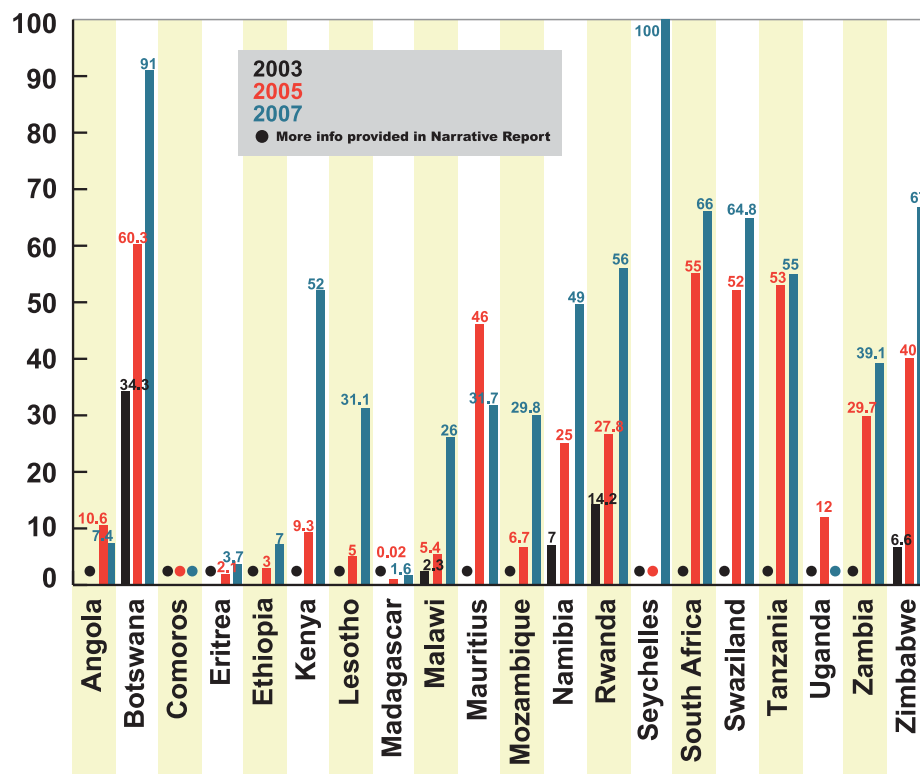


The 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS recognizes HIV prevention as the “mainstay of the response” and commits countries to implement comprehensive, evidence-informed strategies to reduce the number of people newly infected with HIV. The 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS also pledges action at global, regional and national levels to ensure universal access to life-saving HIV prevention measures for all in need.

In the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, countries pledged to ensure that 80 per cent of pregnant women in all countries who access antenatal care are offered HIV prevention services. Although cost-effective interventions to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission emerged several years ago, children still accounted for one in six new HIV infections globally in 2007. The vast majority of these infections occurred during pregnancy or delivery, or as a result of breastfeeding. The majority of children infected perinatally die before the age of two.

In Botswana, where the national government has made prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) a major priority, the country had reduced the rate at which children born to HIV-infected mothers contract HIV themselves to only 4 per cent by 2007, demonstrating the feasibility of dramatic progress in resource-limited settings. The following table describes the uptake of PMTCT services (rather than the success outcome) however it is interesting to note that Botswana reports 91 per cent uptake of PMTCT services which correlates with the report of only 4 per cent of children being born positive when their mother is living with HIV.

Uptake of PMTCT Reported



These national reports feed into regional and global tracking and mobilization and inform national stakeholders of progress, gaps and challenges. The reports are used to guide national strategic planning and programmatic decisions and also inform resource mobilization efforts and advocacy.

All the data and analysis in these Fact Sheets have been taken from the National Reports.

14 Countries in addition to Botswana have reported an increase in the successful uptake of PMTCT services. Declines in uptake are observed in Angola and Mauritius.

Further analysis of existing national data to verify some of the national trends is now underway. In some countries additional studies have been commissioned.