

GLOBAL REPORT

FACT SHEET

Caribbean

High HIV prevalence, but a relatively small epidemic

- Adult HIV prevalence in the Caribbean is 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—240 000 [220 000–270 000] in 2009—and has varied little since the late 1990s.
- In recent years, there has been a slight decline in new HIV infections in the region, from 20 000 [17 000–23 000] in 2001 to 17 000 [13 000–21 000] in 2009.
- AIDS-related deaths in the Caribbean fell from an estimated 19 000 [16 000–23 000] in 2001 to 12 000 [8500–15 000] in 2009.
- The HIV burden varies considerably between and within countries in the Caribbean. Cuba, for example, has a very low HIV prevalence of 0.1% [0.08%–0.13%] while the Bahamas has the highest HIV adult prevalence in the region, at 3.1% [1.2%–5.4%].
- Aside from sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean is the only region where the proportion of women and girls living with HIV (53%) is higher than that of men and boys.
- Unprotected sex between men and women—especially paid sex—is thought to be the main mode of HIV transmission in the Caribbean.

Sex work, sex between men and drug use play a key role in HIV transmission

- High HIV infection levels have been found among female sex workers in the region: 4% in the Dominican Republic, 9% in Jamaica and 27% in Guyana.
- One in five men who have sex with men surveyed in Trinidad and Tobago was living with HIV, and one in four said that they regularly had sex with women. In Jamaica, an estimated 32% of men who have sex with men are living with HIV.
- In Bermuda and Puerto Rico, unsafe injecting drug use contributed significantly to the spread of HIV. In Puerto Rico, an estimated 40% of new HIV infections in men and 27% in women in 2006 resulted from contaminated injecting equipment.

Contact: UNAIDS Geneva | tel. +41 22 791 1697 | communications@unaids.org

UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, is an innovative United Nations partnership that leads and inspires the world in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. Learn more at unaids.org.

UNAIDS' vision: Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths.