

FACT SHEET

HIV in SEYCHELLES

Epidemic Overview

- In 2020, there were 934 known people living with HIV in Seychelles (no PLVIH estimation).
- New HIV infections increased by 53% between 2016 and 2020, with reported 84 (58 males, 26 females) new HIV infections in 2020, 75 in 2016. There were 33 new infections reported in 2010.
- Ten (10) people (8 males, 2 females) died of AIDS-related illnesses in 2020, compared with 7 (5 males, 2 females) in 2016, and 8 in 2010.
- Adult women (15+ years) comprised 35% of the people living with HIV in Seychelles in 2020, and 30% of new infections and 20% of AIDS related deaths in 2020.
- There were MORE deaths among adult men aged 15+ years (8) than among women (2) in 2020.
- The 50+ age group contributed 19% of new infections (12males, 7 females). Three males were over 65 years. Six (5 males, 1 female) of the 10 deaths in 2020 were also recorded in those aged 50+.
- There were 2 new HIV infections in children (0-14 years) in 2020. There were no new HIV infections both in 2010 (out of 5 HIV positive mothers) and in 2016 (out of 12 HIV positive mothers). There were 2 infections out of 18 infants born of HIV positive mothers in 2020.

Testing and Treatment

- A total of 21,689 HIV tests were done in 2020, 5,476 of which were performed by private clinics and 2,790 done through community testing. This compares with 27,904 tests in 2019 with 5,378 in private facilities and 1,659 through community testing. Positivity rates remained at 0.39% both years.
- HIV Testing by Health Care Agency Clinical laboratory in the Ministry of Health declined from 14.162 in 2016 to 12.865 in 2020.
- Seychelles made progress in the scale-up of antiretroviral therapy (ART), with an almost two-fold increase in the number of people on treatment since 2016 (cumulative of 442). In 2010, there was a cumulative of 120 people on ART and in 2020, there was a total of 746 persons on ART.
- With 746 people on antiretroviral therapy in 2020, treatment coverage was 82% of all known PLVIH (no estimation of all people living with HIV).
- 934 people living with HIV in Seychelles knew their HIV status in 2020, and about 82% were receiving ART. Of those tested for viral load, 67% had suppressed viral loads or had achieved the viral suppression necessary to prevent HIV transmission in 2020.
- Paediatric treatment has improved since 2010. Seven children (0-14 years) were receiving ART in 2020, with coverage at 100 %.
- At the end of 2020, 100% of pregnant women living with HIV were receiving ART to prevent mother-to-child transmission. Of eighteen mothers who received ART for PMTCT in 2020, two children were infected with HIV.

Investments

- Latest available data indicate that SCR 60,057,739 (US\$ 4.4 million) were spent by Seychelles from domestic public sources on HIV-related services (NASA 2019), accounting for 96% of total AIDS spending.
- In 2016, AIDS expenditure was estimated at SCR 133,473,581 (USD 10.1 million). Domestic sources accounted for 95% of the funds.

Populations and locations with higher risk of infection

- Young people (15-24 years) constituted 15% (13 out of 84) of the new infections.
- This age group constituted 7% of the people living with HIV in Seychelles, and 12 % (9 out of 75) of the new infections in 2016.
- Among young people (15-24 years) in the country there were 6 new infections in adolescent boys and young men, and 7 among adolescent girls and young women.
- Sub-national data is mostly not reported in Seychelles.
- HIV prevalence among key populations such as sex workers, men who have sex with men, and people who inject drugs was estimated to be 4.6 % (2015) and 8.1% (2017), 13.2 % (2011), and 5.8 % (2011), respectively, as compared to a national HIV prevalence of 0.87 % (2012).

Stigma and Discrimination

- SEYCHELLES criminalizes sex work.
- SEYCHELLES does not criminalize same-sex sexual activities
- SEYCHELLES does not have the death penalty for drug-related offenses.

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Table 1. Summary of Core Indicators, 2020

Goals	Indicators	2020	2019	Difference
90% of PLHIV know their HIV status	Number of HIV tests done	21,689	27,904	↓ by 22%
	Number of new HIV cases diagnosed in 2020	84	109	↓ by 23%
	Total number of PLHIV at the end of 2020	934	864	↑ by 8%
90% of PLHIV who know their status receive treatment	Number of PLHIV starting /restarting ART in 2020	92 /11	172 /65	↓ by 46%
	Total number of PLHIV on ART at the end of 2020	746	755	↓ by 1%
	Number of PLHIV lost to follow-up after starting ART	165	49	↑ by 116
90% of PLHIV on ART virally suppressed	Number of patients tested for viral load in 2020	833	504	↑ by 65%
	Number of viral load tests done in 2020	665	504	↑ by 30%
	% of PLHIV on ART virally suppressed	67%	87%	↓ by 20%

Table 2. Summary of Statistics (Adapted from report submitted to WHO in 2020)

Indicator	Level in 2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Know your epidemic (Number & % of people living with HIV)	592 (0.63% total pop)	687 (0.73% total pop)	768 (0.79% total pop)	864 (0.88% total pop)	934 (0.95% total pop)
2. Financing (% HIV response financed domestically)	95%	-	98%	96%	-
3. a. Prevention (% condom use among sexually active individuals)	KAPB-51% at last sex (2012)	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
b. Prevention (needles per person who injects drugs)	5.74 /year	8.62/year	5.51/year	11.1 /year	10.7 / year
c. Prevention (% negative infants born to HIV-infected women)	100% negative	90% negative (1 of 10 babies positive)	80% negative (3 of 15 babies positive)	95% negative (1 of 20 babies positive)	89% negative (2 of 18 babies positive)
4. Testing (% PLHIV who have been diagnosed) No estimation of PLHIV done	843 (515M/328F)	960 (604M /356F)	1080 (683M / 397F)	1183 (759M / 424F)	1270 (817M, 291F)
5. Linkage to care (Number and % in HIV care [inc. ART])	486 (70.7%)	n.a.	601 (78%)	796 (92.1%)	833 (89%)
6. Currently on ART (% on ART)	363 (61.3%)	442 (62%)	554 (72%)	755 (87%)	746 (80%)
7. ART retention (% retained and surviving on ART)	82%? n.a.	209 (68.3%)	n.a 91%	699 (81%)	769 (82%)
8. Viral suppression (% on ART virally suppressed)	190 (90.9%) 82%	n.a 96%	505 (91%)	653 (87%)	768 (67%)
9. HIV deaths (Number and Ratio of HIV related deaths)	7 (7.4/100000)	17 (17.7/100000)	19 (19.6/100000)	16 (16.2/100000)	10 (10.2/100000)
10. New infections (Number & % of new infections)	75 (0.8/1000 population)	112 (1.0/1000 population)	120 (2.2/1000 population)	109 (1.1/1000 population)	84 (0.85/1000 population)