

Australia's intersection with local epidemics - Impact and Support

ASHM 2025

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It's Everyone's Problem: HIV/AIDS and Development in Asia and the Pacific. Rob Moodie 2000. Report for AusAID

- Suggests several ways Australia can play an important international leadership role in HIV/AIDS, particularly in the Asia and Pacific region
 - Ensure HIV/AIDS assistance supports and is supported by the moral, humanitarian, economic and national security concerns of Australia's foreign policy.
 - Develop long term, well-resourced (financially and intellectually), trusting relationships with a select number of partner countries.
 - Develop a comprehensive range of aid pathways for HIV assistance.
 - Focus on supporting high level political and bureaucratic mobilisation, so important in effective national responses
 - Ensure there is well trained, cross culturally effective staff to support Australian aid projects.
 - Ensure that Australian aid assistance in HIV/AIDS is well integrated into the broader social, economic and health care needs of countries

Figure 1.6. Number of new HIV infections 1990–2024, and projections assuming cuts in HIV funding 2025–2029, global

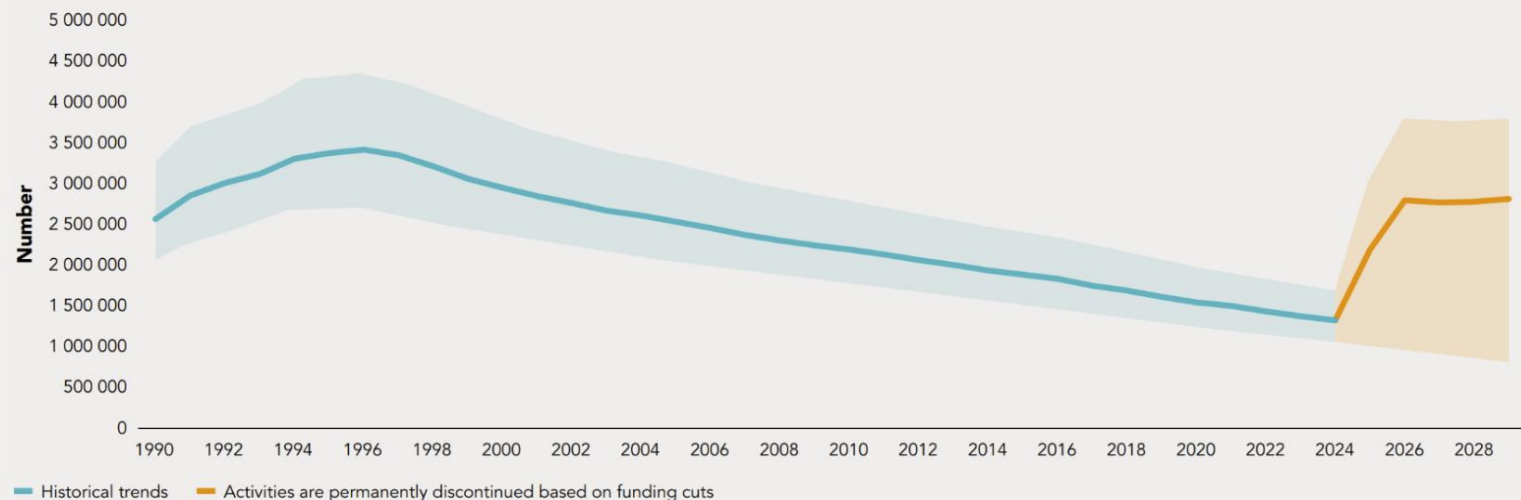
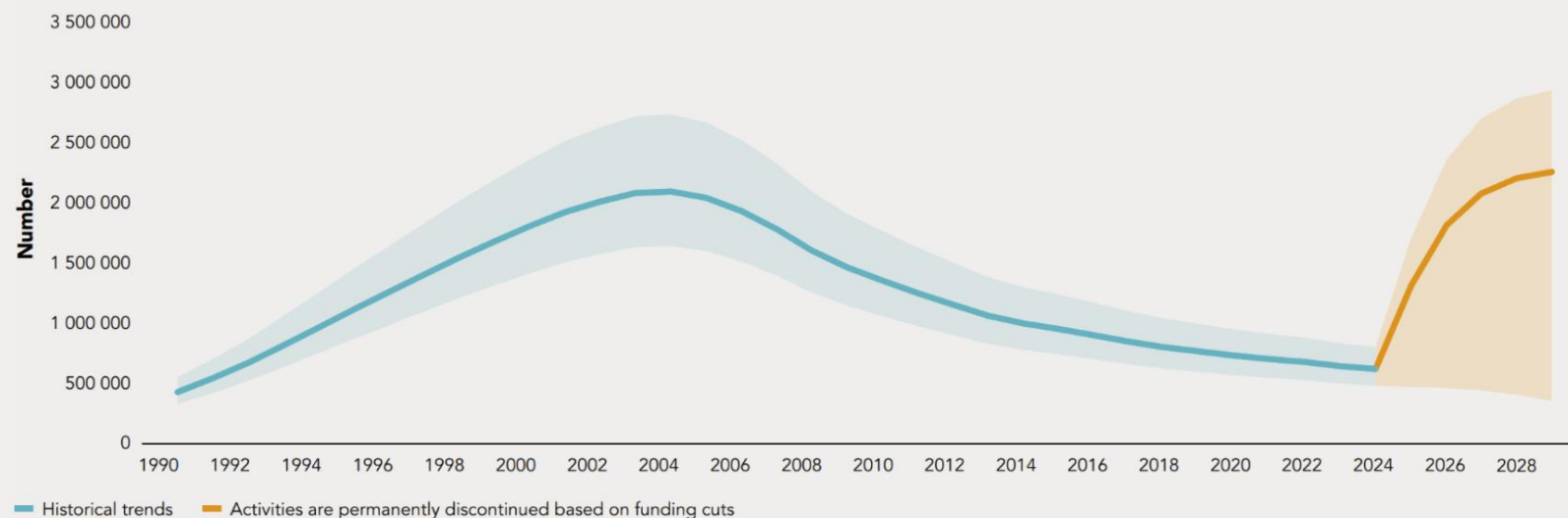


Figure 1.7. Number of AIDS-related deaths 1990–2024, and projections assuming cuts in HIV funding 2025–2029, global



2024

- 40.8 million PLHIV
 - >21 million in eastern and southern Africa
- 1.3 million new infections
- 630,000 AIDS related deaths

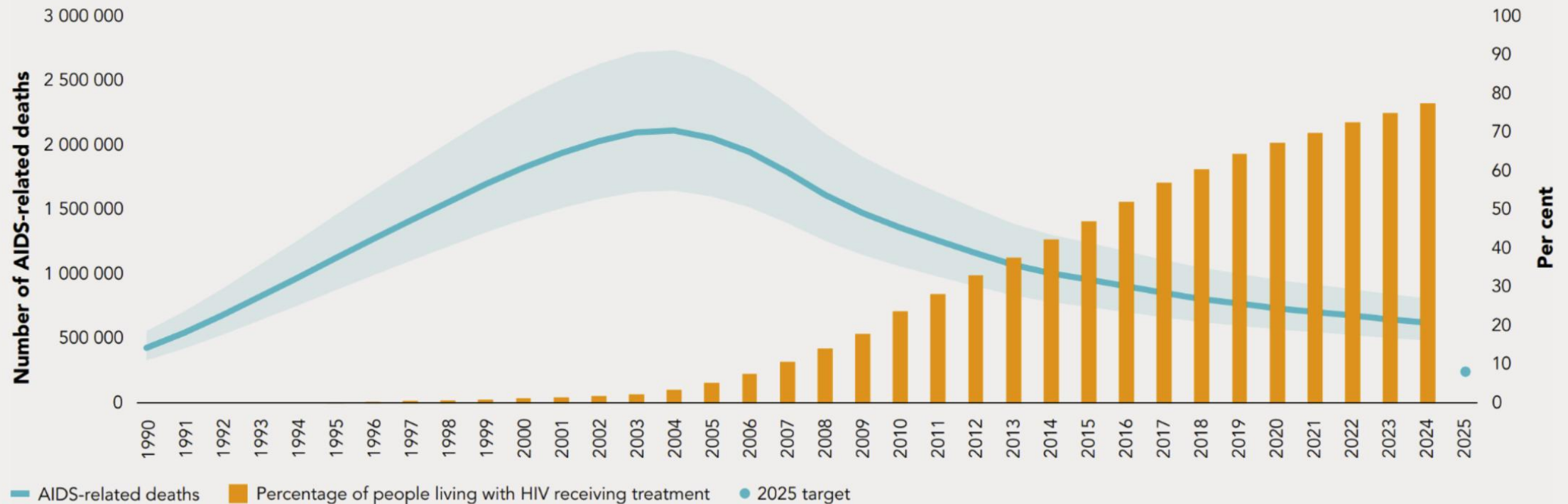
unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2025/core-epidemiology-slides
UNAIDS Global AIDS update 2025



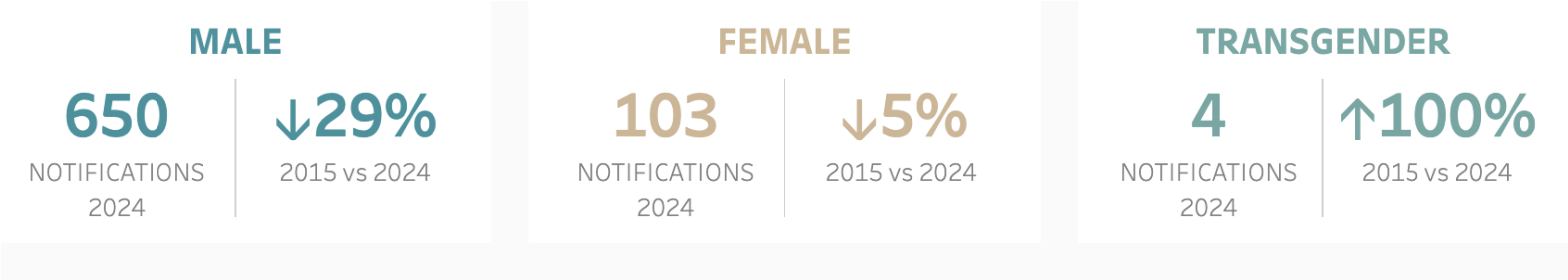
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31.6 million people on ART globally in 2024

Figure 2.1. Numbers of people dying from AIDS-related causes and percentages of people living with HIV receiving antiretroviral therapy, global, 1990–2024

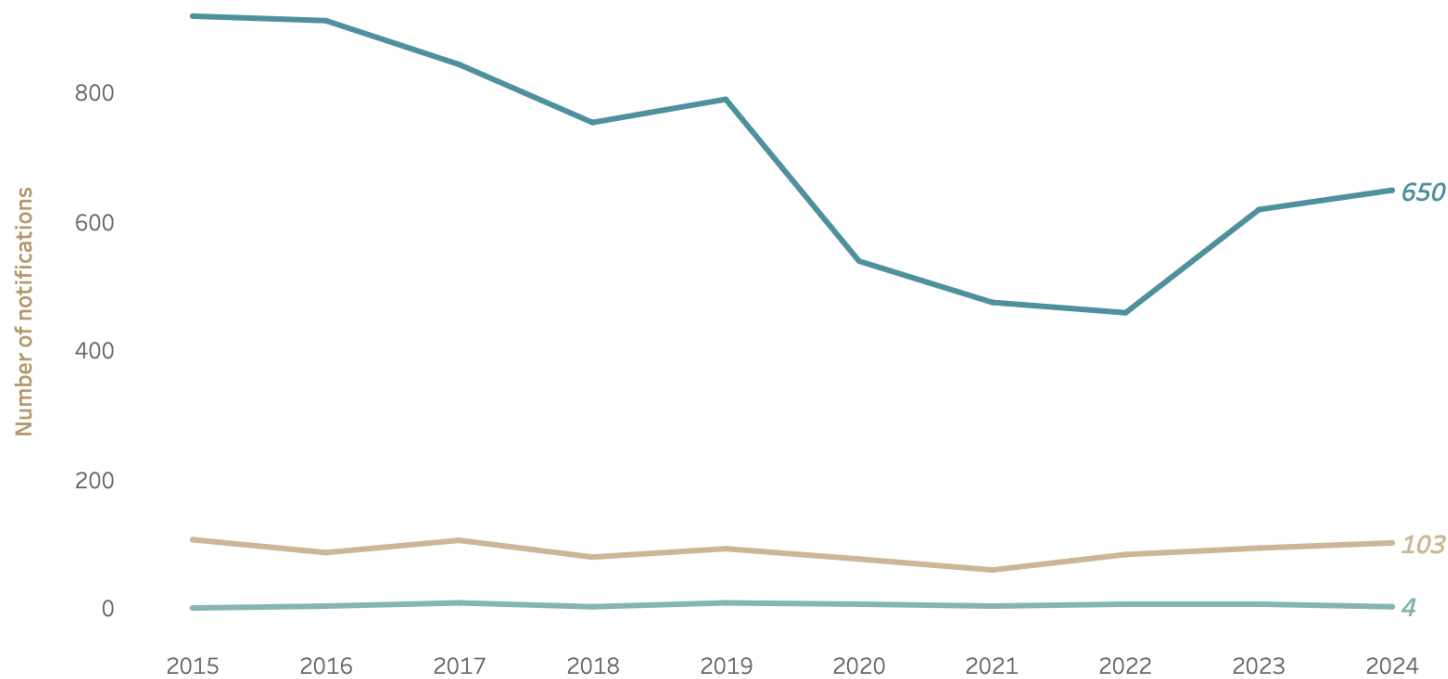


HIV Notifications AUSTRALIA



Number of HIV notifications by gender

Male Female Transgender

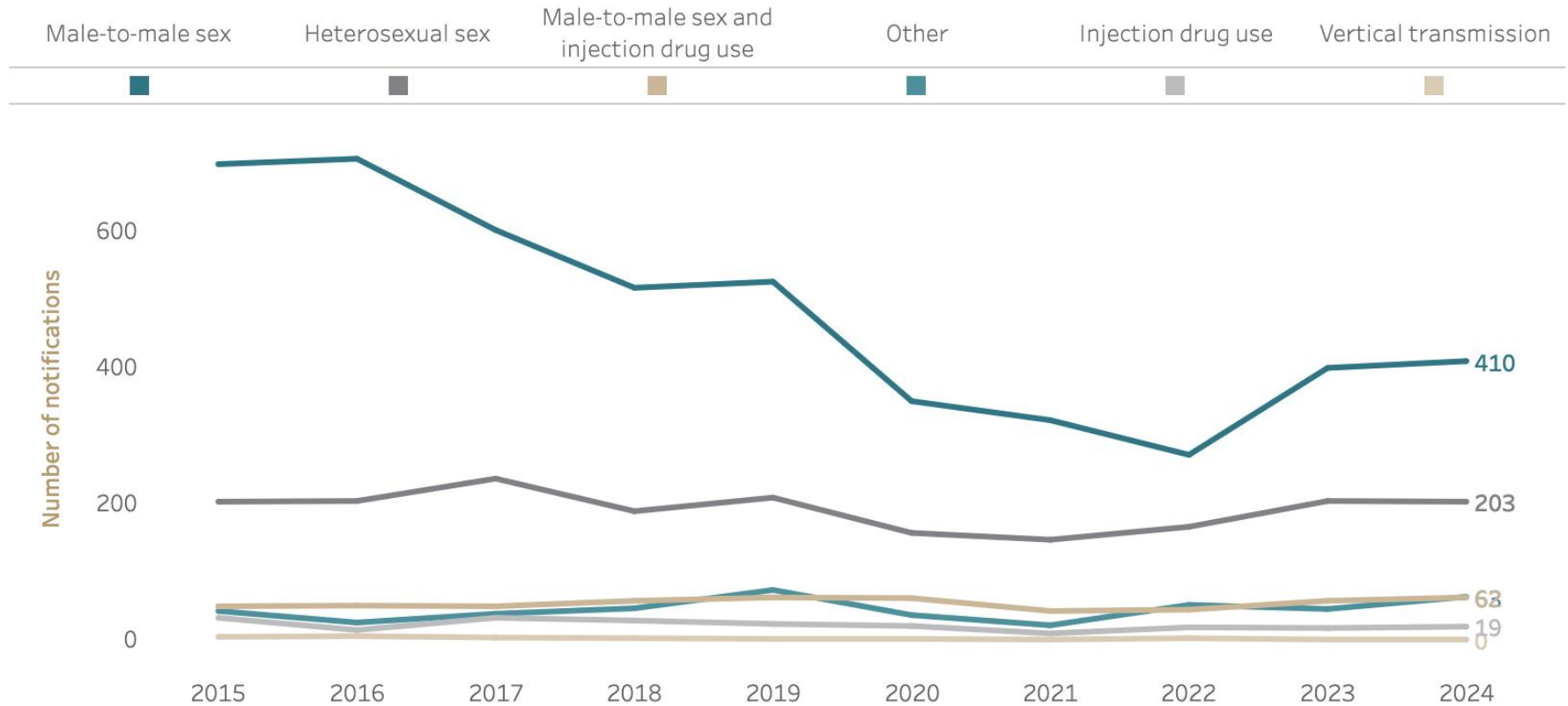


Decline in MSM notifications from 2014-2018 which has stabilized

Increase in 2023 post COVID-19 which has stabilized

Number of HIV notifications by exposure

Exposure type: All



Fiji HIV Update - 2025

- Fastest growing epidemic globally
- ~500 PWHIV in 2014, now ~5900 but difficult to estimate
 - Change in incidence from 2019 of 14/100,000 to 179/100,000
 - 2024 – 1583 new diagnoses. 281% increase on 2023 (415 diagnoses)
 - Includes 41 children → 32 of these confirmed MTCT
- Observations about new notifications
 - 70% male, 29% female
 - Younger. 62% 10-29 years old
 - 90% i-Taukei Fijians
 - 50% IDU risk factor
- Steady stream of new cases with OIs in hospitals.
- Increase in TB and MDR TB notifications. Majority of inpatients in TB hospital have HIV

Fiji - Issues

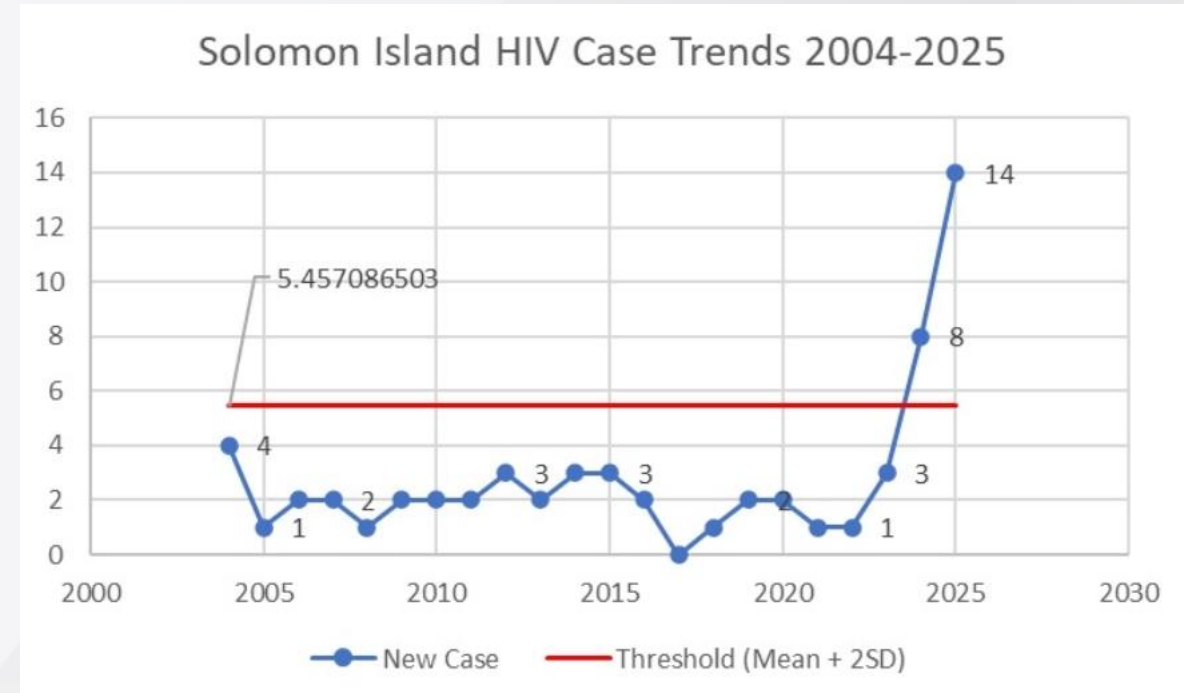
- Siloed model of care with HIV care and treatment in 3 national clinics (hubs) outside of hospitals. Provides free services
 - Siloed TB services and single referral TB hospital
- Different models of care within Hospital (Clinical service network). Government, public-private partnership, private
- Advanced clinical presentations to hospitals
- High risk injecting practices
- Access to testing and community engagement in high-risk groups
- Access to needle-syringe programs
- Drug stockouts
- Access to viral load testing
- Difficulty notifying people of their new diagnosis

Fiji - 2025

- Emergency outbreak response declared
- HIV Outbreak Response Taskforce established
 - Multiple subcommittees
- Dedicated Government funding, DFAT funding
- Increased activity – surveillance, testing, decentralization of care, procuring ART, education, community engagement

Not exclusive to Fiji

- Population 800,000
- Seroprevalence 2023 0.002%
- ? Similar epidemiology to Fiji
- Importance of HIV testing and treatment services for many countries in the Pacific



Papua New Guinea

- ‘National HIV Crisis’ (June 2025 – PNG Health Minister)
- 46% of PWHIV estimated to be receiving ART (all ages)

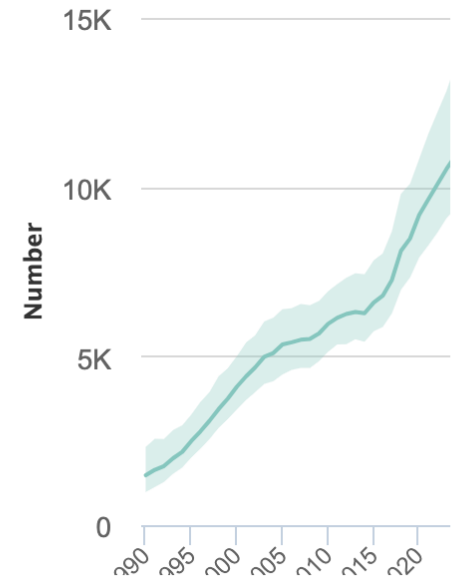
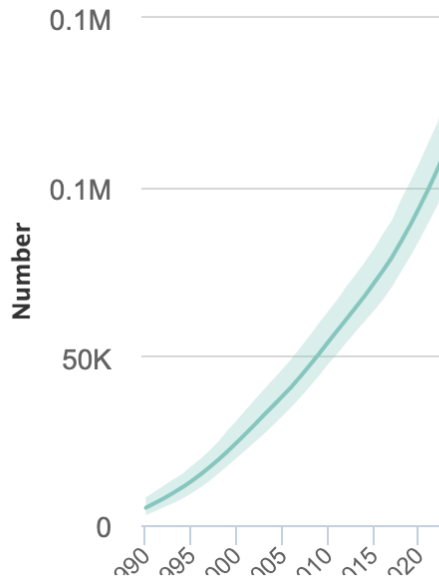
unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/papuanewguinea



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~120,000
PWHIV in 2024
(estimated to be
~77,000 in 2023)

~11,000 new
infections in 2024
~2700 infants. Mainly
due to mothers being
unaware of their HIV
status

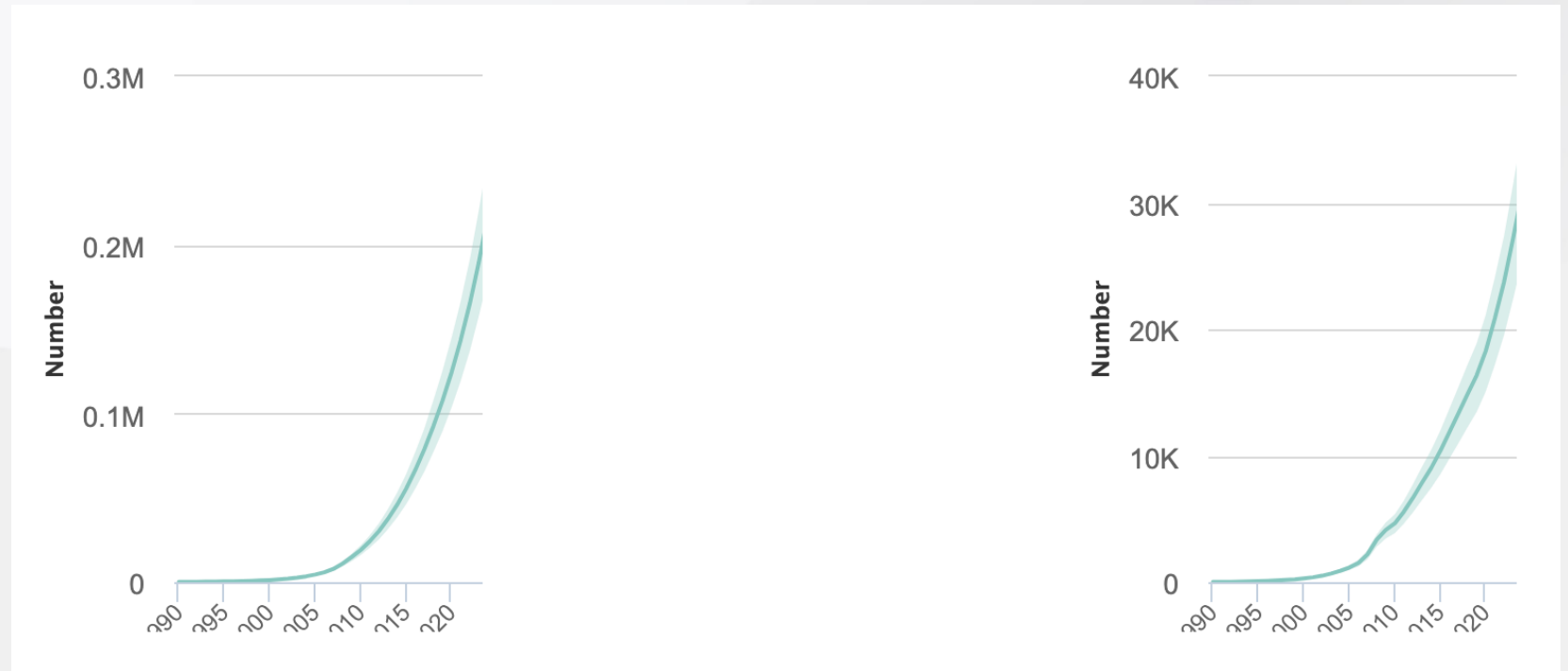


Philippines

- Growing epidemic
- 40% of PWHIV estimated to be receiving ART (all ages)

~220,000 PWHIV in 2024
562% increase since 2010

~31,000 new infections in 2024



Potential impacts in Australia

- Asia-Pacific population in Australia
 - Large diasporas – e.g. 400,000k Filipino born people in Australia, proximity of PNG / Pacific nations
 - Pacific population - often mobile workforce
 - Opportunities for testing
 - Access to treatment if Medicare ineligible (not necessarily Pathology in some jurisdictions)
 - Education and training – Australian workforce
 - Direct health service impact – inpatient and outpatient care
- If increased HIV notifications in Australia from these communities importance of providing culturally safe and accessible services
- Multiple sources of potential stigma (HIV, acquisition risk factor) → may not approach Australia services due to stigma and/or fear of losing work

Supporting local HIV epidemics

- Advocacy at all levels
 - Government – DFAT. Acknowledge support already committed including global fund but advocate continued increased support for the regional HIV response
 - Private donors (corporations) - use private public partnerships
 - Public Health
 - NGO
 - Faith based organizations
 - Clinical services
 - Research institutions / funders
- Acknowledge the importance of this support for humanitarian and diplomatic reasons

Supporting local HIV epidemics

- Community engagement – Pacific community organisations, HIV community organisations, faith based
- Education and training → Prevention (Testing, NSP), Treatment
- Cross country collaboration
- Support localised approaches to services in countries
- Australian experience and support needs to fit in with local approaches

Acknowledgements

- Michelle O'Connor
- Brooke Dickson
- Adam Jenney
- Ravi Naidu