

EMTCT Plus

Iniciative 2010-2021

CORE INTERVENTIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF MTCT OF HIV

After years of continuous increase of HIV testing among pregnant women since 2010, peaking in 2014 at 75%, the estimated proportion of women tested for HIV at least once during pregnancy remained stable in Latin America and the Caribbean until 2019 when countries the region reached a historic high of 80% (Latin America 80% and Caribbean 82%). In 2020 and 2021 it is possible to observe sequential drops in the estimated HIV testing coverage reaching 68% in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In Latin America, several countries including Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay were able to increase or maintain their HIV testing coverage among pregnant women between 2017 and 2021, with little or no impact reported due to COVID-19 pandemic. Countries with gradual increases in HIV testing until 2019, reported reductions in 2020 and 2021, including Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua. The reduction of coverage in 2020 might be due the disruption of essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on MTCT will have to be monitored in the coming years as countries recover service provision.

The regional drop in the HIV testing among pregnant women observed in 2020 and 2021 were derived by important reductions in Bolivia, Colombia, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua. Among twenty-six countries in Latin America and the Caribbean that reported the number of HIV positive pregnant women, among all pregnant women tested in 2019-2020, seropositivity varied from zero to 1.27%. Countries with reported HIV seropositivity above 1% were: Guyana (1.26%) and Jamaica (1.27%).

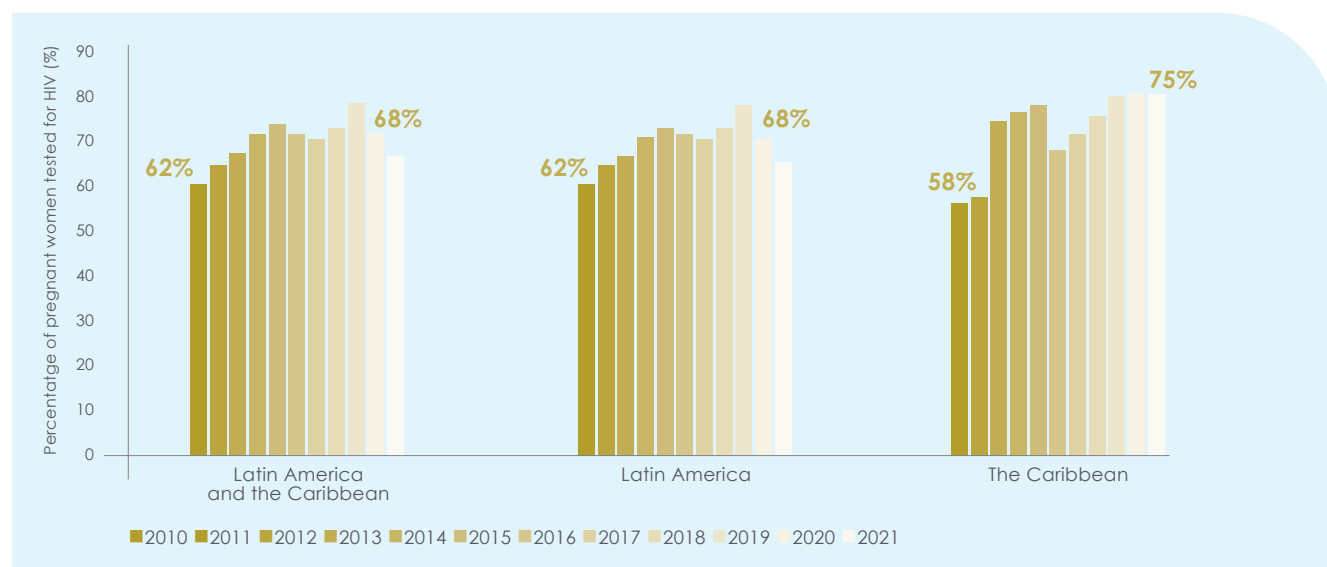
The Latin America and The Caribbean regions have observed gradual increase in the access

The Latin America and The Caribbean regions have observed gradual increase in the access to antiretroviral (ARV) therapy among pregnant women living with HIV between 2010 to 2019

to antiretroviral (ARV) therapy among pregnant women living with HIV between 2010 to 2019. The Caribbean quickly scaled up access to ARV between 2010 and 2014 maintaining a relatively stable coverage reaching 91% in 2019, while Latin America showed a continuous and gradual increase reaching the highest coverage (74%) in 2019. From 2019 to 2020, it is possible to observe that this upward trend was not sustained, and there was a drop in ARV coverage among pregnant women, most likely due to COVID-19 impact, with a timid recovery in 2021. In 2020 the ARV coverage in Latin America dropped to 62%, the lowest value since 2017, while The Caribbean ARV coverage reduced to 78%, the lowest since 2011.

This historical drop in ARV coverage among pregnant women living with HIV were not homogeneous in the region. Reductions in the estimated ARV coverage in 2020 were greater in Bahamas (↓16%), Costa Rica (↓34%), Dominican Republic (↓19%), Ecuador (↓24%), El Salvador (↓13%), Guyana (↓25%), Jamaica (↓20%), Nicaragua (↓16). Following the 2020 drop, these countries showed a slight recovery in 2021, however it is not totally clear how the reductions in HIV screening among pregnant women would have impacted in these figures.

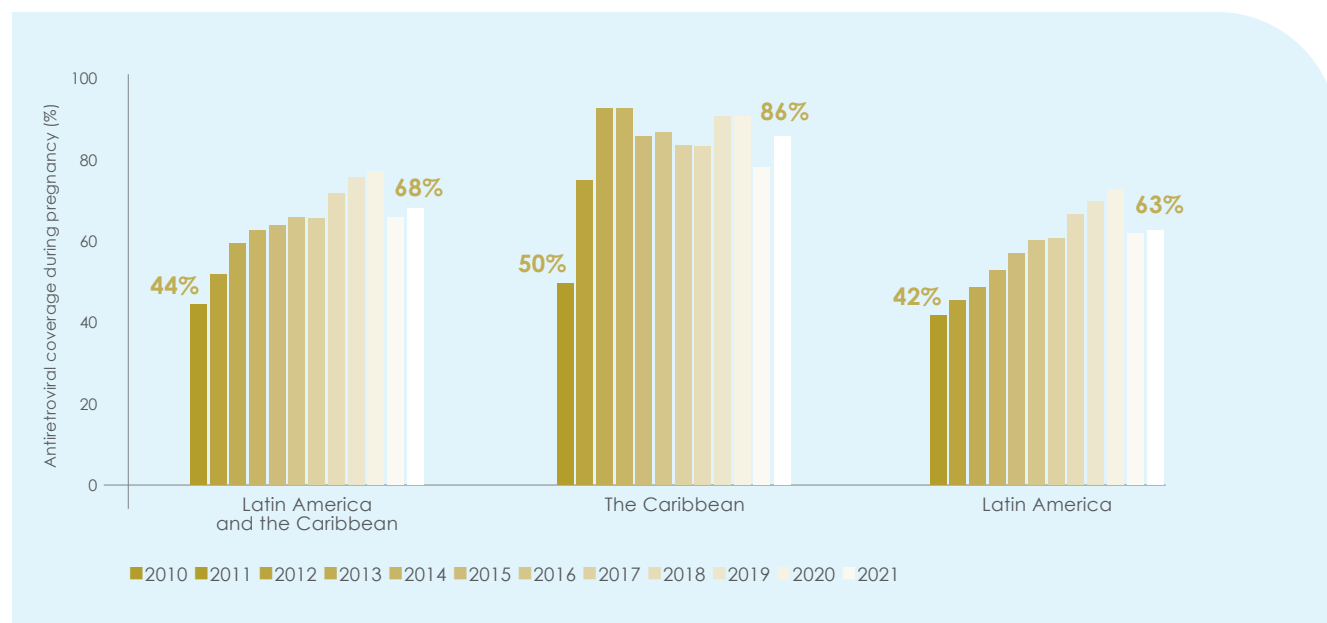
Estimated coverage of HIV testing among pregnant women in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2010-2021



Source: UNAIDS and WHO 2022 Global AIDS Monitoring Online Reporting Tool. <https://aidsreportingtool.unaids.org/>

Notes: a) Data on the coverage of HIV screening during antenatal care were not available for Aruba, Curacao, French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, and the Virgin Islands (US). b) Data to measure this indicator were not collected in 2016. This comprises reported information from 41 countries in the Region.

Estimated coverage of antiretrovirals for PMTCT of HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2010-2021



Source: UNAIDS and WHO 2022 Global AIDS Monitoring Online Reporting Tool <https://aidsreportingtool.unaids.org/>

EMTCT Plus

Iniciative 2010-2021

ELIMINATION OF MTCT OF HIV

While the reductions in new HIV infections in children are significant in the Region, declining around 40% from 2010 to 2019, results have appeared to increase in 2020 due to dip in testing and treatment coverage among pregnant related to COVID-19, with a slightly reduction in 2021. The overall reduction between 2010 and 2021 represents an estimated 54,000 HIV infections averted in children due to EMTCT interventions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

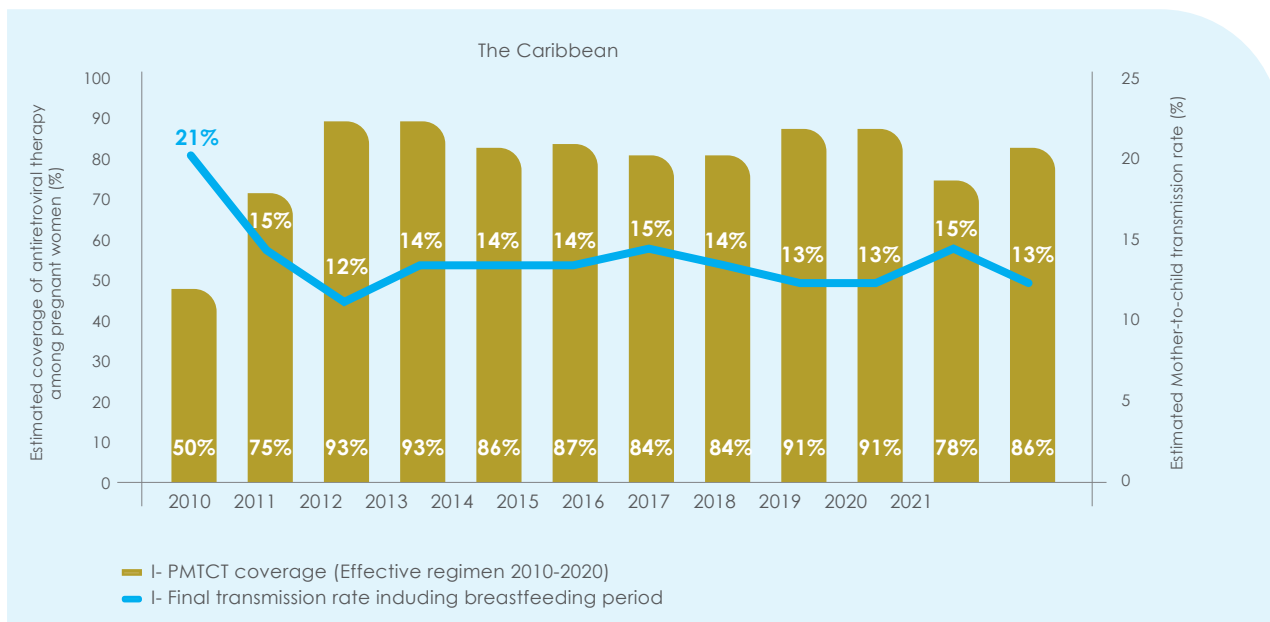
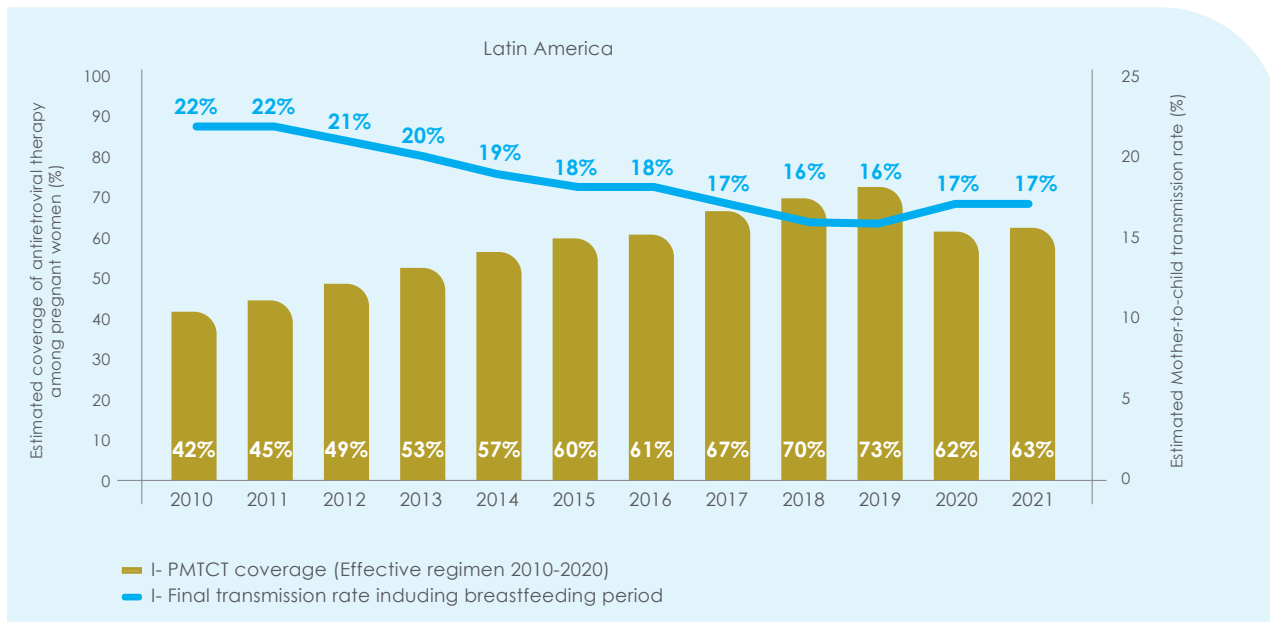
The progression of the MTCT rate of HIV is not homogenous in the region and appears to have been impacted by COVID-19

After years of gradual decreases in the estimated mother-to-child transmission rate of HIV, in Latin America (reduced from 22% in 2010 to 16% in 2019) and in The Caribbean (reduced from 21% in 2010 to 13% in 2019), both subregions showed slight increases in 2020. The progression of the MTCT rate

of HIV is not homogenous in the region and appears to have been impacted by COVID-19. Gradual decreases were observed between 2010 and 2019 in Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, and Peru, followed by increases in 2020 and 2021. The estimates point to stable rates in Argentina, Mexico, and Honduras, while it seems to be increasing in The Bahamas, Belize, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Suriname, over the same period.

By 2021, eight countries in the Americas (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Montserrat, and Saint Kitts and Nevis) have been validated by WHO for the EMTCT of HIV and syphilis. Based on the evaluation of reported and estimated national impact and programmatic indicators countries with important progresses towards the elimination of MTCT of HIV include: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States of America, Venezuela, Virgin Islands (UK), and Virgin Islands (US)

Estimated coverage of PMTCT of HIV and HIV MTCT rate in Latin America and The Caribbean, 2010-2021



Source: UNAIDS. 2022 estimates using PPE-Spectrum. AIDSinfo database 2021 (<http://aidsinfo.unaids.org>).