



AIDS 2024, the 25th International AIDS Conference

In brief:

Location:	Munich, Germany, and virtual
Dates:	22 – 26 July 2024
Pre-conferences:	20 – 21 July 2024
Theme:	AIDS 2024: <i>Put people first!</i>
Estimated participants:	15,000
Participants hailing from:	Over 170 countries

AIDS 2024, the 25th International AIDS Conference, will convene thousands of people living with, affected by and working on HIV to share knowledge, best practices and lessons learnt from the HIV response over the past 40 years, as well as from the responses to COVID-19, mpox and other public health threats. AIDS 2024 in Munich, Germany, will provide a powerful platform to strategically align around a unified and equitable response to the pandemic. It will signal to the world that the HIV response is united behind an evidenced-based approach that puts people first.

Background

The 40-plus years of the HIV response have seen remarkable progress.

As long as access to treatment is available, an HIV diagnosis is no longer about fear and despair: with innovations in treatment, HIV has become a chronic and manageable condition. Since the peak in 2004, the number of AIDS-related deaths has dropped by 69%, according to UNAIDS, as access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) has scaled up. More people than ever before – 29.8 million – were accessing ART in 2022. About 1.3 million people acquired HIV in 2022 – a third fewer than in 2010 and fewer than at any time since the late 1980s – alongside advances in preventing vertical transmission, U=U (undetectable = untransmittable) and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

This progress has been bolstered by service delivery innovations and collaborations, accelerated in part by the response to COVID-19. Among them are preventing treatment interruptions, expanding testing options such as self-testing, and providing more choices in HIV prevention modalities, tools and delivery systems.



There is now a clear path to ending the pandemic as a threat to public health and individual well-being, the [latest UNAIDS report](#) points out. And countries that put people and communities first in their policies and programmes are leading the way.

Despite progress, however, 9.2 million people living with HIV are not accessing life-saving treatment and 630,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses in 2022 – that is one life every minute. HIV is still most prevalent in central, eastern, western and southern Africa – home to 65% of all people living with HIV, with women and girls disproportionately affected. There were also sharp increases in acquisitions in other areas in 2022: for example, almost a quarter were in Asia and the Pacific.

As UNAIDS says, this points to a lack of HIV prevention services for marginalized and key populations and the barriers posed by punitive laws and social discrimination.

There is still a need for more innovative approaches to prevent new HIV acquisitions, especially among key populations: gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, prisoners and other incarcerated people, sex workers and their clients, and trans people.

The challenges and obstacles that lie in the path of reaching our targets are many. Among them are stigma and discrimination, abiding and rising criminalization, and structural inequalities between populations and countries. Sustained funding is crucial to continue making progress in HIV prevention, treatment and care, but funding for HIV declined in 2022 to levels last seen in 2013, according to UNAIDS, and this is partly due to resources being redirected to crises like COVID-19.

There is an urgent need to work together to overcome these barriers and harness science and innovation to build on our progress.

***Put people first!* – the official AIDS 2024 theme**

AIDS 2024 calls on the global HIV response to re-examine itself against a simple principle: Does it put people first?

According to IAS President Sharon Lewin: "In a world plagued by inequality, putting people first across all aspects of the HIV response is a moral imperative and the only viable route to progress. Whether in the design of clinical trials, the formulation of policies or any other aspect of our efforts, people living with and affected by HIV must be not just beneficiaries but the actors driving our efforts."

Renewing our sense of urgency

The 25th International AIDS Conference will showcase just how far we've come in the HIV response, but will also be a critical moment for us to renew our sense of urgency. That is what is

22 – 26 July · Munich, Germany, and virtual



required if we are to create a world in which healthy lives are ensured and well-being is promoted for all, regardless of age, region or population. At AIDS 2024, we will map out what must happen in the HIV response so that we meet our targets.

We will highlight cutting-edge research that may include the latest on long-acting prevention and treatment, breakthroughs in HIV vaccine research, and the hope that gene editing technology like CRISPR raises for a cure. We will explore innovations in HIV service delivery to prevent interruptions in treatment and prevention, person-centred approaches to integrate HIV services with other health needs, and pioneering research on addressing stigma and discrimination. And, among other crucial issues, we will explore best practices in policies and laws that address social and structural barriers to accessing healthcare for people living with and affected by HIV.

The legacy of this conference will be to refocus on prioritizing people and uniting the HIV response to overcome HIV as a threat to public health and individual well-being.

A spotlight on eastern Europe

Eastern Europe is home to one of the fastest-growing HIV epidemics in the world, driven by a lack of access to health services for people who use drugs and exacerbated by the disruption and instability of the war in Ukraine, mass migration and faltering economies.

According to UNAIDS, 160,000 people acquired HIV in eastern Europe and central Asia in 2022, a 49% increase since 2010. The number of AIDS-related deaths in the region in 2022 have increased by 46% since 2010.

AIDS 2024 will highlight the challenges that remain for the HIV response in eastern Europe – a lack of funding, persistent stigma and discrimination, criminalization of drug use and sex work in many countries, and generally weak health systems – and provide a platform to discuss solutions.

Welcome to Munich

Munich is well known for its scientific excellence, economic strength, outstanding conference facilities, transportation network and its geographic proximity to eastern Europe. The city offers a hospitable environment for all conference delegates, including those from marginalized groups, to gather and exchange ideas without concerns for their health and safety.

The host country, at the heart of Europe, is a leader in the HIV response in Europe and exceeded the 90-90-90 targets in 2020. AIDS 2024 provides an opportunity to highlight Germany's evidence-based approach and local progress in the HIV response. It includes:



- A strong political commitment to the HIV response, backed by a comprehensive strategy to prevent new acquisitions and provide care and support for people living with HIV
- Universal access to HIV treatment and healthcare, as well as a large network of specialized HIV treatment centres
- High-quality HIV services with a focus on person-centred care and multidisciplinary support
- Support and significant funding for outreach programmes and harm reduction services for key populations
- Innovative HIV research at leading institutions that focus on prevention, treatment and cure strategies

A focus on inclusivity

Uniting the HIV response can only be successful if as many people as possible have a seat at the table, have access to the latest science and can make their voices heard. To this end, AIDS 2024 will:

- Provide thousands of scholarships to ensure that travel and cost barriers don't prevent people from the most affected regions of the world from attending.
- Offer registration rates for young people and people from lower-income countries up to 90% below the full registration fee.
- Continue bringing the latest science emerging at the conference to various locations around the globe – at no cost to participants – through the IAS Educational Fund.
- Provide free online access to all major conference sessions one month after the conference for IAS Members and two months after the conference for the general public.

Meet the co-chairs

- Sharon Lewin: IAS President and International Co-Chair, Australia. [Full bio](#)
- Andriy Klepikov: Co-Chair representing eastern Europe, Ukraine. [Full bio](#)
- Christoph D Spinner: Local Co-Chair, Germany. [Full bio](#)

Key dates (will be completed continuously):

15 November 2023:

- Registration opens
- Abstract submissions open
- Scholarship submissions open
- Global Village submissions open
- Satellites and exhibition submissions open

3 March 2024

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- Submissions open for Affiliated Independent Events

18 April 2024

- Late-breaker abstract submissions open

20-21 July 2024

- AIDS 2024 pre-conference meetings

22-26 July 2025

- AIDS 2024, the 25th International AIDS Conference

About the International AIDS Conference

The International AIDS Conference is the premier global platform to advance the HIV response. As the world's largest conference on HIV and AIDS, it sits uniquely at the intersection of science, advocacy and human rights, bringing together scientists, policy makers, healthcare professionals, people living with HIV, funders, media and communities. Since its start in 1985, the conference has served as an opportunity to strengthen policies and programmes that ensure an evidence-based response to HIV and related epidemics.

About the International AIDS Society

IAS – the International AIDS Society – convenes, educates and advocates for a world in which HIV no longer presents a threat to public health and individual well-being. After the emergence of HIV and AIDS, concerned scientists created the IAS to bring together experts from across the world and disciplines to promote a concerted HIV response. Today, the IAS and its members unite scientists, policy makers and activists to galvanize the scientific response, build global solidarity and enhance human dignity for all those living with and affected by HIV. The IAS also hosts the most important global HIV conferences: the International AIDS Conference, the IAS Conference on HIV Science and the HIV Research for Prevention Conference.