WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?
UNDERSTANDING MEASURES OF PROGRESS TOWARDS 90–90–90

**90–90–90 TARGETS**

For each of the 90–90–90 targets, the denominator is different. The first 90 value (70%) is the denominator for the second 90, and the second 90 value (77%) is the denominator for the third 90.

- **1st 90 target**
  - People living with HIV who know their status
  - Denominator: 70%
  - 70% [51–84%]

- **2nd 90 target**
  - People living with HIV who know their status and are on HIV treatment
  - Denominator: 70%
  - 77% [57–>89%]

- **3rd 90 target**
  - People on HIV treatment who are virally suppressed
  - Denominator: 77%
  - 82% [57–>89%]

**HIV TESTING AND TREATMENT CASCADE**

Across the cascade, the denominator for each step remains the same:
- People living with HIV who know their status
- People living with HIV on treatment
- People living with HIV who are virally suppressed

- **90%**
  - People living with HIV who know their status
  - Denominator: all people living with HIV
  - 90%
  - 70% [51–84%]

- **81%**
  - People living with HIV on treatment
  - Denominator: 90%
  - 81%
  - 70% [51–84%]

- **73%**
  - People living with HIV who are virally suppressed
  - Denominator: 81%
  - 73%
  - 53% [39–65%]

**MIND THE GAP!!**

These are the people left behind in 2016–2017: 16 million people living with HIV are not virally suppressed.

- Of those on treatment, 82% were virally suppressed, which means that retention in care is high and treatment is successful. This is good news for the person on treatment.
- The percentage who know their HIV status is the same because the denominator is the same.
- The number of people living with HIV who are virally suppressed is the same: 16 million.
- This represents the same number of people on treatment—19.5 million. The percentages are different because the denominators differ.

More than that two out of three people living with HIV know their status. This is the first essential step before treatment can be initiated.

This shows that nearly half of people living with HIV do not have access to treatment. This is a major hurdle in reaching 90–90–90 for many countries.

Only two in five people on treatment had access to viral load testing. If you hear we have achieved the third 90, always ask "what about the viral suppression of people who are not on treatment?"

The 90–90–90 targets and the HIV testing and treatment cascade are two ways of looking at the same data. The targets were instrumental in galvanizing global action for HIV treatment access. Full achievement of 90–90–90 is equal to viral load suppression among 73% of all people living with HIV.