

Reauthorise PEPFAR to Prevent Death, Orphanhood, and Suffering for Millions of Children

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As researchers on HIV, AIDS, and paediatric health, nothing is more central to our work than preserving children's lives. Considering the current challenge to the 5-year reauthorisation of the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), we used 2023 UNAIDS estimates on the prevalence of children orphaned by AIDS; infant and young child HIV infections, and incidence of adult and child AIDS deaths to estimate PEPFAR's effect on child survival and health. We focused on sub-Saharan Africa: the region receiving more than 90% of PEPFAR funds and containing two-thirds of all people with HIV. We note that PEPFAR provides support through and in partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (to which PEPFAR is the largest donor), national governments, UNAIDS, and other UN agencies.

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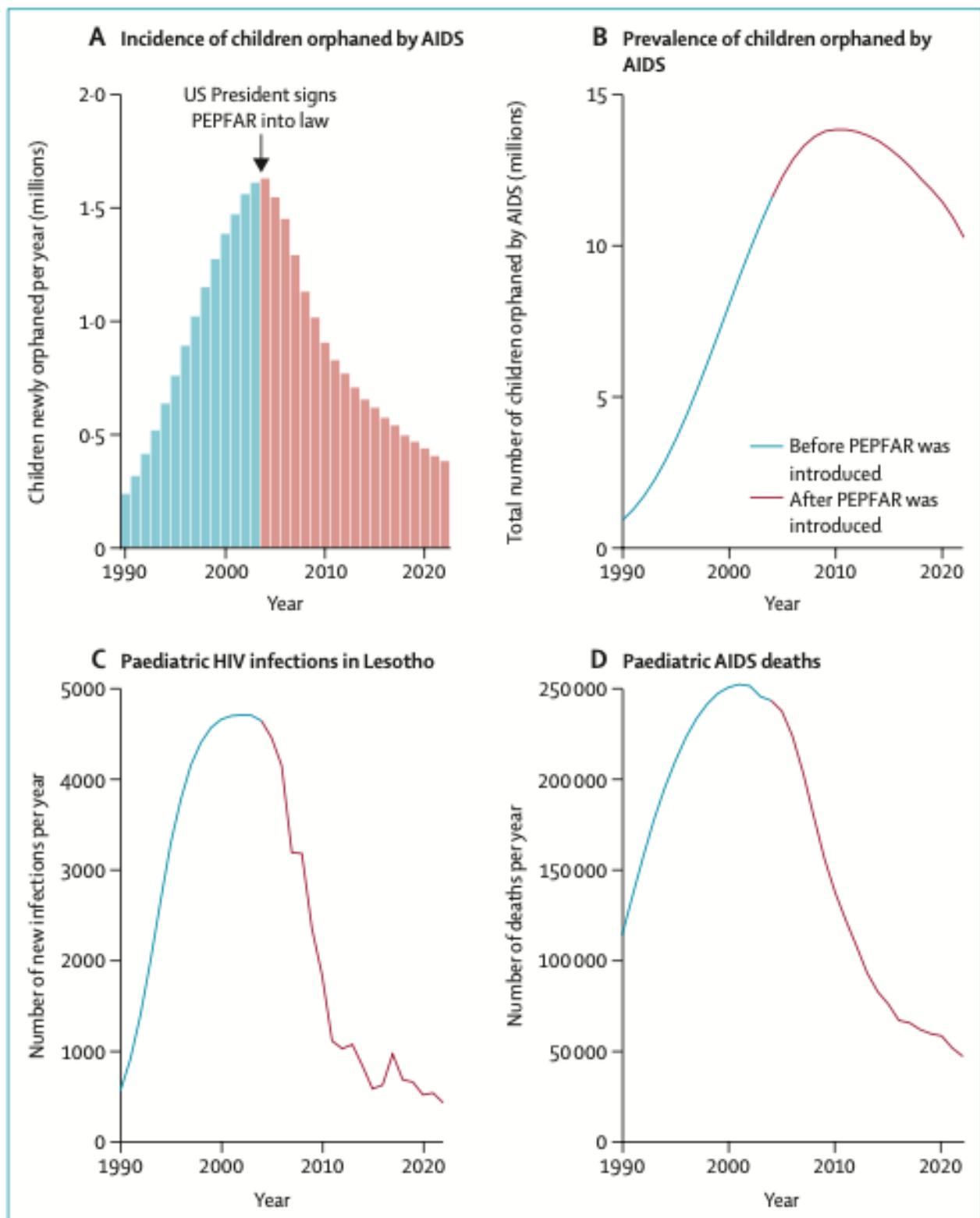


Figure: AIDS orphanhood, infant and young child HIV infections, and infant and young child AIDS deaths in sub-Saharan Africa

(A) Incidence of orphanhood caused by AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa (children aged <18 years who are newly orphaned per year). Regression model estimates were based on linear regression with no intercept term, 1-year lagged orphanhood prevalence, and new AIDS deaths for individuals aged 15–49 years, based on UNAIDS data. (B) Prevalence of orphanhood caused by AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa (living children ch

[aged <18 years] who were orphaned by the loss of at least one parent). Replication code is available at <https://github.com/MLGlobalHealth/PEPFAR-letter>. (C) New HIV infections due to vertical transmission (infants and young children aged <36 months) in Lesotho, 1990–2022, based on UNAIDS data. (D) Paediatric AIDS deaths in sub-Saharan Africa, based on UNAIDS data (infants and young children aged <36 months).

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Further Information

For **PEPFAR's legislative background** see
<https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/IF12463.pdf>

For **2023 UNAIDS estimates** see <https://aidsinfo.unaids.org>

For more on **global resources for the HIV/AIDS epidemic** see
<https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/fact-sheet/the-global-hiv-aids-epidemic>

For more on **what PEPFAR has supported** see
<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/PEPFAR2022.pdf>

For **further results attributed to PEPFAR** see
http://www.miriamzoll.net/documents/_USAID-PEPFAR%20VC%20Eval.pdf

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For any requests for data, please contact aidsinfo@unaids.org.

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Footnotes

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