HepHIV 2026 by EuroTEST
2-3 NOVEMBER·DUBLIN

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WOMEN AND HIV PREP IN UKRAINE: EXPANDING ACCESS BEYOND TRADITIONAL KEY POPULATIONS

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OBJECTIVES

To describe national trends in HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) uptake among women in Ukraine between 2023 and 2025 and to characterize PrEP utilization by age, pregnancy and breastfeeding status, and HIV exposure categories.

METHODS

A retrospective descriptive analysis of routine national PrEP programme data collected between 2023 and 2025 was conducted.

The national PrEP programme is coordinated by the Public Health Center of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and implemented through approximately 300 healthcare facilities providing HIV services nationwide.

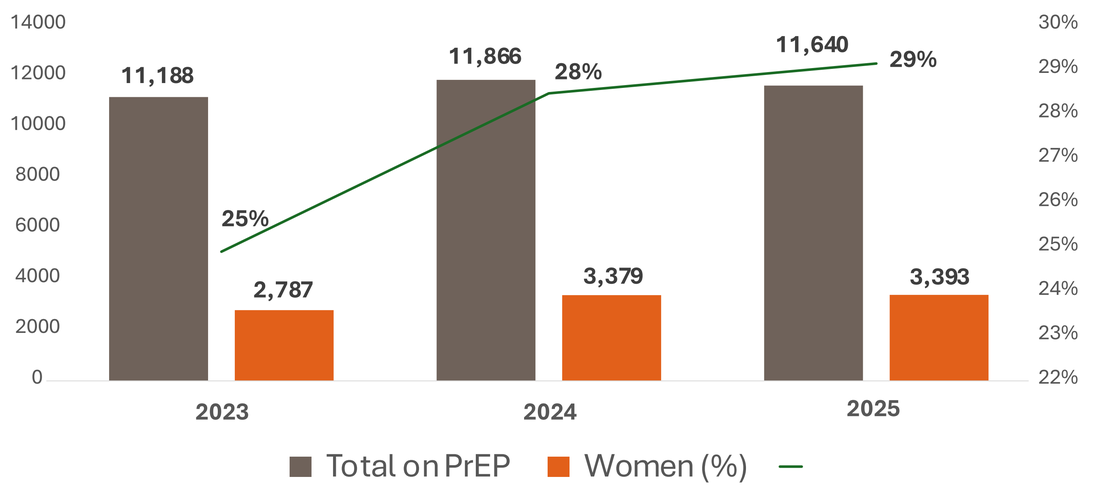
All individuals initiating PrEP received daily oral tenofovir disoproxil fumarate/emtricitabine (TDF/FTC) according to the national standard regimen.

Programme monitoring data were analysed to assess trends in PrEP uptake among women, age distribution, pregnancy and breastfeeding status, and HIV exposure categories.

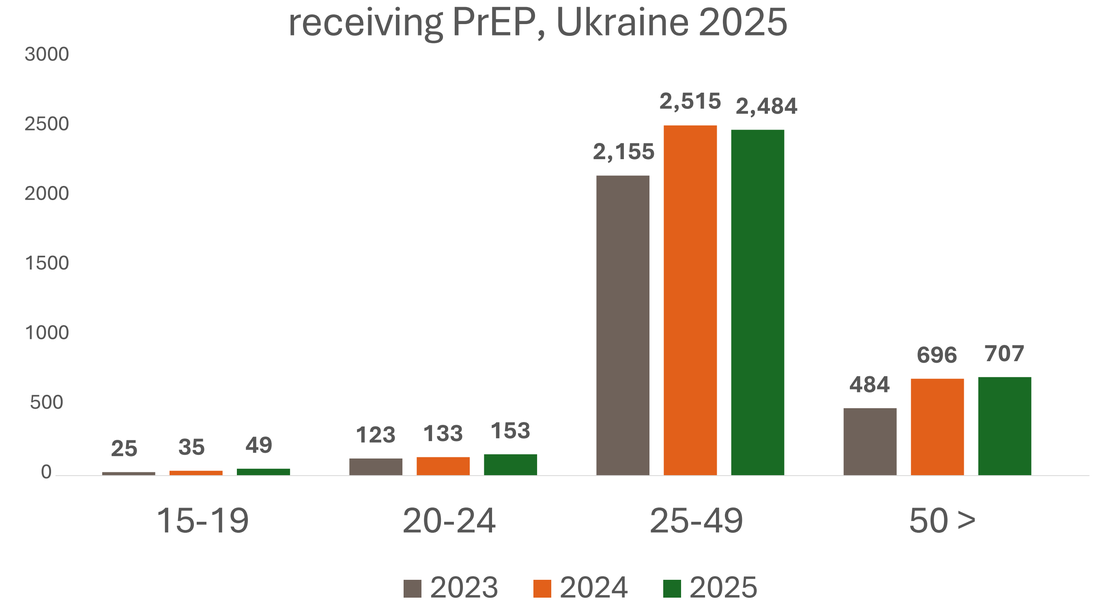
RESULTS

- The total number of PrEP users in Ukraine remained stable during 2023–2025 (11,188–11,640 annually). During the same period, the number of women receiving PrEP increased from 2,787 to 3,393, and their proportion among all PrEP users rose from 25% to 29%.
- In 2025, most women receiving PrEP were aged 25–49 years (2,484), followed by women aged ≥50 years (707), indicating increasing PrEP uptake beyond younger age groups. PrEP was also provided to pregnant women (n=8) and breastfeeding women (n=12), demonstrating implementation of HIV prevention across different reproductive stages.
- The largest subgroup of women receiving PrEP consisted of women in serodiscordant partnerships (n=1,785), followed by women reporting heterosexual HIV exposure (n=848). Female sex workers (n=339), women who inject drugs (n=376) and transgender women (n=38) represented smaller but important groups reached through the national programme.

Share of women among PrEP users, Ukraine (2023-2025)



Age distribution of women receiving PrEP, Ukraine 2025



CONCLUSIONS

National programme data demonstrate increasing uptake of PrEP among women in Ukraine despite stable overall programme coverage. The growing proportion of women receiving PrEP, including women outside traditionally targeted populations and across different reproductive stages, highlights progress towards more inclusive HIV prevention. Continued expansion of women-centred PrEP services and differentiated service delivery models will be essential to improve equitable access and sustain HIV prevention in humanitarian settings.