



CDC in BOTSWANA

Accessible version: <https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/botswana/>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established an office in Botswana in 1995 to strengthen tuberculosis prevention and control. In 2000, the partnership grew to include HIV prevention, treatment, and strategic information program development to maximize Botswana's response to the HIV epidemic. CDC continues collaboration with the Botswana Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW), providing technical assistance and research to support HIV and TB control programs, injury prevention, and emergency response operations.



When COVID-19 prevented in-person meetings, CDC helped MOHW conduct virtual Training of Trainers (TOT) on disease surveillance and response for all 18 district health management teams



CDC provided technical assistance to develop and deploy the COVID-19 national data tracker in 2020. The tracker monitors COVID-19 cases and vaccinations



CDC helped establish and decentralize COVID-19 testing to six PCR laboratory sites and over 600 rapid diagnosis test sites



CDC helped develop Botswana's National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan in collaboration with the MOHW Interagency Coordination Committee



98% of HIV-positive pregnant women received antiretroviral treatment in 2020



Mother-to-child HIV transmission has been reduced to 1.91% in Botswana (UNAIDS Spectrum estimate in 2020)



Botswana achieved over 97% viral load suppression among HIV patients on antiretroviral treatment



99% of patients with confirmed TB were tested for HIV as of September 2020



Decentralized HIV diagnosis to more sites across the country, including 876 testing sites, 27 viral load sites, and 54 TB sites



With CDC support, seven public health laboratories received international standard accreditation (ISO:15189) and one laboratory has been WHO-certified



Patient care has improved thanks to stronger lab-clinic interphase, faster lab turnaround times, and fewer incorrect diagnoses



CDC helped establish the Botswana Public Health Laboratory and Botswana National Quality Assurance laboratories

Global Health Security

Countries that have strong and resilient public health systems can quickly prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats before they become epidemics. CDC's global health security work in Botswana focuses on building capacity across four core areas: health information management and disease surveillance; laboratory systems; workforce development; and emergency management and response.

Botswana has made significant progress adopting the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) guidelines to facilitate surveillance and timely response to disease outbreaks. This is in line with the WHO 2005 International Health Regulations. With CDC support, the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) strengthens the public health workforce for real time disease surveillance.

COVID-19

Global health security investments and decades of global cooperation and support to respond to outbreaks have built strong foundations upon which to address the coronavirus pandemic. In Botswana, CDC is supporting response coordination, surveillance, diagnostic capacity, quarantine management, case investigation, infection prevention and control, and risk communication activities. This work builds on past collaborations to control HIV, TB, and to prepare for influenza outbreaks and other diseases of public health importance.

HIV and Tuberculosis (TB)

HIV and TB are the world's two most deadly infectious diseases. TB is the leading cause of death for individuals living with HIV. As a key implementer of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC works with Botswana's MOHW to build a robust national HIV response. CDC efforts include:

- HIV testing
- HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)
- Linkage and retention to HIV antiretroviral treatment services
- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission
- Voluntary medical male circumcision programs
- TB prevention and control programs
- Cervical cancer prevention and control
- Working with populations most impacted by HIV in targeted districts of the country
- Determined Resilient Empowered AIDS-Free Mentored and Safe program (DREAMS) for adolescent girls and young women

CDC helps Botswana ensure the quality of HIV services and programs. The voluntary medical male circumcision program helps keep boys

and men HIV-free. The services are provided at fixed sites and in school campaigns. CDC's implementing partners enhance the quality of these services through training, mentoring, site monitoring visits, and remediation plans.

CDC works with MOHW and implementing partners to strengthen laboratories and surveillance systems to diagnose both HIV and TB quickly and accurately. CDC supports quality laboratory testing for the diagnosis and treatment of people living with HIV and TB, and population level surveys for HIV.

Laboratory Capacity Building

CDC works with MOHW to build laboratory capacity to:

- Improve availability and access to laboratory services that include HIV and TB diagnosis, viral load testing, early infant diagnosis, and testing for advanced diseases/opportunistic infections
- Implement international laboratory standards that strengthen quality of testing and monitoring of diagnostics
- Establish routine surveillance and response to public health emergencies
- Improve the availability, quality, and use of laboratory data for evidence-based planning and decision making
- Foster collaboration between human, animal, and environmental health laboratories for a One Health approach under the Botswana Public Health Institute
- Implement continuous quality improvement initiatives
- Introduce new diagnostic methods and technologies

Health Systems Strengthening

CDC is working with MOHW and the International Association of Public Health Institutes to establish the Botswana Public Health Institute (BPHI). BPHI will focus on laboratory research, surveillance, and emergency response. National Public Health Institutes help countries conduct essential public health functions and serve as homes for their nation's public health systems and expertise. CDC helps countries develop and strengthen these institutions to protect public health and contain disease close to the source.

CDC helped establish and supports the FETP frontline course. CDC also strengthens quality management systems among health workers. CDC works with MOHW and partners to design and implement population-based surveys, such as the Botswana AIDS Impact Survey (BAIS), the Youth Risk Behavior and Biological Survey (YRBBS), and the Violence Against Children Survey (VACS).



CDC STAFF

- 5 U.S. Assignees
- 36 Locally Employed



AT A GLANCE

Population: >2,300,000
Per capita income: >\$17,000
Life expectancy: F 62/M 66 years
Infant mortality rate: 28/1,000 live births

Sources:
Sources: World Bank 2019
Population Reference Bureau



TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH

1. HIV/AIDS
2. Lower respiratory infections
3. Ischemic heart disease
4. Stroke
5. Diabetes
6. Neonatal disorders
7. Tuberculosis
8. Road injuries
9. Diarrheal diseases
10. Interpersonal violence

Source:
GBD Compare 2019



For more country information
www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/botswana

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