

THE BAHAMAS

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

Since attaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1973, the Bahamas have prospered through tourism and international banking and investment management. Because of its geography, the country is a major transshipment point for illegal drugs, particularly shipments to the US and Europe, and its territory is used for smuggling illegal migrants into the US. The estimated population in the Bahamas is 307,000.

HIV/AIDS Statistics

The HIV prevalence rate in the Bahamian general population is estimated at 3%, with 6,100 people living with HIV. AIDS has been the leading cause of death in the 15 - 49 years age group in the Bahamas since 1994. The majority of persons reported are in the productive years of early adulthood between the ages of 20 - 39 years. The disease occurs primarily among heterosexuals (approximately 87%), although underreporting by men who have sex with men remains a challenge. Intravenous drug use is not a common practice in the Bahamas and therefore not considered a mode of transmission.

Military Statistics

The Royal Bahamian Defense Force (RBDF) is composed of an estimated 1,000 members. The Bahamas allocates 0.5% of the GDP for military expenditures. Military HIV prevalence rates are unknown.



PROGRAM RESPONSE

In-Country Ongoing Assistance

DHAPP staff are collaborating with the USSOUTHCOM and the RBDF in support of an HIV/AIDS program in the Bahamas.

Proposed Future Activities

In FY08, DHAPP received a proposal from the AIDS Foundation to support the RBDF. The proposed activities included prevention activities and a knowledge, attitudes, practices, and behavior assessment for the RBDF.

