

GLOBAL REPORT

FACT SHEET

Central and South America

A relatively stable epidemic

- The HIV epidemics of Central and South America have changed little in recent years.
- In 2009, an estimated 92 000 [70 000–120 000] people in the region became newly infected with HIV, compared to 99 000 [85 000–120 000] in 2001.
- AIDS-related deaths in the region reached 58 000 [43 000–70 000] in 2009 compared to 53 000 [44 000–65 000] in 2001.
- Wider availability of antiretroviral therapy has led to an increase in the number of people living with HIV—from 1.1 million [1.0 million–1.3 million] in 2001 to 1.4 million [1.2 million–1.6 million] in 2009.
- One third of all HIV-positive people in the region live in Brazil, where early and ongoing HIV prevention and treatment efforts have contained the epidemic.

New HIV infections among children appear to be declining

- In 2009, the number of new HIV infections among children under 15 was relatively low, around 4000, and appears to be declining.
- An estimated 36 000 [25 000–50 000] children in Central and South America were living with HIV in 2009, compared to 30 000 [20 000–42 000] in 2001.
- In 2009, approximately 54% [39%–83%] of pregnant women living with HIV in the region were receiving antiretroviral drugs to prevent transmission to their infants.

Sex between men is a key mode of HIV transmission

- Most of the HIV epidemics in Central and South America are concentrated in and around networks of men who have sex with men.
- Surveys among groups of men who have sex with men living in urban areas found an HIV prevalence of at least 10% in 12 countries in the region.
- Among men who have sex with men attending public health clinics in Lima, Peru, HIV incidence was 3.5%.
- In five Central American countries, the annual HIV incidence among men who have sex with men was about 5.1%.

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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.