



*DoD HIV/AIDS Prevention Program
Status Report
May 2003 to September 2004*

Guyana



BACKGROUND

Introduction/General Information

Located on the northern rim of South America between the countries of Venezuela and Suriname, the population of Guyana is estimated at 705,803, with a life expectancy of 62.43 years. English is the official language, and the literacy rate is 98.8%. Agriculture and mining are the prominent sectors of the economy, and the per capita income is \$4,000 annually.

Country HIV/AIDS Statistics and Risk Factors

The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in Guyana is estimated at 2.5%. The number of people living with AIDS is approximately 11,000. According to Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS statistics, the country is faced with a generalized HIV/AIDS epidemic affecting both males and females, and also children as a result of the predominantly heterosexual transmission of the epidemic.

Military HIV/AIDS Information

Statistics regarding the size of the Guyana military and HIV prevalence are under development.

PROPOSED PROGRAM

Please see Military-to-military and PEPFAR sections.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

In early development; please refer to the Military-to-Military and PEPFAR sections below.

Military-to Military

DHAPP provided funds to conduct a needs assessment in cooperation with Guyana military leaders. The needs assessment and its subsequent recommendations are planned in the near future.

Contractor-Based Assistance

None during this reporting period.

Clinical Provider Training

None during this reporting period.

Interoperability

None during this reporting period.

PEPFAR

Guyana has been identified as a focus country in the *President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief* (PEPFAR), which was announced during the 2003 State of the Union Address to Congress. PEPFAR Track-2.0 funds have been approved to strengthen HIV/AIDS prevention and testing services in the Guyana Defense Force (GDF) as follows:

- Establish a database of epidemiology of HIV/AIDS within the GDF recruit population,
- Develop policies and establish programs to address HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention,
- Provide military-to-military HIV subject matter expert assistance,
- Strengthen counseling and testing services, and
- Enhance mass awareness efforts.

PROGRAM IMPACT

Master Trainers and Peer Educators

None during this reporting period.

Number of Troops Trained

None reported during this reporting period.

Potential Number of Troops Affected

DHAPP supported prevention programs will be designed to reach the entire military force.

Counseling and Testing (CT)

None during this reporting period.

Laboratory Capability and Infrastructure

None during this reporting period.

Mass Awareness

None during this reporting period.