

U. S. CDC Caribbean



Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/caribbean.html>

CDC established the Caribbean Regional Office in 2002 in Trinidad and Tobago. The office moved to Jamaica in 2018. CDC Caribbean works closely with Ministries of Health (MOHs) to build and strengthen countries' core public health capabilities. These include data and surveillance; laboratory capacity; workforce and institutions; prevention and response; innovation and research; and policy, communications and diplomacy.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Data & Surveillance

- Developed a regional cruise ship surveillance system to track and alert countries to outbreaks



Laboratory

- Facilitated nine clinical laboratories in the Caribbean, including two in Jamaica, in achieving international accreditation



Workforce & Institutions

- Supported training for 380 public health professionals from 17 countries who graduated from the Caribbean Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP)



Prevention & Response

- Supported local FETP-trained epidemiologists in multiple responses, including pertussis, zika, chikungunya, dengue, rotavirus, sapovirus, norovirus, COVID-19, and natural disasters



Innovation & Research

- Implemented Jamaica's first national household survey on violence against children in 2022



Policy, Communications & Diplomacy

- Increased national, regional, and site staff capacity to monitor and evaluate HIV programs and make informed programmatic and policy decisions in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

HIV

Through the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), CDC supports partners in the Caribbean to control the HIV epidemic. CDC efforts include:

- Finding, preventing, and reducing the number of new HIV infections
- Ensuring all people living with HIV start or resume treatment
- Tailoring and expanding access to HIV services through differentiated care models and evening clinic hours
- Integrating care and treatment for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections
- Supporting communication campaigns and activities related to "Undetectable equals Untransmittable"
- Enhancing laboratory testing services for HIV and other diseases
- Boosting efforts to decrease stigma and discrimination against people with HIV

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

CDC's global health security work in the Caribbean focuses on strengthening countries' public health systems across the following core areas: Health Information Systems, Laboratory Systems, Workforce Development and Emergency Response.

Health Information Systems

CDC and partners strengthen health information and surveillance systems by enhancing interoperability. This work involves linking separate systems and developing data repositories to have data in one place. CDC also helps standardize data collection tools and processes through digitization, visualization, and job aids. These efforts increase availability of high-quality data for program and policy decisions.

Laboratory Systems

CDC strengthens laboratory operations through continuous quality improvement activities to allow more laboratories to be internationally accredited. Activities include:

- Training and mentoring laboratory managers
- Improving the quality of laboratory services, like sample collection, testing, and transportation
- Achieving rapid results and timely reporting

Workforce Development

CDC helped establish the FETP in the Caribbean Region in 2014. FETP increases the workforce's abilities to prevent, detect, and respond to existing and emerging health threats.

Emergency Response

CDC's long history of technical support in the Caribbean prepares the region with experts and resources to quickly respond to disease outbreaks. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC helped strengthen several areas that are critical to emergency response, including diagnostic capacity, surveillance systems, workforce emergency response skills, clinical management, and border health.

IMMUNIZATION

CDC's immunization activities primarily focus on COVID-19 vaccination. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC supported a mobile rapid response team that increased access to vaccination. CDC also supports wider immunization programs by increasing access to vaccines at rural health centers.

