People with advanced HIV infection receiving antiretroviral (ARV) combination therapy (percentage)

Rationale for use

As the HIV epidemic matures, increasing numbers of people are reaching advanced stages of HIV infection. ARV combination therapy has been shown to reduce mortality among those infected and efforts are being made to make it more affordable even in less developed countries. This indicator assesses the progress in providing ARV combination therapy to everyone with advanced HIV infection.

Definition

Percentage of people with advanced HIV infection receiving ARV therapy according to nationally approved treatment protocol (or WHO/Joint UN Programme on HIV and AIDS standards) among the estimated number of people with advanced HIV infection.

Data sources

Health facility reports are used to obtain the number of people on ARV therapy i.e. drugs received during the last month. External validation of country reported figures is carried out with data from pharmaceutical industry (if available).

Methods of estimation

The denominator of the coverage estimate is obtained from models that also generate the HIV prevalence, incidence and mortality estimates. The number of adults with advanced HIV infection who need to start treatment is estimated as the number of AIDS cases in the current year times two.

The total number of adults needing ARV therapy is calculated by adding the number of adults that need to start ARV therapy to the number of adults who are being treated in the previous year and have survived into the current year.

Disaggregation

By sex, age (children/adults), location (urban/rural, major regions/provinces), and socio-economic characteristics (e.g. education level, wealth quintile).

References


- 3 by 5 progress report
Comments

The accuracy of the reported number of people on ARV therapy needs improvement as programme monitoring systems are still developing.

Although this indicator allows trends to be monitored over time, it does not attempt to distinguish between the different types of therapy available nor does it measure the cost, quality or effectiveness of such treatment.

Therapies for preventing the mother to child transmission of HIV and post exposure prophylaxis are not included in this indicator.