



NASTAD™

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF STATE
& TERRITORIAL AIDS DIRECTORS

GLOBAL PROGRAM

GUYANA

HIV/AIDS in Guyana

Guyana is a country of approximately 750,000 people, located on the northern coast of South America. A strong Guyanese government has supported the country's economic development over the past several decades, allowing Guyana to transition from a low-income country to a low middle-income country. Despite this progress, Guyana faces many challenges, including a high emigration rate among the skilled workforce, such as health workers, which compounds the HIV epidemic in the country.

Guyana reported its first HIV case in 1987, and as of 2013, Guyana had an estimated HIV prevalence of 1.1% among adults aged 15-49.¹ Today, the epidemic is concentrated in the more populated, urbanized regions of the country; Region 4, where the capital city of Georgetown is located, accounts for over 70% of the reported HIV cases.² The data suggest a declining trend in the HIV epidemic in Guyana, as the HIV prevalence has steadily decreased since 2004, when approximately 2.4% of the population was living with HIV.³ While the proportion of deaths attributable to HIV/AIDS decreased from 9.5% in 2002 to 4.2% in 2009, AIDS-related deaths are still among the top ten causes of death in Guyana.

¹ Guyana National HIV Strategic Plan 2013-2020

² Guyana National HIV Strategic Plan 2013-2020

³ Guyana National HIV Strategic Plan 2013-2020



NASTAD in Guyana

The Guyana Ministry of Health (MoH) has prioritized the strengthening of Strategic Information (surveillance and monitoring and evaluation) as part of its response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The MoH has placed increasing emphasis on strengthening the case-based HIV/AIDS surveillance system in an effort to obtain more robust data on the state of the HIV epidemic in Guyana, which will in turn inform the design of HIV-related programs and interventions. NASTAD provides technical assistance to the Surveillance Unit of the MoH as it implements, strengthens, and evaluates a new integrated case-based HIV/AIDS surveillance system.

NASTAD

The National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) represents the United States' chief state and territorial health directors with programmatic responsibility for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, and associated public health programs. NASTAD's Global Program works to build the organizational and human resource capacity of its HIV/AIDS program counterparts across the world. The Global Program uses a peer-to-peer capacity building framework to enhance local leadership to gather and use data to plan, manage, and evaluate HIV programs.

Supporting Case-based Surveillance of HIV/AIDS

NASTAD's work is focused on four areas:

System Development and Strategic Planning

NASTAD established a partnership with the Guyana MoH in September of 2012, and began to provide support to the MoH as it developed, piloted, and implemented a new case-based HIV/AIDS surveillance system.

- NASTAD provided technical assistance around strategic planning and product development during the early stages of this process, resulting in the development of a pilot assessment report and a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) report.
- NASTAD worked in partnership with the MoH to develop the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the case-based surveillance system, which details each component of the HIV case reporting process and surveillance system management and provides guidance to health workers around critical surveillance processes.
- NASTAD continues to work with the Surveillance Unit to operationalize the SOP, and to improve data quality and data usage for programmatic decision making.

The collaborative development of each of these documents and systems facilitated more intentional strategic planning around the integration of the HIV/AIDS case surveillance system into the existing public health systems and structures.

Training & Operational Support for System Implementation

To support knowledge transfer and capacity building, NASTAD supported the MoH as it designed and conducted trainings on the revised case-based HIV/AIDS surveillance system. NASTAD worked with MoH staff across multiple programs to provide direct supportive supervision, document review



and co-development, technical input and feedback, and mentored training, ensuring that the deliverables meet local needs, and that the staff has the capacity to lead and monitor system use in the field.

NASTAD simultaneously focused on building capacity at the site-level, providing direct guidance around the accurate completion and timely submission of the HIV case report form, security and confidentiality issues, and use of the SOP.

NASTAD continues to provide support to the MoH as they develop training materials and implement trainings in order to strengthen health workers' capacities to contribute to the HIV/AIDS case surveillance system.

Supporting System Strengthening

As the Ministry of Health continues to implement the new case-based surveillance system throughout Guyana, NASTAD is providing technical assistance around system strengthening and development. NASTAD is supporting the development of Security and Confidentiality protocols and a Monitoring and Evaluation framework, as well as trainings to facilitate the implementation of these practices.

Products Developed with and for the Guyana Ministry of Health

- SWOT Report
- Pilot Summary Report
- National SOPs for Case-based Surveillance of HIV/AIDS
- National HIV Surveillance Trainings

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