

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Located in the Thailand Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in Nonthaburi since 2001, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collaborates with government and non-governmental partners, including civil society organizations and multilateral organizations, to scale-up and evaluate effective approaches to reach, test, treat, and retain persons living with HIV (PLHIV) with a focus on men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women in 13 high HIV burden provinces. In fiscal year 2021, CDC Thailand is focused on and aims to:

- Promote timely diagnosis and linkage to treatment and care services through index testing, integration of recency testing into routine HIV services, and HIV self-testing.
- Promote use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent new HIV infections in the highest risk populations through targeted campaigns and by strengthening public PrEP services.
- Develop a model for adolescent and young MSM for linking to testing and treatment.
- Promote same-day antiretroviral therapy (ART) for newly diagnosed individuals to ensure treatment initiation and prevent further transmission.
- Scale-up enhanced adherence counseling, treatment literacy, and 6-month, multi-month dispensing of ART for stable patients to ensure treatment continuity.
- Expand ART access by decentralizing HIV treatment services to primary care facilities.
- Increase access to viral load (VL) testing, develop automatic detectable VL alerts, and strengthen sustainable VL networks to improve patient outcomes.
- Develop digital health platforms to improve coordination between laboratory and HIV teams to improve care delivery process and outcomes.
- Strengthen strategic information capacity to monitor and evaluate the national HIV program.
- Expand data-driven, quality improvement programs and coaching to enhance HIV services.
- Develop community-led monitoring activities to provide feedback on HIV service gaps.
- Integrate HIV coaching and Disease Specific Certification to routine hospital accreditation coaching and certification system.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Introduction and expansion of HIV prevention, care, and treatment services:

- Revised PrEP implementation guidelines, trained staff at 154 hospitals in 56 provinces on PrEP, and assisted MOPH in establishing a unified PrEP data monitoring system.
- Introduced and implemented the first HIV self-testing, pharmacy-delivery model with a private enterprise, showing acceptability of this new approach among first-time testers.
- Contributed to national ART guidance through manual development and implementation of “same-day/rapid ART”, differentiated service delivery, treatment literacy, and introduction and implementation of a novel tuberculosis (TB) urine test to assist with TB diagnosis among PLHIV.
- Supported the decentralization of ART to 20 primary health care centers and PrEP services to seven health centers in Bangkok, resulting in expanded access to life-saving ART and preventive services.
- Expanded a stigma and discrimination reduction intervention program to 50 health facilities in 13 provinces and disseminated these experiences to international audiences.
- Developed electronic VL data exchange and alert system to provide timely VL data for HIV clinical management.
- Supported differentiated ART service delivery to PLHIV during COVID-19, including ART delivery via post, and track and trace activities to ensure continuity in treatment.

Strategic information and planning at national and sub-national levels:

- Updated HIV-Info Hub to be the national data dissemination platform for HIV epidemic and program monitoring data.
- Updated HIV co-morbidity and mortality data and visualization in MOPH website for public use.

Health system strengthening and policy development:

- Supported the development of new regulations and a certification program for non-health care community-based staff to provide HIV services.
- Contributed to the development of the National Operational Guidelines for Viral Load Network and Services to improve VL coverage.
- Prepared MOPH for the ART transition to Tenofovir/Lamivudine/Dolutegravir (TLD) by coordinating with MOPH, Thai AIDS Society, National Health Security Office, Thai Governmental Pharmaceutical Organization, and members of TLD group.

Key Country Leadership

Prime Minister:
Prayut Chan-o-cha

Minister of Public Health:
Anutin Charnvirakul

U.S. Chargé d’Affaires:
Michael G. Heath

CDC Country Director:
James Heffelfinger

DGHT Program Director:
Sanny Northbrook

[Country Quick Facts](https://www.worldbank.org/en/where-we-work)
([worldbank.org/en/where-we-work](https://www.worldbank.org/en/where-we-work))

Per Capita GNI:
\$7,050 (2020)

Population (millions):
69.80 (2020)

Under 5 Mortality:
9/1,000 live births (2019)

Life Expectancy:
77 years (2019)

[Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic](https://aidsinfo.unaids.org)
(aidsinfo.unaids.org)

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 1.0% (2020)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): 12,000 (2020)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS: 220,000 (2020)

Reported Number Receiving
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)
(Age ≥15): 392,776 (2020)

[Global Tuberculosis
\(TB\) Epidemic](https://www.who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en)
([who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en](https://www.who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en))

Estimated TB Incidence:
150/100,000 population (2019)

TB Patients with Known HIV
Status who are HIV-Positive:
10% (2019)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
85% (2018)

Estimated TB Mortality:
16/100,000 population (2019)

DGHT Country Staff: 34
Locally Employed Staff: 30
Direct Hires: 3
Fellows & Contactors: 1

Our success is built on the backbone of science and strong partnerships.

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