

## From Research to Rollout: A look at where we are in HIV prevention



*Px Wire is AVAC's quarterly update covering the latest in the field of biomedical HIV prevention research and development, implementation and advocacy. Each issue includes updates, emerging issues and upcoming events.*

## PrEP Tracker Data / Progress in PrEP Uptake

The latest data from our [Global PrEP Tracker](#) and our [HIV Prevention Resource Tracking Report](#) shows progress in expanding access to oral PrEP, and positive trends in research and development funding for PrEP.

This is good news as we know that research alone will not end the epidemic. Effective products must be paired with robust programs and services to deliver them—and these programs must be designed by and with the people who need them most. Dollars for the HIV response must go up, not down, to reach global targets and end the epidemic.

### Important Progress in Ending AIDS by 2030, But ...

**Success = Evidence-Informed + Rights-Based + Person-Centered + Adequately Resourced**

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Hard won progress in expanding access to all PrEP products, detailed below, will not keep pace with global targets if a comprehensive, rights-based approach gives way under pressure from increasing stigma, anti-LGBTQIA+ laws or faltering investment.

### PrEP Milestones

#### Global

- ➔ The world reached nearly 5 million global cumulative PrEP initiations (4,929,913 as of June 2023), nearly double the total from one year ago.
- ➔ Overall, quarterly increases are showing modest upward trends, much of which is attributable to PEPFAR's steady countries already receiving PEPFAR support, and the launch of PrEP programs in new countries.

#### Country Level

- ➔ There's been a significant uptick in the number of new countries who have begun delivering PrEP, bringing the total number of countries reporting PrEP initiations to 128. As of Q2 2023, 12 additional countries have begun to offer PrEP: [Armenia](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Belize](#), [Djibouti](#), [Dominica](#), [Gambia](#), [Lebanon](#), [Lithuania](#), [Madagascar](#), [Maldives](#), [Mongolia](#), and [Uzbekistan](#).
- ➔ Countries in Latin America are slowly starting to scale up PrEP: [Argentina](#), [Chile](#), and [Colombia](#) have surpassed 1,000 initiations, while [Guatemala](#) has topped 15,000 initiations.
- ➔ A few countries in Europe have also hit milestones: [Czechia](#) surpassed 1,000 initiations, [Spain](#) 10,000 initiations, and [France](#) 50,000 initiations.
- ➔ As in prior quarters, countries in Africa have seen the most PrEP scale-up. [Cameroon](#) and [Ghana](#) have surpassed 10,000 initiations, [Malawi](#) 50,000 initiations, [Lesotho](#) 100,000 initiations, and [Mozambique](#) and [Tanzania](#) 200,000 initiations.

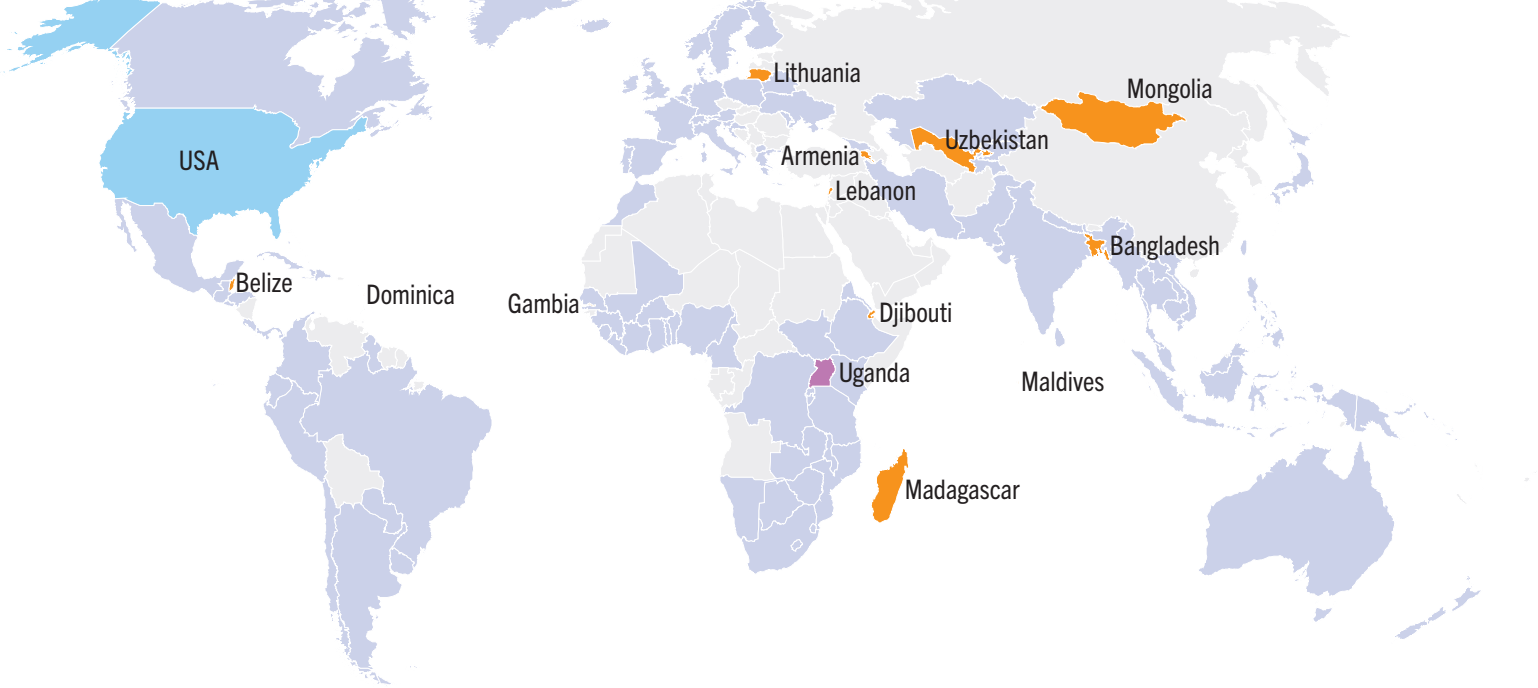
## Global PrEP Uptake

**106** countries already delivering PrEP

**12** new countries that started delivering PrEP

**1** Country reporting oral PrEP and CAB

**1** Country reporting oral and ring PrEP



## PrEParing for New Products



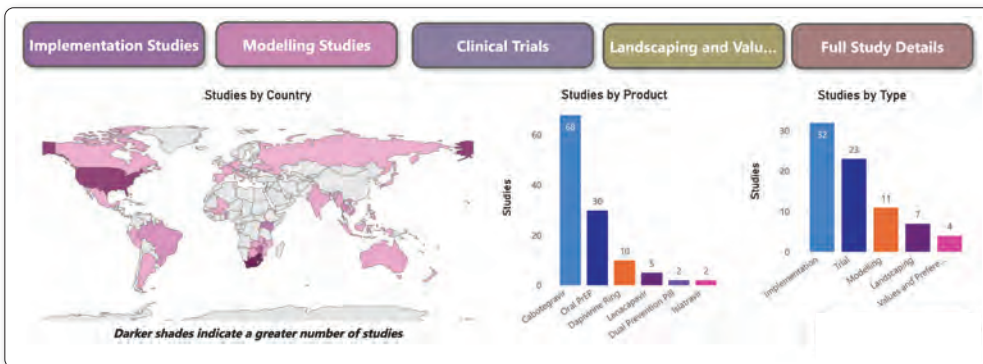
The African Women’s HIV Prevention Community Accountability Board (AWPCAB) launched its *HIV Prevention Choice Manifesto* in Kampala, Uganda on September 8, 2023. The Manifesto marks a historic milestone in community leadership and prioritization of choice in HIV prevention. [Learn more here.](#)

AVAC’s new *Integrated Study Dashboard* (IS Dashboard) shares all known PrEP implementation research, modeling studies, clinical trials, open label extensions and landscaping research that are introducing new PrEP options.

## Injectable PrEP Approvals

- ➔ The EU commission and the government of Zambia have approved CAB for PrEP. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ (ASEAN) recent favorable recommendation has led the Philippines and Malaysia to also approve CAB for PrEP. Further approvals are expected in Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.
- ➔ ViiV submitted for CAB approval in Cote d’Ivoire, Rwanda, Tanzania and Mozambique.

## Integrated Study Dashboard



The IS Dashboard is updated in real time, whenever AVAC is made aware of a new study or updates to a study. We’ve observed recent trends in implementation science (IS) studies including:

- ➔ **An increase in IS studies including Pregnant and Lactating Populations (PLP):** eight of 29 CAB for PrEP studies

now explicitly include PLP. For more information on PLP in HIV prevention research, see AVAC's [Including Pregnant and Lactating Populations in HIV Prevention Research](#) factsheet.

➤ **Only one CAB IS study is planned for people who use/inject drugs (PWU/ID).** A lack of data on how best to reach this population with CAB for PrEP will make rollout more challenging. For more information, see The Choice Agenda's recent webinar [How do People Who Use/Inject Drugs Intersect with PrEP Research and Service Delivery?](#)

➤ **Many IS studies are testing models of Differentiated Service Delivery (DSD).** To maximize access to CAB for PrEP, many IS studies are testing delivery using non-traditional delivery channels, such as pharmacies and community-based delivery. More information is on the Full Study Details tab on the dashboard.

➤ Visit our [Country Planning for Product Introduction](#) tool, which **tracks the regulatory status of CAB for PrEP and the dapivirine vaginal ring** alongside late stage clinical trials, implementation research, and oral PrEP provision. This tool also includes **PEPFAR's plans for CAB procurement**, showing plans for **CAB in Malawi, Ukraine, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe as early as 2023.**

## The HIV Prevention Pipeline: The latest in research, development and more

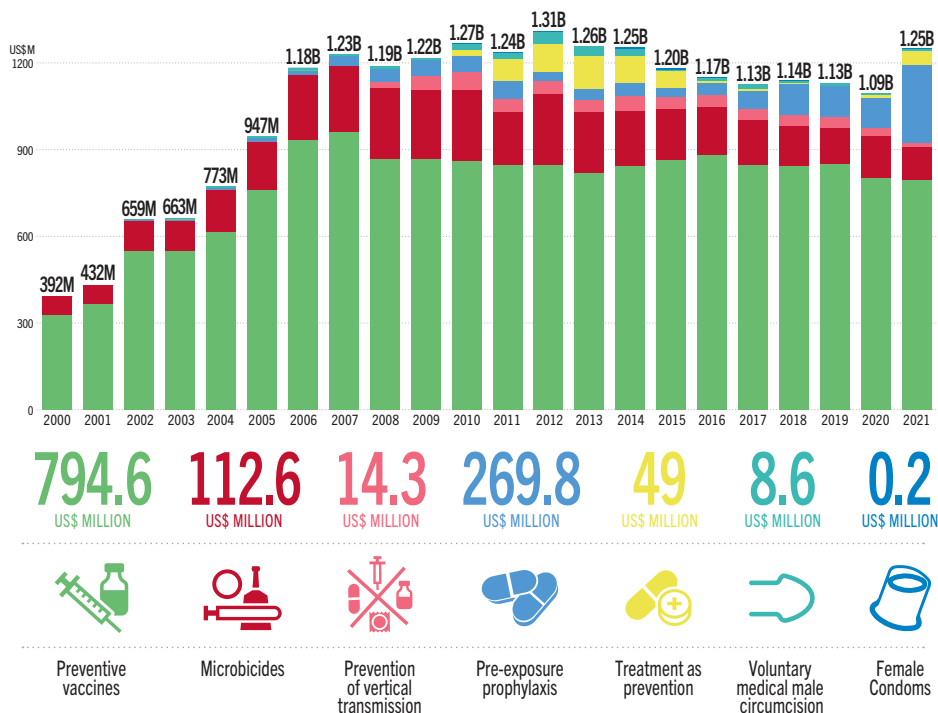


In its 17th annual [report](#) released in July, the Resource Tracking for HIV Prevention R&D Working Group, a collaboration among AVAC, IAVI and UNAIDS, documents 22 years of investment in biomedical HIV prevention R&D, including HIV vaccines, PrEP, microbicides, voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC), treatment as prevention (TasP) or undetectable equals untransmittable (U=U), female condoms and prevention of vertical transmission (PVT). The full report is [here](#), and key highlights below:

➤ The total investment in HIV prevention R&D was US \$1.25 billion in 2021, a 12% increase since 2020. A shift of funding from microbicides and prevention of vertical transmission (PVT) toward PrEP, treatment as prevention (TasP) and voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) was observed.

➤ Investment from the US public sector increased from US \$857 million to US \$922 million in 2021, which made up 73% of all global funding for HIV prevention R&D in 2021.

### Global HIV Prevention R&D Investment by Technology Category, 2000-2021 (US\$ millions)



➤ Funding for preventive HIV vaccines decreased but continued to make up the bulk of overall HIV prevention funding at 64%. At the same time, PrEP overtook microbicides by a large margin in 2021 for the first time. Yet, when PrEP and microbicide research investments are combined (as several donors now do), there was a 52% increase in this broad ARV-based prevention category. The shift toward TasP may reflect the acceleration of U=U strategies, as well as emerging new PrEP options.

➤ The total investment in HIV cure R&D was US \$439 million in 2021, a 30% increase since 2020. Sustained geographic diversity was observed, with several countries joining the US to increase their funding, including Canada, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

# Prevention Playlist

Read, join or listen to these essential resources to the global conversation on HIV Prevention and global health equity.



## JOIN

- ➔ AVAC 2024 Advocacy Fellows Applications Now Open! Learn all about it [here](#).
- ➔ AVAC's *Advocates' Network* brings you timely updates about developments in the biomedical HIV prevention field. Sign up today.
- ➔ The biennial International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa, **ICASA**, will take place December 4-9 in Zimbabwe. [Register here](#).



## READ

- ➔ *From Brisbane to Chicago: A look at STIs, HIV and Global Health*—a look back at two global conferences, IAS2023 and the 2023 STI and HIV world Congress (also known as ISSTD).
- ➔ A UNAIDS high-level meeting in May brought together advocates and experts through the *Global HIV Prevention Coalition* to discuss how to bolster the HIV response and advance global health equity. Read AVAC's [summary](#).
- ➔ *Our Take: Is the UN Declaration on PPPR and the Pandemic Accord going in the right direction?* AVAC's blog explores the current drafts of the Pandemic Accord and the UN Declaration on PPPR—and their implications for equity in global health.
- ➔ AVAC's *Product Introduction Country Planning Matrix* tracks the regulatory status of cabotegravir for PrEP and the dapivirine vaginal ring, along with related implementation research, procurement plans, and oral PrEP provision.
- ➔ *PrEP In Black America, PrEP4All, Treatment Action Group* and AVAC co-hosted a webinar that explored the latest research on mpox and the ongoing fight to address disparities in infection rates that impact Black communities. [Listen here](#).
- ➔ The *Market Preparation and Introduction Strategy for the Dual Prevention Pill (DPP)*, has been updated and offers a roadmap on next steps to bring the DPP to market.

- ➔ The research journal *Frontiers in Reproductive Health* published a special issue on multipurpose prevention technologies (MPTs), including the article co-authored by AVAC's Kate Segal and partners in our *DPP Consortium, Equipping providers to offer novel MPTs: Developing counseling messages for the Dual Prevention Pill in clinical studies and beyond*.
- ➔ AVAC Condemns Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill: AVAC's statement denounces the law and calls for solidarity with Uganda's LGBTQIA+ and civil rights advocates.



## WATCH AND LISTEN

- ➔ *ClusterF\*#k: Molecular HIV Surveillance, Criminalization, and The Real Risks to PLHIV*—this webinar explored the intersection of surveillance, bodily autonomy and criminalization.
- ➔ *What's All the Buzz About: mRNA, manufacturing, vaccine access*—this webinar explored how local manufacturing and the new mRNA Hub in South Africa could facilitate access and support R&D.
- ➔ *To bNAb or Not to bNAb? The case for broadly neutralizing antibodies*—AVAC and partners explored the potential role of bNAbs in prevention, the status of research and development, and implications for HIV vaccine research in this webinar.
- ➔ The 11th annual South Africa AIDS Conference took place June 20-23 in Durban, South Africa. AVAC and CASPR partners hosted a buzzing Research Literacy Networking Zone. See the [full schedule here](#), and [recordings here](#).
- ➔ *PrEP That Booty: The latest on rectal microbicide research for the back door*—this webinar looked at the pipeline for shorter-acting, user-controlled products providing rectal protection.
- ➔ *PEPFAR at 20: Keeping the promise*—AVAC's latest podcast episode unpacks the impact of PEPFAR and the politics of reauthorization.

## About AVAC



AVAC is an international non-profit organization that leverages its independent voice and global partnerships to accelerate ethical development and equitable delivery of effective HIV prevention options, as part of a comprehensive and integrated pathway to global health equity. Follow AVAC on Twitter [@HIVpxresearch](#); find more at [www.avac.org](#), [www.prepwatch.org](#) and [www.stiwatch.org](#).