

# CDC in Guyana



The Center for Global Health and Prevention (CDC) has collaborated with the Government of Guyana since 2002 in response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC-Guyana has provided funding and technical assistance to the Ministry of Health (MOH) and other partners to build sustainable public health systems and infrastructure. The activities implemented through this collaboration include strengthening public health services and systems, building national laboratory systems capacity, integrating care and treatment services, training and capacity development of the health care workforce, enhancing access to HIV counseling and testing, and the improving the safety and availability of donated blood.

## HIV/AIDS

CDC, through PEPFAR, supports the implementation of effective, efficient HIV programs that maximize health impact. This support contributes directly to saving the lives of men, women and children through high quality HIV treatment services and a comprehensive combination prevention strategy. Using a data-driven approach, this strategy is tailored to the unique characteristics of the local epidemic to boost health impact and help ensure the most effective, efficient use of resources.

The CDC Guyana office works with the MOH to build in-country capacity to conduct HIV surveillance and diagnosis, monitor HIV patients on treatment, and diagnose opportunistic and sexually transmitted infections. The objectives in each of these technical areas have evolved with the growing maturity of the program and now encompass a focus on building program sustainability and country leadership. For example, the prevention of mother-to-child program is now in a transition phase to the Government of Guyana with a high uptake of HIV counseling and testing services among pregnant women and HIV exposed babies.

CDC collaborates with partners supporting the Guyana National TB Control Program's efforts to integrate HIV and TB care and treatment in the most populous regions of Guyana. CDC works to make the national blood supply safe by assisting the MoH in institutionalizing blood bank and transfusion practices in collaboration with the National Blood Transfusion Service, the Pan American Health Organization, and the Guyana medical community. To help strengthen laboratory systems, CDC has been instrumental in developing the national and regional laboratory capacity to diagnose HIV and other infections and to monitor disease progression.

## Staff

CDC office (physical presence)  
3 U.S. Assignees  
9 Locally Employed

## At a Glance

Population: 796,000  
Per capita income: \$3,270  
Life expectancy at birth  
women/men: 73/67 yrs  
Infant mortality rate:  
38/1000 live births

Source: Population Reference Bureau Fact Sheet, 2011

## Top 10 Causes of Death

1. Ischemic Heart Disease 15%
2. Stroke 13%
3. Cancer 10%
4. Diabetes 9%
5. HIV 7%
6. Hypertensive Heart Disease 4%
7. Lower Respiratory Infections 4%
8. Self-Harm 4%
9. Cirrhosis 3%
10. Interpersonal Violence 2%

Source: GBD Compare (<http://viz.healthmetricsandevaluation.org/gbd-compare/>), 2010

## Impact in Guyana

- Partnerships between the MOH and water service provider, along with improved interagency communication, led to improved monitoring of water sources, leading to improved drinking water quality.
- Almost a 4-fold increase in non-remunerated blood donations since 2003.
- Provision of care and support to more than 6,000 persons and life-saving antiretroviral drug treatment to more than 2,000 HIV infected persons.

For more information please contact Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

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