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Background:

The cascade of HIV care is one of the main tools to assess the individual and public health benefits of antiretroviral therapy (ART) and identify barriers of treatment as prevention concept realization. We aimed to characterize changes in engagement of people living with HIV (PLHIV) in care in Russia.

Methods:

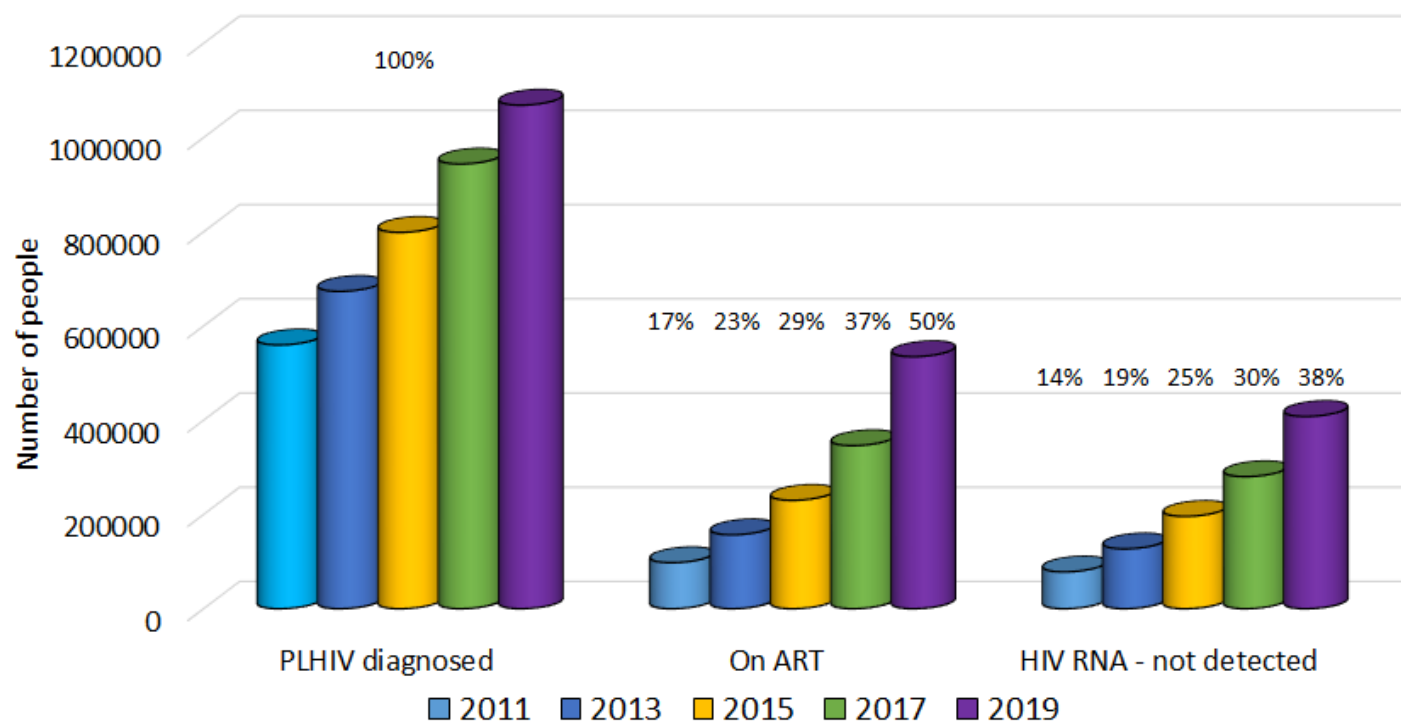
We analyzed the National HIV/AIDS statistic data collected by Rospotrebnadzor from 2011 to the end 2019 and compared the main steps of the HIV care cascade for this period.

Results:

More than 500,000 new HIV cases were registered in Russia from 2011 to 2019 and reached 1,068,839 PLHIV in the end 2019. Proportion of PLWH who received ART from the total diagnosed PLHIV increased from 17% in 2011 to 50% in 2019 and the total number of PLHIV receiving ART has exceeded 500 thousand. Half of patients (51.8%) started ART with CD4>350 cells in 2018 compared to 35.5% of patients in 2016. There was satisfactory adherence to ART so viral suppression was not less than 78% in patients on ART during 2011–2018. And 76% of PLHIV receiving ART achieved HIV RNA below the detection level of test systems used in the reporting period in 2019. Only 14% of HIV diagnosed patients achieved viral suppression which is necessary to prevent viral transmission in 2011. In 2019, this proportion increased to 38%.

Conclusions:

During the 9 years from 2011 to 2019 we noted the positive trends in the involvement of PLHIV in treatment despite the rapid increase of new HIV cases. Although the total number of PLHIV receiving ART in Russia is constantly growing, the percentage of ART coverage remains unsatisfactory due to the large number of newly diagnosed cases. Therefore, further improvement of HIV care cascade depends on the effectiveness of HIV prevention.



HIV Cascade in Russia, 2011–2019 (percentage is from PLHIV diagnosed)