

Country progress report - Kuwait

Global AIDS Monitoring 2019



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Overall

Fast-track targets

Progress summary

The National AIDS Control Committee (NACC) is a division of public health sector in the Ministry of Health, the sector that is responsible mainly for prevention of diseases. The national response to HIV in Kuwait is mainly by the active engagement of NACC in policy and programme discussions and overall policy guidance.

NACC has a firm commitment to implement, support and update the national strategic plan for HIV/AIDS in Kuwait 2017-2021, that has specific targets with plan of actions to achieve the goals and vision.

NACC has membership from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs , Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information, Kuwait University, Public Authority for applied Education & Training, UNDP and UNESCO. The NACC has two subcommittees, one is the technical committee that looks into technical issues, such as treatment, rights of people living with HIV (PLHIV) and operational policy, and the Information and Education Subcommittee that looks into mass-media communication.

HIV testing and treatment cascade

Ensure that 30 million people living with HIV have access to treatment through meeting the 90-90-90 targets by 2020

Progress summary

Activity:

Ensure that people infected with HIV know their status

- Systematic screening of pregnant women
 - Systematic screening of STI patients
 - Systematic screening of Hep B and C positive patients
 - Continued screening of blood donors, pre-employment, pre-marital, food handlers occupational health (selected occupations), hospital patients, Expatriates renewing visas, HIV contacts, people who inject drugs, kidney dialysis patients, prisoners, people seeking AIDS certificates etc
 - Availability of voluntary counselling and testing
 - Availability of self-testing
 - Improved contact tracing
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Activity 2:

Implement international guidelines for treatment of HIV positive patients

- Continue to insure that people who are diagnosed with HIV are linked to treatment
 - Insure adequate ART supply
 - Increase the number of providers trained to deliver HIV care and treatment
-

Activity 3:

System for Collecting and analysing routine monitoring data for monitoring and evaluation of HIV testing & treatment programme :

- Implement electronic linking to monitor the data and indicators
- Standardize recording and reporting formats to facilitate monitoring of the prevention and treatment cascade:
 - Linkage from testing to treatment
 - Retention in treatment
 - Suppressed viral load
- Collection system for routine monitoring purposes and periodic assessment
- Measuring patient's and client's satisfaction with the health services

Policy questions (2018)

Is there a law, regulation or policy specifying that HIV testing:

a) Is mandatory before marriage

No

b) Is mandatory to obtain a work or residence permit

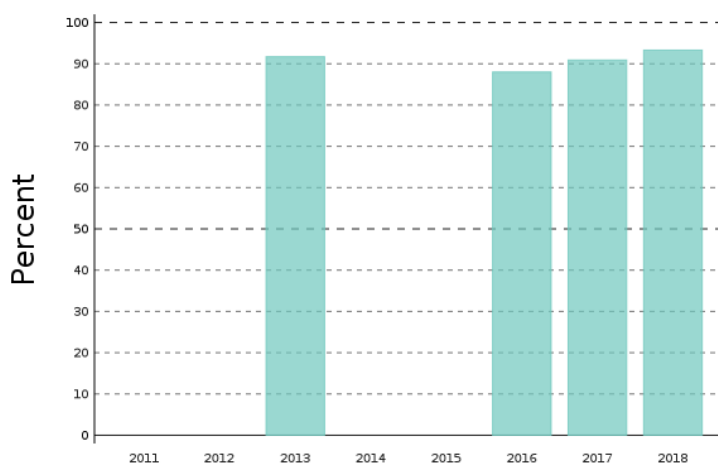
No

c) Is mandatory for certain groups

No

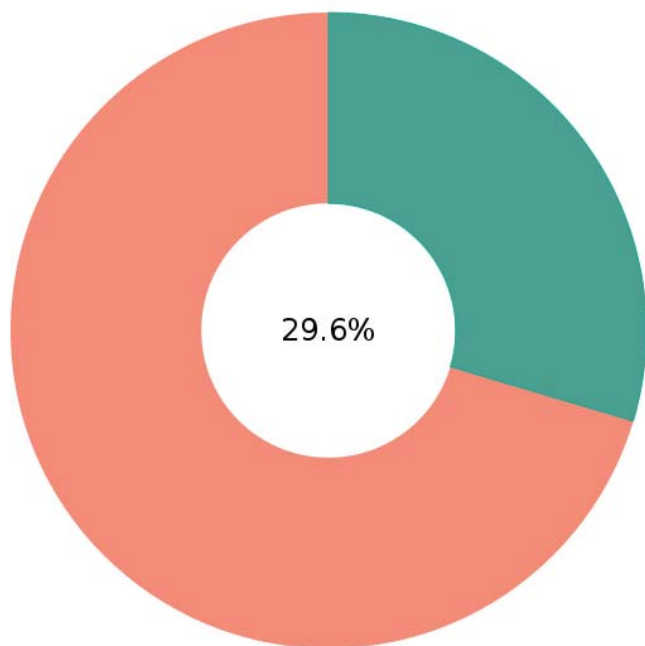
1.3 Retention on antiretroviral therapy at 12 months, Kuwait (2011-2018)

Percentage of adults and children living with HIV known to be on antiretroviral therapy 12 months after starting



1.5 Late HIV diagnosis, Kuwait (2018)

Percentage of people living with HIV with the initial CD4 cell count <200 cells/mm³ during the reporting period



Prevention of mother-to-child transmission

Eliminate new HIV infections among children by 2020 while ensuring that 1.6 million children have access to HIV treatment by 2018

Progress summary

Antenatal screening program for HIV was implemented in Kuwait on 2015 & we are working closely with WHO in the process of validation of elimination of mother to child transmission of HIV.

Policy questions (2018)

Does your country have a national plan for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV?

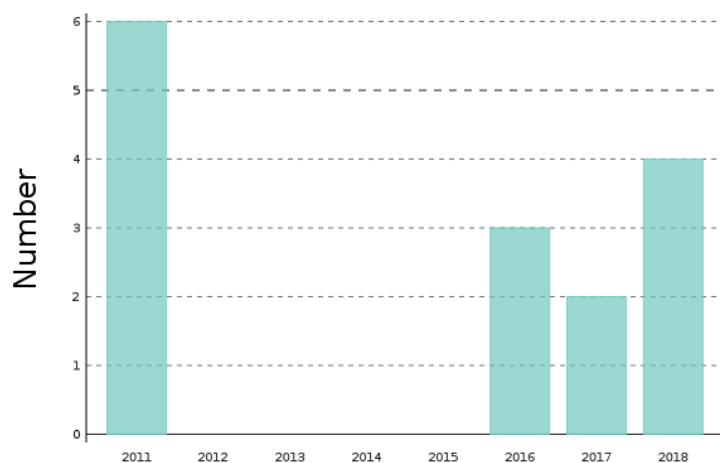
No

Do the national guidelines recommend treating all infants and children living with HIV irrespective of symptoms and if so, what is the implementation status of the cut-off?

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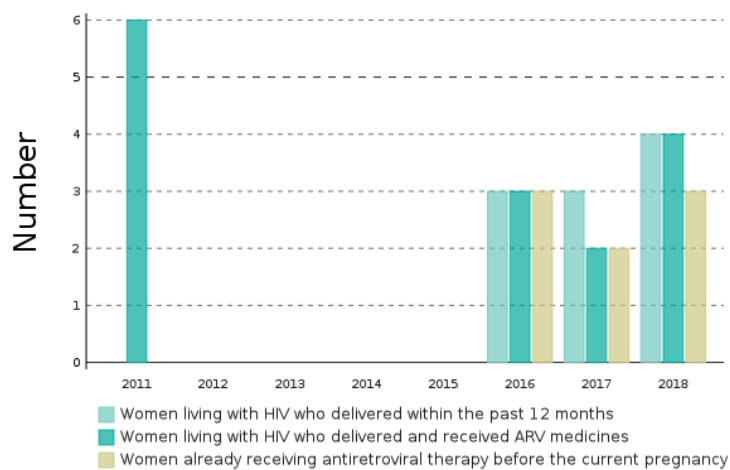
2.1 Early infant diagnosis, Kuwait (2011-2018)

Percentage of infants born to women living with HIV receiving a virological test for HIV within two months of birth



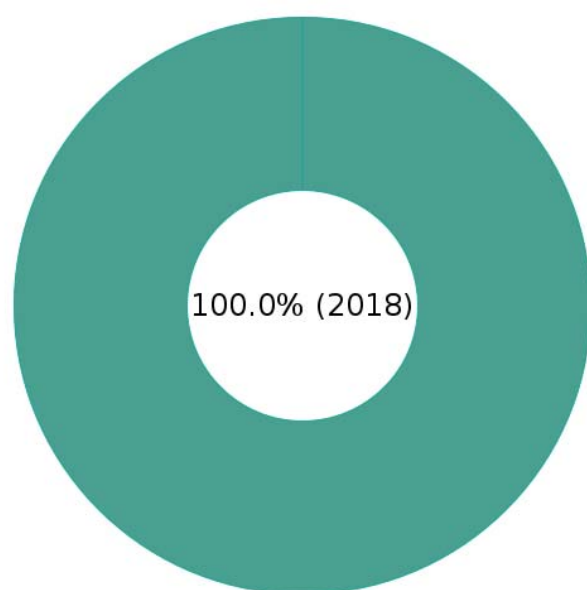
2.3 Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Kuwait (2011-2018)

Percentage of pregnant women living with HIV who received antiretroviral medicine to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV



2.3 Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Kuwait (2017-2018)

Percentage of pregnant women living with HIV who received antiretroviral medicine to reduce the risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV



↑ 66.7% (2017)

HIV prevention; Key populations

Ensure access to combination prevention options, including pre-exposure prophylaxis, voluntary medical male circumcision, harm reduction and condoms, to at least 90% of people by 2020, especially young women and adolescent girls in high-prevalence countries and key populations—gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and their clients, people who inject drugs and prisoners

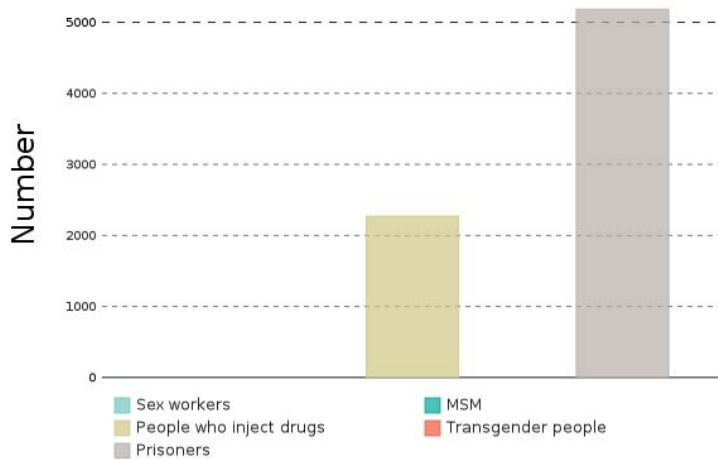
Progress summary

- Pre-Exposure for certain high risk group (e.g. serodiscordant couples) categories & post exposure program at large national level is working very well in Kuwait. Adding more categories for PreEP is being evaluated.
- Voluntary medical male circumcision is widely distributed practice in Kuwait as part of Islamic religion & also available for non Muslims.
- Condom use is being promoted in all HIV awareness activities, however, condom distribution still very sensitive issue.
- Regarding high risk population like gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and their clients, size surveillance studies should take place in the next two years.

For people who inject drugs on 2018, Kuwait steps started trying to implement the needle exchange program & opioid substitution therapy

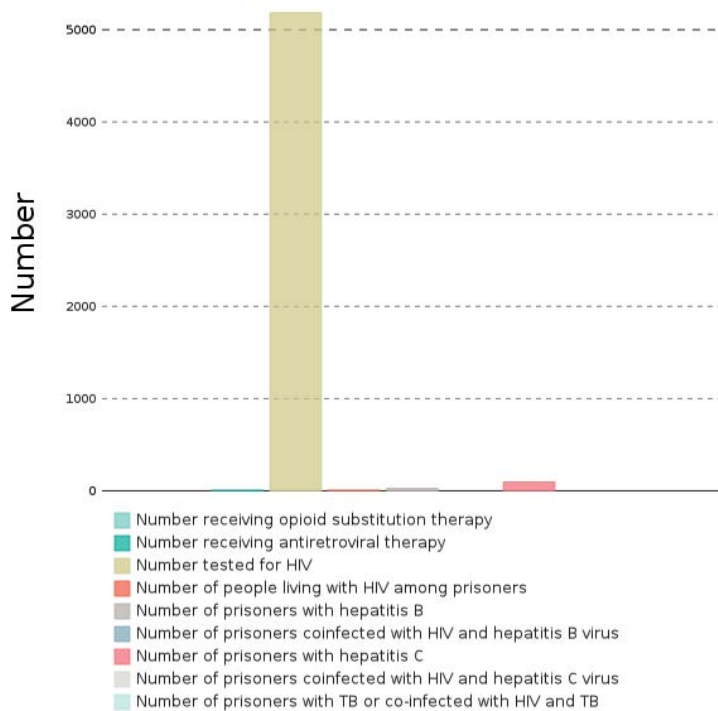
- Mass media, knowledge and awareness campaigns for general population

3.2 Estimates of the size of key populations, Kuwait



3.13 HIV prevention programmes in prisons, Kuwait (2018)

HIV prevention and treatment programmes offered to prisoners while detained



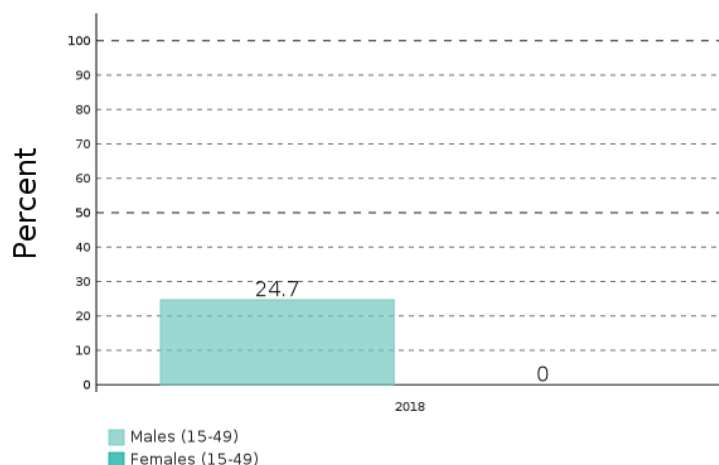
3.15 People who received pre-exposure prophylaxis, Kuwait (2017-2018)

Number of people who received oral PrEP at least once during the reporting period



3.18 Condom use at last high-risk sex, Kuwait (2018)

Percent of respondents who say they used a condom the last time they had sex with a non-marital, non-cohabiting partner, of those who have had sex with such a partner in the last 12 months



Gender; Stigma and discrimination

Eliminate gender inequalities and end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, people living with HIV and key populations by 2020

Progress summary

Activity: Strengthen multi-sectoral coordination and participation plus multiciliary approaches:

- Institutional participation: Religious organizations, civil society & NGOs, women`s group, Academic institutions: universities & schools, private sector, businesses, and UN agencies.
- Activate the role of government key actors: Ministry of education, Ministry of Religious affairs, Ministry of Information, ministry of social affairs, ministry of interior, Public authority for sport etc.

Activity 3: provide budget support for prevention activities and Increase national investment on prevention.

Policy questions (2018)

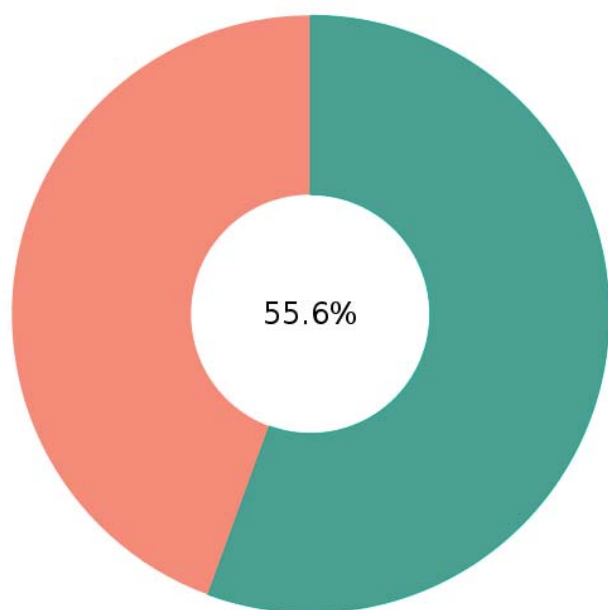
Does your country have a national plan or strategy to address gender-based violence and violence against women that includes HIV

No

Does your country have legislation on domestic violence*?

No

Percentage of Global AIDS Monitoring indicators with data disaggregated by gender



Knowledge of HIV and access to sexual reproductive health services

Ensure that 90% of young people have the skills, knowledge and capacity to protect themselves from HIV and have access to sexual and reproductive health services by 2020, in order to reduce the number of new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women to below 100 000 per year

Policy questions (2018)

Does your country have education policies that guide the delivery of life skills-based HIV and sexuality education, according to international standards, in:

a) Primary school

No

b) Secondary school

No

c) Teacher training

No

Social protection

Ensure that 75% of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV benefit from HIV-sensitive social protection by 2020

Progress summary

Activity : Stigma reduction message

- Ensure media reporting become more sensitive with zero stigma
 - People living with HIV need to be actively involved in reduction effort
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Activity : Target key audiences

- Promote sensitizing the stakeholders, healthcare provider, school teachers, family members and community on stigma reduction.
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Activity : Review national laws and regulations and make sure it reflect current scientific information regarding HIV transmission and prevention

HIV expenditure

Ensure that HIV investments increase to US\$ 26 billion by 2020, including a quarter for HIV prevention and 6% for social enablers

Progress summary

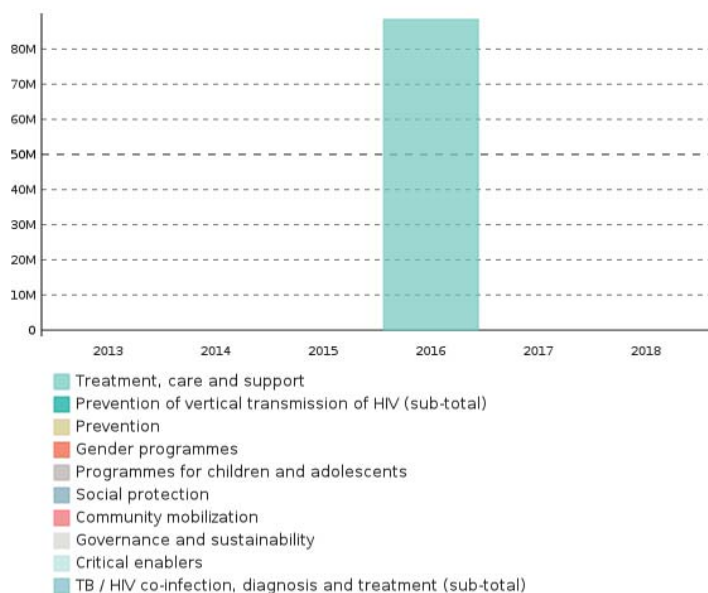
We believe that year 2018 was one of the most important years in controlling HIV in Kuwait.

At national level, there has been significant increase in the number of HIV tests conducted on 2018 compared to all previous years & real steps toward increase targeting of key population.

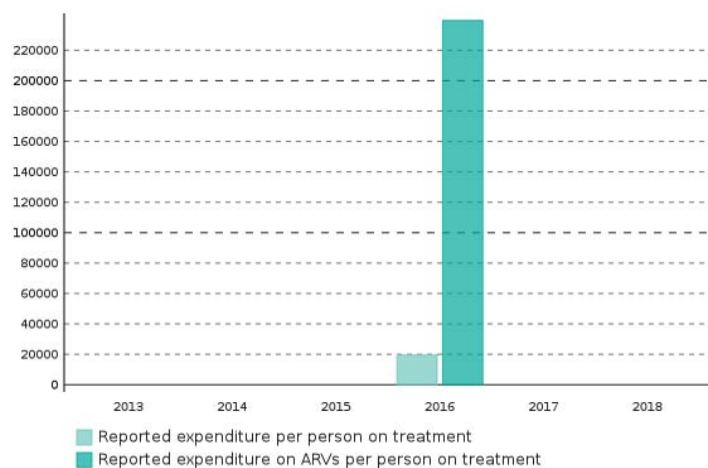
Also many packages of prevention has been implemented in this year, including:

- Introduction of voluntary counselling & testing service, for the first time ever in Kuwait, providing anonymous rapid 4th generation HIV tests plus other counselling & online services.
- Ongoing year around awareness campaign for vulnerable population like senior high school students, residents at correctional facilities etc
- Steps for implantation of needle exchange program.
- Extension of opioid substitution therapy using Suboxone & currently more than 130 patient benefit from this program.
- Continue to supply high quality, very effective, latest antiretroviral therapy, to improve adherence & continue having undetectable viral load in more than 90% of people who are on ART.
- Scale up of Pre Exposure & post exposure program.

8.1 Domestic and international HIV expenditure by programme categories and financing sources, Kuwait (2013-2018)



Expenditure per person on treatment, Kuwait (2013-2018)



AIDS out of isolation

Commit to taking AIDS out of isolation through people-centred systems to improve universal health coverage, including treatment for tuberculosis, cervical cancer and hepatitis B and C

Policy questions (2018)

Is cervical cancer screening and treatment for women living with HIV recommended in:

a) The national strategy, policy, plan or guidelines for cancer, cervical cancer or the broader response to non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

No

b) The national strategic plan governing the AIDS response

No

c) National HIV-treatment guidelines

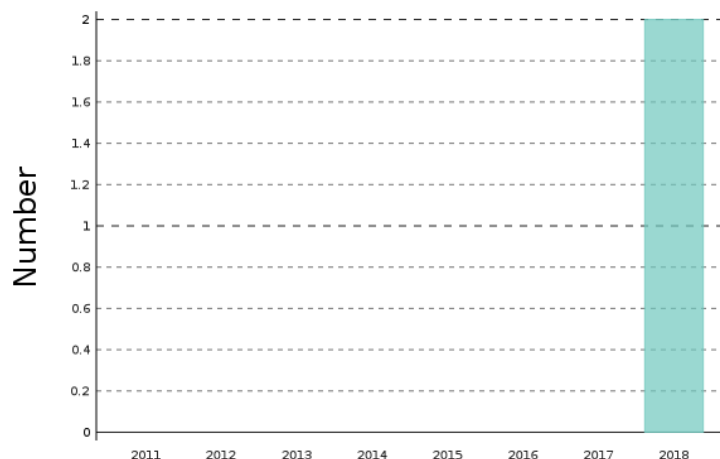
No

What coinfection policies are in place in the country for adults, adolescents and children?

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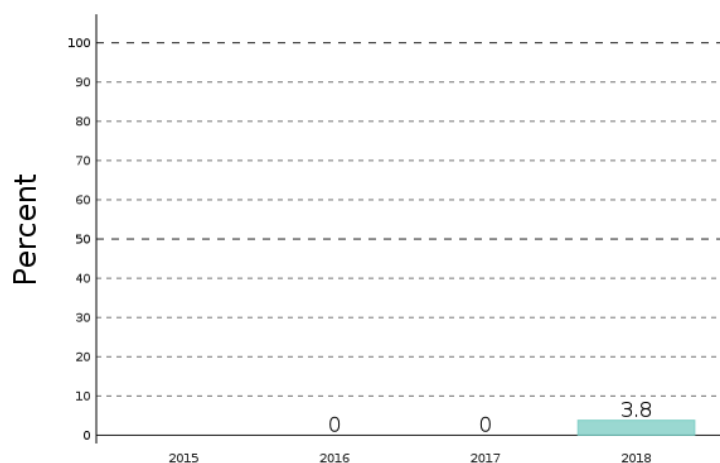
10.1 Co-managing TB and HIV treatment, Kuwait (2011-2018)

Percentage of estimated HIV-positive incident tuberculosis (TB) cases (new and relapse TB patients) that received treatment for both TB and HIV



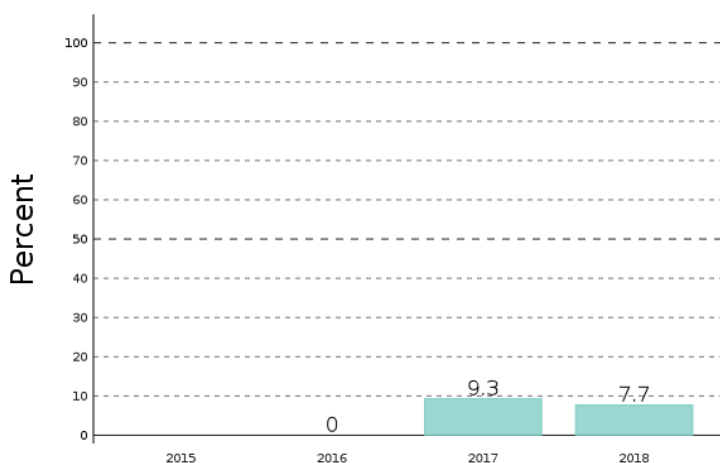
10.2 Proportion of people living with HIV newly enrolled in HIV care with active TB disease, Kuwait (2015-2018)

Total number of people living with HIV with active TB expressed as a percentage of those who are newly enrolled in HIV care (pre-antiretroviral therapy or antiretroviral therapy) during the reporting period



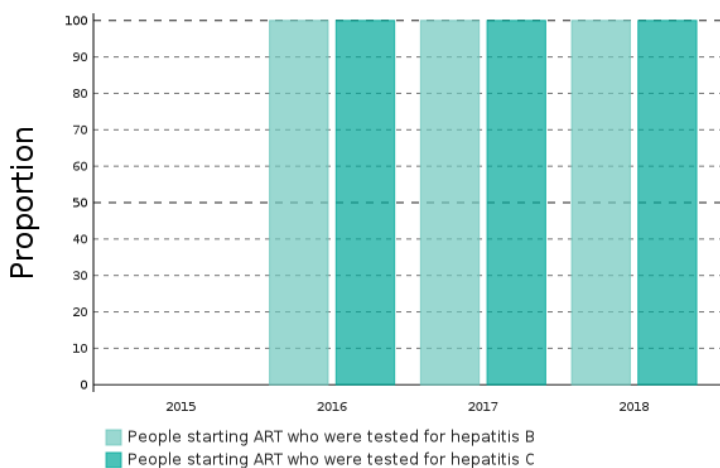
10.3 Proportion of people living with HIV newly enrolled in HIV care started on TB preventive therapy, Kuwait (2015-2018)

Number of patients started on treatment for latent TB infection, expressed as a percentage of the total number newly enrolled in HIV care during the reporting period



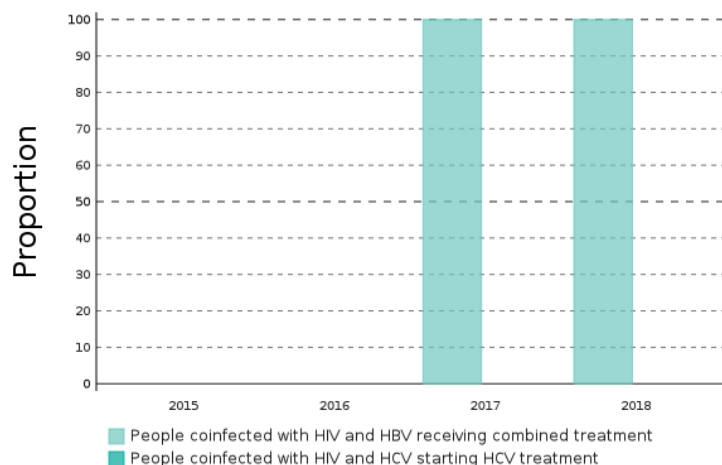
10.6/10.8 Hepatitis testing, Kuwait (2015-2018)

Proportion of people starting antiretroviral therapy who were tested for hepatitis



10.7/10.9 HIV and Hepatitis B/C, Kuwait (2015-2018)

Proportion of people coinfectd with HIV and HBV/HCV receiving treatment



10.10 Cervical cancer screening among women living with HIV, Kuwait (2016-2018)

Proportion of women living with HIV 30–49 years old who report being screened for cervical cancer using any of the following methods: visual inspection with acetic acid or vinegar (VIA), Pap smear or human papillomavirus (HPV) test

