

FACTS AND FIGURES

- ▶ The first case of HIV infection in St. Lucia was reported in 1985 and as of June 2005, a total of 508 cases were reported.¹
- ▶ Of the total reported cases, seventy-five percent of infections occurred among people between the 15-49 years of age.
- ▶ In the age group 15-24 years of age, 2.1 times more cases were reported for females than males.
- ▶ Fifty-one percent of the total reported HIV cases have developed AIDS.
- ▶ Forty-six percent of the total reported HIV cases have died of AIDS.
- ▶ Sixty-seven percent of the total reported HIV cases have been between 1995-2005.
- ▶ HIV and AIDS is being spread primarily through multiple sex partners (mostly heterosexual).

In 2005, the following figures were reported by the Surveillance Unit of the Ministry of Health²:

CATEGORIES	1985 TO JUNE 2005	NEW CASES FOR 2004
Total reported cases of HIV infection	508	39
Total AIDS cases	259	14
Total non-AIDS cases	249	25
Total AIDS-related deaths	236	11
Total cases among adults (15-49 years)	381	24
Total cases among youth (15-24 years)	54	4
Total cases among children (<15 years)	48	6

¹ National HIV/AIDS Register, Epidemiology Unit of Ministry of Health, St. Lucia, 2005

² Ibid.



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- ▶ The National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan for 2005-2009 was endorsed by the Cabinet of St. Lucia in January 2004, and the implementation of this plan will be financed primarily by the Government of Saint Lucia and the World Bank.
- ▶ In 2004, the Office of the Prime Minister launched the National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC) under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister to manage and oversee the national response. The National AIDS Program Secretariat is the operating arm of the NACC and is responsible for the overall coordination of the National response.
- ▶ From February 2005, ARV drugs are given to persons living with HIV and AIDS free of cost to those who qualify.

Information for this fact sheet was compiled by St. Lucia National AIDS Program Secretariat, National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC). For more information please contact:

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