

Country progress report - North Macedonia

Global AIDS Monitoring 2020



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

Overall

Fast-track targets

Progress summary

Macedonia is a country with a low prevalence of HIV, as of 31.12.2019 469 cases of HIV have been registered. but in recent years there has been an increasing trend in the number of newly registered HIV cases, the highest number of new diagnoses was in 2019 (n=66). Cumulatively, of the registered cases, 413 (88%) are male and 56 (12%) are female. The high proportional participation of male individuals in the number of newly registered cases has been a trend in the past 10 years, in 2017-2018 all newly discovered cases are male, while in 2019 64 were males and 2 -females. ART is available free of charge for all diagnosed people living with HIV regardless of the CD4 cell count.

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

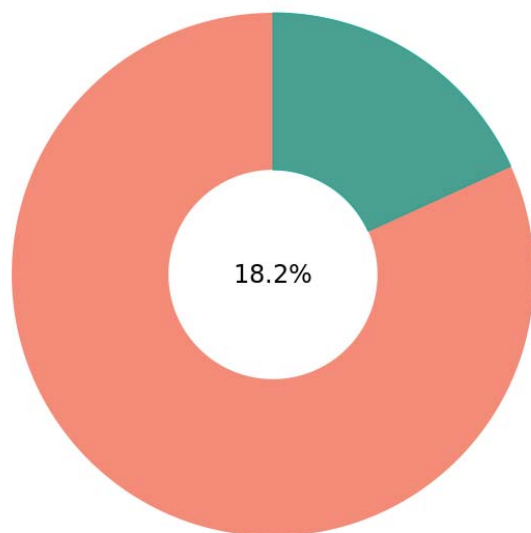
Progress summary

The Ministry of Health initiated a process of drafting a new HIV strategy until 2021 with a strong commitment to maintain and scale up the response to HIV in the country. Drafting of the new Strategy involved wide consultation process including experts from different ministries and institutions, international organizations present in the country and non-governmental organizations.

The aim of the strategy is to achieve 90-90-90 targets with a clear focus to maintain and enhance services provided to key populations by civil organizations.

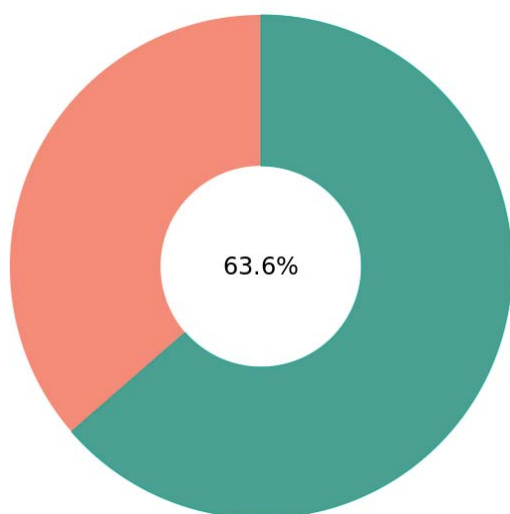
1.4 Late HIV diagnosis, North Macedonia (2019)

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



1.4 Late HIV diagnosis, North Macedonia (2019)

Percentage of people living with HIV with the initial CD4 cell count <350 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

As of 2016, North Macedonia implemented a policy for universal access to HIV treatment to all people living with HIV regardless of CD4 cell count at diagnosis.

HIV prevention; Key populations

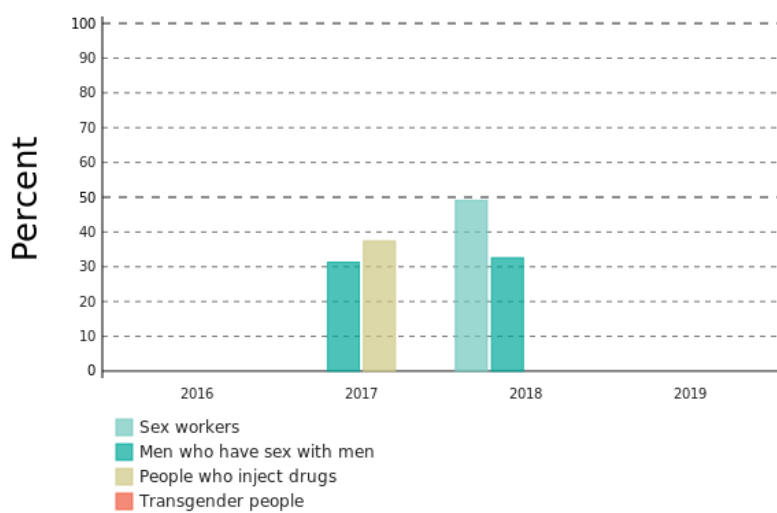
Ensure access to combination prevention options, including pre-exposure prophylaxis, voluntary medical male circumcision, harm reduction and condoms, to at least 90% of people by 2020, especially young women and adolescent girls in high-prevalence countries and key populations—gay men and other men who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

Progress summary

Although North Macedonia is country with a low prevalence of HIV (latest data suggest a concentrated epidemic among MSM - Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) among MSM in the capital city Skopje, December 2017- February 2018). The publication is available at <http://iph.mk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/RDS-MSM-2018.pdf>). Ministry of Health supports a wide network of NGOs and CSOs working on HIV prevention with key populations such as MSM, SW and PWID. These NGOs/CSOs are implementing programs for condom/lubricants distribution, IEC, harm reduction/needle exchange, community-based voluntary counselling and testing (at stationary points and through mobile testing vans), as well as peer and psychosocial support services.

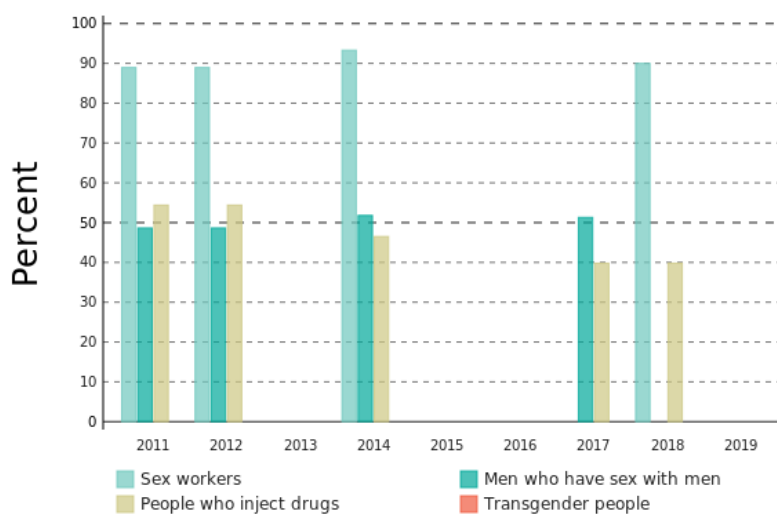
3.4 HIV testing among key populations, North Macedonia (2016-2019)

Percentage of people of a key population who tested for HIV in the past 12 months, or who know their current HIV status



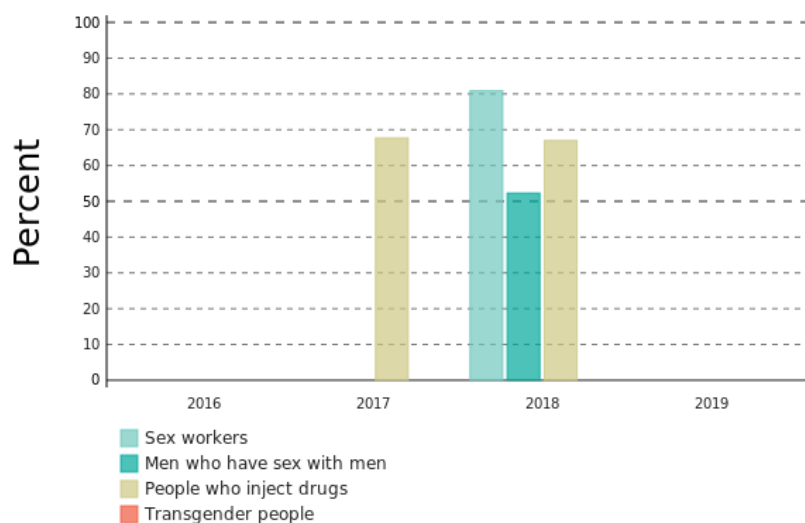
3.6 Condom use among key populations, North Macedonia (2011-2019)

Percentage of people in a key population reporting using a condom the last time they had sexual intercourse



3.7 Coverage of HIV prevention programmes among key populations, North Macedonia (2016-2019)

Percentage of people in a key population reporting having received a combined set of HIV prevention interventions



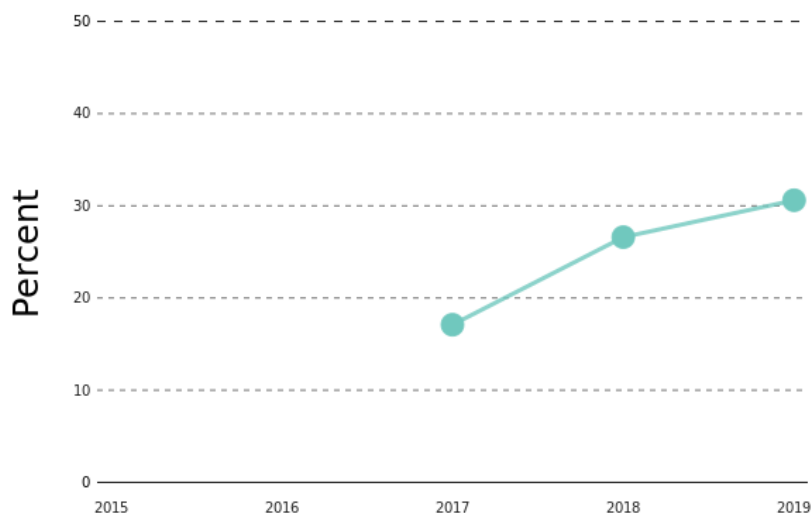
3.9 Needles and syringes distributed per person who injects drugs, North Macedonia (2011-2019)

Number of needles and syringes distributed per person who injects drugs per year by needle-syringe programmes



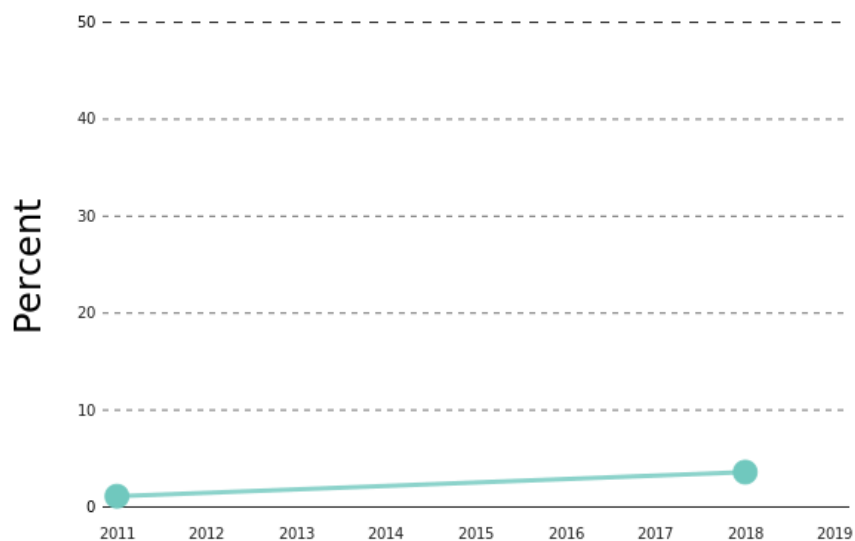
3.10 Coverage of opioid substitution therapy, North Macedonia (2015-2019)

Percentage of people who inject drugs receiving opioid substitution therapy (OST)



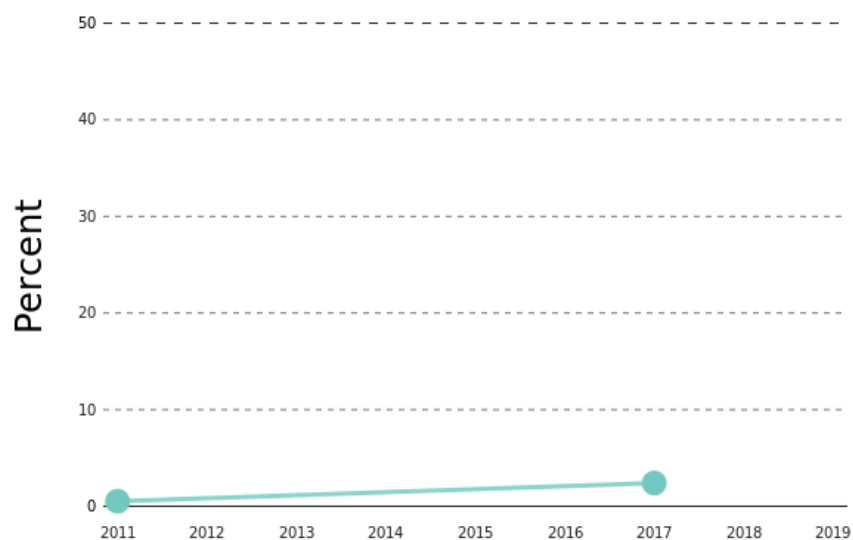
3.11 Active syphilis among sex workers, North Macedonia (2011-2019)

Percentage of sex workers with active syphilis



3.12 Active syphilis among men who have sex with men, North Macedonia (2011-2019)

Percentage of men who have sex with men with active syphilis



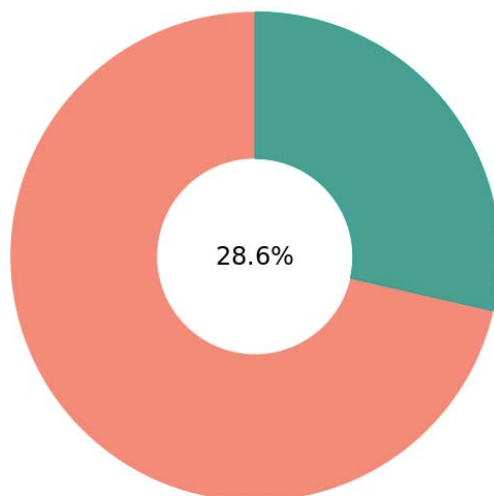
Gender; Stigma and discrimination

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

Since 2010, in the country there is a law against discrimination by any form (race, gender etc.), however, the civil societies are lobbying for amendments which will more explicitly protect rights of key populations.

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

Progress summary

The Ministry of Education in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Civil Societies are working on including sexual and reproductive health as one of the subjects in the school curricula. This process is not finished. In the meantime, these topics from sexual and reproductive health are part of the facultative "life skills" subject in the schools. In addition, NGOs are implementing projects for peer education.

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

All patients who are in care have access to services from a social worker within the HIV treatment centre. In addition, under the annual National HIV Program, civil society organizations also provide a psychosocial and peer support for people living with HIV, men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs and sex workers. Access to HIV-sensitive social support is recognized in the draft National HIV Strategy until 2021.

Community-led service delivery

Ensure that at least 30% of all service delivery is community-led by 2020

Progress summary

As in 2018, the 2019 Annual Programme for HIV in the country is completely financed by the Government and Ministry of Health, in this program worth 1,5 million Euros, 48% of the funds are distributed to NGOs and CSOs working on HIV prevention with key populations. This shows the commitment of the Ministry of Health and Government to fully support HIV response after the end of Global Fund support in 2017.

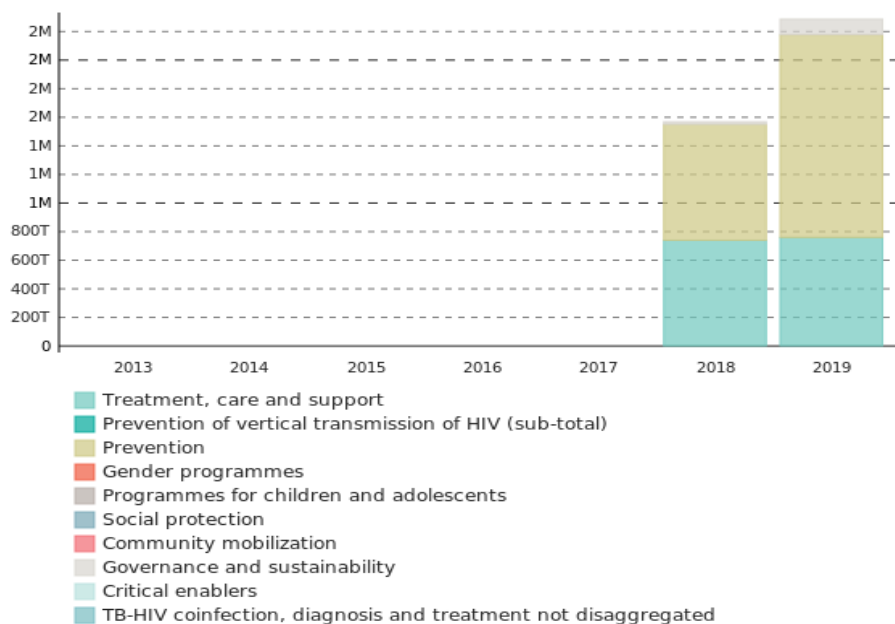
HIV expenditure

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

Progress summary

Compared to 2017 (when 50% of the HIV total expenditures were funded through Global Fund), in 2018 the Government direct funding is increased 10 fold, and the same level of funding remained in 2019.

8.3 HIV expenditure by programme category, North Macedonia (2013-2019)



Structure of investments on effective and other prevention programmes (%), North Macedonia (2019)



Empowerment and access to justice

Empower people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV to know their rights and to access justice and legal services to prevent and challenge violations of human rights

Progress summary

A community-based organization "Stronger Together" is a direct beneficiary of the funds from the Annual HIV Program. One of the activities is to support PLHIV practising their rights. In addition, the Clinic for Infectious Disease where all people living with HIV are treated, there is a team of social worker and psychologist as well that assist these people. NGOs working with key populations also offer social and legal services (funds for legal services provided from sources other than national HIV program) for their clients.

AIDS out of isolation

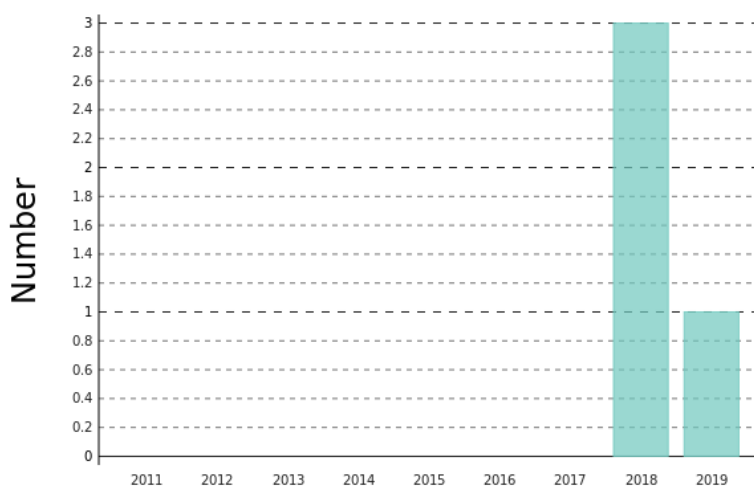
Commit to taking AIDS out of isolation through people-centred systems to improve universal health coverage, including treatment for tuberculosis, cervical cancer and hepatitis B and C

Progress summary

All patients living with HIV have the right and receive free of charge universal health coverage (universal health coverage is guaranteed by the state for all citizens), including treatment for TB, HBV or HCV. The country is currently developing strategies for increasing the coverage for HCV treatment.

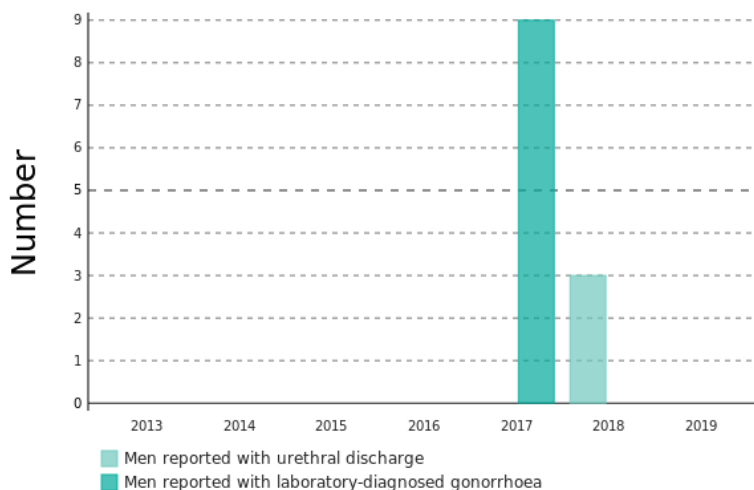
10.1 Co-managing TB and HIV treatment, North Macedonia (2011-2019)

Number of HIV-positive new and relapse TB patients started on TB treatment during the reporting period who were already on antiretroviral therapy or started on antiretroviral therapy during TB treatment within the reporting year



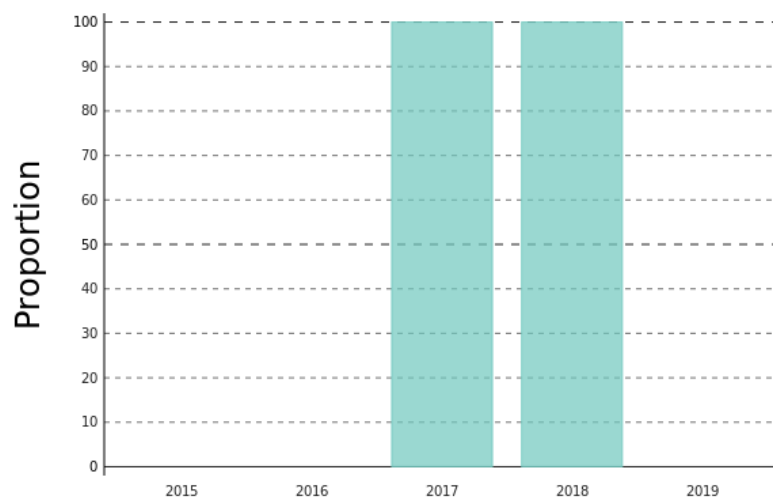
10.4/10.5 Sexually transmitted infections, North Macedonia (2013-2019)

Number of men reporting urethral discharge in the past 12 months; number of men reported with laboratory-diagnosed gonorrhoea in the past 12 months



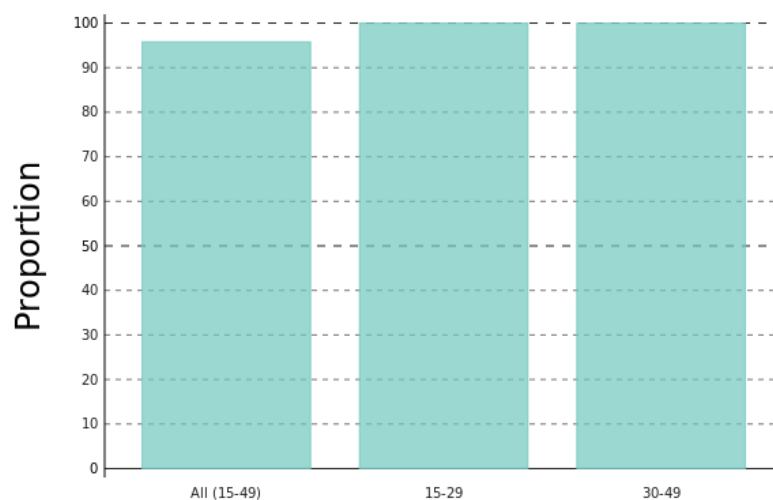
10.6 Hepatitis testing, North Macedonia (2015-2019)

Proportion of people starting antiretroviral therapy who were tested for hepatitis C virus (HCV)



10.8 Cervical cancer screening among women living with HIV, North Macedonia (2019)

Proportion of women living with HIV 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



10.8 Cervical cancer screening among women living with HIV, North Macedonia (2019)

Programme data: Proportion of women living with HIV who have ever been screened for cervical cancer using any of the following methods: VIA, Pap smear or human papillomavirus (HPV) test

