



CDC in Dominican Republic

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established an office in the Dominican Republic in 2009 to support HIV/AIDS prevention and control through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. CDC works closely with the Ministry of Health and other nongovernmental partners to build capacity in epidemiology, surveillance, laboratories, and workforce development. CDC focuses its work on HIV/AIDS, TB, emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, immunizations, workforce development and laboratory quality and safety.



CDC STAFF

- 3 U.S. Assignees
- 12 Locally Employed



AT A GLANCE

- Population: 10.74 million
- Per capita income: \$16,920
- Life expectancy at birth: F 77/M 71 years
- Infant mortality rate: 29.9/1,000 live births

Sources:
UNPOP estimates 2019
World Bank 2019



TOP 10 CAUSES OF DEATH

1. Ischemic heart disease
2. Intracerebral Hemorrhage
3. Alzheimer's disease
4. Ischemic Stroke
5. HIV/AIDS resulting in other diseases
6. Motor vehicle road injury
7. Lower respiratory infection
8. Diabetes type 2
9. Prostate cancer
10. Violence firearm

Source:
UNAIDS 2019
GBD Compare 2019, Dominican Republic



HIV/AIDS

CDC Dominican Republic implements PEPFAR activities by working directly with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to foster system-wide changes, and to support clinic-level activities currently focused on 10 HIV Clinics and two mobile clinics in three high HIV-burden provinces.

Clinical HIV Test and Start/Cascade: CDC has supported the country's implementation of a system that allows the tracking of tested individuals and their link to care. The team expects to have an operating tool by 2020. CDC is working with the the Dominican Republic to expand the Test and Start strategy and create further awareness on how link-to-care can avoid lost to follow-up and strengthen the overall clinical cascade. CDC implemented a network model that will allow access-to-care to out of reach individuals, and help overcrowded sites by rolling out services in the community.

HIV Mobile Services: This initiative, known as mobile clinics, provides prevention and health care services, including HIV care prioritized by PEPFAR to the hard to areas in the provinces of Santiago and Altagracia. The Dominican Republic supplied reagents and antiretrovirals for HIV to use in intervention activities aimed at prioritized populations.



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Multi-Month Dispensing (MMD): CDC is working with the Dominican Republic and civil society to increase multi-month dispensing uptake and scale the strategy to non-prioritized PEPFAR sites.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP): is currently implemented among Key Populations such as men who have sex with men and female sex workers. PrEP has been widely accepted by its users prompting the country to expand available sites and services.

Co-Infection Tuberculosis (TB)/HIV: CDC provides technical assistance in three primary areas:

1. Ensuring clinics are accurately collecting and reporting TB and TB-HIV co-infection data
2. Working closely with the Dominican Republic to expand Isoniazid Preventive Therapy (IPT) in PEPFAR and non-PEPFAR sites. The demand increased as health workers scaled-up IPT as part of a full-fledged HIV comprehensive care package. In previous years IPT uptake was low and its role not fully understood
3. Building surveillance and epidemiological capacity through the National TB Patient Monitoring System.

Health Systems Strengthening

CDC supports the Ministry of Health in characterizing its HIV/AIDS epidemic by assisting in the development and implementation of the National HIV Patient Monitoring System. This system collects critical information to describe HIV risk factors, characterize key populations, and assess the HIV cascade. CDC also supports the HIV Testing Monitoring System, the first nominal HIV testing registry implemented to monitor of patients living with HIV, and to serve as data source for PEPFAR indicators and the national response.

Laboratory Capacity Building

CDC works to scale-up viral load (VL) testing in all patients on antiretroviral therapy (ART) and to strengthen the quality of laboratory services to provide accurate and reliable CD4 count (T-cell count) and VL testing. CDC provides technical guidance to the MOH to comply with International Health Regulations by increasing laboratory capacity, establishing a robust public health laboratory network, and improving the laboratory's role in disease surveillance. CDC also supports laboratory response to infectious disease outbreaks, surveillance activities, and other emergencies.

Infectious Diseases

Infectious diseases can emerge without warning and quickly spread in our globally connected world. CDC works with the Dominican Republic to help build surveillance and laboratory capacity to detect and respond to infectious diseases such as cholera, chikungunya, and Zika.



CDC IMPACT IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Established HIV mobile clinics



Implemented an electronic HIV Patient Monitoring System (HPMS/FAPPS) to track individuals on antiretroviral therapy (ART)



Implemented the Test and Start strategy at 10 CDC/DR supported sites



Developed and implemented a nominal electronic HIV testing register (SIREN-P)



Implemented the first pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) program in key populations



More than 550 graduates from the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)



38% improvement in Viral Load (VL) preparedness score achieved by strengthening the National Public Health Lab where all VL samples are processed

For more country information, visit:

www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/dominicanrepublic

For more information, please contact:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30329-4018

www.cdc.gov/global

Email: cdcglobal@cdc.gov