

# Geographical distribution of HIV burden in Malawi: Where is the gap in achieving the 3rd 90?

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## BACKGROUND

- Malawi has a generalized epidemic, but previous studies have shown that the prevalence varies widely by geography, gender and other socio-economic factors.
- The Malawi Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (MPHIA) is a population-based survey that was conducted to measure national and subnational HIV prevalence in 0 – 64 year olds and viral load suppression in 15-64 year olds.

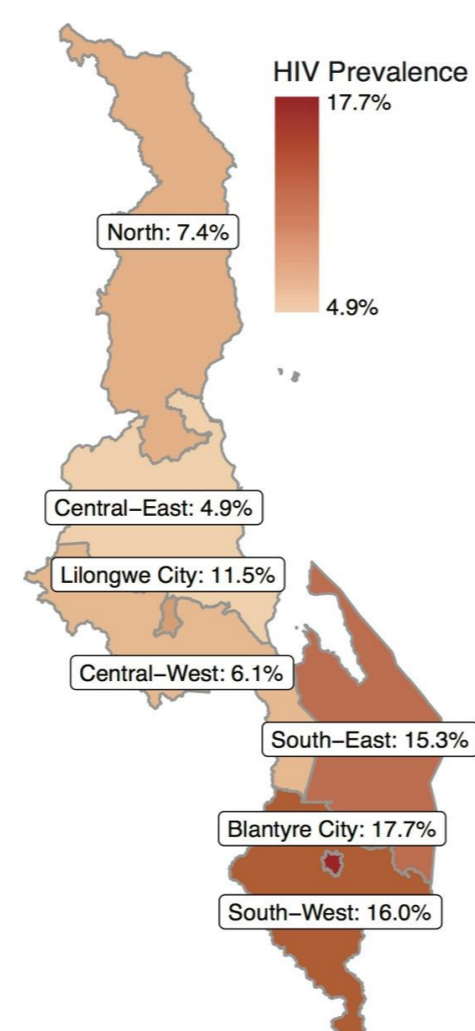
## METHODS

- MPHIA was conducted from November 2015 to August 2016; the sample was stratified by seven geographical zones.
- Home-based HIV rapid testing and Geenius test for confirmation at satellite labs were conducted.
- HIV-positive samples were tested for viral load suppression (<1,000 copies/mL) and recency of infection using LAg-Avidity EIA.
- Weighted point estimates and survey-adjusted 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were calculated using the Jackknife replication method.

## RESULTS

- The weighted national HIV prevalence among 15-64 year olds was 10.6%, 95% CI: 10.0, 11.2; [females (12.5%, 95% CI: 11.7, 13.4) and males (8.5%, 95% CI: 7.8, 9.2)].
- By region, HIV prevalence was highest in the South, particularly in Blantyre City (17.7%, 95% CI: 16.0, 19.4). Blantyre City also had the lowest viral load suppression (59.5%, 95% CI: 54.2, 64.8 ) among adults living with HIV.
- HIV prevalence in Lilongwe City (11.5%, 95% CI: 10.2, 12.8) was higher than the other two zones in the Central region Central East (4.9%, 95% CI: 3.8, 6.0) and Central West (6.1%, 95% CI: 5.1, 7.1).

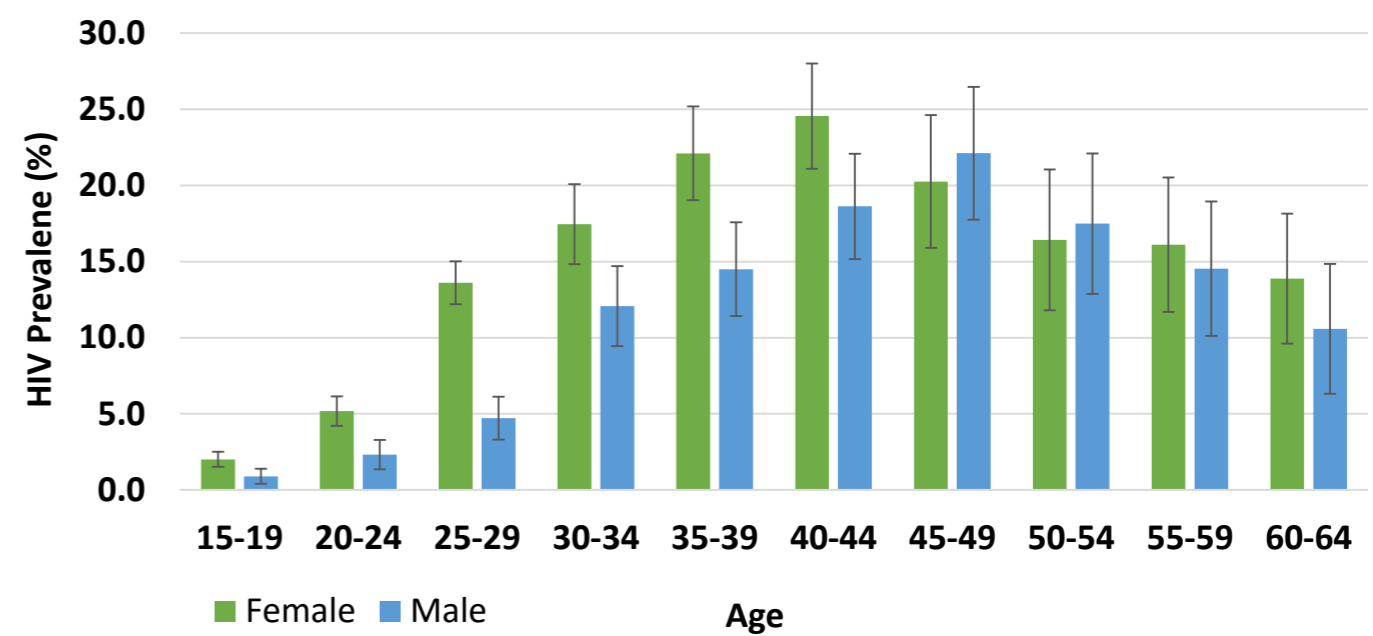
HIV prevalence among adults aged 15-64, by zone



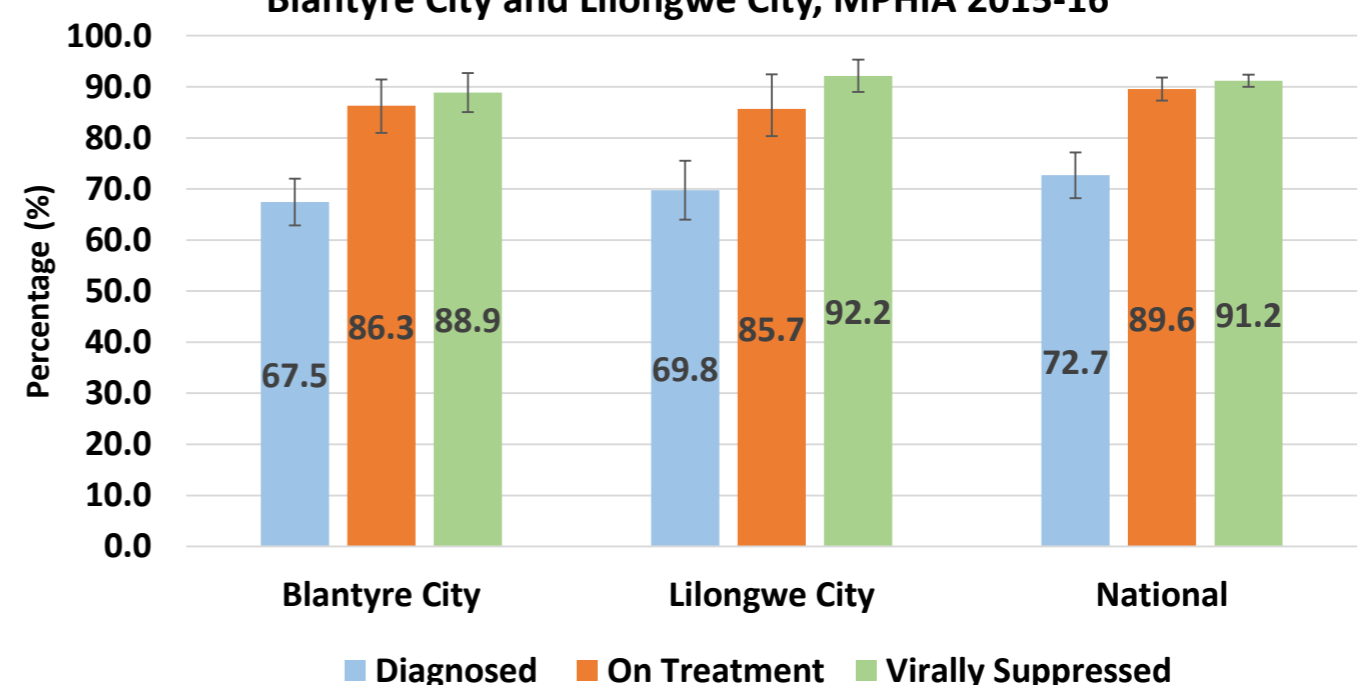
## CONCLUSION

- HIV epidemic continues to show geographical variation and gender disparities with significant regional differences in HIV prevalence and viral load suppression among adults.
- Southern Region has the highest HIV burden and Blantyre City has the largest gap in achieving viral load suppression targets, suggesting that the HIV program in Malawi need to be strengthened even more in the Southern Region, but improvements are needed across the country to reach the last of the UNAIDS 90-90-90 goals.
- Improved focus on testing and treatment services is needed in Blantyre City and Lilongwe City.

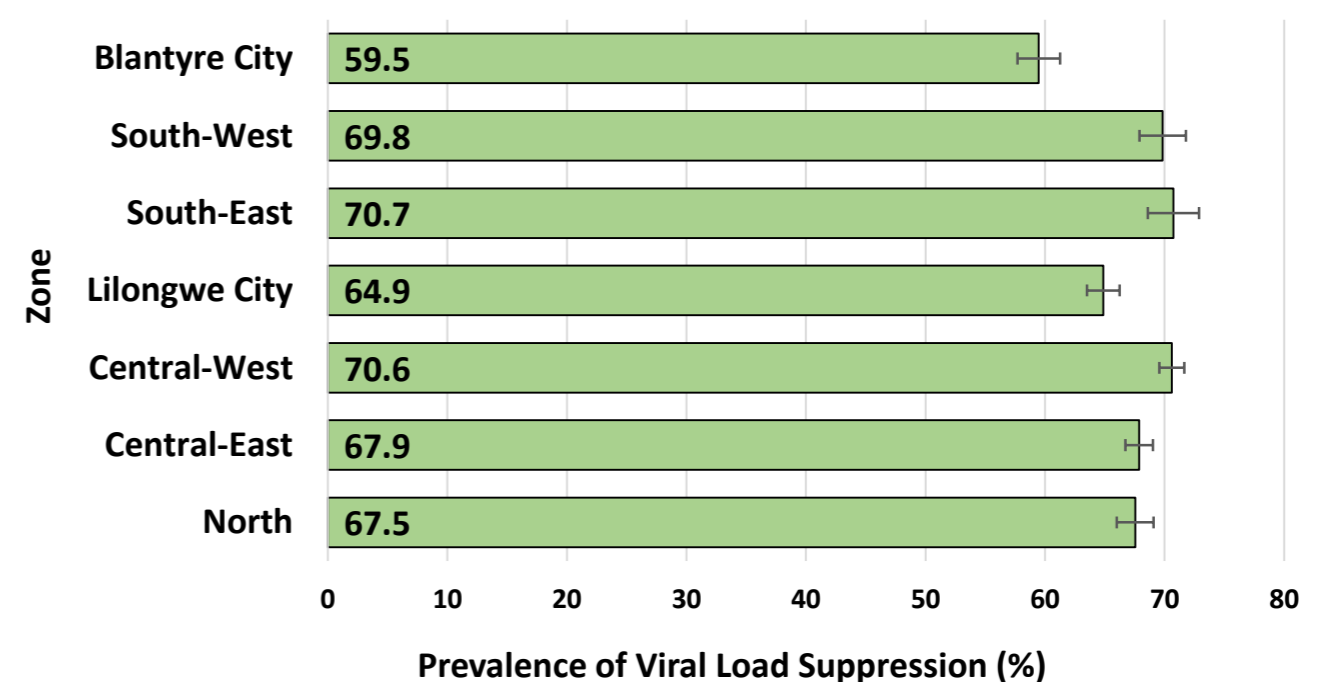
Prevalence of HIV among persons age 15-64 years, by sex and age, MPHIA 2015-2016



Progress to 90-90-90 Among Adults 15-64, Nationally and in Blantyre City and Lilongwe City, MPHIA 2015-16



Prevalence of Viral Load Suppression among HIV positive persons age 15-64, by zone, MPHIA 2015-2016



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