





THE CARIBBEAN AT AIDS 2018

Updates from the 22nd International AIDS Conference by UNAIDS Caribbean and PANCAP

#CbeanAIDS2018 July 23, 2018

Caribbean must quicken the pace to reach the 2020 targets

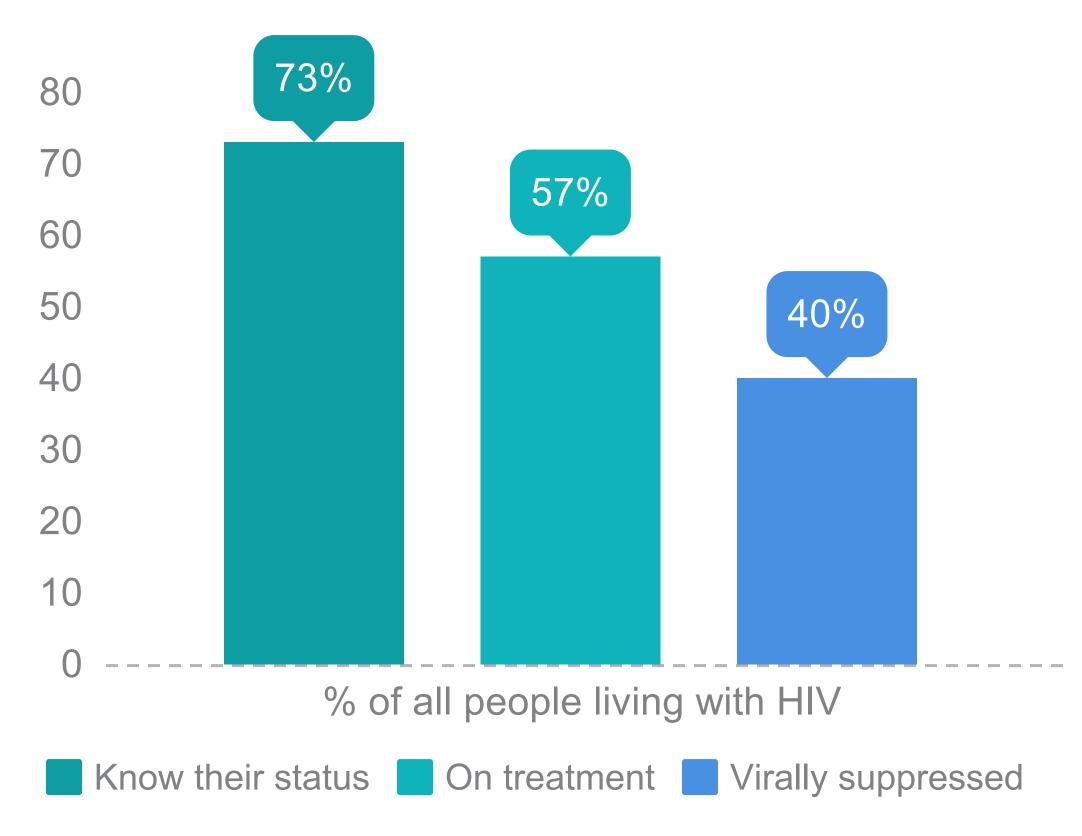
In "Miles to go—closing gaps, breaking barriers", a new report launched last week ahead of the 22nd International AIDS Conference, UNAIDS warns that quick action is needed to put the global AIDS response back on course to reach the 2020 targets.

The alarm is especially relevant for the Caribbean where an estimated 310,000 people were living with HIV at the end of 2017. Almost three of four (73%) people living with HIV in the region were aware of their status. Of all people living with HIV, 57% were on treatment and 40% were virally suppressed.

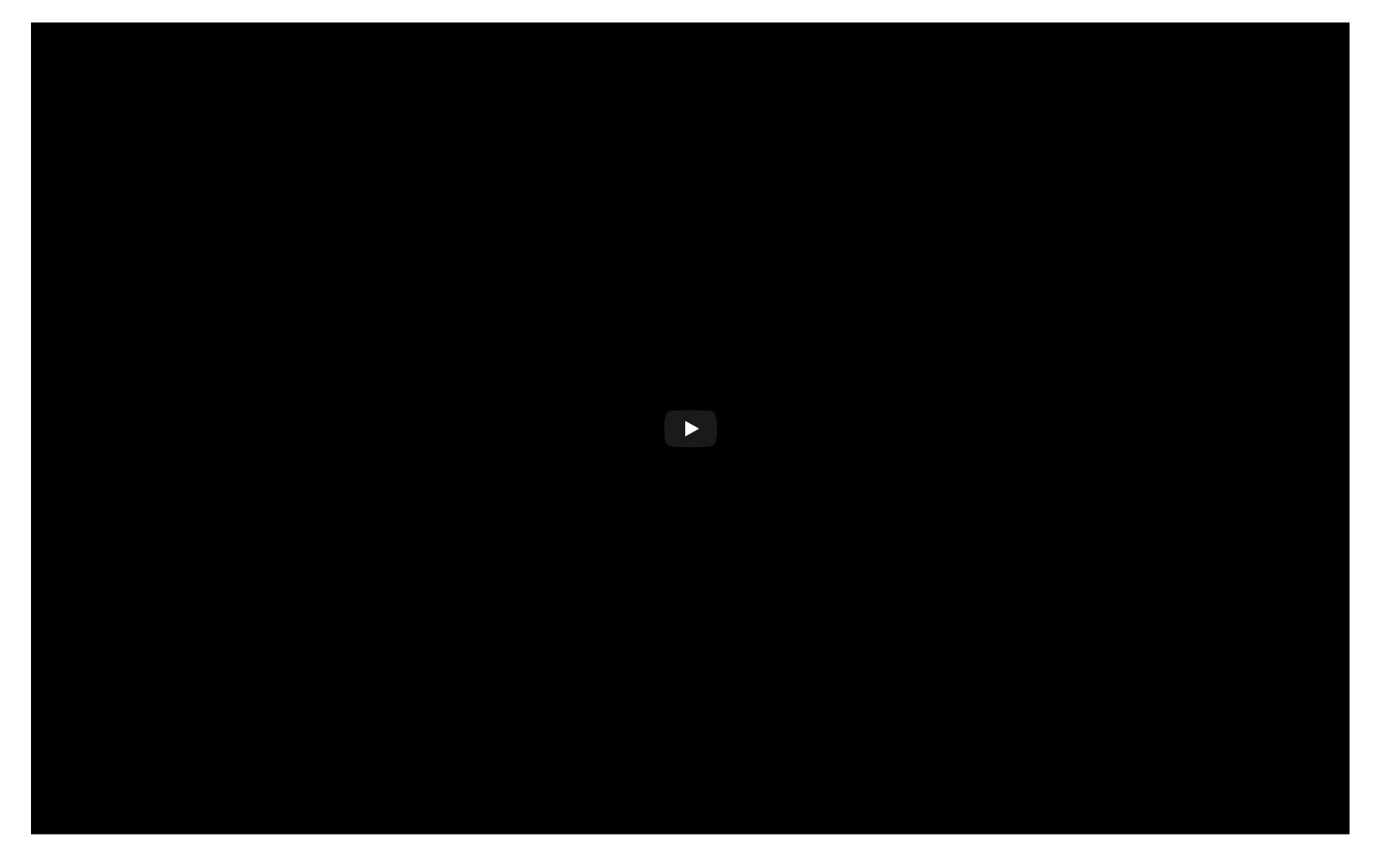
"The Caribbean has to quicken the pace in ensuring that people living with HIV know their status, start treatment and achieve viral suppression," said Dr. César Núñez, Director of the UNAIDS Latin America and Caribbean Regional Support Team. "AIDS programmes, governments, civil society and development partners must work together to ensure that no one is left behind because of their age, sex,

Click to read the new UNAIDS report (Caribbean chapter p. 224)

Caribbean HIV testing and treatment cascade, 2017



One year later, how far has the region progressed?



Generation Now. AIDS2018 clears the way for young leaders



Surinamese youth delegation at HIV Next Gen event

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 22nd International AIDS Conference this evening, AIDS2018 International Chair Linda-Gail Bekker, emphasized that this year's conference features the largest ever Youth Village, the most youth participants and a specific mandate to include young people in all conversations.

"One of the most unique aspects of our programme is how it bridges young advocates and seasoned professionals and gives them resources they need to break down barriers," Bekker said. "They have full permission to ask 'does this make sense' and 'what does this mean for me?"

At the Generation Now: Our Health, Our Rights pre-conference event yesterday, researchers, advocates and frontline workers came together to connect the dots between HIV, sexual and reproductive health and the unique needs of adolescents.

These synergies are particularly relevant for the Caribbean where one of three new HIV infections is among young people ages 15 - 24 and one of five live births is to a teen mother. In tomorrow's edition you will meet Eve for Life Peer Educator and Life Coach, Monique McDonald, one of the dynamic Caribbean youth leaders at AIDS 2018.

Click here to learn more about Generation Now

Quilt for a cause: Caribbean women living with HIV showcase art as therapy



Above: a quilt about HIV, disclosure, gender equality, condom use and reproductive health

Left: Olive Edwards, JCW+ and **ICW** Caribbean



Olive Edwards, Regional Coordinator of the International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW) in the Caribbean and Convenor of the Jamaica Community of Positive Women (JCW+), is ready to multitask at AIDS 2018.

While preparing JCW+'s display with its handmade quilts at the Marketplace yesterday, she explained that the initiative is meant both to raise funds and "to showcase the psycho-social therapy used to serve our advocacy around ending violence against women". The booth features quilts by positive women from Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

According to Edwards, their work with women living with HIV necessarily involves documenting and addressing domestic violence experiences. Connect with them at Booth 716 to learn more.





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Have a story to share from AIDS2018? Please email images, key messages and presentations to martinc@unaids.org or taustin.consultant@caricom.org



