



# AIDS IN BRAZIL

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## AIDS in Brazil

- Number of new AIDS cases per year
  - On average, **36,000** new cases/year
- Reported cases (from 1980 to June 2012)
  - **656,701** AIDS cases
- Number of deaths per year
  - Approximately **11,500**
- Prevalence of HIV in the population
  - General population: **0.4%**
  - Men: **0.5%**
  - Women: **0.3%**
  - Men who have sex with men (MSM): **10.5%**
  - Sex workers: **4.9%**
  - Drug users: **5.9%**

## Behavioral data

- Young people (15–24 years of age) use condoms the most: 67.8% used a condom the last time they had sex with a casual partner, in a 12-month period (2008).
- Women use condoms the least. Concerning the last sexual relationship with a casual partner, in a 12-month period (2008), only 45.5% of women reported using a condom, compared to 65.1% of men.
- Approximately 30% of the sexually active population got a free condom from healthcare services during a 12-month period (2008).
- Those who got free condoms were more than twice as likely to use them as those who did not.

## Medication

- 217,000 people have access to free AIDS treatment.
- Brazil manufactures 11 of the 20 ARV drugs used for HIV/AIDS treatment.

## Investment in Prevention, Treatment, and Diagnosis

- The Brazilian government has invested about US\$ 600 million to fight AIDS and STDs. Of these funds, US\$ 390 million have been allocated to the provision of AIDS drugs (2012).
- In 2012, approximately 460 million condoms were distributed, and 2.9 million rapid HIV tests were conducted.

# Brazilian Policy Focus

The Brazilian epidemic is concentrated in the more vulnerable segments of the population such as men who have sex with men (MSM), transvestites, sex workers and drug users, among others. The principal and most effective prevention strategy adopted by Brazil has been to focus on actions directed at the most vulnerable populations, offering free access to condoms in combination with community interventions, in addition to providing HIV testing for early diagnosis.

## *Respect for human rights*

Since the beginning of the epidemic, the greatest mark of the Brazilian response has been related to respect for human rights and diversity and the participation of civil society. Deconstruction of stigma and prejudice is crucial for reducing HIV infections and discrimination among more vulnerable populations. The Brazilian government also promotes actions to fight homophobia, violence against women and lack of respect for the other.

## *Treatment and sustainability*

Today, Brazil's strong, incisive fight to obtain anti-HIV drugs at better prices has allowed it to offer the best available treatment for free, with a larger variety of drugs with fewer side effects. Brazil was the first country to grant a compulsory license for an AIDS drug – Efavirenz, the antiretroviral (ARV) drug most used by Brazilian patients. Since this compulsory license was granted, the government has been able to save US\$ 103 million (2007–2011). Today, of the 38 presentations of ARV drugs used for AIDS treatment, 14 are produced domestically.

## *Diagnosis*

Diagnosis of new AIDS cases in Brazil still presents a challenge. It is estimated that 630,000 people live with HIV/AIDS nationwide. Of these, 255,000 are unaware or have never been tested. Rapid HIV tests are the main strategy for increasing the rate of diagnosis. In four years (2005–2009), the number of HIV tests distributed and paid for by SUS (Brazil's National Health System) has more than doubled, going from 3.3 to 8.9 million units. The tests offered are produced by Brazilian public laboratories.

## *Partnerships*

The history of AIDS in Brazil would not have been the same without the collective participation of various sectors of society. Together, starting in the 1980s, the government, organized civil society, academia, healthcare professionals, private companies (CEN) and the AIDS Pastoral have together sought effective responses to the epidemic.

## *International cooperation*

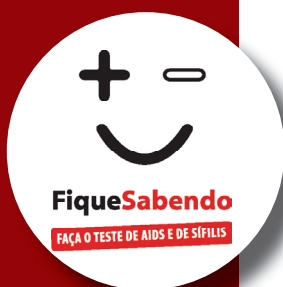
Brazil has a firm commitment to the international community to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic and has engaged in technical cooperation projects with Latin American, Caribbean, African and Asian countries, involving governments and governmental and non-governmental institutions. The South–South Cooperation, established among developing countries, is a strategy to expand national responses and promote integration of all the nations involved. The donation of ARV drugs complements and integrates these cooperative strategies. From 2003 to 2011, Brazil has donated the equivalent of 30,810 drug treatments.



## Seeking a new generation free from aids

From 1998 to 2010, Brazil reduced the incidence of AIDS by 40% in children under 5 years of age. All actions for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission are financed by the federal government, including lactation inhibitors and breast milk substitutes. The Ministry of Health has made its largest investment in rapid HIV tests in order to provide access to diagnosis during pre-natal exams at publicly-funded family healthcare centers. HIV testing has reached 62% of pregnant women (2006). The government's goal is to offer the test to all pregnant women by 2015.

## Strategic actions



### . You Gotta Know

The You Gotta Know campaign is an ongoing mobilization to expand HIV testing and, since 2003, it has coalesced around specific strategies. Access to rapid tests is the primary means of increasing the rate of early diagnosis in more vulnerable populations. In 2012, it is estimated that 2.9 million HIV rapid tests will be distributed nationwide.

Offering of HIV tests at sites outside healthcare centers (extramural actions), with the participation of organized civil society and of healthcare professionals, is a key component of the You Gotta Know campaign, allowing the population greater access to diagnostic testing.



### . Condom distribution

Brazil is the largest government purchaser of condoms in the world. Condoms are freely available to all Brazilians. In 2012, approximately 460 million condoms will be distributed. Since 2008, after the installation of a condom factory in the city of Xapuri, male condoms have been produced domestically. This factory produces 100 million condoms per year. Brazilian condoms were the first in the world to be developed using natural latex from Amazonia.



### . Young people

Compared to other segments of the population, young people are the most frequent users of condoms. They have a great deal of knowledge concerning how to prevent HIV infection and are the segment that most often uses free condoms. Among access points for the distribution of condoms, public schools are in second place.

Despite this, the prevalence of HIV infections among young people in Brazil is increasing. The young are also the segment that most engages in casual relationships. Specific, targeted actions are needed for young people, such as campaigns, peer-to-peer education and investments in Internet content. The Health and Prevention in Schools Program (sponsored by the Ministries of Health and Education) brings debates about sex education, prevention and homophobia directly to students in the school environment.



### . Better quality of life for those living with AIDS

For Brazil, treatment is only one aspect of life for those living with HIV/AIDS. Such persons have relationships, hold jobs, and want to have children. In the last few years, the government has invested in promotional actions that contribute to healthier dietary habits, to improved adherence to treatment, to better access and treatment for lipodystrophy, to guarantee the reproductive rights of seropositive and serodiscordant couples, and to the fight against prejudice.

[www.aids.gov.br](http://www.aids.gov.br)