**INTRODUCTION**

- Coverage of HIV-related services among adolescents and young adults remains low, despite evidence of increased HIV risk among females of this age in sub-Saharan Africa. In response, PEPFAR has launched the DREAMS initiative.
- Epidemiological data on these age groups is needed to inform national-level planning, implementation of special initiatives such as DREAMS, and international advocacy efforts, including the United Nations Children’s Fund's (UNICEF’s) All in initiative. However, there is a lack of such data available in the literature.
- The USAID- and PEPFAR-funded Health Policy Project (HPP) aimed to fill some of these data gaps by consolidating the most recent data available to model HIV epidemiological trends among people ages 15-24.

**METHODS**

- HPP used official 2015 Spectrum files to analyze epidemiological trends among people ages 15-24 in 23 high-burden countries across seven indicators: prevalence, incidence rate, population of people living with HIV (PLHIV), new infections, need for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), and AIDS deaths.
- Uncertainty analysis was run in the AIDS Impact Module (AIM) within Spectrum, resulting in a 95% confidence interval for select country-specific HIV epidemiological estimates. Demographic data (e.g., population, fertility data) came from DemProj within Spectrum.
- HPP disaggregated findings by sex and age (15-29 vs. 20-24).

**RESULTS**

- People 15-24 years accounted for 19% of the total population and 11% of all PLHIV, yet represented 31% of new infections in 2014 (Figure 1).
- Of the estimated 23.8 million PLHIV in the 23 countries in 2014, 2.6 million [Range: 2.1 – 3.4] are ages 15-24 and 63% of PLHIV 15-24 years, or 1.6 million [Range: 1.4 – 2.1], are female. There were more young women ages 20-24 living with HIV than adolescent females ages 15-19.

**CONCLUSIONS**

- Adolescents and young adults accounted for a disproportionate number of new infections in the 23 countries, with females in this age group at a particularly high risk of having and acquiring HIV in the vast majority of the countries.
- Only a few countries accounted for most of the people living with HIV, new infections, and need for PMTCT among HDR ART among people ages 15-24 in our 23-country sample.
- This is the first analysis to present detailed, disaggregated epidemiological data with uncertainty bounds for these age groups, but more research is needed. The AIM model and methods used in this analysis can be further refined. There is also an urgent need to define and estimate the particular target group and effective and combination prevention strategies in these groups.

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