LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

A stable epidemic in Latin America

- An estimated 1.4 million [1.1 million–1.7 million] people were living with HIV in Latin America in 2011, compared to 1.2 million [970 000–1.5 million] in 2001.
- Approximately 83 000 [51 000–140 000] people were newly infected with HIV in Latin America in 2011, compared to 93 000 [67 000–120 000] in 2001.
- The number of people dying from AIDS-related causes declined by 10% between 2005 and 2011, from 60 000 [36 000–93 000] to 54 000 [32 000–81 000].

High HIV prevalence, but a relatively small epidemic in the Caribbean

- After sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean is one of the most heavily affected regions in the HIV epidemic.
- Adult HIV prevalence in 2011 was about 1% [0.9%–1.1%], higher than in any other world region outside of sub-Saharan Africa.
- The number of people living with HIV in the Caribbean remains relatively low—230 000 [200 000–250 000] in 2011—and has varied little since the late 1990s.
- The region has seen a sharp decline (42%) in new HIV infections since 2001, from 22 000 [20 000–25 000] in 2001 to 13 000 [9600–16 000] in 2011.
- AIDS-related deaths fell from an estimated 20 000 [16 000–23 000] in 2005 to 10 000 [8200–12 000] in 2011.

Declining new HIV infections among children

- Although high-income countries have long maintained near-universal coverage for antiretroviral medicines for pregnant women, only the Caribbean has approached similarly high coverage levels at 79% [67–97%].
- In Latin America, coverage of antiretroviral regimens to prevent mother-to-child transmission in 2011 was 56% [37 – 75%].
- The number of children newly infected with HIV fell by 24% in Latin America and by 32% in the Caribbean from 2009 to 2011.

High treatment coverage overall

- In 2011, coverage of antiretroviral therapy was 68% in Latin America and 67% in the Caribbean, compared to a global average of 54%.
- Across the region, there were variations in country-level coverage of antiretroviral therapy:
  - Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Guyana reached more than 80% treatment coverage.
- Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela achieved more than 60% coverage.
- In Bolivia, treatment coverage was less than 20% in 2011.

**Unprotected sex and sex between men play a key role in HIV transmission**

- Unprotected sex between men and women—especially paid sex—is thought to be the main mode of HIV transmission in the Caribbean.

- According to recent surveys, HIV prevalence among sex workers is considerably higher than in the general population. Some country examples:
  - In the Dominican Republic, HIV prevalence among sex workers is 4.7% compared to a national prevalence of 0.7%.
  - HIV prevalence among surveyed sex workers in Brazil is 4.9% compared to a national prevalence of 0.3%.

- According to 2012 country progress reports, HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Jamaica, Chile and Panama was 38%, 20% and 23%, respectively—far higher than among the general population in these countries. Haiti, Argentina and Mexico reported an MSM prevalence of more than 15%.

- Five countries in Latin America and the Caribbean reported levels of condom use among MSM at or above 75%: Bahamas, Belize, Guatemala, Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Most countries reported MSM condom use levels of 50–74%.

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