MONITORING HIV CARE IN BRAZIL: 
A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO REDUCE THE HIV TREATMENT GAP


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BACKGROUND

One of the challenges of the Brazilian’s HIV treatment program is to monitor and evaluate clinical and epidemiological aspects of HIV responses to adopt strategies to cover treatment gaps of people living with HIV (PLHIV). To move towards achieving the 90-90-90 targets, the country has been implementing the Clinical Monitoring System of People Living with HIV (SIMC); and has been developing efforts in partnership with municipalities and states to scale up early treatment of HIV patients, as soon as possible after they receive diagnosis in the health care services. SIMC is an important tool to management process of continuous care of PLHIV and it’s available without costs to municipalities, states and public health services in Brazil.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A cross-sectional study was carried out to describe data related to PLHIV treatment. The results were obtained from SIMC through data crossing of a national laboratory system that shows individual CD4 count and HIV viral load results and a national antiretroviral delivery control system. The period analysed was January 2014 until December 2017. SIMC shows treatment GAP - PLHIV that are not on ART - and monthly monitors the inclusion of these patients into treatment.

RESULTS

Between January 2014 and December 2017, 167,650 PLHIV who had not started antiretroviral therapy were identified in SIMC, 136,398 cases were analyzed, 115,637 patients were located and started treatment over the period, and 43,603 were not assessed and did not initiate ART. Between June 2016 and December 2017, 27,909 PLHIV left treatment GAP (Figure 1). Currently, SIMC enables to monitor PLHIV without ART, lost to follow up (> 100 days without antiretroviral delivery) or still have detectable viral load despite ART.

CONCLUSIONS

SIMC represents an important technological innovation, essential for improve quality of health care for PLHIV, contributing to actions that may impact the 90-90-90 targets for HIV and to eliminate of the AIDS epidemic in Brazil until 2030.

Treatment GAP in Brazil between June 2016 and December 2017