

REGIONAL FACT SHEET 2012

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%.

Contact

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