

**Supplemental Digital Content 1**  
**Survival Benefits of Antiretroviral Therapy in Brazil**  
**Luz et al.**

In areas where computer programming and methods are identical, the text from this appendix is similar to the online technical appendix available from:

Luz PM, Morris BL, Grinsztejn B, Freedberg KA, Veloso VG, Walensky RP, *et al.* Cost-effectiveness of genotype testing for primary resistance in Brazil. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr* 2015, **68**: 152-61.

## 1 **CEPAC International Model**

### 2 *Overview*

3 The CEPAC International Model is a computer-based, state-transition, Monte Carlo  
4 simulation model of the progression and outcomes of HIV disease in a hypothetical cohort  
5 of patients. “State-transition” means that the model characterizes the natural history of  
6 illness in an individual patient as a sequence of monthly transitions from one “health state”  
7 to another. “Monte Carlo” refers to a random number generator and set of estimated  
8 probabilities that are used to determine the sequence of movements between health states  
9 for a particular patient. Each individual patient’s clinical course is followed from the time  
10 of entry into the model until death. A running tally is maintained of all clinical events and  
11 the length of time spent in each health state. Upon the patient’s death, summary statistics  
12 are recorded and a new patient enters the model. This process is then repeated for a large  
13 number of simulated patients (statistical convergence can typically be achieved with cohort  
14 sizes of one million), at which point overall performance measures, such as average life  
15 expectancy, are computed.

16

### 17 *Health States*

18 In the Disease Model, health states are chosen to be descriptive of the patient’s current  
19 health, relevant history, and resource utilization patterns. They are designed to be  
20 predictive of clinical prognosis, including disease progression, immune system  
21 deterioration, development and relapse of different opportunistic infections (OIs), toxic  
22 reactions to medications, resistance to therapy, and mortality. The model defines general  
23 categories of health states: chronic infection, acute complication, and death. Most of the  
24 time, patients are in one of the chronic states, where progression of disease and immune  
25 system deterioration (CD4 decline) take place. Patients who develop an acute complication  
26 (e.g., an OI or drug-related toxicity) temporarily move to an acute health state, where both  
27 resource consumption levels and mortality rates are higher. Deaths can occur from either a  
28 chronic or an acute state and can be attributed to a particular OI, chronic AIDS (e.g.,  
29 wasting), or non-AIDS-related causes.

30

31 The chronic and acute health states are stratified by: actual current and nadir CD4 count  
32 ( $>500/\mu\text{l}$ ;  $301\text{--}500/\mu\text{l}$ ;  $201\text{--}300/\mu\text{l}$ ;  $101\text{--}200/\mu\text{l}$ ;  $51\text{--}100/\mu\text{l}$ ; and  $0\text{--}50/\mu\text{l}$ ) and current and  
33 set-point HIV RNA level ( $>100,000$  copies/mL,  $30,001\text{--}100,000$  copies/mL;  $10,001\text{--}$   
34  $30,000$  copies/ mL;  $3,001\text{--}10,000$  copies/ mL;  $501\text{--}3,000$  copies/ mL;  $51\text{--}500$  copies/ mL;  
35  $0\text{--}50$  copies/mL). Drawing from distributions of patient characteristics (age, sex, CD4  
36 count and HIV RNA level) derived from the INI Cohort (see below), a patient is randomly  
37 assigned to a health state upon model entry. By permitting the user to define initial  
38 population distributions for patient age, sex, CD4 count, HIV RNA, and other  
39 demographic and clinical attributes, the model has the flexibility to explore a broad range  
40 of different patient cohorts, which we have used to represent the characteristics of patients  
41 initiating ART in each of the six eras.

42

43 At the start of each one-month cycle, the model records the patient's CD4 count, HIV  
44 RNA level, history of acute illness, and current therapies and uses these characteristics to  
45 determine the probabilities that indicate movement to a new state in the subsequent month.  
46 Monthly probabilities of events are estimated directly from the INI cohort and published  
47 data. The model treats HIV RNA as the primary driver of immune system deterioration,  
48 and thus the assigned viral load level determines the rate at which the patient's CD4 count  
49 will decline in the absence of ART (1).

50

51 We are careful to distinguish in the model "actual" CD4 count and HIV RNA – i.e. the  
52 underlying immunologic and virologic state, regardless of whether it is measured by a  
53 laboratory test– from "observed" CD4 count and HIV RNA – that which is measured by a  
54 test and upon which clinical decisions can be made. Clinical events within the model are  
55 predicated on patient's "actual" CD4 count and viral load status, while treatment decisions  
56 remain based on "observed" CD4 count and viral load status.

57

#### 58 *Clinical Visits and Laboratory Monitoring*

59 Upon entry to the model, all patients undergo a clinic visit to observe their initial OI  
60 histories. CD4/HIV RNA monitoring also occur at model entry. At this initial visit, if

61 specific criteria are met, patients will initiate prophylaxis and antiretroviral therapies.  
62 Subsequent clinic visits will then be scheduled at regularly specified intervals to determine  
63 ART eligibility criteria and to monitor treatment success or failure. In addition to the  
64 regularly scheduled clinic visits, certain events (OIs) may trigger an emergency clinic visit  
65 to occur in that month. An emergency clinic visit is associated with the same clinical  
66 decision-making opportunities as a routine visit, and at most one clinic visit can occur in a  
67 given month.

68  
69 Because CD4 and/or HIV RNA monitoring is available, these tests are generally  
70 administered at the time of a clinic visit. Standard testing frequency may be user-defined  
71 (in Brazil, every 6 months); other conditions may also trigger additional tests, including  
72 observed ART failures that require confirmation by CD4 or viral load, depending on the  
73 confirmation method specified by the user.

74

#### 75 *ART and ART Efficacy*

76 The model has capacity to simulate up to ten lines of ART per cohort simulated,  
77 administered sequentially. We limit this analysis to patients initiating ART in Brazil. All  
78 patients begin ART upon entering the model. ART regimens are available to patients  
79 experiencing virologic failure in a way that mirrors the historical chronology of ART  
80 availability in Brazil. For example, patients initiating ART in 1997 (Era 1) initially have  
81 two lines of ART available, an initial zidovudine/indinavir/lamivudine regimen and one  
82 salvage regimen (Table 2, main text). Patients from this era who survive to the year 2000  
83 (Era 2) can switch to an efavirenz-based regimen upon virologic failure, as efavirenz  
84 became available in Brazil in that year. These patients who survive to the year 2000 can  
85 also benefit from a PI-based second-line regimen upon failing an efavirenz-based regimen  
86 before moving on to a subsequent salvage regimen.

87

88 The model's handling of efficacy and durability of antiretroviral therapy depends on a  
89 patient's "adherence" level (0-100%), drawn at ART initiation from a logit distribution  
90 based on pharmacy refill data. We estimate ART efficacy from data on viral suppression

91 and CD4 count change over time, as reported in clinical trials. From these data, we derive a  
92 probability of “early” (within 6 months) and “late” (beyond 6 months) failure for each  
93 antiretroviral regimen to be considered; patients with higher adherence values experience  
94 lower probability of both early and late failure. This early/late failure structure allows  
95 patients to transition from virologic suppression to “failure” with the appropriate change in  
96 HIV RNA and CD4 count. Virologic suppression results in CD4 increases, also in these  
97 two time phases, that occur in concordance with data reported in clinical trials. An initial  
98 large CD4 benefit occurs in the “early” period, followed by a modest benefit that occurs  
99 over a longer time horizon, as long as the patient remains virologically suppressed.

100

101 Patients may be lost to follow-up while on ART; those that are lost to follow-up may  
102 return to care and resume ART. A patient is evaluated for stopping or switching the ART  
103 regimen at every clinic visit. The criteria for regimen change can be specified differently  
104 for each individual regimen. Upon meeting criteria for ART failure and switching, the  
105 patient is started on the next available regimen as specified by the user. If a more effective  
106 subsequent regimen is available at the time of virologic failure, a patient can skip a less  
107 effective regimen and move directly to the more effective regimen.

108

109 The model makes a distinction between patients actually failing an ART regimen and those  
110 who are observed to fail a regimen. The former can be regarded as patients in whom  
111 therapy stops providing any substantive biological benefit to the patient. The latter  
112 simulates the clinical observation of a new OI, or laboratory detection of CD4 decline or  
113 viral load increase, indicating a regimen’s lack of continued benefit, at which point the  
114 patients may be taken off that regimen. Upon laboratory-observed and confirmed failure –  
115 defined by HIV RNA >500 copies/ml or CD4 count decrease >25% – patients are initiated  
116 on a subsequent-line regimen, until no others are available. At that point, patients remain  
117 on their final regimen until death.

118

119 *Monthly Cycle of the Model*

120 Because all events in the program occur discretely, it is important to keep in mind the order  
121 of evaluation in each month of a simulated patient. Taking all the mechanisms described  
122 above together for HIV-infected patients, each regular monthly cycle in the program  
123 involve the following steps in order:

- 124 1. increase the patient's age, in months
- 125 2. update the patient's true CD4 and HIV RNA for the month
- 126 3. for all prophylaxes the patient is currently on, see if an associated toxic event  
127 occurs
- 128 4. if the patient is on an ART regimen, see if an associated toxic event occurs
  - 129 a. if an ART major toxicity event occurred, see if it also caused death – if  
130 death did occur, stop the simulation of the patient
- 131 5. determine if the patient dies from chronic AIDS or non-AIDS causes
  - 132 a. if death occurs, stop the simulation of the patient
- 133 6. determine if an acute OI event will occur this month
  - 134 a. if an OI event occurs, see if it also causes death from the OI and thus stop  
135 the simulation of the patient
  - 136 b. if the patient is not detected as HIV+, make the patient detected
- 137 7. compute whether a CD4 and/or HVL test(s) should be performed this month, based  
138 on last tests
- 139 8. if a CD4 test is to be performed, do so
  - 140 a. start and stop OI prophylaxes as necessary based on the patient's new  
141 observed CD4
- 142 9. if a viral load test is to be performed, do so
  - 143 a. if the patient is on an ART, see if the new observed viral load (and CD4)  
144 results in a failed ART diagnosis
    - 145 i. if the number of repeat failure diagnoses is enough for a confirmed  
146 failure, take the patient off the ART regimen
    - 147 ii. if the patient has not actually failed the ART regimen (i.e. the failure  
148 diagnoses are incorrect), treat the patient's CD4 and HIV RNA

149 levels as in ART failure to reflect the discontinuation of the effective  
150 therapy

151 10. if the patient is not on any ART regimen and qualifies for a new line of ART (per  
152 observed CD4 and HIV RNA, number of lag months between ARTs, etc.), start the  
153 patient on the next regimen

154 11. for each prophylaxis the patient is on, determine if resistance is to start in the  
155 current month

156 12. update the patient's accumulated life months and quality adjusted life months

157

### 158 **Description of the INI HIV Clinical Cohort**

159 The Laboratory for HIV/AIDS Clinical Research (LaPClin) is situated within the Instituto  
160 Nacional de Infectologia Evandro Chagas (INI, formerly Instituto de Pesquisa Clínica,  
161 IPEC) of the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. INI is a  
162 national reference center for infectious diseases and LaPClin has been a reference center  
163 for care, research, and training related to HIV/AIDS since 1986. LaPClin is one of the  
164 largest providers of primary, specialty, and tertiary care for HIV-infected individuals in the  
165 state of Rio de Janeiro.

166

167 The INI HIV Clinical Cohort is a seroprevalent cohort with follow-up since the start of the  
168 AIDS epidemic in Brazil in 1986. Since then, over 5,500 HIV infected individuals have  
169 received care at INI. An observational, longitudinal, clinical database was established in  
170 1998 (when all patients seen from 1986 to 1998 were retrospectively included) and is  
171 updated for all patients receiving HIV and specialty care (including cardiology,  
172 endocrinology, ophthalmology, dermatology, gastroenterology, gynecology and  
173 proctology) at INI. The INI HIV Clinical Cohort is was approved by the ethics committee  
174 of the Evandro Chagas Clinical Research Institute, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation. Participants  
175 provided written informed consent.

176

177 The database is comprehensive in that it includes demographic, behavioral, clinical,  
178 laboratory, and therapeutic information (including the prescription of antiretroviral drugs)

179 abstracted from the medical records of patients. Patients are seen by the medical provider  
180 as recommended by the Brazilian HIV treatment guidelines. The medical record was  
181 paper-based until 2004 and is currently in an electronic format. Trained abstractors record  
182 all information onto standardized forms. Longitudinal databases include laboratory results  
183 (including hemoglobin, CD4/CD8, and HIV viral load counts, among others), types and  
184 dates of prophylaxis use, serology for hepatitis B and C among others, vaccinations, and  
185 AIDS-related and non-AIDS related diagnosis (both outpatient and inpatient). Longitudinal  
186 information regarding antiretroviral therapy prescribed includes start and stop dates for  
187 each drug of each regimen. When a new patient is included in the cohort, efforts are made  
188 to ensure the collection of information for the time prior to enrollment, including HIV-  
189 related diagnoses, laboratory results, and antiretroviral treatment.

190

191 Information regarding vital status is checked using the patients' medical charts, through  
192 active contact with individuals and family members, and by linkage with the Rio de  
193 Janeiro mortality database using a previously validated algorithm (2). Additionally, causes  
194 of death are reported according to the procedures and guidelines of the CoDe Project. The  
195 Coding Causes of Death in HIV (CoDe) Project is a standardized method for coding the  
196 underlying, immediate and contributing causes of death in HIV-infected populations (3).  
197 Taken together, these procedures allow us to confidently report on mortality and causes of  
198 death for our cohort. Descriptions of the cohort procedures and results have been published  
199 elsewhere (4-7).

200

## 201 **Collection of INI Cohort Data for the CEPAC Model**

### 202 *Cohort characteristics*

203 To estimate the characteristics of the individuals who currently seek and enroll into HIV  
204 care and initiate ART in Brazil, the study population included ART-naïve adult patients  
205 (age  $\geq$  18 years) who enrolled in the cohort and had a minimum follow-up of 60 days, from  
206 January 01, 2000 through December 31, 2014 (2,290 patients). Mean age at treatment  
207 initiation varied minimally by era (36.8, 38.1, 37.0, 36.0, 34.8 years in Eras 2 through 6)  
208 and was assumed constant; mean (SD) age at treatment initiation was 37 (10) years.



209 Similarly, gender distribution did not significantly vary by era (63%, 71%, 71%, 73%,  
210 72% in Eras 2 through 6); overall 70% of patients were male.

211

212 CD4 counts at treatment initiation were defined within a window of 90 days of treatment  
213 start date, and if more than one measurement was available, the value closest to treatment  
214 start date was chosen. HIV viral load at treatment initiation were defined within 180 days  
215 prior to treatment start date, and if more than one measurement was available, the value  
216 closest to treatment start date was chosen. We also estimated the proportion of patients  
217 initiating ART with a history of opportunistic infections, defined as the presence of a CDC  
218 1993 AIDS defining illness prior to or up to 30 days after treatment initiation.

219

220 A linear model was created using mean CD4 at ART initiation for patients initiating ART  
221 between 2002 and 2013 (years 2000 and 2001 were excluded from the model due to low  
222 numbers, Figure S1). Using this model, we extrapolated backwards through 1997. The  
223 average of the predicted mean CD4 counts in the years comprising each era was used as  
224 model input. Given the dramatic policy change in Era 6 (2014) specifying ART eligibility  
225 for all HIV-infected patients in Brazil, the increased mean CD4 point estimate of 518  
226 cells/ $\mu$ L from the INI cohort data was used instead of an extrapolated value from the  
227 model.

228

229 Similarly, to estimate the proportion of patients initiating ART with a history of  
230 opportunistic infections, we fitted a linear model to the logistic transformation of the  
231 proportion and back transformed the predicted values to the original scale (Figure S2).  
232 Data from patients starting ART from 2002 to 2013 were used to create the model, and we  
233 extrapolated backwards to the year 1997. The average of the predicted proportion of  
234 patients initiating ART with a history of OI in the years comprising each era was used as  
235 model input. Given the dramatic policy change in Era 6 (2014) specifying ART eligibility  
236 for all HIV-infected patients in Brazil, the decreased proportion of patients initiating ART  
237 with a history of opportunistic infection of 13% from the INI cohort data was used instead

238 of an extrapolated value from the model. In the CEPAC model, patients with a history of  
239 opportunistic infection experience higher rates of mortality and poorer clinical outcomes.

240

#### 241 *Natural History*

242 For the natural history parameters, the study population included adult patients (age  $\geq$  18  
243 years) who enrolled in the INI cohort and had a minimum follow-up of 60 days from  
244 September 12, 1986 (the date of the first enrollee) through December 31, 2010. In order to  
245 adequately estimate parameters that could populate the CEPAC-International Model, a  
246 patient's follow-up time was stratified into the following broad categories of states: Acute  
247 Disease, Chronic HIV, and Death.

248

249 The Chronic HIV Health State consists of the time contributed by each patient stratified by  
250 CD4 count strata. The following CD4 count strata were considered:  $>500/\mu\text{l}$ ,  $301\text{--}500/\mu\text{l}$ ,  
251  $201\text{--}300/\mu\text{l}$ ,  $101\text{--}200/\mu\text{l}$ ,  $51\text{--}100/\mu\text{l}$ , or  $<50/\mu\text{l}$ . Each patient could contribute time to either  
252 one or multiple time periods within each CD4 stratum. ~~Linear interpolation between two~~  
253 ~~known CD4 measures was implemented to estimate the time points when a patient crossed~~  
254 ~~the boundary between CD4 strata.~~ Time contributed to the Chronic HIV category was  
255 censored in two different situations. First, for patients who were diagnosed with a specific  
256 AIDS-defining event, follow-up was censored for both the month preceding and the two  
257 months following an opportunistic illness diagnosis. Second, for patients who died, follow-  
258 up was censored at one month prior to the date of death. Whenever possible, follow-up  
259 time was further stratified by use of antiretroviral therapy yielding periods on ART and off  
260 ART. That is, patients could contribute a certain portion of their follow-up time to an off-  
261 ART period and a certain portion of their follow-up time to an on-ART period. Also,  
262 whenever possible, separate analyses were performed for patients with and without a  
263 documented history of any AIDS-defining illness, defined by the 1993 CDC definitions  
264 (8), at cohort entry. The following AIDS-defining illnesses were specifically evaluated:  
265 *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia, *Mycobacterium avium* complex, toxoplasmic  
266 encephalitis, cytomegalovirus, tuberculosis, and other AIDS-defining events.

267

268 The Acute Disease Health State was defined by the time period from one month prior to  
269 two months after the diagnosis of a specific AIDS-defining illness. Thus, it was defined  
270 only for patients who had an AIDS-defining event(s) during the follow-up time. Time  
271 contributed to the this health state was censored before the end of the two months after  
272 illness diagnosis if the patient died, in which case the time contributed was counted for the  
273 Death Health State. The Death Health State was the period of time defined by the one  
274 month preceding the date of death.

275

#### 276 *Incidence rate of opportunistic infections*

277 The occurrence of an opportunistic infection was defined for the first occurrence of a CDC  
278 1993 disease. For patients who never experienced an opportunistic infection, end of  
279 follow-up was defined as the earlier of death or December 31, 2010 when administrative  
280 censoring was applied. Opportunistic infections were stratified into four groups according  
281 to their frequency: tuberculosis, toxoplasmosis, PCP+MAC+CMV, and others. To classify  
282 opportunistic infections by CD4 stratum in the INI cohort, we linearly interpolated  
283 between known CD4 measures to estimate the CD4 at which (and stratum in which) the  
284 infection occurred. The incidence rates were calculated by dividing the number of  
285 opportunistic infections by the sum of the follow-up time for all individuals in each of the  
286 Chronic HIV Health States. Additional estimates included the incidence rate of  
287 opportunistic infections stratified by the use of antiretroviral therapy when events and  
288 follow-up time were divided into periods when a specific patient had not yet started ART  
289 and after the start of ART. Incidence rates were assumed to remain constant over the time  
290 period evaluated and converted into monthly probabilities for model input (Table 1).

291

#### 292 *Mortality rates*

293 Start of follow-up was defined as the date of cohort enrollment and end of follow-up was  
294 defined as the earlier of either death or December 31, 2010 when administrative censoring  
295 was applied. Mortality rates were then calculated by dividing the number of deaths by the  
296 sum of the follow-up time of each individual in the Chronic HIV Health State. Additional  
297 estimates included the mortality rate stratified by the use of antiretroviral therapy and by

298 the history of prior opportunistic infection, defined as an opportunistic infection occurring  
299 prior to cohort enrollment. Mortality rates were assumed constant for the time period  
300 evaluated and converted into monthly probabilities for model input.

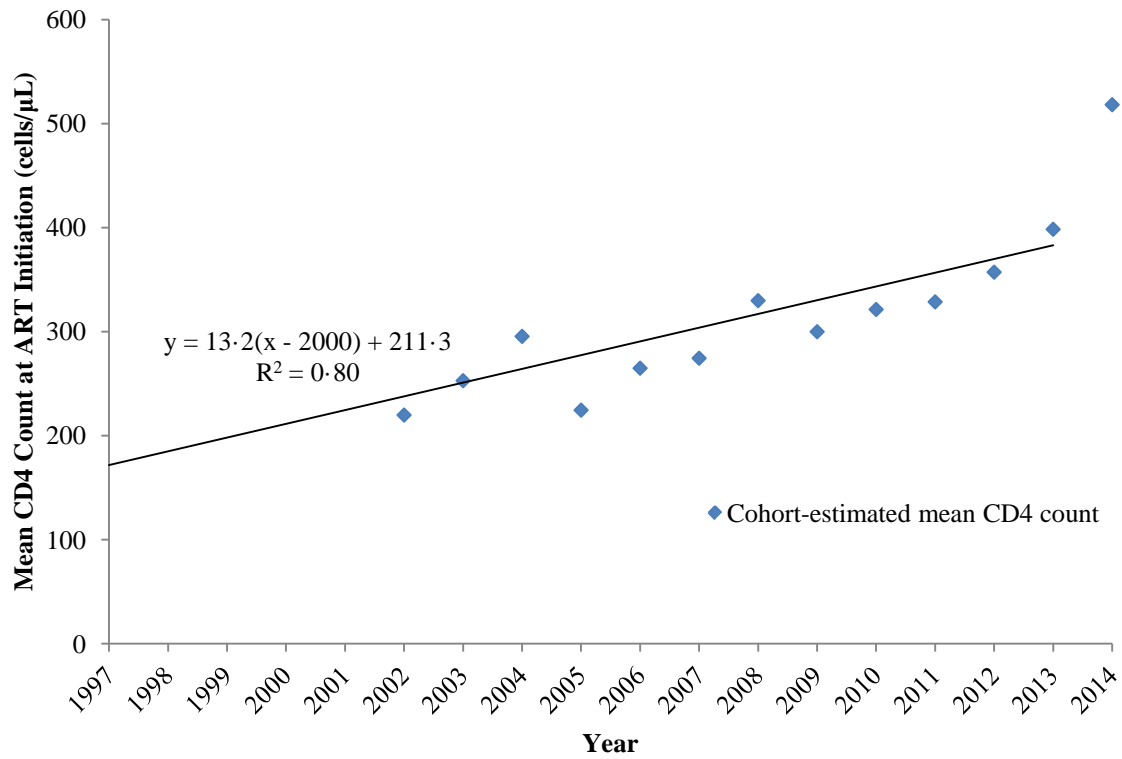
301

302 *Loss to Follow-up (LTFU) and Return to Care (RTC)*

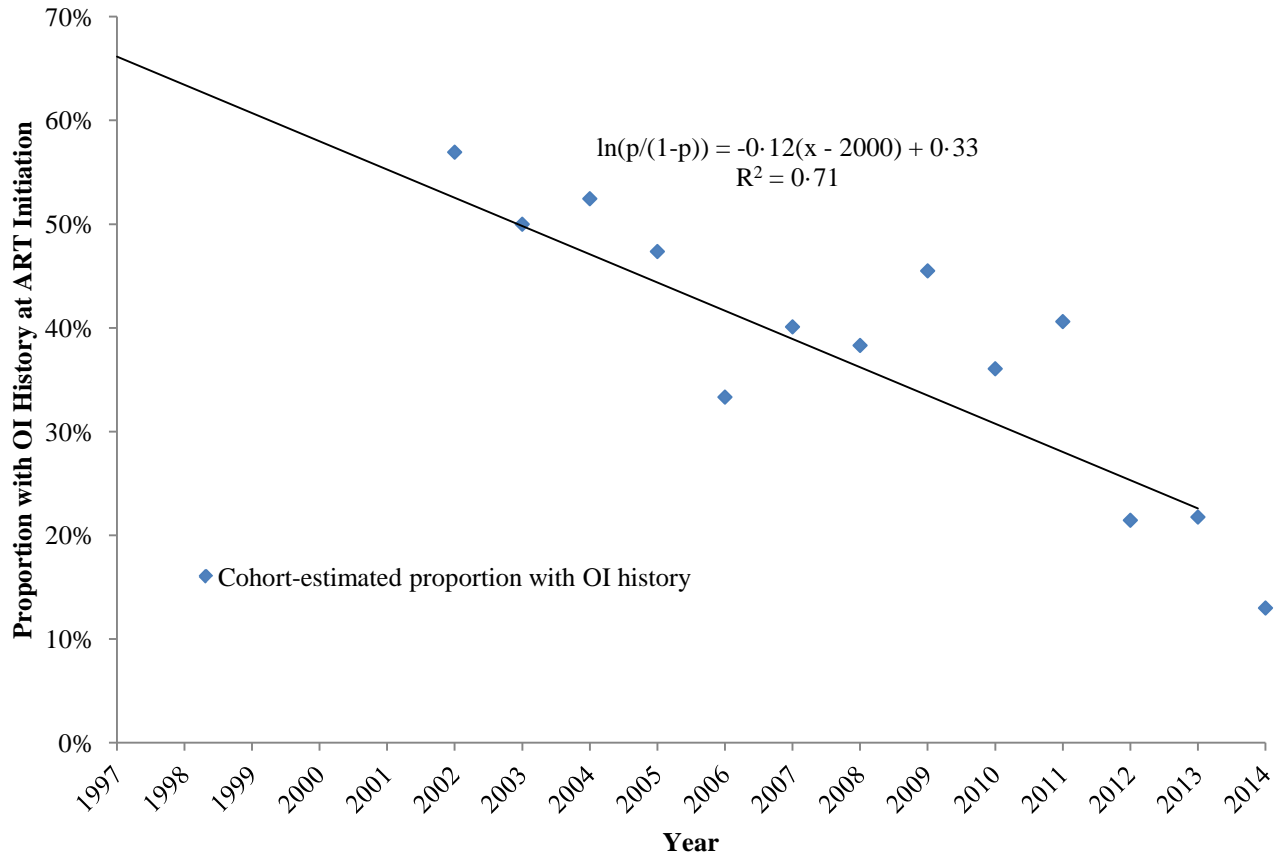
303 LTFU rates were ascertained from the HIV-Brazil Cohort Study, which has followed a  
304 cohort of over 5,000 patients across 26 public health care facilities since 2002. In this  
305 study, it was possible to track transfers between public health facilities such that patients  
306 who were transferred to other facilities were not considered lost to follow-up. The reported  
307 average rate of loss to follow-up was 10.1/1000PY (9). Patients with adherence values  
308 greater than 95% were subject to a rate of loss to follow-up of 4.0/1000PY, and those with  
309 adherence values less than 50% experienced a rate of loss to follow-up of 27.6/1000PY,  
310 linearly interpolating for adherence values between 50-95%, to arrive at the average value  
311 of 10.1/1000PY.

312

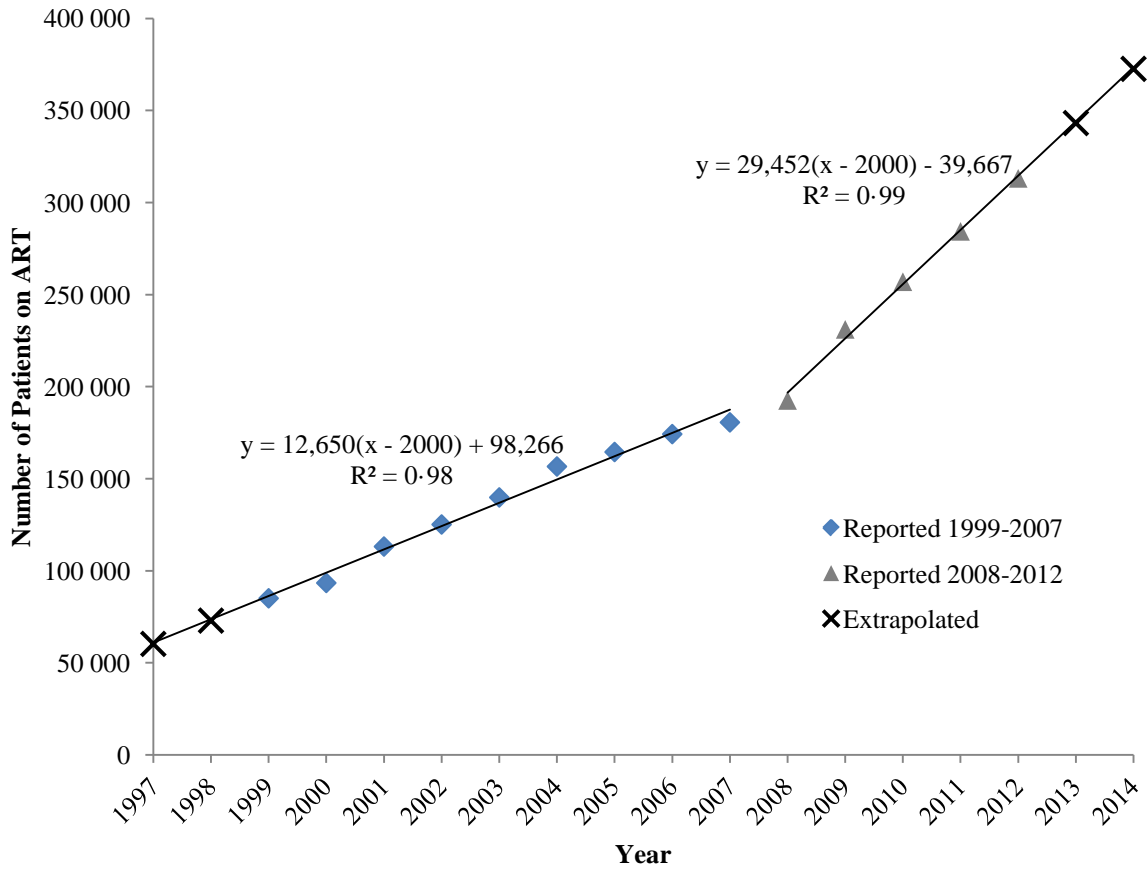
313 For the subset of patients who were lost to follow-up, a rate of RTC was calculated using  
314 INI data as the number of patients who returned to care divided by the total person-years  
315 lost to follow-up. This rate of 818/1000PY was assumed for all patients lost to follow up,  
316 regardless of adherence level.



**Figure S1.** Mean CD4 count at ART initiation in INI cohort, 2002-2014, and fitted linear model (excluding 2014)



**Figure S2.** Percent of patients with OI History at ART initiation in INI cohort, 2002-2014, and fitted logistic model (excluding 2014)



**Figure S3.** Patients Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy in Brazil, Brazil Ministry of Health Boletim Epidemiologico HIV/AIDS 2011

**Table S1.** Selected Latin American countries and respective demographic, economic, and HIV statistics

Country	Population (millions)	HIV Prevalence (%) <sup>(8, 10)</sup>	Estimated new HIV infections in 2013 (age 15+) <sup>(8)</sup>	2013 Per Capita GDP (USD) <sup>(11)</sup>	Type of Epidemic	ART Program	Proportion of eligible HIV-infected individuals on ART (%) <sup>(8)</sup>	Number of patients on ART, 2012 <sup>(8)</sup>	Domestic HIV spending from domestic public sources, 2010 (millions USD) <sup>(8)</sup>
<b>Brazil</b>	203.6	0.6	44,000	11,200	Concentrated	National, free of charge (1996)	87	307,025	745.8
<b>Argentina</b>	41.4	0.4	5,100	14,700	Concentrated	National, free of charge (1997) (12)	81	47,725	Not available
<b>Chile</b>	16.8	0.3	2,100	15,700	Concentrated	National, free of charge (2005) (13)	86	18,898	119.2
<b>Colombia</b>	47.9	0.5	8,400	7,800	Concentrated	National, subsidized (2004) (14)	51	33,148	87.0
<b>Ecuador</b>	15.9	0.4	2,500	6,000	Concentrated	National, subsidized (2002) (15)	42	9,080	24.3
<b>Mexico</b>	119.7	0.2	9,200	10,300	Concentrated	National, free of charge (2001) (12)	82	82,000	Not available
<b>Peru</b>	30.5	0.4	3,400	6,700	Concentrated	National, free of charge (2004) (16)	60	27,007	15.4



Supplemental Digital Content  
 Survival Benefits of ART in Brazil  
 Luz et al.

17

						National, free of charge (2000) (17)			
<b>Venezuela</b>	30.2	0.6	6,000	14,400	Concentrated		72	42,060	109.0
<b>Latin America</b>	588.0	0.4	92,000	-	Concentrated	-	75	619,104	-

Note: 'National' is used to denote payment by a federal body

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