

# JAMAICA

## STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) office in Jamaica serves as a regional hub for CDC's Caribbean Regional Office (CRO). It provides direct support to Barbados, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago. CRO opened in 2002 in Trinidad and Tobago, relocated to Barbados in 2008, then moved to Jamaica in 2018. CDC provides public health expertise and strategic support to the Government of Jamaica and partners to strengthen the public health system, achieve sustained HIV epidemic control, and increase health security capacity to prevent, detect and effectively respond to health threats. In support of the efforts of the Ministry of Health, CDC's activities include strengthening surveillance, laboratory systems, workforce, and public health emergency response capacity in the country. Jamaica has leveraged capacity developed through CDC's technical expertise and financial support to respond to COVID-19 and other disease outbreaks.

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CDC's HIV program in Jamaica is focused on preventing HIV infection and providing care and treatment services for people living with HIV (PLHIV) within an enabling environment. As a key implementing agency for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC supports the Jamaica Ministry of Health and Wellness to reach the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets: 95 percent diagnosed among all PLHIV, 95 percent on antiretroviral therapy (ART) among diagnosed, and 95 percent virally suppressed among treated.

**HIV Prevention, Care, and Treatment:** Working closely with partners, CDC's objectives include finding undiagnosed PLHIV, ensuring ART initiation and retention among PLHIV, and achieving viral suppression among PLHIV on ART. These initiatives include:

- Implementing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) services.
- Applying targeted and data-driven case finding strategies to improve service delivery.
- Tailoring client-centered approaches to find, initiate, and retain PLHIV on ART.
- Addressing interruption of treatment and ensuring retention in care.
- Implementing differentiated service delivery.
- Strengthening continuous quality improvement activities.
- Promoting Undetectable equals Untransmittable (U=U) messaging.
- Advocating for legislative and policy changes to decrease stigma and discrimination.

**Enhance Laboratory Capacity:** CDC's laboratory strengthening efforts have improved diagnostic capacity and resulted in international accreditation of nine regional labs, including two in Jamaica. Additional initiatives include:

- Supporting continuous quality improvement towards accreditation, including strengthening human resource capacity through technical training.
- Implementing HIV Rapid Test Quality Improvement Initiative, monitoring quality assurance of HIV testing and providing external quality assurance panels to track HIV and related testing.
- Expanding laboratory information system and strengthening national laboratory services network
- Scaling up and strengthening viral load testing.
- Implementing an HIV drug resistance platform and building COVID-19 genomic sequencing capacity.

**Strategic Information:** CDC supports strengthening Jamaica's health information and disease surveillance systems to ensure quality data for decision-making.

- Enhancing availability of high-quality and timely data to monitor and evaluate program interventions.
- Strengthening essential data and information systems and facilitating timely data analysis and the linking of disparate information systems (surveillance, prevention, treatment, and laboratory).
- Increasing staff capacity at national, regional, and site levels to monitor and evaluate HIV programs and make informed programmatic and policy decisions.
- Supporting standardization of data collection tools and processes through digitization of tools and developing data tracking systems, data visualization tools, and job aids.

**Global Health Security:** CDC supports increasing capacity to prevent, detect and respond to health threats.

- Strengthening emergency preparedness and response.
- Improving infrastructure for the national immunization program.
- Workforce development through support for regional Field Epidemiology Training Program.
- Bolstering surveillance system to enhance the speed with which data are transmitted.

## Key Country Leadership

Prime Minister:  
Andrew Holness

Minister of Health:  
Dr. Christopher Tufton

U.S. Ambassador:  
N. Nick Perry

CDC Regional Director:  
Dr. Emily Kainne Dokubo

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

Per Capita GNI:  
\$4,800 (2021)

Population (millions):  
2.97 (2021)

Under 5 Mortality:  
13.3/1,000 live births (2020)

Life Expectancy:  
74.6 years (2020)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence  
(Ages 15-49): 1.3% (2021)

Estimated AIDS Deaths  
(Age ≥15): <1,000 (2021)

Estimated Orphans Due to  
AIDS: 11,000 (2021)

Reported Number Receiving  
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)  
(Age ≥15): 13,856 (2021)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:  
2.4/100,000 population (2020)

TB Patients with Known HIV  
Status who are HIV-Positive:  
78% (2020)

TB Treatment Success Rate:  
66% (2019)

**DGHT Country Staff: 14**  
Locally Employed Staff: 11  
Direct Hires: 2  
Fellows & Contractors: 1

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

September 2022 | The CDC Division of Global HIV & TB activities are implemented as part of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); non-HIV related TB activities are supported by non-PEPFAR funding

