

Approaching HIV Mother-to-Child Elimination: Strengthening PMTCT

Strategies in the Dominican Republic

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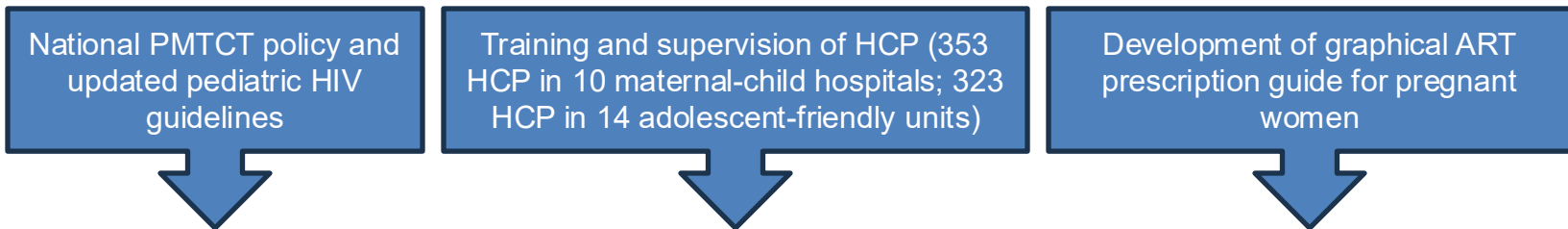
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Methods



- Immediate HIV & Syphilis screening (same-day results)
- Prompt ART initiation for HIV-positive pregnant women
- Adherence support & systematic follow-up
- PMTCT services integrated in 10 hospitals
- Adolescent-friendly units expanded to 14 (direct counseling, ART initiation and follow-up)



- Comparative analysis (10-year national HIV surveillance data)
- Incidence of new HIV infections in infants < 2 months
- Reduction in perinatal HIV transmission

Conclusions

- A comprehensive PMTCT strategy, including early diagnosis, training of healthcare professionals, service expansion, and updated clinical guidelines, significantly reduced perinatal HIV transmission in the Dominican Republic.
- These efforts have brought the country close to eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV, a major public health milestone.

Background

- Mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV remains a major public health concern in the Dominican Republic, contributing to new pediatric infections despite established prevention strategies.
- Barriers to early diagnosis, treatment access, and healthcare provider training have hindered efforts to reduce MTCT rates. To address these challenges, a nationwide intervention was implemented, integrating HIV services into maternal and child health programs, strengthening provider capacity, and updating national guidelines.
- These measures aim to improve maternal and infant health outcomes and move closer to MTCT elimination.

Results

