

# CDC in South Africa



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) started work in South Africa in 1989, assisting non-governmental and community-based organizations working with HIV. In 1994 at the onset of democracy in South Africa, CDC began to collaborate with the South African National Department of Health (NDoH) to conduct public health epidemiology training; develop national health goals and objectives; develop national HIV clinical, ethical, and research guidelines; and support HIV and tuberculosis (TB) programs. CDC plays an essential role in implementing the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

## Staff

CDC office (physical presence)  
**18** U.S. Assignees  
**61** Locally Employed

## At a Glance

Population: 55,041,000  
Per capita income: \$12,700  
Life expectancy at birth  
women/men: 63/59 yrs  
Under 5 mortality: 34/1000  
live births

Source: [Population Reference Bureau 2014: South Africa](#)

## Top 10 Causes of Death

1. HIV/AIDS 33%
2. Stroke 7%
3. Diabetes 6%
4. Ischemic Heart Disease 5%
5. Lower Respiratory Infections 4%
6. TB 4%
7. Hypertensive Heart Disease 3%
8. Interpersonal Violence 2%
9. Diarrheal Diseases 2%
10. Road Injury 2%

Source: [WHO Country Health Profiles 2012: South Africa](#)



## HIV/AIDS

Through PEPFAR, the CDC South Africa office supports the MoH through 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. Activities include the expansion of prevention services including the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), antiretroviral therapy, and voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC).

VMMC is a key area of focus and the MoH has committed to working toward 80 percent coverage of all South African men by 2015. CDC's VMMC expansion activities include the establishment of service sites; surgical training and quality control; and mobilizing men to volunteer for circumcision.

Other key activities include improving and expanding HIV counseling and testing services, TB/HIV integrated service delivery, early infant diagnosis, laboratory infrastructure development, and strengthening health systems. Health system strengthening includes building country capacity in the areas of workforce development, high quality laboratory networks, epidemiology, surveillance, health information systems, and program monitoring and evaluation to assess impact and make rapid course corrections to keep pace with changes in the local epidemic.



## South African Regional Global Disease Detection Centre (SARGDD)

The Global Disease Detection (GDD) program is CDC's principal program for developing and strengthening global health security to detect, identify and contain emerging infectious disease and bioterrorist threats globally. In 2010, GDD South Africa became the ninth regional GDD center with the establishment of the South African Regional Global Disease Detection Centre (SARGDD). The regional center provides leadership, training and technical assistance to strengthen countries' abilities to confront new emerging health disease challenges, including influenza and other respiratory diseases. SARGDD consists of four programs.

### The International Emerging Infections Program (IEIP)

The program focuses on strengthening disease surveillance and providing assistance on implementation of the 2005 International Health Regulations (IHR). IEIP collaborates with the U.S. DOD and Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), the NDoH, the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners to build local and regional disease detection and response capabilities and to strengthen biosecurity.

### The Influenza Program

The program was incorporated into the GDD in 2010, and has a significant regional component. CDC works with NHLS and WHO to conduct surveillance for influenza and pneumonia to direct influenza policy and pandemic preparedness.

### The South Africa Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (SA-FELTP)

SA-FELTP trains field epidemiology and public health laboratory fellows for leadership positions in the South African National and Provincial health services and NHLS. The two-year program provides epidemiologic services to health authorities in South Africa and conducts outbreak investigations.

### The One Health Program

In 2013, the GDD Centre, together with the NDoH, made great strides in establishing a One Health program, which focuses on the convergence of human, animal and environmental health, a priority area for South Africa and core to strengthening global health security.

## Impact in South Africa

- 4,200 PMTCT sites offer provider initiated HIV counseling and testing and antiretroviral therapy to HIV-infected patients.
- Trained more than 2,000 nurses and clinicians to provide integrated HIV and TB screening and treatment in primary health facilities.
- Supported the South African National AIDS Council in assuming leadership for Global Fund activities and leading the development of the National Strategic Plan.

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

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For more country info: <http://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/southafrica/>

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