and North Africa	<0.1 [<0.1 - <0.1]	<0.1 [<0.1 - <0.1]	<0.1 [<0.1 - <0.1]
West and Central Africa	1.4 [1.2 - 1.6]	1.3 [1.2 - 1.5]	1.3 [1.1 - 1.5]
Western & Central Europe and North America	0.3 [0.2 - 0.3]	0.3 [0.2 - 0.3]	0.3 [0.2 - 0.3]
<b>Global</b>	<b>0.6 [0.6 - 0.7]</b>	<b>0.6 [0.6 - 0.7]</b>	<b>0.6 [0.6 - 0.7]</b>

Region	2021	2022	2023
Asia and the Pacific	0.2 [0.2 - 0.2]	0.2 [0.2 - 0.2]	0.2 [0.2 - 0.2]
Caribbean	1.2 [1.0 - 1.3]	1.2 [1.0 - 1.3]	1.2 [1.0 - 1.3]
East and Southern Africa	6.1 [5.5 - 6.7]	5.9 [5.3 - 6.4]	5.7 [5.1 - 6.2]
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	1.1 [1.0 - 1.2]	1.2 [1.1 - 1.3]	1.2 [1.1 - 1.3]
Latin America	0.5 [0.4 - 0.6]	0.5 [0.4 - 0.6]	0.5 [0.4 - 0.6]
Middle East and North Africa	<0.1 [<0.1 - <0.1]	<0.1 [<0.1 - <0.1]	<0.1 [<0.1 - <0.1]
West and Central Africa	1.3 [1.1 - 1.5]	1.2 [1.1 - 1.4]	1.2 [1.1 - 1.4]
Western & Central Europe and North America	0.3 [0.2 - 0.3]	0.2 [0.2 - 0.3]	0.2 [0.2 - 0.3]
<b>Global</b>	<b>0.7 [0.7 - 0.8]</b>	<b>0.7 [0.6 - 0.8]</b>	<b>0.7 [0.6 - 0.8]</b>

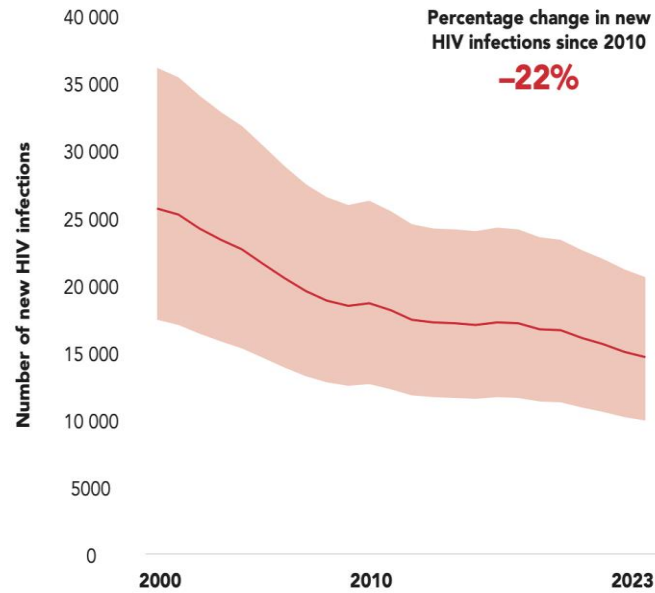
# PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV



	2020	2021	2022	2023
People living with HIV	320,000	320,000	330,000	340,000
Children (0-14 years)	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
Adolescents (10-19 years)	12,000	11,000	11,000	10,000
Young adults (15-24 years)	29,000	29,000	28,000	27,000
Adults 15 years and above	310,000	310,000	320,000	320,000
Adults 15-49	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000
Adults >50 years	67,000	72,000	78,000	84,000

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November 4, 2024, Trinidad and Tobago

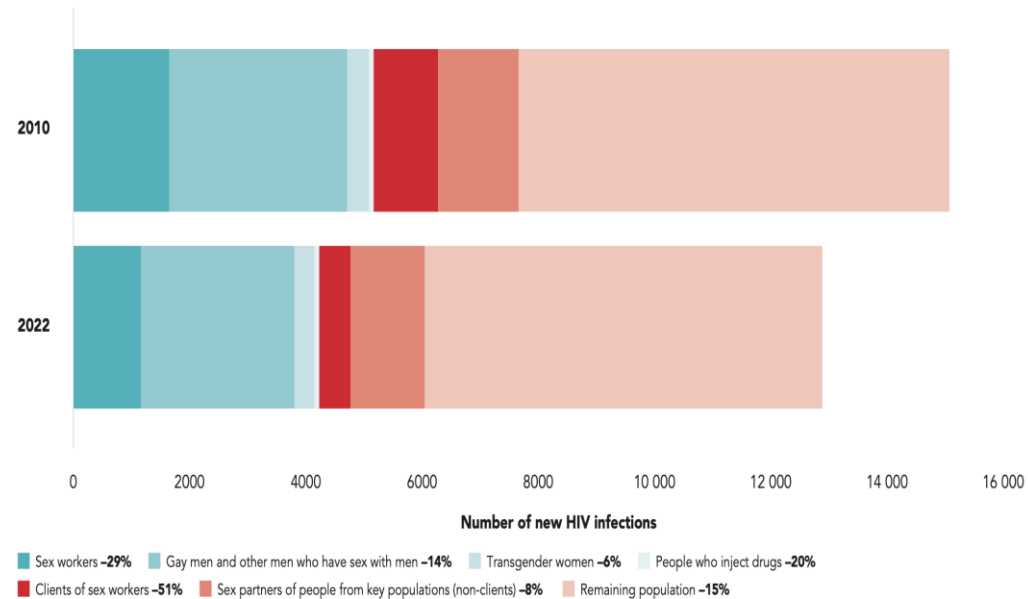
# HIV prevention: New Infections ( 2010-2023)



Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2024 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

People from key populations and their sexual partners account for 47% of new HIV infections in 2022

**Figure 11.2** Distribution of new HIV infections and percentage change among adults, the Caribbean, 2010 and 2022

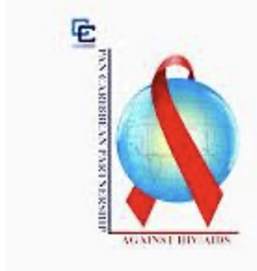


Source: Korenromp EL, Sabin K, Stover J, Brown T, Johnson LF, Martin-Hughes R, et al. New HIV infections among key populations and their partners in 2010 and 2022, by world region: a multisources estimation. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr.* 2024;95(15):e34–e45.

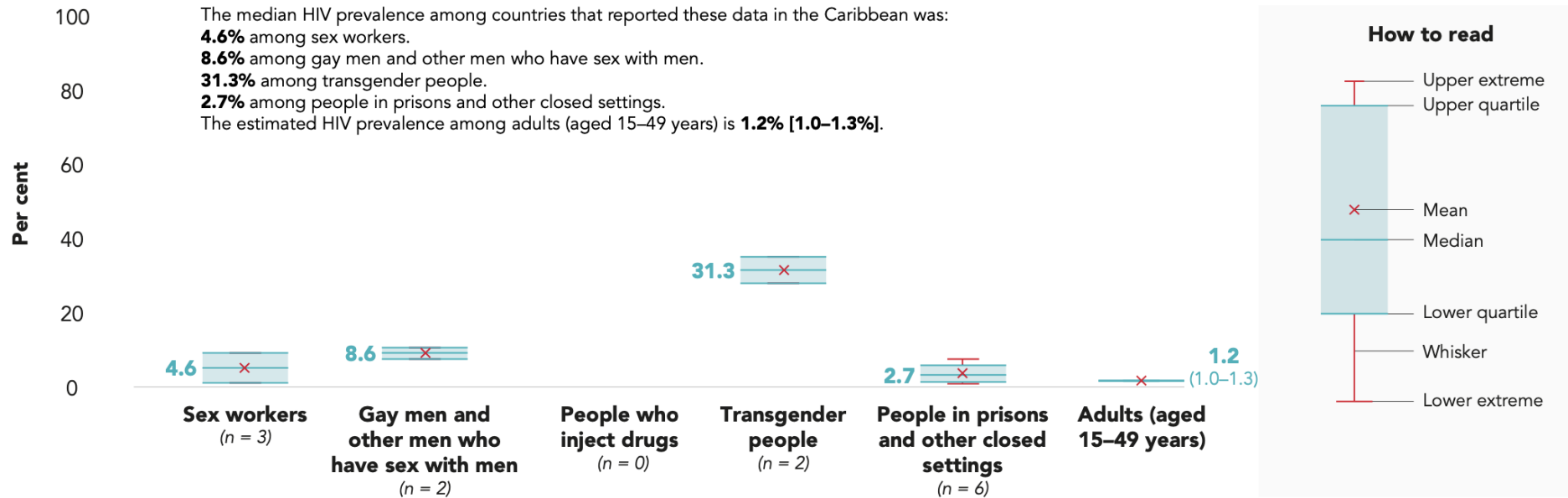
Almost 90% of new infections in the region in 2023 were in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica—with Haiti alone accounting for more than one third (38%) of new HIV infections.

People from key populations and their sex partners continued to account for 47% of new infections in 2022

# KEY POPULATIONS



**Figure 11.4** HIV prevalence among people from key populations compared with adults (aged 15–49 years), reporting countries in the Caribbean, 2019–2023



# DSD Prevention



## 1. Enabling Environment

- ✓ National policy on HIV self testing.
- ✓ National policy or strategy on linking HIV testing and counselling and enrolment in care.
- ✓ Law-parental consent for adolescents <14 years to access HIV testing.

## 2. Health systems and programme response enablers

- ✓ Registration/operation of civil society/CBOs affecting HIV service delivery.
- ✓ Community-based testing and counselling.

## 1. Enabling Environment



## 2. Health systems and programme response enablers



## 3. Scope and scale of service delivery

- ✓ Testing approaches :Client-initiated testing and counselling, Provider-initiated testing and counselling, Routine antenatal testing, Community-based testing and counselling, Lay provider testing, Provider-assisted referral (assisted partner notification/index testing).
- ✓ National self-testing policy.

## 4. Key populations, ART Peer Support and Testing Service uptake

- ✓ Peer Navigation

## 3. Scope and scale of service delivery



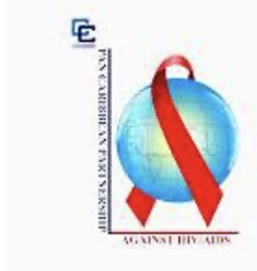
## 4. Key populations, ART Peer Support and Testing Service uptake



# HIV Prevention: PrEP



Country	2021	2022	2023
Antigua and Barbuda	5	-	-
The Bahamas	118	138	132
Barbados	84	70	90
Belize		7	68
Cuba	63	317	1541
Dominica	2		1
Grenada	1	3	
Guyana	14	67	692
Haiti	8303	13,411	23,957
Jamaica		107	284
Saint Lucia	3	-	1



Discriminatory attitudes towards PLHIV: Barbados 46.4% ( 2018), Belize 36.9% ( 2015) Cuba 24.4% ( 2019), DR 41.9% ( women only, 2019), Guyana 40.6% ( 2019), Haiti 71.7% ( 2016/7) Suriname 66.4% (2018)

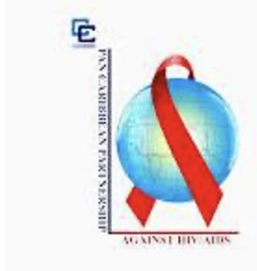
Experience HIV related S&D in the health care setting : Dominican Republic 13%, ( 2018/9), Haiti 1.4% ( 2021)

S&D in the community setting: DR-44.9%, (2018/9), Jamaica 33.9% (2019)

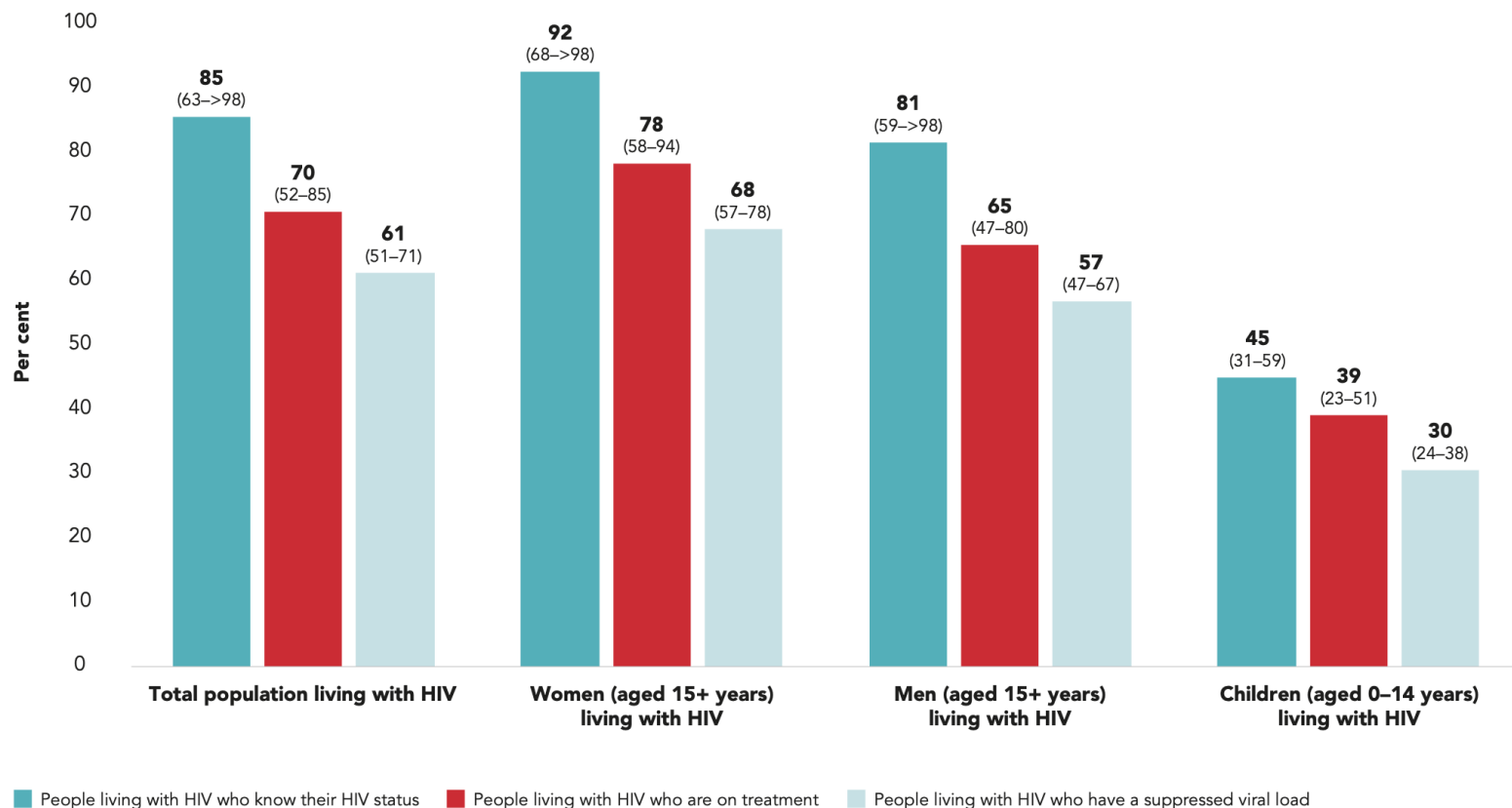
Internalized stigma: Dominican Republic 33% ( 2018) , Haiti 46.5% ( 2021), Jamaica 36.3% ( 2020)

PLHIV seeking redress: Belize 19.7% (2019), DR 15% (2019), Jamaica 22.5% (2019)

Avoidance of health care because of S&D : Haiti: FSW- 11% (2023), MSM-10% (2023)



**Figure 11.5** HIV testing and treatment cascade, by age and sex, Caribbean, 2023

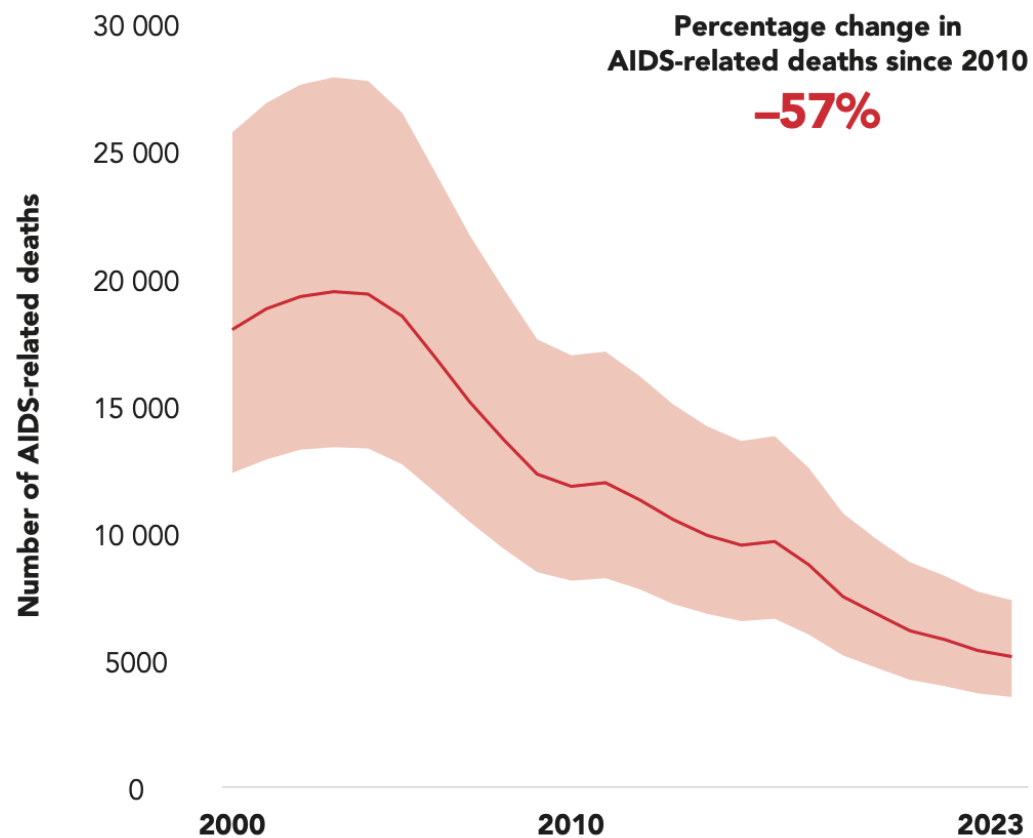
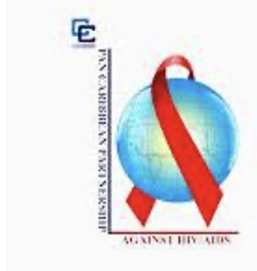


Source: Further analysis of UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2024.

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

- % of people living with HIV who know their status: **85 [63-98]**
- % of people living with HIV who are on treatment: **70 [52-85]**
- % of people living with HIV who have a suppressed viral load: **61 [51-71]**

# AIDS Related Deaths

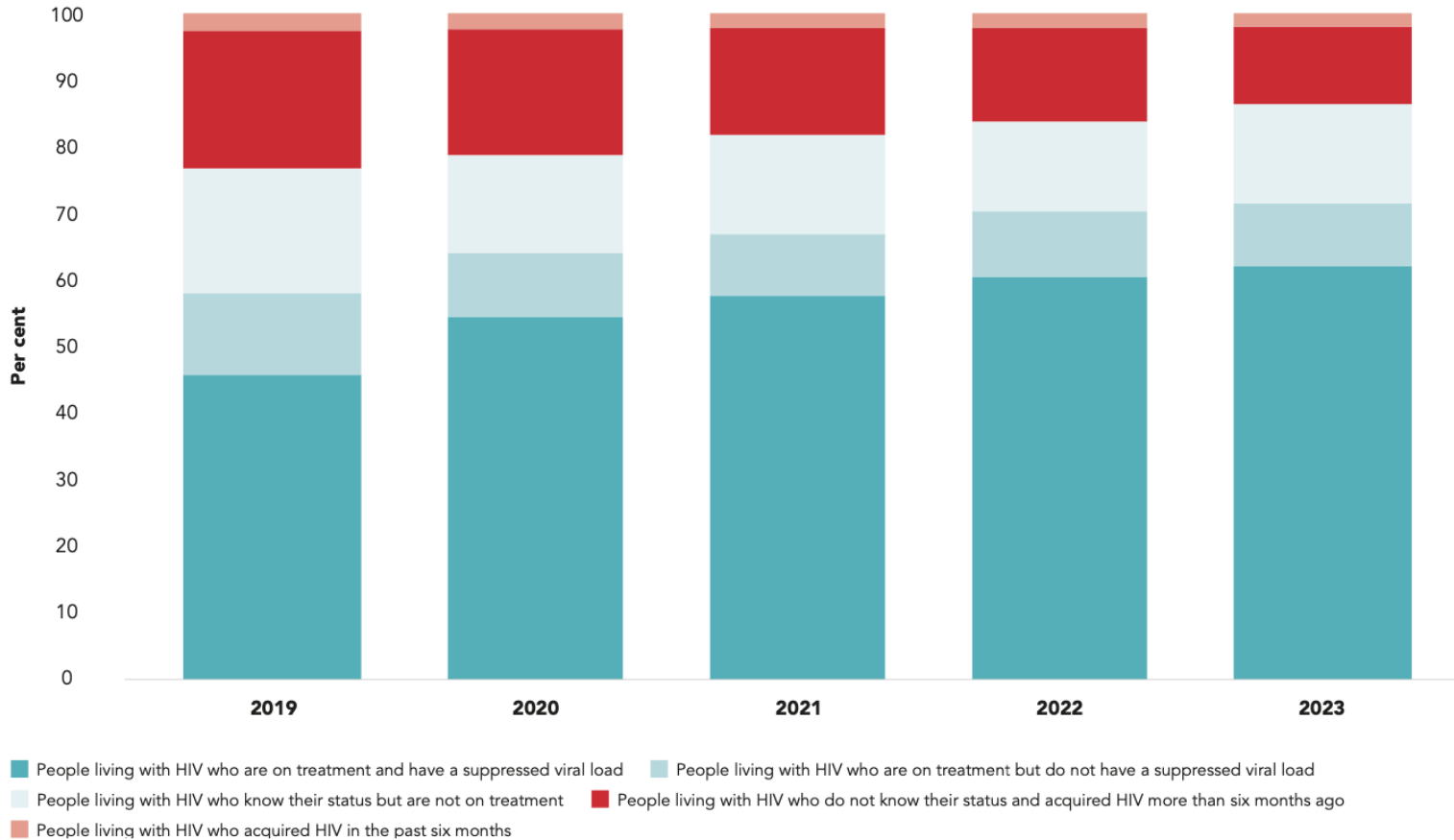


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November 4, 2024, Trinidad and Tobago

# HIV Testing and Treatment Cascade -2019-2023



**Figure 11.6** Distribution of people living with HIV by recent infection, knowledge of status, treatment and viral load suppression, adults (aged 15+ years), Caribbean, 2019–2023



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

- % of people living with HIV who know their status: **85 [63→98]**
- % of people living with HIV who are on treatment: **70 [52–85]**
- % of people living with HIV who have a suppressed viral load: **61 [51–71]**

Source: Further analysis of UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2024.

# Differentiated service delivery- treatment



## 1. Enabling Environment

- ✓ Policy allows 3-Monthly clinic visits for people stable on ART.
- ✓ Policy allows monthly ARV pick-up for people stable on ART.

## 3. Scope and scale of service delivery

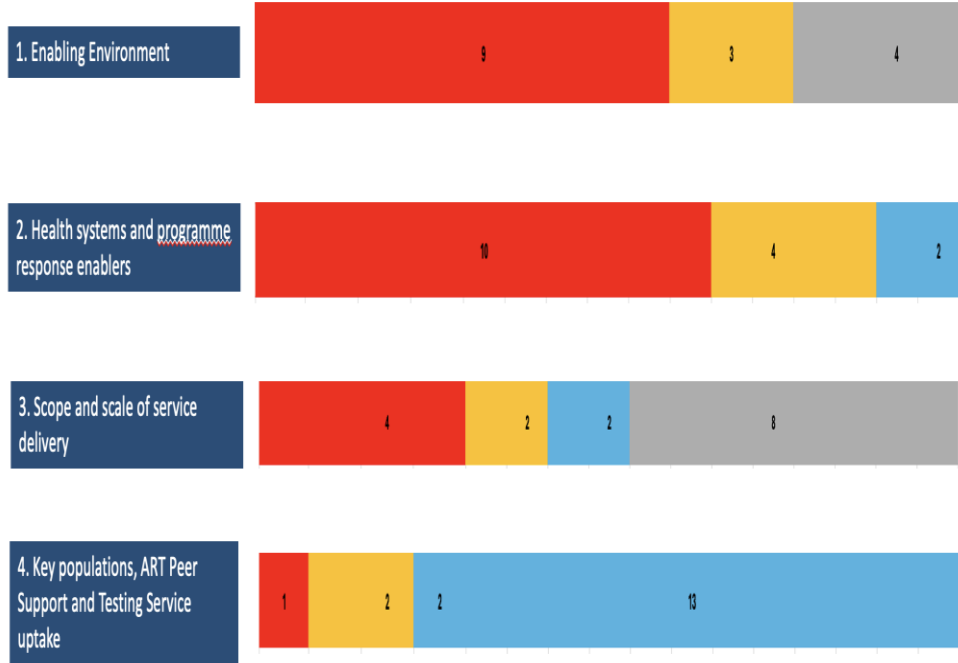
- ✓ Treatment approaches used: ART pick up points for DSD Delivery in community setting not implemented.

## 2. Health systems and programme response enablers

- ✓ Nurse-initiated ART
- ✓ Restrictions to registration/operation of civil society/CBOs affecting HIV service delivery.

## 4. Key populations, ART Peer Support and Testing Service uptake

- ✓ ART adherence clubs and peer support
- ✓ ART adherence support services available: Peer counsellors, Text messages, Use of reminder devices, Patient reintegration follow-up calls/home visits, Enhanced adherence counselling,
- ✓ Referral to psychological/socio-economic support, Cognitive-behavioural therapy, Behavioural skills training/medication adherence training
- ✓ Fixed-dose combinations and once-daily regimens,
- ✓ Case management, Peer navigation.



# Summary



1. 330,000 PLHIV
2. Increase in PLHIV >50 years- implication for the management of HIV and aging- co morbidities
3. Late diagnosis remains an issue– implications for the management of advance HIV disease
4. Still significant levels of Stigma and Discrimination especially internalized S&D and S&D in the community setting compared to the Health Care setting
5. S&D in the health care setting is leading to the avoidance of health care services
6. Despite progress, there are still gaps along the HIV testing and treatment continuum with better uptake of services among women compared to men.
7. DSD strategies for prevention and treatment are at different stages of implementation
8. PrEP- increase in number of countries offering PrEP and the number of person accessing PrEP.