

# CDC in South Africa

## Factsheet



**Staffing**  
17 U.S. Assignees  
58 Locally Employed

## 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 monitoring the objectives of the National Strategic Plan



*"I am responsible... We are responsible... South Africa is taking responsibility."* is the core slogan of a massive nationwide HIV counseling and testing campaign.

Center for Global Health  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**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 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 President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

## Top 10 Causes of Deaths in South Africa

1. HIV/AIDS	52 %	6. Tuberculosis	3%
2. Cerebrovascular disease	5%	7. Diarrheal disease	2%
3. Ischaemic heart disease	4 %	8. Road traffic accidents	2%
4. Lower respiratory infections	4%	9. Diabetes mellitus	2%
5. Violence	3%	10. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	1%

Source: WHO World Health Statistics, 2006

## HIV/AIDS

In December 2010, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane signed a Partnership Framework to codify PEPFAR's continued support. Under the Framework and working with more than 55 partners, CDC focuses on the following areas in South Africa:

- **Strengthening Health Systems**

CDC aims to maximize the health impact and host country system efficiencies on the ground. Public health experts from CDC help to identify problems and support the implementation and documentation of solutions that save lives and money. The South African National Health Laboratory Service is supported in delivering effective service to all South Africans. CDC also supports partners to design and implement surveillance systems and surveys and to develop systems to monitor and evaluate HIV and TB prevention, care, and treatment programs. Health management information systems staff work with the host government to develop, implement, and maintain unified health information systems. The African Centre for Integrated Lab Training develops and presents hands-on training courses for front-line laboratory staff from several countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.

- **Prevention**

CDC supports HIV prevention with a comprehensive approach including biomedical and behavior change strategies. Pillars of the program are rapid expansion of medical male circumcision, preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT), and integrating HIV and sexually transmitted infections programs. Evidence-based strategies ensure favorable health outcomes with sustainable effects on policy and health systems. The counseling and testing program supports a national campaign that aims to test 15 million people.





Simple infection control procedures like reminders to open windows and doors at the right time help prevent new infections in public TB facilities.

## South Africa at a Glance

Population:	50,460,000
Per capita income:	\$10,050
Life expectancy at birth women/men:	54/53 yrs
Infant mortality:	48/1000 live births

Population Reference Bureau World Population Data Sheet, 2011



Laboratories are the cornerstone of any good health system. The National Health Laboratory Service, a CDC-supported partner, provides world-class services.

- ### Care and Treatment

CDC supports the government in providing HIV care and treatment services. CDC supported 356,711 people on antiretroviral treatment (ART), contributing to increased life expectancy and improvements in the quality of life for people living with and affected by HIV. The care and treatment branch underscores the work of the South African government by scaling-up services for ART and by expanding and improving care and support programs for those infected and affected by HIV.

- ### Integrating TB and HIV

With one of the world's highest TB infection and drug-resistant rates and more than 70% of TB patients co-infected with HIV, intensifying TB case finding and integrating TB and HIV services has been a critical component of the HIV/AIDS program. The program works closely with national and provincial health departments and partners to implement Directly Observed Therapy (DOTS) strategy, to integrate TB and HIV, and to strengthen infection control. Surveillance for TB and drug-resistant TB has been enhanced by CDC-supported electronic software.

## Global Disease Detection (GDD)

A relative newcomer to South Africa, GDD established a regional center in July 2010. The South Africa GDD Regional Center is one of seven located around the world that coordinate with local, regional, and global public health entities to rapidly detect, accurately identify, and promptly contain emerging infectious disease threats. The South Africa regional center consists of the two programs described below.

### Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP)

The two-year South African Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program, based in the National Institute of Communicable Diseases, which is part of the National Health Laboratory Service managed by the University of Pretoria and CDC, trains public health leaders, provides epidemiologic services to health authorities such as evaluations of vaccination campaigns, and has conducted more than 20 outbreak investigations to limit the spread of illness. Additionally, the FELTP offers an applied field epidemiology short course aimed at strengthening epidemiological capacity in all levels of the South African health services system to better detect and prevent disease.

### Influenza

CDC collaborates with the National Institute of Communicable Diseases/National Health Laboratory Service to strengthen laboratory and epidemiologic capacity of national health authorities for the detection, surveillance, and response to seasonal, pandemic, and zoonotic influenza in South Africa and selected countries of the Southern Africa Development Community. CDC sponsors a laboratory management training course for influenza laboratories and a data management training course for influenza surveillance data managers and epidemiologists. Surveillance for influenza has provided a platform to explore the role of other viral respiratory pathogens in causing pneumonia in South Africa. Robust estimates of influenza burden in specific populations (e.g. HIV-infected) have provided evidence for policy improvements on the use of the influenza vaccine in targeted groups. Strengthening pandemic preparedness and response capacity at the local level provides a platform for improved preparedness and response for other communicable diseases.

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