WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Annual numbers of new HIV infections in western and central Africa declined by 46% between 2010 and 2023 (Figure 16.1). The high numbers of new infections among people from key populations (1) and adolescent girls and young women are challenges, however, and call for increased investment in primary prevention programmes (Figure 16.2). In 2023, adolescent girls and young women aged 15–24 years accounted for 19% of all new HIV infections.

The expansion of differentiated services for HIV treatment have yielded marked progress, with 81% [62–97%] of people living with HIV knowing their status, 76% [59–92%] receiving antiretroviral therapy, and 70% [61–81%] having a suppressed viral load. The number of adults aged 15 years and over receiving HIV treatment has more than doubled since 2015. Between 2010 and 2023, numbers of AIDS-related deaths decreased by 55%.

Since 2010, numbers of new HIV infections have declined by 46% and AIDS-related deaths by 56%

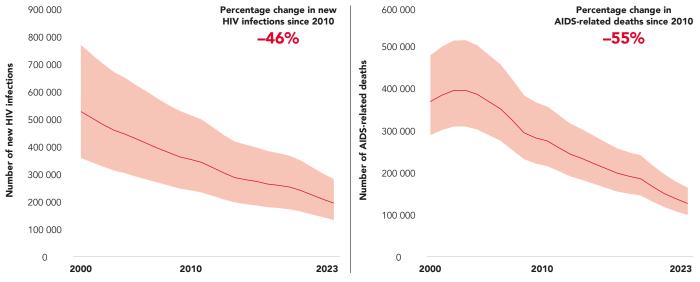


Figure 16.1 Numbers of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths, western and central Africa, 2000–2023

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



2023 DATA

- 46% decrease in new HIV infections since 2010
- **55%** decrease in AIDS-related deaths since 2010
- People living with HIV:
 5.1 million [4.5 million–5.9 million]
- New HIV infections:
 190 000 [130 000–280 000]
- AIDS-related deaths:
 130 000 [100 000–170 000]

Testing and treatment cascade (all ages):

- % of people living with HIV who know their HIV status:
 81 [62–97]
- % of people living with HIV who are on treatment: 76 [59–92]
- % of people living with HIV who are virally suppressed: 70 [61–81]

Financing of the HIV response:

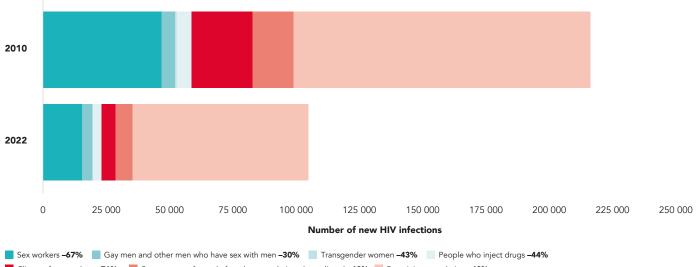
 Resource availability for HIV: US\$ 2.2 billion [16% gap to meet the 2025 target] Several countries are close to reaching the HIV testing and treatment 95–95–95 targets among their adult populations aged 15 years and over, including Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Paediatric HIV is a top priority in the region, but only a little over a third (35% [25–44%]) of children living with HIV were receiving treatment in 2023. The region is home to 20% of pregnant women living with HIV globally, but about half of them (46%) are not on treatment. A combination of strong political commitment, technical expertise and community mobilization, however, is needed to continue progress towards preventing vertical transmission of HIV.

Efforts to bring about legal reforms and combat stigmatization and discrimination are under way in several countries despite increased hostility towards key populations and human rights—as seen, for example, in Ghana's Human Sexual Rights and Family Values Bill, 2023. If passed, the Bill would criminalize LGBTQI+ people and their ability to advocate for their own rights (2). HIV-related discrimination remains commonplace—surveys show that between 33% (Gabon) and 79% (Mauritania) of people harbour discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV (3). Young people still face age-of-access limitations for access to HIV testing—eight countries still require parental or guardian consent for HIV testing for young people aged under 18 years. Women face a number of barriers, including for access to sexual and reproductive health services.

There was an increase (10%) in total HIV resources for the region in 2023, driven mainly by increases from international resources (Figure 16.3). Domestic resources declined annually by 3% in 2023, however—a decline of about 10% from the peak in 2018. Several national HIV programmes rely heavily on donor funds. Both HIV prevention programmes and societal enabler programmes require boosts in domestic spending. Even though over a third of new HIV infections occur among people from key populations, their clients and other sex partners (1), only about 1% of total HIV spending goes towards prevention interventions for people from these populations (4, 5). Renewed advocacy for increased investments is needed urgently to promote a human rights-based HIV response, with a focus on scaling up prevention, ending gender inequalities, and stopping HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

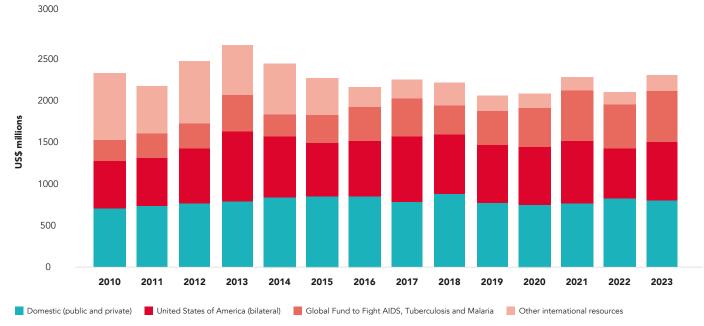
34% of new HIV infections were among people from key populations and their sex partners in 2022

Figure 16.2 Distribution of new HIV infections and percentage change among adults, western and central Africa, 2010 and 2022



📕 Clients of sex workers –76% 🛛 📕 Sex partners of people from key populations (non-clients) –60% 📃 Remaining population –40%

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(1S):e34–e45.

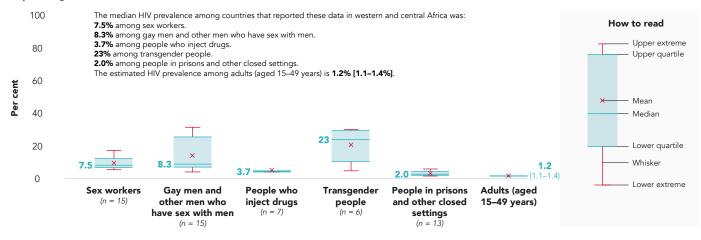


Resources for HIV are below the target and mostly from external sources

Figure 16.3 Resource availability for HIV, western and central Africa, 2010–2023

Source: UNAIDS financial estimates, July, 2024 (http://hivfinancial.unaids.org/hivfinancialdashboards.html).

Figure 16.4 HIV prevalence among people from key populations compared with adults (aged 15–49 years), reporting countries in western and central Africa, 2019-2023



Source: UNAIDS Global AIDS Monitoring, 2020–2024; UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2024 (https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/). Note: n = number of countries. Total number of reporting countries = 25. 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.

Table 16.5 Reported estimated size of key populations, v	western and central Africa, 2019–2023
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Country	National adult population (aged 15–49 years) for 2023 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 and other closed settings	People in prisons and other closed settings as percentage of adult population (aged 15–49 years)
Benin	6 538 000					800	0.01%	2200	0.04%		
Burkina Faso	11 312 000	50 600	0.46%							5000	0.05%
Cameroon	14 198 000										
Central African Republic	2 920 000	3900		3000						1500	
Chad	8 203 000	33 800		8200							
Côte d'Ivoire	15 455 000					2600		700		43 500	0.28%
Democratic Republic of the Congo	57 323 000	525 700	0.95%			168 200	0.30%	56 500	0.10%	36 700	0.07%
Gambia	1 349 000	5500	0.41%							700	0.06%
Ghana	16 642 000										
Guinea	6 925 000	49 000	0.73%			600		700			
Mali	10 610 000	18 100		4100							
Mauritania	2 230 000	8500		7600							
Niger	11 892 000										
Nigeria	114 614 000									78 600	0.07%
Senegal	8 780 000			52 500	0.65%						
Sierra Leone	4 350 000	11 500		3200		7600		1100			
Тодо	4 513 000	29 400	0.69%							5800	0.13%
Estimated regional median proportion as percentage of adult population (aged 15–49 years):*			0.79%		0.57%		0.18%		0.09%		-

📕 National population size estimate 🛛 Local population size estimate 📗 Insufficient data 📃 No data

Source: Global AIDS Monitoring, 2020-2024 (https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/). Spectrum DemProi module, 2024.

^a Guide for updating Spectrum HIV estimates, UNAIDS 2024 (https://hivtools.unaids.org/hiv-estimates-training-material-en/).

Notes: Estimates shown are government-provided estimates reported for 2019–2023. Additional and alternative estimates may be available from different sources, including the Key Populations Atlas (https://kpatlas.unaids.org/), academic publications and institutional documents. The regions covered by the local population size estimates are as follows:

The regions covered by the local population size estimates are as follows: Central African Republic: Capitale (Bangui), Préfectures (Berberati and Bouar), Sous-préfetures (Boali and Carnot) (sex workers and gay men and other men who have sex with men); Bambari, Bangui, Bossangoa, Bouar (transgender people)

Chad: Abéchém, Ati/Oum-Hadjer, Bongor, Doba, Koumra, Moundou, N'Djaména, Sarh (sex workers); Abéché, Ati, Bongor, Koumra, Moundou, N'Djaména, Oum-Hadjer, Sarh (gay men and other men who have sex with men)

Côte d'Ivoire: Bouaké, San-Pédro, Yamoussoukro (people who inject drugs); Abidjan (transgender people) Guinea: Conakry

Mali: Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro, Mopti, Ségou, Sikasso (sex workers); Bamako, Gao, Kayes, Koulikoro, Mopti, Ségou, Sikasso (gay men and other men who have sex with men) Mauritania: 6 biggest cities in the country

Siera Leone: Bo (South), Bombali (North), Kenema (East), Port Loko (North West), Western Rural, Western Urban (sex workers and transgender people); Bo (South), Bombali (North), East, Kenema, Kono, Port Loko (Northwest), Western Rural, Western Urban (gay men and other men who have sex with men); Bo (South), Bombali (North), East, Kenema, Port Loko (Northwest), Western Rural, Western Urban (gay men and other men who have sex with men); Bo (South), Bombali (North), East, Kenema, Port Loko (Northwest), Western Rural, Urban (gay men and other men who have sex with men); Bo (South), Bombali (North), East, Kenema, Port Loko (Northwest), Western Urban (people who inject drugs);

Note on methodology "The estimated size of key populations refers to reported values through Global AIDS Monitoring since 2019 only. A comprehensive review of the data was conducted during these reporting rounds and therefore estimates should not be compared with data presented in previous UNAIDS reports. As a result of this process, the estimates reported can be categorized as follows: "National population size estimate" refers to estimates that are empirically derived using one of the following methods: multiplier, capture-recapture, mapping/enumeration, network scaleup method (NSUM) or population-based survey, or respondent-driven sampling–successive sampling (RDS-SS). Estimates had to be national or a combination of multiple sites with a clear approach to extrapolating to a national estimate.

approach to extrapolating to a national estimate. "Local population size estimate" refers to estimates that are empirically derived using one of the before mentioned methods but only for a subnational group of sites that are insufficient for national extrapolation.

"Insufficient data" refers to estimates derived from expert opinions, Delphi, wisdom of the crowds, programmatic results or registry, regional benchmarks or unknown methods. Estimates may or may not be national."

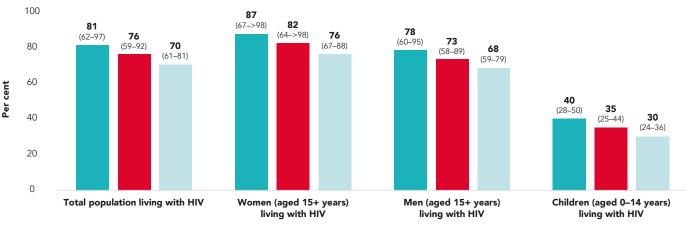
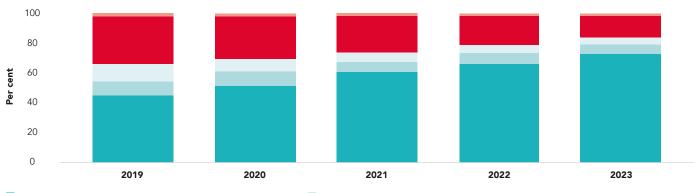


Figure 16.6 HIV testing and treatment cascade, by age and sex, western and central Africa, 2023

People living with HIV who know their HIV status People living with HIV who are on treatment People living with HIV who have a suppressed viral load

Source: Further analysis of UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2024.

Figure 16.7 Distribution of people living with HIV by recent infection, knowledge of status, treatment and viral load suppression, adults (aged 15+ years), western and central Africa, 2019–2023



People living with HIV who are on treatment and have a suppressed viral load
 People living with HIV who are on treatment but do not have a suppressed viral load
 People living with HIV who do not know their status and acquired HIV more than six months ago
 People living with HIV who acquired HIV in the past six months

Source: Further analysis of UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2024.

Table 16.8 Laws and policies scorecard, western and central Africa, 2024

Country	Criminalization of transgender people*	Criminalization of sex work ^b	Criminalization of same-sex sexual acts in private	Criminalization of possession of small amounts of drugs ^c	Laws criminalizing HIV nondisclosure, exposure or transmission ^d	Laws or policies restricting the entry, stay and restidence of people living with HIV	Parental or guardian consent for adolescents to access HIV testing
Benin	1	1	1			7	39
Burkina Faso	2	9	1			7	1
Burundi	8	10	18	24	30	7	5,40
Cabo Verde		11	18	25	30	7	
Cameroon	2	2	2		2	7	1,41
Central African Republic	1	12	1			7	42
Chad	2	13	2			7	43
Congo	4	4	4			7	4
Côte d'Ivoire	1	14	1	26	31	7	44
Democratic Republic of the Congo	4	4	18	27	32	7	45
Equatorial Guinea	3	15	2	28	3	7	46
Gabon	2	2	2		2	7	4
Gambia	1	16	19		33	7	4
Ghana	1	1	1		34	7	47
Guinea	2	1	20			7	48
Guinea-Bissau	4	4	4	29	30	7	
Liberia	1	1	1			7	49
Mali	3	17	3			7	50
Mauritania	2	2				7	3
Niger	3	2	21			7	3
Nigeria	2	1	1		35	7	1
Sao Tome and Principe	4	4	4		30	7	4
Senegal	1	1	22		36	7	1
Sierra Leone	1	1	1		37	7	1,51
Тодо	2	1	23		38	7	1

Criminalization of transgender people

Yes No

Data not available

Criminalization of possession of small amounts of drugs



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

Laws criminalizing HIV nondisclosure, exposure or transmission

- Yes, HIV is explicitly criminalized
- Yes, HIV is criminalized within a broader disease law or prosecutions exist based on general criminal laws

No

Data not available

Criminalization of same-sex sexual acts in private

Death penalty

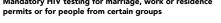
- Imprisonment (14 years-life, up to 14 years) or no penalty specified
- No

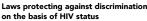
Laws or policies restricting the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV

- 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 or guardian consent for adolescents to access HIV testing
- Yes, for adolescents aged 17–18 years
- Yes, for adolescents aged 15–16 years
- Yes, for adolescents aged 13–14 years
- Yes, for adolescents aged 12 years or younger
- Not addressed in laws or policy
- Data not available

Country	Mandatory HIV testing for marriage, work or residence permits or for people from certain groups	Laws protecting against discrimination on the basis of HIV status	Constitutional or other nondiscrimination provisions for sex work ^a	Constitutional or other nondiscrimination provisions for sexual orientation"	Constitutional or other nondiscrimination provisions for gender identity*	Constitutional or other nondiscrimination provisions for people who inject drugs*
Benin	1	1		1	1	1
Burkina Faso	2	1	1	1	1	1
Burundi	5					6
Cabo Verde						
Cameroon	1	1				1
Central African Republic	1	1				1
Chad	2	2	2	2	2	2
Congo	4					4
Côte d'Ivoire	1	1	1	1	1	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1	_				4
Equatorial Guinea	3		3	4		3
Gabon	2	2		2		4
Gambia	1	1		1	1	1
Ghana	1	1		1	1	1
Guinea	1	2	4	2		2
Guinea-Bissau	4					4
Liberia	1	1		1	2	1
Mali	1		3	3		3
Mauritania	2				3	3
Niger	2	2		2	2	2
Nigeria	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sao Tome and Principe	4					4
Senegal	1	1		1	1	1
Sierra Leone	1	1			1	1
Тодо	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mandatory HIV testing for man	riage, work or residence	Laws protecting again	ast discrimination	Constitu	utional or other nondiscri	mination

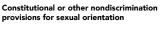






No

Yes



Yes

No

Data not available

No				
Yes				

Data not available

Constitutional or other nondiscrimination

provisions for gender identity



Data not available

provisions for sex work No



Data not available

Constitutional or other nondiscrimination provisions for people who inject drugs

No Yes Data not available

Criminalization of transgender people refers to laws that criminalize people based on their gender identity or expression, such as laws against cross-dressing or impersonating the а opposite sex.

h 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.

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 с only for personal use. A country is considered to criminalize possession of small amounts of drugs even if marijuana has been decriminalized. HIV nondisclosure, exposure or transmission may be explicitly criminalized in an HIV-specific law or within a law that covers a broader range of communicable diseases and mentions HIV. d They may also be criminalized under a law that covers a broader range of communicable diseases but does not specifically mention HIV. Laws may limit criminalization to cases of actual and intentional transmission. This refers to cases where a person knows their HIV-positive status, acts with the intention to transmit HIV and does in fact transmit it, in line with the UNDP

2021 Guidance for Prosecutors on HIV-related Criminal Cases. Some countries do not have a law specifically criminalizing HIV nondisclosure, exposure or transmission but the general law has been used to prosecute cases in the past 10 years. Constitutional or legislative protections against discrimination refer to whether gender identity or sexual orientation is specified as a protected attribute or whether courts or government

e have legally recognized that gender identity/sexual orientation/involvement in sex work/involvement in drug use or possession are protected under another attribute. This figure does not capture where key populations may be de facto criminalized through the misuse of other laws, such as vagrancy or public morality laws, or the use of the above laws for

different populations, e.g. transgender people may be targeted using laws criminalizing same-sex sexual activity, or gay men and other men who have sex with men may be targeted using HIV criminalization laws.

- Source National Commitments and Policy Instrument, 2024 (http://lawsandpolicies.unaids.org/). National Commitments and Policy Instrument, 2022 (http://lawsandpolicies.unaids.org/). National Commitments and Policy Instrument, 2021 (http://lawsandpolicies.unaids.org/). National Commitments and Policy Instrument, 2019 (http://lawsandpolicies.unaids.org/). National Commitments and Policy Instrument, 2018 (http://lawsandpolicies.unaids.org/). National Commitments and Policy Instrument, 2017 (http://lawsandpolicies.unaids.org/). Still not welcome: HIV-related travel restrictions. Geneva: UNAIDS and United Nations Development Programme; 2019 (https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/hivrelated-travel-restrictions-explainer_en.pdf). Chiam Z, Duffy S, González Gil M, Goodwin L, Mpemba Patel NT. Trans legal mapping report 2019: recognition before the law. Geneva: ILGA World; 2020. Burkina Faso. 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