

Understanding measures of progress towards the 95–95–95 HIV testing, treatment and viral suppression targets

2025 target: achieve the 95–95–95 HIV testing, treatment and viral suppression targets within all demographics and groups and geographic settings, including children and adolescents living with HIV.

Adopted by United Nations Member States in June 2021, alongside ambitious targets for primary prevention and supporting enablers, the 95–95–95 HIV testing, treatment and viral suppression targets aim to close gaps in HIV treatment coverage and outcomes in all sub-populations, age groups and geographic settings¹.

Table 1. Measuring progress towards the 95–95–95 targets

	2025 target	Numerator	Denominator
The first 95 (indicator 1)	At least 95% of people living with HIV know their HIV status	Number of people living with HIV who know their HIV status	Number of people living with HIV
The second 95 (indicator 2)	At least 95% of people who know their HIV status are on treatment	Number of people living with HIV who are on treatment	Number of people living with HIV who know their HIV status
The third 95 (indicator 3)	At least 95% of people on treatment have a suppressed viral load	Number of people living with HIV who have a suppressed viral load	Number of people living with HIV who are on treatment

Note: the denominator of the second 95 is the numerator of the first 95 (green boxes), and the denominator of the third 95 is the numerator of the second 95 (blue boxes).

The same 95s targets are often presented in a second, different way, referred to as ‘cascade’.

Table 2. Measuring progress towards the 95–95–95 targets using the cascade data presentation

	2025 target	Numerator	Denominator
HIV cascade indicator 1 (same as first 95)	At least 95% of people living with HIV know their HIV status	Number of people living with HIV who know their HIV status	Number of people living with HIV
HIV cascade indicator 2	At least 90% of people living with HIV are on treatment	Number of people living with HIV who are on treatment	Number of people living with HIV
HIV cascade indicator 3	At least 86% of people living with HIV have a suppressed viral load	Number of people living with HIV who have a suppressed viral load	Number of people living with HIV

Note: in a cascade, the denominator (number of people living with HIV) remains the same for each indicator.

¹ For a summary of the commitments and targets within the United Nations General Assembly's 2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS see: [Ending inequalities and getting on track to end AIDS by 2030 — A summary of the commitments and targets within the United Nations General Assembly's 2021 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS](#) | UNAIDS.

The 95–95–95 data presentation

Pros & cons of using the 95–95–95 data presentation:

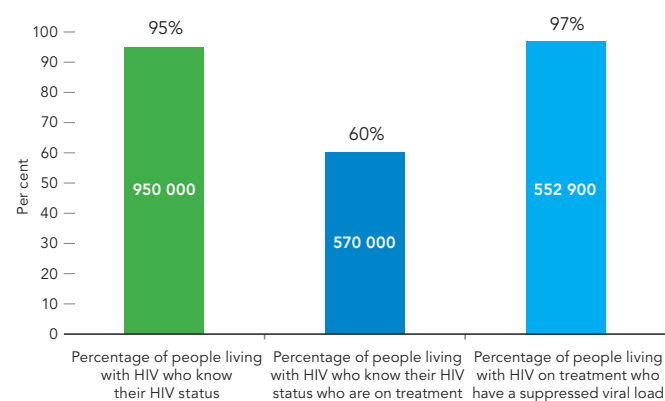
(+) Clearly shows programme performance and specific bottlenecks in:

- 1st 95: HIV testing;
- 2nd 95: linkage to HIV care from positive HIV diagnosis and retention on treatment;
- 3rd 95: viral load suppression once on treatment.

(-) Does not show how close we are to achieving the level of viral suppression in the population that is required to end AIDS.

Figure 1. Progress towards the 95–95–95 testing, treatment and viral load suppression targets, country X, 2022

Total number of people living with HIV in country X, 2022: 1 million



Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2023.

Note: the first 95 numerator is the denominator of the second 95. The second 95 numerator is the denominator of the third 95 (see Table 1).

The cascade data presentation

Pros & cons of using the cascade data presentation:

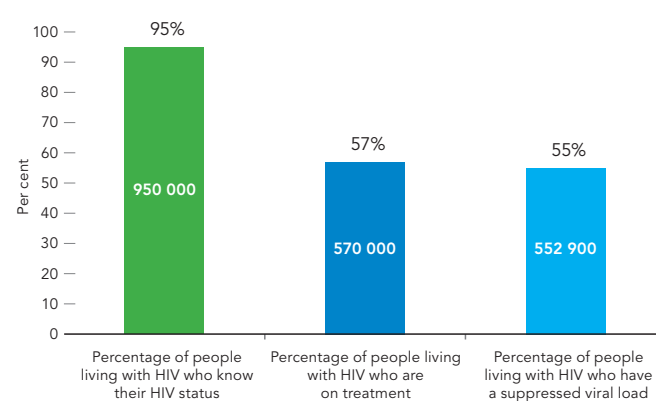
(+) Provides comparable measures of population-level (or community-level) treatment coverage and viral suppression, which are key measures of epidemic control.

(+) Clearly indicates the percentage of people living with HIV who do not have a suppressed viral load and are at risk of opportunistic infections and of transmitting HIV.

(-) Less clear where obstacles are to improve programme effectiveness.

Figure 2. HIV testing and treatment cascade, country X, 2022

Total number of people living with HIV in country X, 2022: 1 million



Source: UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2023.

Note: the denominator for all three indicators is the same (the number of people living with HIV) (see Table 2). In this scenario, the denominator is 1 million people living with HIV.

- In this fictitious country with 1 million people living with HIV, 950 000 know their HIV status. This is represented identically in both graphs.
- 570 000 people living with HIV who know their HIV status are on treatment (60%); nearly all those on treatment have a suppressed viral load (97%).
- Country X achieved the targets for the first and third 95s.
- However, just over half (55%) of the 1 million people living with HIV have a suppressed viral load.

Achieving the 95–95–95 targets translates to 95–90–86 when expressed as a cascade. These targets should be achieved in ALL sub-populations, age groups and geographic settings.