

Real PEPFAR figures show decline. By Elissa Miolene, *Devex*, 19 May 2026

A mixed picture

The impact of shifting global health funds came into sharp relief when the U.S. flagship HIV program PEPFAR — the [President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief](#) — came out with [its latest tranche of data](#), the first time such figures were published since the Trump administration dismantled USAID.

Jeremy Lewin, the head of the [State Department](#)’s foreign assistance bureau, called the figures “very, very good,” the result of PEPFAR treating roughly the same number of people with HIV during the last quarter of 2024 when compared to the same period in 2025.

But the reality was much starker: The figures showed **sharp declines in testing, prevention, and diagnoses**, trend lines that journalist and HIV/AIDS activist **Emily Bass** tells me couldn’t be hidden by any “amount of spin or polish.”

When comparing the last two quarters of each year, nearly 75,000 fewer people began treatment for HIV, a drop of 16%. The number of people testing for the virus fell at nearly the same rate, and the number of people newly enrolled on the preventative pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, saw the steepest change of all: **a roughly 40% drop — from 659,447 to 387,990.**

“The data speaks to the actions of the administration very clearly,” adds **Jirair Ratevosian**, a senior scholar at the Duke Global Health Institute and former acting chief of staff for PEPFAR. “Testing, outreach, prevention — these are all things that are really a front door into HIV care, and we risk really losing a high-definition picture of the epidemic and where PEPFAR needs to go.”

Read: [PEPFAR data shows drops in HIV prevention as US claims success](#)