

BARBADOS

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) office in Barbados is part of CDC's Caribbean Regional Office (CRO). CDC CRO opened in 2002 in Trinidad and Tobago, relocated to Barbados in 2008, followed by another move to Jamaica in 2018. CDC works to support the Government of Barbados and other partners in-country to reach the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 95-95-95 goals and accelerate HIV epidemic control, through support of adoption of World Health Organization (WHO) and globally-known best practices. The UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets are, by 2030: 95 percent of all people living with HIV (PLHIV) will know their HIV status; 95 percent of all people with diagnosed HIV will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (ART); and 95 percent of all people receiving ART will have viral suppression. CDC's main goals are to: Improve access to quality services for PLHIV; re-engage PLHIV lost to follow-up and retain them on treatment to achieve viral suppression; enhance laboratory capacity and improve viral load testing services; and improve data access and quality, particularly for key populations to inform program decisions. Barbados is a small island nation with a smaller HIV burden compared to other CRO supported countries, and it is close to reaching its first 95 of the UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals. International best practices and policies based on WHO recommendations will be fast-tracked in order to accelerate progress. The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)/CDC support to Barbados is transitioning to local government and will end by October 2020.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment: CDC is building clinical capacity to institutionalize the WHO Treat All Guidelines and the 95-95-95 Strategy. Barbados was among the first countries in the region to recognize and implement Treat All (all PLHIV are started on ART) in 2016. CDC supported the development and implementation of a pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) policy and guidelines as part of a Combination HIV Prevention approach. Barbados will readily transition to Tenofovir/Lamivudine/Dolutegravir (TLD), an antiretroviral fixed-dose combination, as first line regimen by September 2019. Multi-month scripting (dispensation) has long been adopted and implemented. Activities to improve the clinical cascade include:

- Case finding: Scaling up of HIV infection recency testing and self-testing; scaling-up of index testing, which involves identifying current and former partners and household members of PLHIV; and enhancing partner notification services and supporting online outreach for targeted high-risk men.
- For PLHIV who are diagnosed, but not on treatment: Building on lost to follow-up activities and return to care interventions.
- For PLHIV on ART: Expanding private sector and civil society organization engagement for service delivery; enhancing support for retention in care and adherence to treatment; implementing Undetectable equals Untransmittable (U=U) to message that once PLHIV viral suppression is reached and HIV is undetectable on tests, they will not transmit the virus to others; expanding viremia clinics; implementing the Rapid Pathway Model to fast track stable patients; and expanding viral load testing.

Enhance Laboratory Capacity:

- Supporting continuous quality improvement toward accreditation, including strengthening human resource capacity through technical training.
- Implementing the HIV Rapid Test Quality Improvement Initiative, monitoring quality assurance of HIV testing, and providing external quality assurance panels to monitor HIV and related testing.
- Expanding the Laboratory Information System.
- Scaling up and strengthening of viral load testing.
- Strengthening National and Regional Laboratory Services Network.
- In collaboration with the Government of Barbados, CDC supported the construction of the Best-dos Santos Public Health Laboratory. Construction was completed in December 2017, and the laboratory provides state-of-the-art services and diagnostics for Barbados and the region. This state-of-the-art facility will support the region to strengthen surveillance and diagnostics for care and response while improving quality of data.

Strategic Information:

- Enhancing availability of high quality and timely data by supporting timely surveillance reporting and strengthening essential data and information systems in order to monitor and evaluate program interventions, including interventions to strengthen Treat All implementation and achievement of 95-95-95 targets.
- Improving the quality and availability of key populations data: Completed a bio-behavioral survey amongst men who have sex with men while strengthening systems for surveillance of sexually transmitted infections.

Our success is built on the backbone of science and strong partnerships.

JULY 2019 | The CDC Division of Global HIV & TB activities are implemented as part of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); non-HIV related TB activities are supported by non-PEPFAR funding

Key Country Leadership

Prime Minister or President:
Mia Mottley

Minister of Health:
Jeffrey Bostic

U.S. Ambassador:
Linda Tagliatalata

CDC Regional Director:
Varough Deyde

Country Quick Facts
(worldbank.org/en/where-we-work)

Per Capita GNI:
\$15,240 (2017)

Population:
290,000 (2018)

Under 5 Mortality:
12/1,000 live births (2017)

Life Expectancy:
76 years (2017)

Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic
(aidsinfo.unaids.org)

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 1.5% (2018)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): <100 (2018)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: N/A

Reported Number Receiving
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)
(Age ≥15): 1,518 (2018)

**Global Tuberculosis
(TB) Epidemic**
(who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en)

Estimated TB Incidence:
0/100,000 population (2017)

TB Patients With Known HIV-
Status Who Are HIV-Positive:
0% (2017)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
100% (2016)

TB Mortality:
0.91/100,000 population
(2017)

DGHT Country Staff: 3

Locally Employed Staff: 2
Direct Hires: 1
Fellows & Contactors: 0

