

# An estimated 76% of people living with HIV in Ireland in 2018 had an undetectable viral load

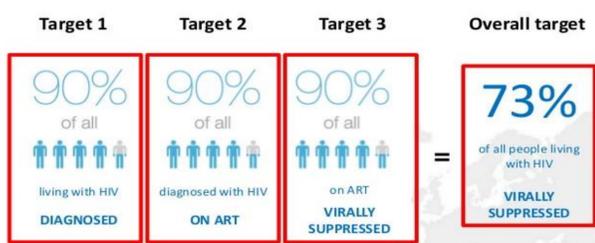
## HIV Estimates for Ireland using Spectrum, a UNAIDS-supported modelling tool

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### BACKGROUND

Since the early 1980s, 75 million people have been infected with HIV and 32 million people have died of the disease.

In 2014, UNAIDS established the 90-90-90 targets with the overall aim of removing HIV as a public health threat by 2030.



### AIM

To measure our progress towards achieving the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets.

### METHODS

Inputs to the model included

- Demographic data, e.g. population size
- HIV surveillance data, e.g. number of HIV cases, CD4 count at diagnosis
- Programme data, e.g. number of adults/children on antiretroviral therapy (ART) - from national audit of HIV services carried out in 2017 by the Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme (SHCPP).
- Data from an Irish study on retention in care.

Modelling was an iterative process with the best fit model chosen by HPSC and UNAIDS.

### RESULTS

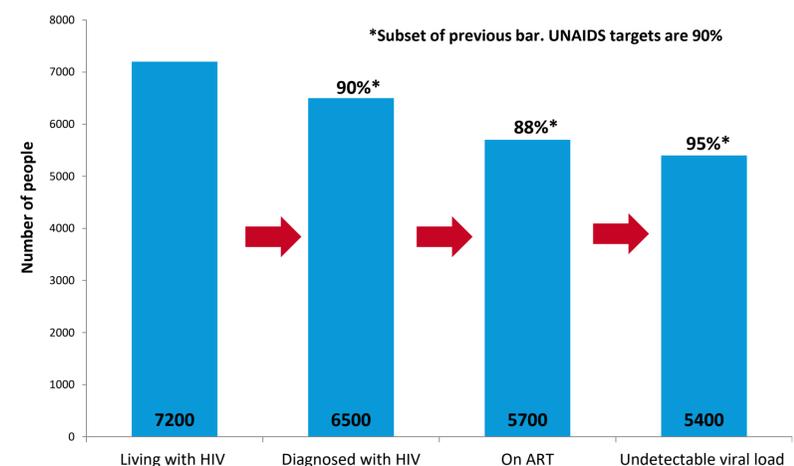
At the end of 2018, we estimated that 7,200 people (95% CI 6,200-8,000) were living with HIV giving a prevalence (among adults) of 0.2% (95% CI 0.18-0.22%).

Figure 1 shows the continuum of HIV care in 2018

- 90% of people living with HIV were diagnosed
- 88% of people diagnosed with HIV were on ART and
- 95% of people on ART had an undetectable viral load

Overall, 76% of people living with HIV in Ireland had an undetectable viral load

Figure 1: Continuum of HIV care for Ireland, 2018



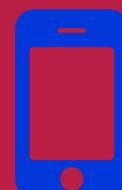
### CONCLUSIONS

HPSC worked closely with UNAIDS to develop these estimates using statistical modelling methods and available HIV surveillance data.

Just over three quarters of all people living with HIV in Ireland at the end of 2018 were on ART and had an undetectable viral load and therefore cannot transmit HIV to their sexual partners. While this exceeds the UNAIDS target (73%), further work is needed to improve outcomes at every stage of the continuum.

Ongoing collaboration between HPSC, UNAIDS and other partners will lead to more accurate estimates. Good quality HIV surveillance data is vital for producing accurate estimates.

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