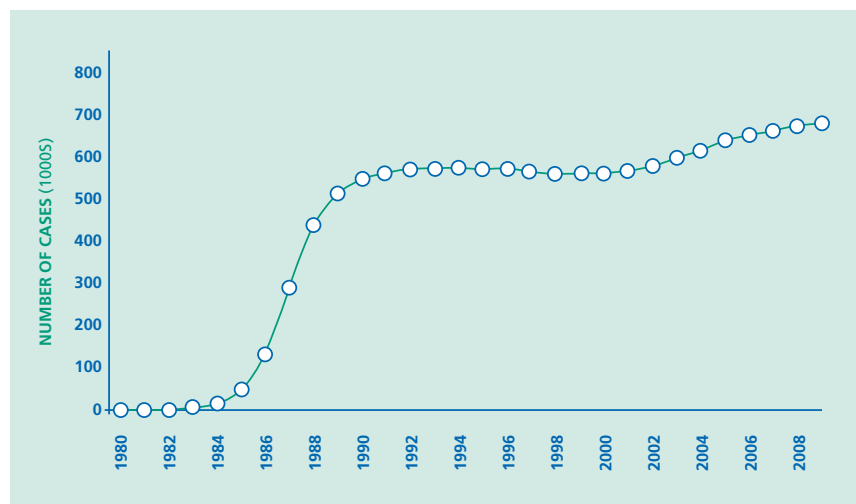


FACTS AND FIGURES

- ▶ The Caribbean has the second highest regional HIV prevalence rate in the world.¹
- ▶ Among males and females ages 15 to 44, AIDS has become the leading cause of death.²
- ▶ If the current trend continues, AIDS will have killed close to one million people in the Caribbean by the end of 2009, including a quarter of a million (250,000) people in the next five years (2005–9).³
- ▶ By 2009 there will be 243,000 new HIV infections and 334,600 new cases of AIDS in the Caribbean; among these, 3 percent (9,400) will be children.⁴
- ▶ A series of surveys conducted by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in 2000 indicated that in a cross section of Caribbean adolescents, of those who reported being sexually active, more than 50 percent reported that they did not use any form of contraception during their last sexual encounter.⁵

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV OR AIDS IN CAREC MEMBER COUNTRIES, HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, 1980–2009⁶



Although the rate of HIV and AIDS in the Caribbean may be at a “tipping point,” with a strong potential to spread widely and quickly,⁷ there is still an opportunity to prevent the HIV and AIDS rate from escalating to the alarming levels found in many sub-Saharan African countries.⁸

¹ UNAIDS, *2004 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic* (Geneva: UNAIDS, 2004).

² Barbados Ministry of Social Transformation and UNICEF Office for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, *Report on the Caribbean Summit for Children on HIV/AIDS (2005)*. Christ Church: United Nations Children’s Fund.

³ B. Camara and I. Zaidi (2005). *The Future of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean*, CAREC Surveillance Report Supplement 1. Port of Spain: CAREC.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ The WHO Collaborating Center on Adolescent Health, *A Portrait of Adolescent Health in the Caribbean* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2000).

⁶ Camara and Zaidi, 2005

⁷ Boston Globe, “The Caribbean’s HIV Problem,” July 2, 2005.

⁸ The World Bank, *HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean: Issues and Options; A Background Report* (Washington, D.C.: The World Bank, 2000).

