

HIV CARE CASCADE AMONG RECENTLY PREGNANT ADOLESCENT GIRLS & YOUNG WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICA

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BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES



The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) care cascade contains important indicators for monitoring diagnosis, treatment & viral load suppression.



Targets for HIV by 2030: **95%** of HIV positive people know their status, **95%** of people diagnosed with HIV receive antiretroviral therapy (ART) and **95%** of people on ART have viral suppression.¹



The study objectives were to estimate HIV prevalence among recently **pregnant adolescent girls & young women** (AGYW) in South Africa & thereby assess progress towards achieving the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets.

METHODS

- Data source: 2017 cross-sectional, nationally representative South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence, Behaviour & Communication Survey².
- We extracted data for AGYW aged 15-24 years who self-reported being recently pregnant (current or within 24 months).
- Descriptive statistics were used to estimate indicators for the 95-95-95 targets as follows:
 - First 95:** 95% of recently pregnant AGYW who tested HIV positive & were aware of their status in the survey
 - Second 95:** 95% of recently pregnant AGYW who knew their HIV positive status & were on ART, determined by laboratory testing of blood samples
 - Third 95:** 95% of recently pregnant AGYW who knew their HIV positive status, were on ART & had viral load suppression (VLS) with <1000 copies HIV RNA/m
- Data were analysed using Stata statistical software, Release 15.0 (College Station, TX: Stata Corporation). Analyses were performed on weighted data, accounting for the complex survey design and non-response.
- Ethical approval for the national survey is described in the survey report.² The survey protocol was approved by the HSRC Research Ethics Committee (REC 4/18/11/15).

RESULTS

Among recently pregnant AGYW aged 15-24 years:

- HIV prevalence was 19.2% (95% CI 15.3-23.9)(n=610) in 2017
- This translates to n=109 543 HIV positive AGYW (95% CI 78 556-140 529)

The estimates for the 95-95-95 targets for recently pregnant HIV positive AGYW aged 15-24 years were (Figure 1):

- First 95:** 89.5% (95% CI 76.1-95.8) diagnosed
- Second 95:** 45.3% (95% CI 2.5-58.8) diagnosed & on ART
- Third 95:** 84.7% (95% CI 64.9-94.3) diagnosed on ART & had VLS

These estimates were lower among AGYW compared to women of reproductive age (15-49 years).

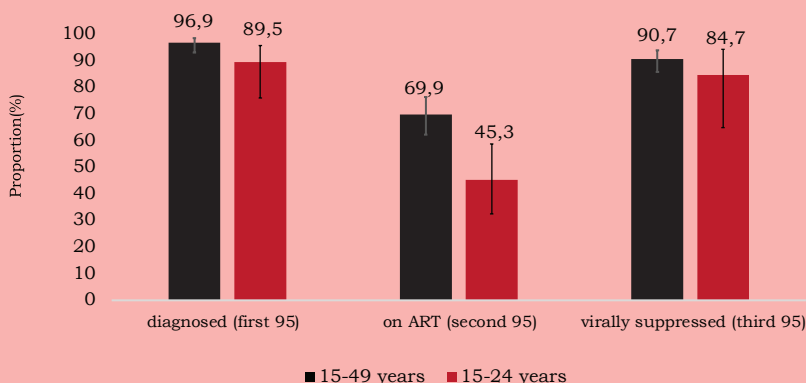


Figure 1: Progress towards achieving the 95-95-95 targets among recently pregnant women, South Africa 2017

The care cascade for recently pregnant AGYW was 90%-41%-34% with the target being 95%-90%-86%.

CONCLUSION

- We found gaps in the HIV care cascade among recently pregnant AGYW.
- Most recently pregnant HIV positive AGYW were diagnosed, but fewer were on ART.
- Most recently pregnant HIV positive AGYW on ART had achieved VLS.
- Prevention interventions, prompt diagnosis, support for treatment, retention & adherence in the HIV care cascade remain important pathways to ending the epidemic & for improving the quality of life for AGYW.

REFERENCES

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SUGGESTED CITATION

Naidoo, I., Sewpaul, R., Mabaso, M., Magobo, R., Molopa, L.O., Moyo, S., Reddy, T. & Zungu, N. (2023). HIV care cascade among recently pregnant adolescent girls and young women in South Africa. A factsheet based on results from the 2017 South African National HIV Prevalence, Incidence, Behaviour & Communication Survey. Pretoria. Human Sciences, Research Council.