

NICARAGUA

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Since 2003, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Central American Regional Office has collaborated with Ministries of Health and the Council of Health Ministers of Central America to respond to the HIV epidemic in the region. CDC supports countries to achieve the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 95-95-95 targets and the World Health Organization's (WHO's) End TB Strategy targets in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda. The UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets are by 2030: 95 percent of people living with HIV (PLHIV) will know their HIV status; 95 percent of people who know their status will be on treatment; and 95 percent of people on treatment will have suppressed viral loads.

CDC remains committed to working closely with national governments and other key partners in expanding effective HIV testing and counseling strategies, linking newly diagnosed individuals to treatment, intensifying tuberculosis (TB) case finding and preventive treatment among PLHIV, implementing early treatment initiation and differentiated service delivery models, and strengthening laboratory, health information, and surveillance systems in the region.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Increase Detection of Undiagnosed HIV Cases through Recency and Index Testing

CDC increases access to HIV testing among undiagnosed PLHIV by supporting HIV infection recency testing at key populations (KP) sites, index testing services (which involves identifying current and former partners and household members of PLHIV) at treatment sites, and the provision of a comprehensive prevention package which includes HIV testing for KP in priority facilities. Consenting individuals are offered the recency test and four, distinct assisted partner notification modalities to refer or bring their partners to, or they can request to have a health provider anonymously contact them for HIV testing. Results are used to identify areas of recent transmission (PLHIV infected in the past 12 months) to improve HIV case finding and to accelerate contact tracing among recent index cases.

Increase Access to HIV Prevention, Testing, and Linkage Services among Key Populations

The Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) surveillance, prevention and control strategy, known as VICITS by its Spanish acronym, is a country-led strategy that provides HIV prevention and testing services to men who have sex with men and transgender women, including tailored counseling, enhanced STI diagnosis and treatment, condom and lubricant distribution, HIV testing, peer navigation for linkages to treatment, and an HIV surveillance information system. CDC expands access through peer promoters, expanded service hours, and off-site service provision, and it develops a cadre of trainers to address stigma at health facilities.

Reduce Loss to Care and Improve Clinical Outcomes among People Living with HIV

CDC supports early antiretroviral treatment initiation (within seven days of diagnosis) to all newly diagnosed PLHIV and same-day initiation for patients with no clinical contraindications. CDC implements an HIV medicine course for clinicians to strengthen HIV clinical knowledge and practice, including management of treatment outcomes, opportunistic infection diagnosis, and strategies to improve adherence among PLHIV. This includes an initial in-person workshop followed by HIV online courses and case-based studies.

Strengthen Tuberculosis Policy and TB/HIV Coinfection Management

CDC supports the TB law initiative to regulate TB national guidelines and improve case management. CDC partners with National TB and HIV programs to support intensification of TB case finding among PLHIV, preventive TB treatment among PLHIV, TB infection control trainings and risk assessments in HIV clinics, and linkages to care and treatment across TB and HIV clinics.

Strengthen Sustainable Viral Load Suppression among People Living with HIV

CDC assesses network specimen referral, equipment, information, quality management systems, technology evaluation, and coverage of viral load networks. CDC works closely with Ministries of Health to address HIV drug resistance, using results from nationally representative cross-sectional surveys of transmitted and acquired drug resistance to strengthen laboratory networks for genotyping.

Strengthen HIV Case-Based Surveillance

Based on recommendations from earlier evaluations, CDC supports national HIV reporting systems to strengthen the quality, completeness and timeliness of HIV case notification.

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

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Key Country Leadership

President:
Daniel Ortega

Minister of Health:
Sonia Castro

U.S. Ambassador:
Kevin Sullivan

CDC/DGHT Regional Director:
Emily C. Zielinski-Gutierrez

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

Per Capita GNI:
\$2,030 (2018)

Population (million):
6.47 (2018)

Under 5 Mortality:
17/1,000 live births (2017)

Life Expectancy:
76 years (2017)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 0.2% (2018)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): <200 (2018)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: 4,200 (2018)

Reported Number Receiving
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)
(Age ≥15): 4,869 (2018)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:
45/100,000 population (2017)

TB Patients With Known HIV-
Status Who Are HIV-positive:
5% (2017)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
86% (2016)

TB Mortality:
1.6/100,000 population (2017)

DGHT Country Staff: 0

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

