



GUYANA

DHAPP

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HIV/AIDS
PREVENTION PROGRAM

REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF HIV/AIDS
AMONG UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN
SELECTED AFRICAN NATIONS AND BEYOND

WINNING BATTLES IN THE WAR AGAINST HIV/AIDS

BACKGROUND

Country Statistics

The population of Guyana is estimated to be 765,283 people, with an average life expectancy of 65.5 years. English is the official language, and the in-country literacy rate is estimated at over 98.8%. Until the 1990s more than 80% of Guyana's industries were state-owned. Since then, the government has divested itself of many industries, but it now faces different sets of problems in the form of environmental threats to the coastal strip, commercial threats to the rainforest, and poverty. Agriculture and mining are the prominent sectors of the economy, and the annual per capita income is approximately \$3,800.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

Since the first case was reported in 1987, there has been a steady increase in the annual incidence of HIV in Guyana. The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in the general population is estimated to be 2.5%, with an estimated 11,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. The majority of infected persons are 20–39 years old. HIV is spread mainly through heterosexual intercourse, accounting for over 80% of AIDS cases. Approximately 18% of AIDS cases are attributed to men who have sex with men. High rates of HIV have been recorded among individuals seeking treatment for sexually transmitted infections (15% for men and 12% for women).

Military Statistics

The size of the armed forces is approximately 2000. As of this annual report, no information regarding HIV prevalence in the military was available.

PROGRAM RESPONSE

Proposed Future Activities

As a President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) focus country, the military of Guyana submitted a comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment proposal to the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) via their PEPFAR country team's overall Country Operational Plan (COP). Military activities for fiscal year 2006 were approved by technical and program review committees at OGAC, as well as by agency principals, and these will commence in the new fiscal year.

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Prevention/Care/Treatment

Current efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention projects for military members in Guyana are being undertaken by the US Southern Command as part of a collaborative agreement with DHAPP. During this quarter, DHAPP staff coordinated initial efforts with the OGAC country team and worked as members of the core team for PEPFAR. Support for the military prevention and care sections of the Guyana FY06 COP was requested via the in-country US Government team there and was reviewed as part of the COP process. Approved activities will commence with the receipt of the FY06 funding in the new fiscal year.

