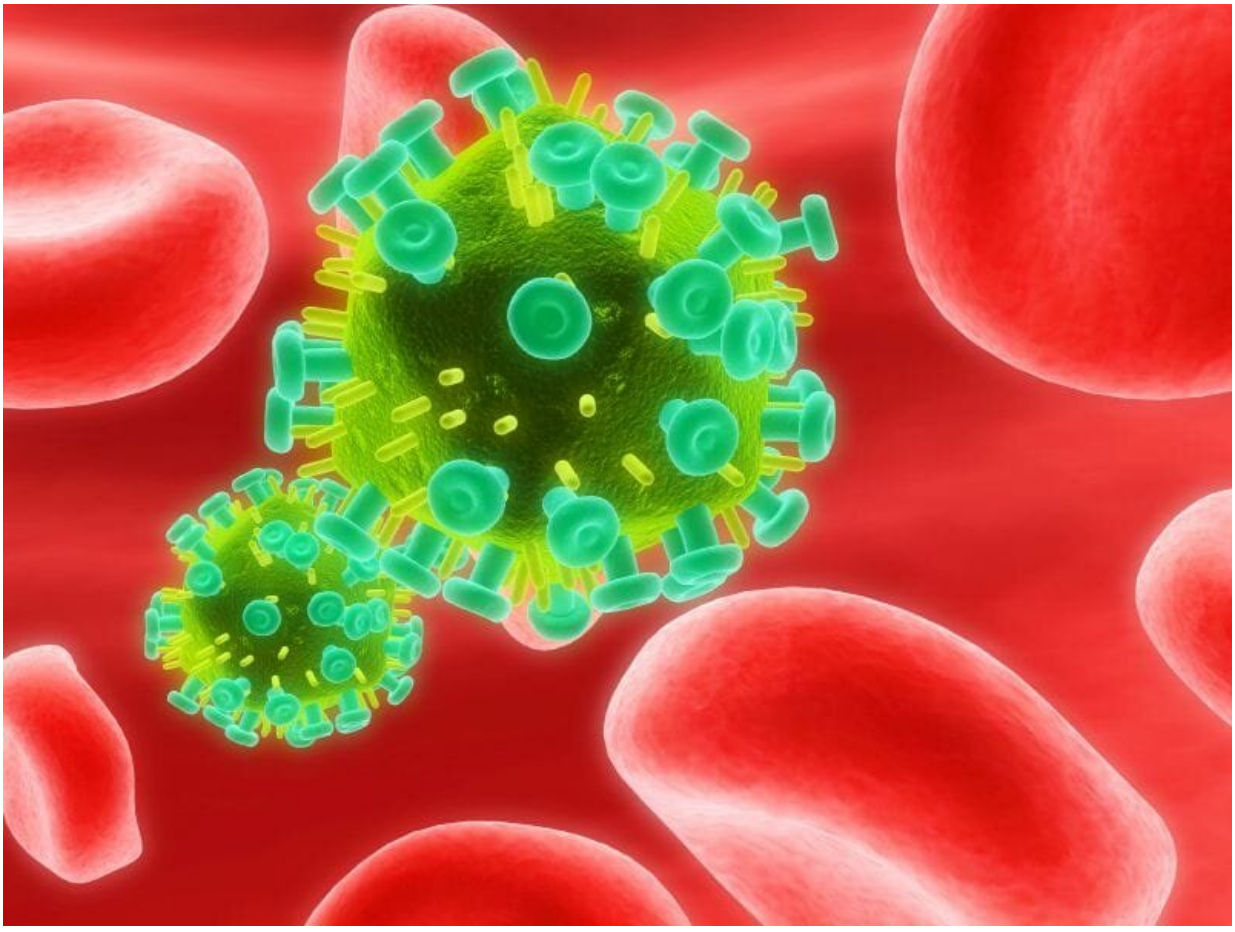
New HIV infections remained stable in U.S. from 2013 to 2017

December 5 2019



From 2013 to 2017, the number of new HIV infections remained stable,

and only 18.1 percent of the 1.2 million people with indications for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) had been prescribed the medication in 2018, according to research published in the Dec. 3 early-release issue of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

Norma S. Harris, Ph.D., from the CDC in Atlanta, and colleagues analyzed HIV surveillance data to estimate the annual number of new HIV infections (2013 to 2017), the percentage of infections that were diagnosed (2017), and the percentage of persons with diagnosed HIV infection who had viral load suppression (2017). In addition, PrEP coverage was estimated using surveillance, pharmacy, and other data.

The researchers found that from 2013 to 2017, the number of new HIV infections remained stable (38,500 to 37,500; P = 0.488). An estimated 85.8 percent of infections were diagnosed in 2017. In 42 jurisdictions with complete reporting of laboratory data for 854,206 persons with diagnosed HIV infection, 62.7 percent had a suppressed viral load. In 2018, 18.1 percent of the estimated 1.2 million persons with indications for PrEP use had been prescribed PrEP.

"Accelerated efforts to diagnose, treat, and provide PrEP while addressing disparities, are urgently needed to reach the targets for the Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America initiative," the authors write.

More information: Abstract/Full Text

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