

HIV in the Caribbean

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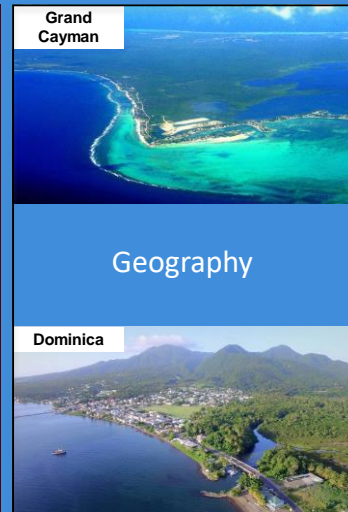
The Caribbean

Diversity

- Geography: flat to mountainous
- Languages: English, Spanish, French, Dutch, Creole
- 42m population: ~5,000 (Montserrat) to 11.5M (Cuba)
- 28 Countries

Unity

- CARICOM , CARPHA , UWI 



Economy

- Heavily tourist dependent (20m visitors per year)
- Tourism major source of revenue
- Poverty and inequality common

Religion

- Deeply religious (Christian)

HIV

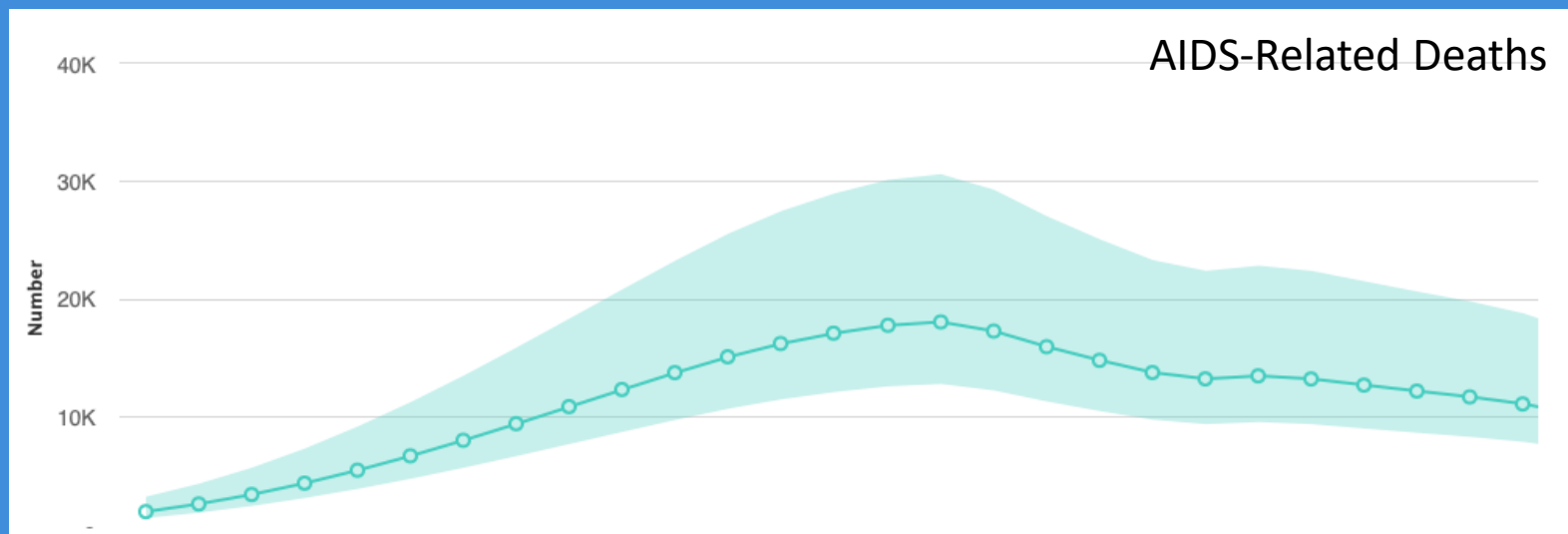
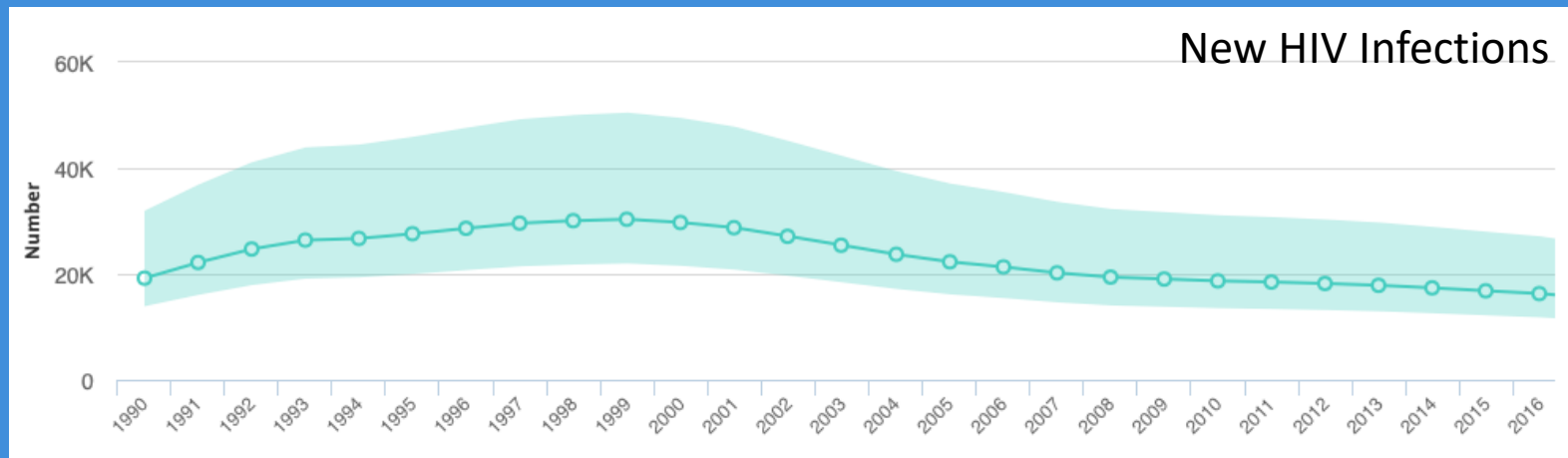
- 2nd highest regional HIV prevalence



Select National HIV Prevalence | 2017

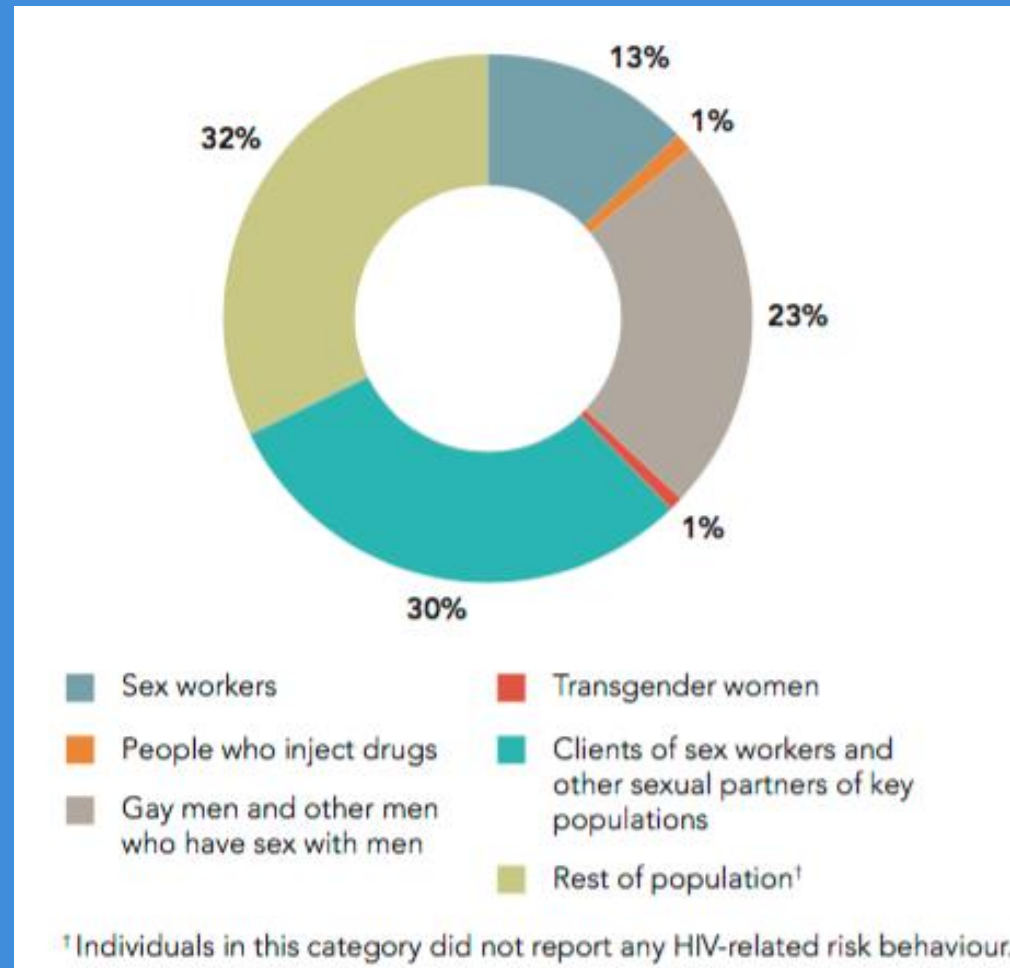
Country	Number PLHIV	Adult HIV prevalence (%)	Number AIDS deaths	ART coverage (%)
Bahamas	5,300	1.9	No Data	57
Barbados	2,700	1.6	<100	49
Belize	4,500	1.9	<200	31
Cuba	30,000	0.4	<500	66
Dominican Republic	67,000	0.9	2,600	52
Guyana	8,200	1.7	<200	64
Haiti	150,000	1.9	4,700	64
Jamaica	34,000	1.8	1,500	34
Suriname	4,800	1.3	<200	51
Trinidad and Tobago	11,000	1.1	<500	62
Region	310,000	1.2	10,000	57

New HIV Infections and AIDS Deaths in the Caribbean



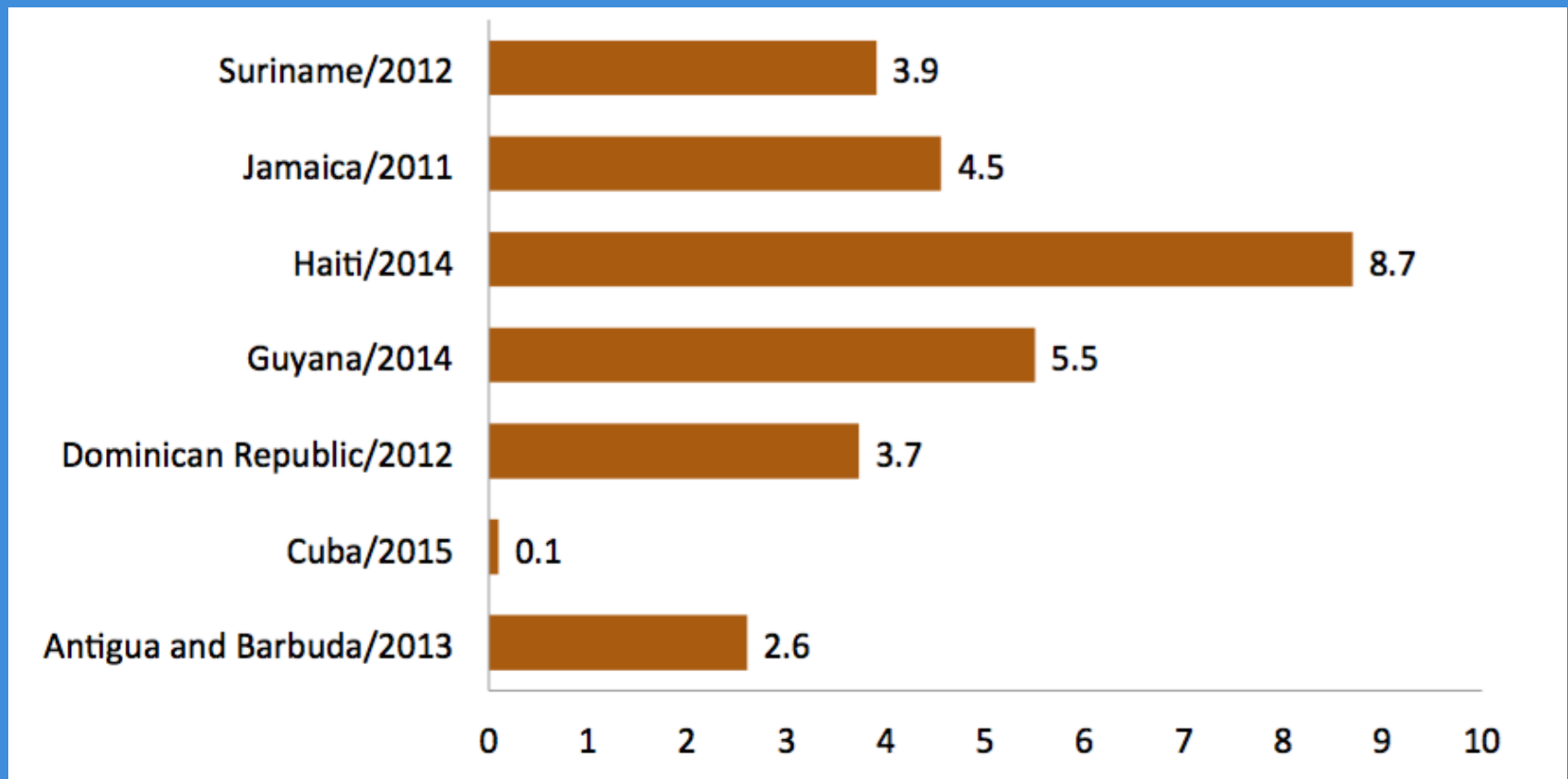
Modes of HIV Transmission in the Caribbean

- Generalised and concentrated epidemic
- Predominantly heterosexual intercourse (exception MSM Cuba)
- MTCT low
- IDU extremely low (exception Puerto Rico and Bermuda)
- Key subpopulations:
 - MSM
 - Sex workers
 - Drug users



UNAIDS special analysis, 2018

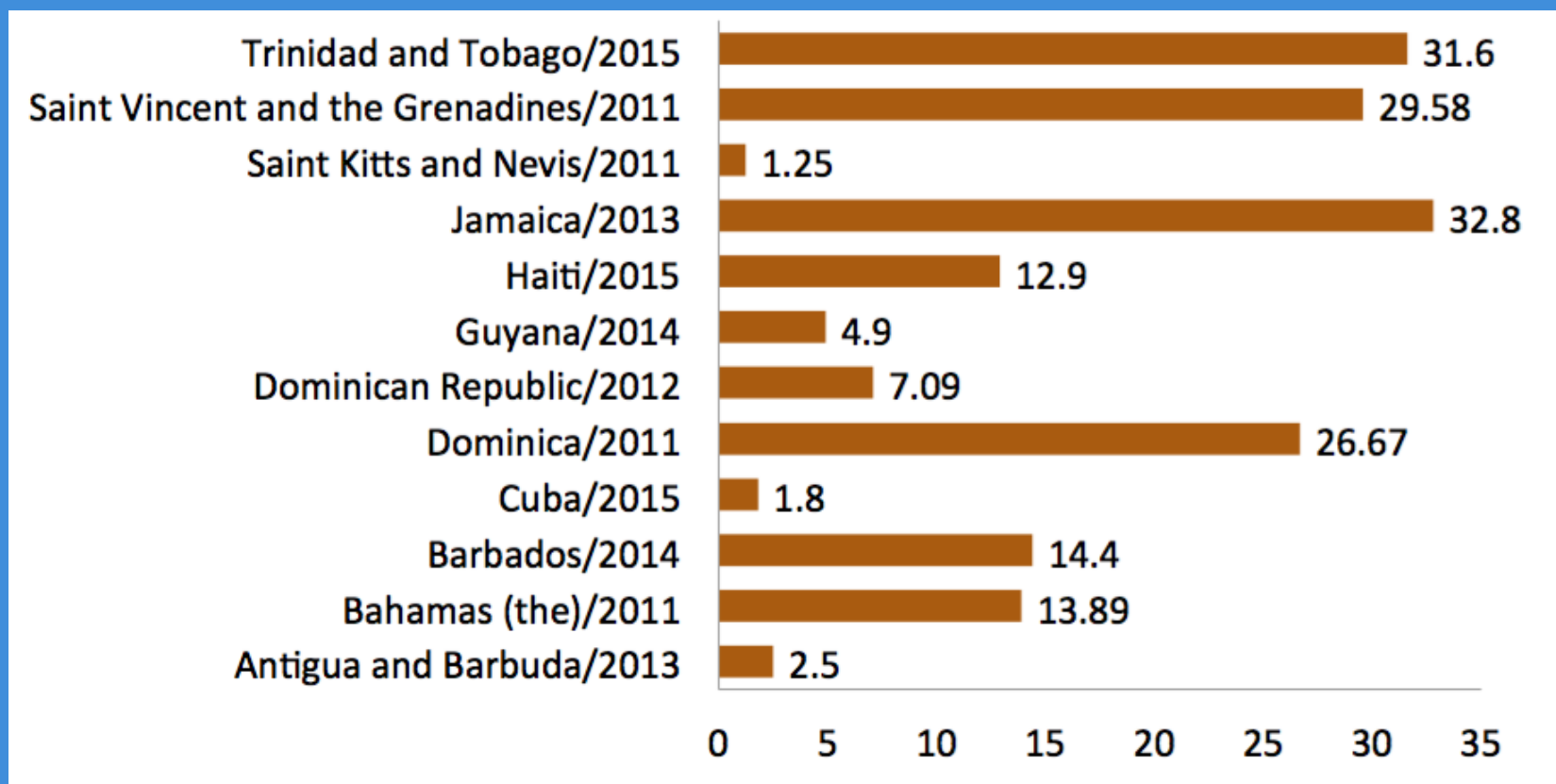
Key Subpopulations: Female Sex Workers



Female Sex Workers | Jamaica

- 95% condom use with last client
- Unprotected sex with non-paying partner common
- 65% know HIV status
- STI in street FSW:
 - ~25% Trich. Pos.
 - ~15% CT Pos.
 - ~10% GC Pos.
- HIV prevalence decreased from 9% in 2005 to 2% in 2017

Key Subpopulations: Men Who Have Sex With Men



Men Who Have Sex With Men | Jamaica

- 88% do not always use a condom
- ~15% have STI (other than HIV)
- 52.9% HIV positive amongst transgender MSM
- 58% indicated little or no chance of getting HIV
- 60% of HIV+ MSM did not disclose status to partner
- 56% of MSM bisexual

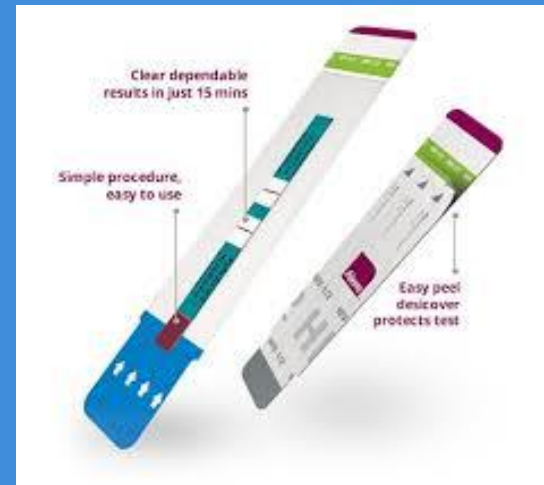
Factors Driving the HIV Epidemic in the Caribbean

- Major high risk behaviors of heterosexual men:
 - Multiple partners
 - Transactional sex
 - Unprotected sex with sex workers
- High HIV rates among MSM due to unprotected anal intercourse with multiple partners
- High rates of bisexuality among MSM act as a bridge for HIV to reach the general population
- High rates of sexually transmitted infections
- Majority of men not circumcised

Testing | Jamaica

Primarily rapid 3rd generation

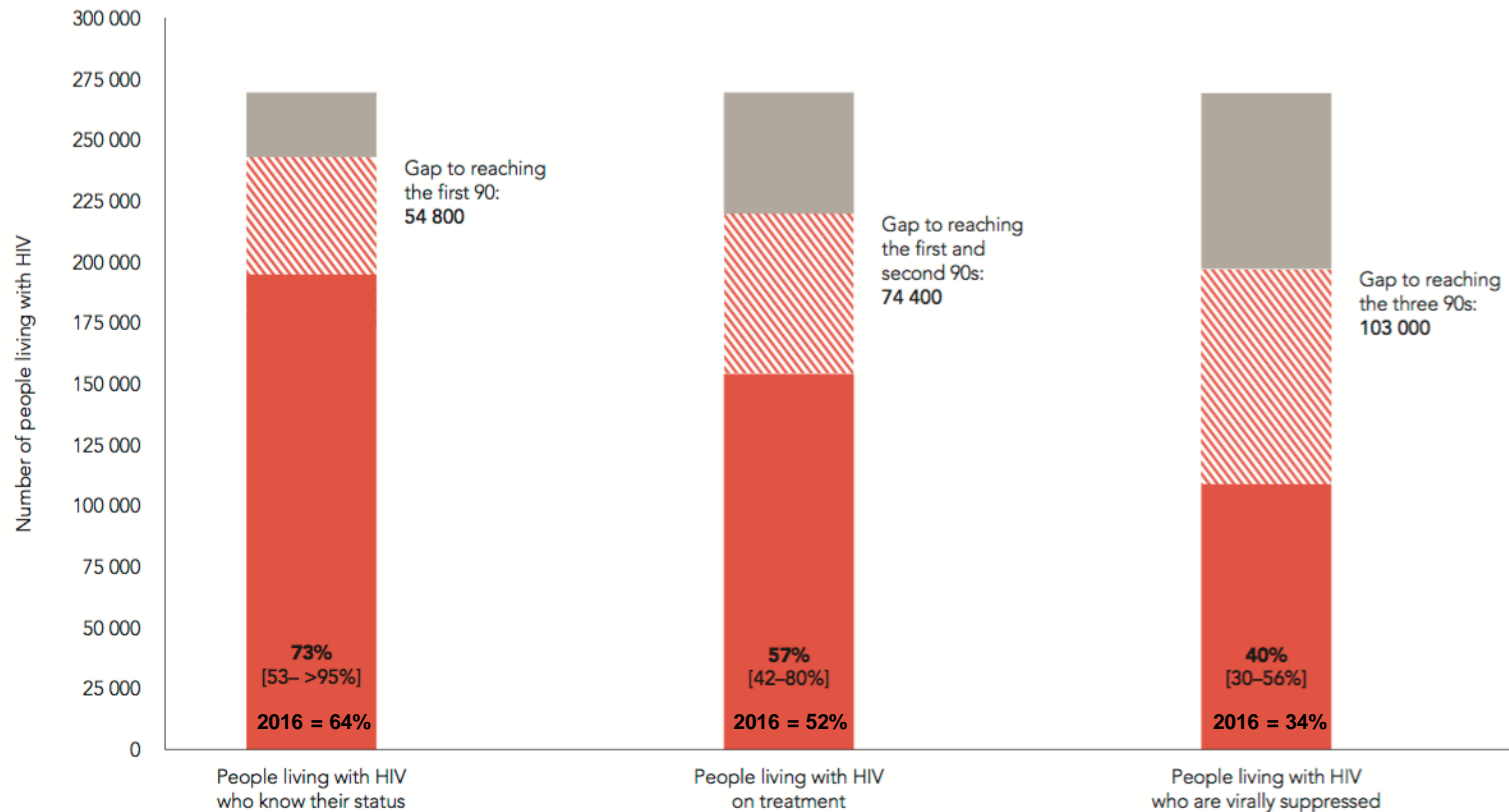
- Cost
- Time



4th generation available but not used for routine testing

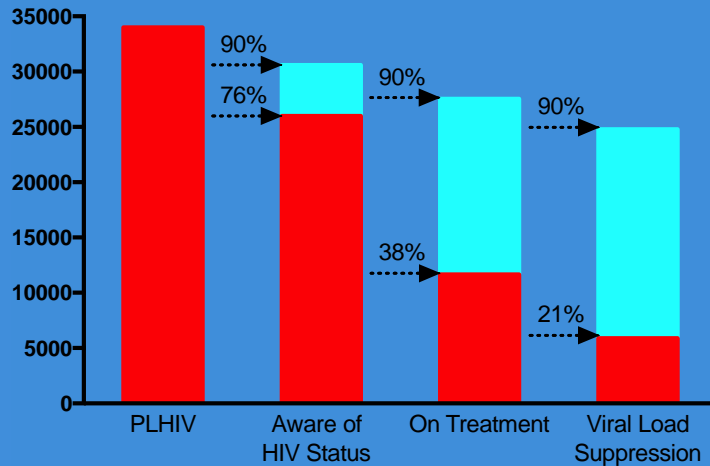
- Cost

HIV Testing and Care Continuum | Caribbean 2017

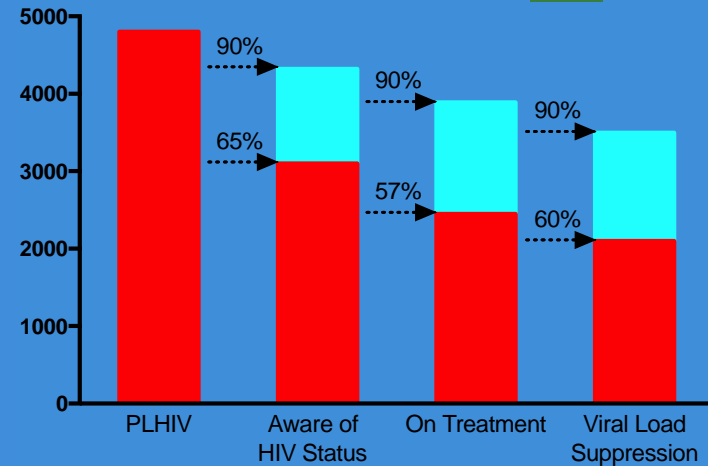


HIV Testing and Care Continuum | 2017

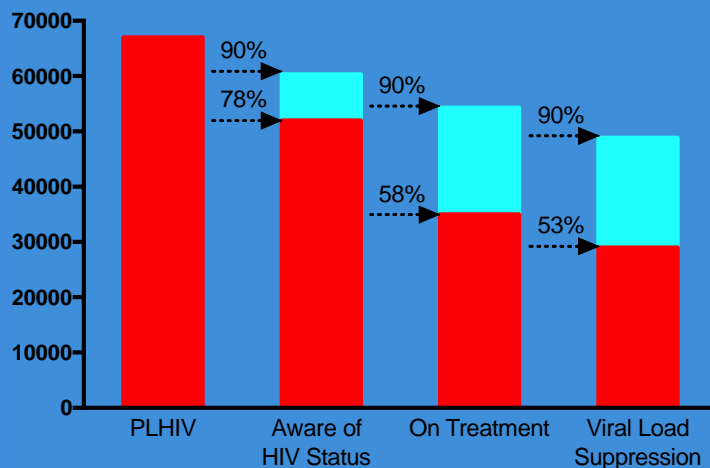
Jamaica 



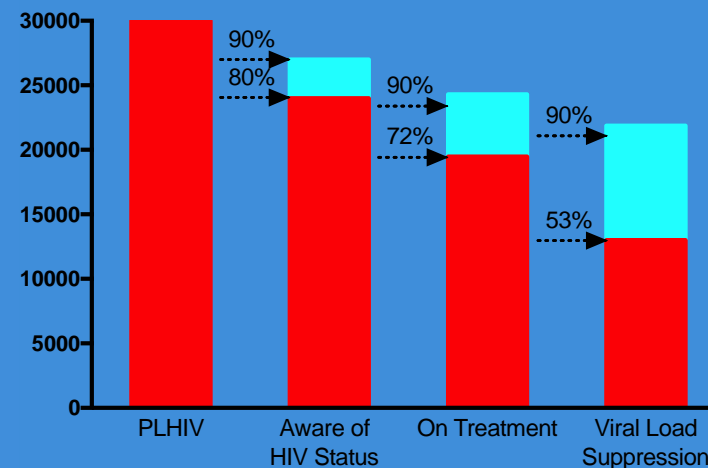
Suriname 



Dominican Republic 



Cuba 



Antiretroviral Therapy

- 57% ART coverage in Caribbean
- Test and treat
 - January 2018 (Jamaica)
- Adherence
 - Social status and stigma
- Resistance
 - TDR ~10% (Jamaica)[#]
- Cost
 - Jamaica: Free to public
 - National cost barrier for newer ARV
- PrEP
 - Pilot 2019 (Jamaica)[@]

Jamaica ARV Treatment Guidelines

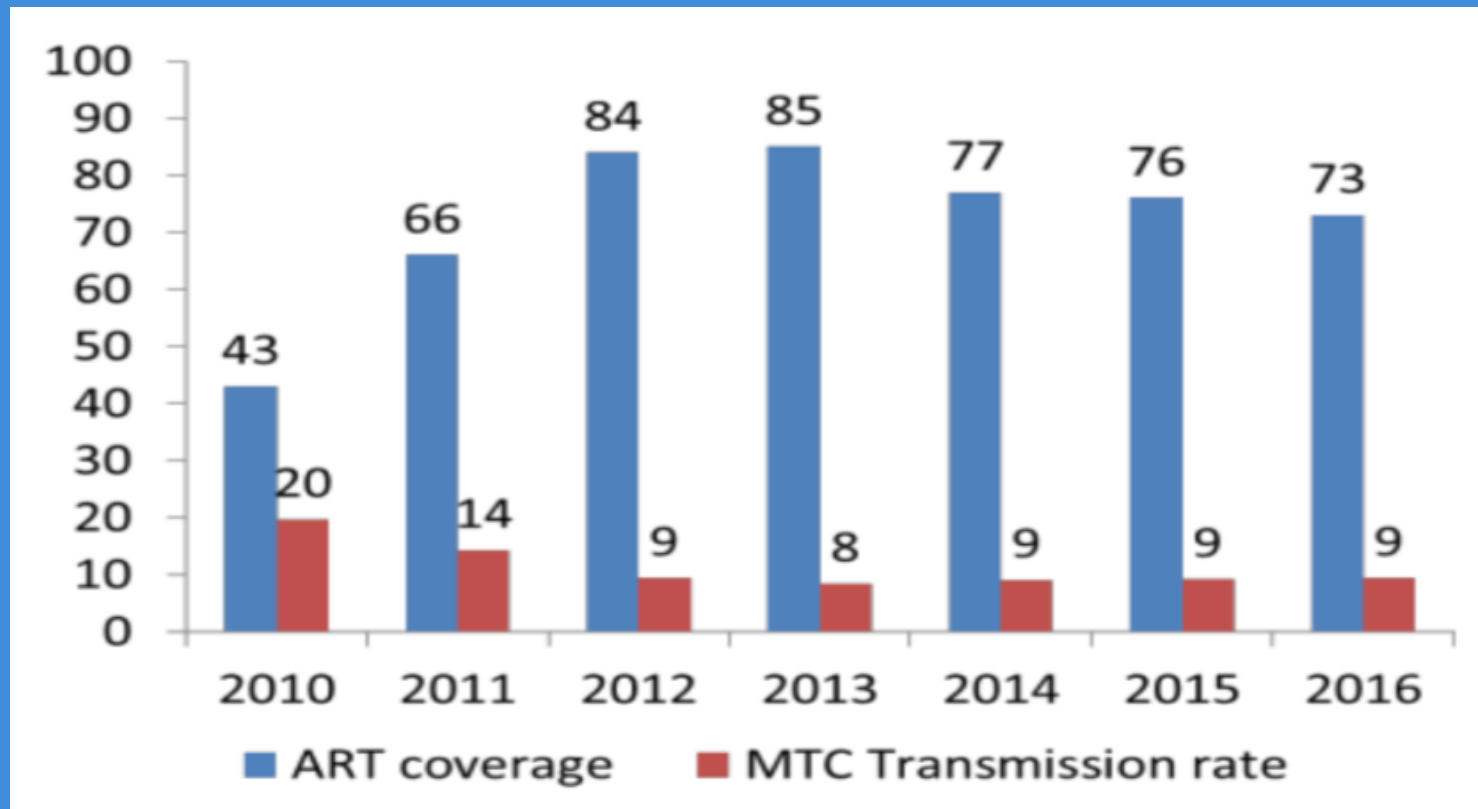
Treatment Line	Drugs		
1 st (1 st choice)	Tenofovir	Lamivudine*	Efavirenz
1 st (2 nd choice)	Abacavir or Zidovudine	Lamivudine*	Nevirapine
2 nd (1 st choice)	Tenofovir	Lamivudine*	Atazanavir/Ritonavir
2 nd (2 nd choice)	Abacavir or Zidovudine	Lamivudine*	Lopinavir/Ritonavir
3 rd	Raltegravir	Etravirine	Darunavir

*Reaction use emtricitibine

[#]Preliminary data (Geoffrey Barrow, personal communication)

[@]25 MSM and 25 serodiscordant (Geoffrey Barrow, personal communication)

Pediatric | Maternal ARV Coverage and Transmission Rates



From 2000 ~70% decrease in new children infected

Pediatric | Select Countries eMTCT

7 COUNTRIES ACHIEVED MTCT ELIMINATION STATUS

2017 MTCT Status	Select Caribbean Countries						
eMTCT	Anguilla	Antigua and Barbuda	Bermuda	Cayman Islands	Cuba	Montserrat	St Kitts and Nevis
>95% ARV	Dominican Republic	Jamaica					
<95% ARV	Bahamas (51%)	Belize (41%)	Guyana (64%)	Haiti (70%)	Suriname (76%)	Trinidad and Tobago (81%)	

Challenges

- ART adherence
- Reducing stigma/discrimination
- Cost of epidemic response
- High turnover of clinical staff
- Medical training in HIV is lacking
- Prevention
- General sexual behavior
- Research funding

Research | Jamaica

Current work:

- ARV resistance
- GC AMR

Planned work:

- PrEP
- Asymptomatic STI in PLHIV
- Survey of co-morbid CVD and diabetes biomarkers in PLHIV

Progress

- Increasing ART coverage
- Decreasing AIDS deaths
- Many countries near or complete eMTCT
- PrEP
 - Available in public health system for Bahamas and Barbados
 - Available privately in Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Suriname
- Decriminilisation of homosexual sex
 - 2016 Belize
 - 2018 Trinidad and Tobago

New drug to prevent HIV being pushed in region

LAURA DOWRICH-PHILLIPS

CREATED : 7 JUNE 2017

CARIBBEAN NEWS



Efforts are being made to introduce to the Caribbean a pill that could prevent the spread of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) among high-risk groups.

NEWS

Trinidad and Tobago set to decriminalize homosexuality

A judge ruled Thursday that the Caribbean nation's colonial-era laws banning gay sex are unconstitutional.



Acknowledgements



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