

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began collaborating with South African non-governmental and community-based organizations in 1989 to address the country's growing HIV epidemic. In 1995, CDC-South Africa strengthened its support and began working with the Government of South Africa to develop national HIV clinical, ethical, and research guidelines along with HIV and tuberculosis (TB) service delivery programs. With the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) launch in 2003, this support rapidly expanded, and today strategically prioritizes:

- HIV treatment and prevention,
- Integration of HIV and TB in clinical services,
- Strong laboratory systems,
- Robust health information systems to support quality patient care and program accountability,
- Disease surveillance and response systems for HIV, TB, and other diseases of national significance,
- Public health workforce capacity, placement, and retention.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIV Care and Treatment: In fiscal year (FY) 2021, CDC supported antiretroviral therapy (ART) services for over 1.9 million people living with HIV (PLHIV), which is 36 percent of the 5.46 million people who are on ART in South Africa (PEPFAR FY21 APR performance data).

Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC): CDC supports efforts aimed at increasing the uptake of VMMC for men aged 15 years and older. CDC supported 164,995 medical male circumcisions in 2021 (PEPFAR FY21 APR performance data).

Key Populations (KP): CDC supported comprehensive HIV and TB prevention, care, and treatment services, reaching 157,396 key populations (KP) in FY 2021 (PEPFAR FY21 APR performance data). Packages of services are tailored to the needs of each KP group: female sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people, people who inject drugs, and people in prison.

DREAMS: CDC focuses support on programs designed for adolescent girls (aged 15-19 years) and young women (aged 20-24 years) through the Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-Free, Mentored, and Safe (DREAMS) program. CDC uses evidence-based interventions—including post-violence care, parenting/caregiver programs, and facilitating access to resources such as cash transfers and education subsidies—to address factors that increase girls' and young women's HIV risk.

TB/HIV: In the districts supported by CDC-South Africa, 94 percent of TB patients were tested for HIV in 2021, and 52 percent were HIV co-infected. Of those co-infected, 94 percent received ART in addition to TB treatment (PEPFAR FY21 APR performance data).

Adult and pediatric treatment: By the end of September 2021, an estimated 93 percent of PLHIV knew their status; of these, 74 percent were receiving ART. Of those on treatment who had a viral load (VL) test, 64 percent achieved VL suppression below 1,000 copies/mL. Among children <15 years, 75 percent are estimated to know their status of which 72 percent are receiving ART, and 38 percent are virally suppressed (Themisa 4.4).

Surveillance: CDC supports local implementing partners, including the Human Sciences Resource Council, National Institute for Communicable Diseases, and the South African Medical Research Council, to conduct disease surveillance and research that informs South Africa's HIV response and program implementation. This research includes population surveys to understand HIV prevalence and incidence, enhanced antenatal surveys in pregnant women, surveillance of recent HIV infections, HIV drug resistance surveillance, and HIV mortality surveillance. CDC also supports bio-behavioral surveys on all KP groups.

Health Information System: CDC supports the National Department of Health to assess, enhance, and use existing information systems across the South African Government. This support helps the government plan human resources for health (HRH) based on community needs, the burden of disease and characteristics of individual health facilities.

Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT): CDC-supported implementing partners are committed to eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV in South Africa. CDC PEPFAR data showed reduced mother-to-child transmission rates of less than one percent at six weeks gestational age. In FY2021, maternal HIV testing coverage was 99 percent, and maternal ART coverage was 100 percent (PEPFAR FY21 APR performance data).

Laboratory: CDC supports national programs that increase laboratory diagnostic quality and public health laboratory service. These programs support quality laboratory systems and clinical use of results through accreditation and management of laboratory results and by ensuring that facilities have access to laboratory information systems for timely result delivery and proper documentation in patient charts and health information management systems.

Key Country Leadership

President:
Cyril Ramaphosa

Minister of Health:
Joe Phaahla

U.S. Chargé d'Affaires:
Heather Merritt

CDC/DGHT Director:
John Blandford

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

Per Capita GNI:
\$6,440 (2021)

Population (millions):
60.04 (2021)

Under 5 Mortality:
32.2/1,000 live births (2020)

Life Expectancy:
64 years (2020)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence
(Ages 15-49): 18.3% (2021)

Estimated AIDS Deaths
(Age ≥15): 48,000 (2021)

Estimated Orphans Due to
AIDS aged 0-17: 960,000
(2021)

Reported Number Receiving
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART):
5,421,120 (2021)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:
554/100,000 population
(2020)

TB patients with known HIV
status who are HIV-positive:
71% (2020)

TB Treatment Success Rate:
79% (2020)

DGHT Country Staff: 176
Locally Employed Staff: 145
Direct Hires: 19
Fellows & Contractors: 12

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

