

# Cuba

The Government of Cuba reports as follows.

## National coordination

There is a written national strategy or plan that focuses primarily on the prevention and control of viral hepatitis, and also integrates other diseases. It includes components for raising awareness, surveillance, vaccination, prevention in general, prevention of transmission via injecting drug use, prevention of transmission in health-care settings, treatment and care, and coinfection with HIV.

There is a designated governmental unit/department responsible solely for coordinating and/or carrying out viral hepatitis-related activities. It has one staff member. The name of this office was not provided. There are 22 full-time equivalent staff members who work on hepatitis-related activities in all government agencies/bodies.

The government has a viral hepatitis prevention and control programme that includes activities targeting the following specific populations: health-care workers (including health-care waste handlers), people who inject drugs, migrants, prisoners, people living with HIV and chronically ill patients.

## Awareness-raising and partnerships

The government held events for World Hepatitis Day 2012 and has funded other viral hepatitis public awareness campaigns since January 2011 (Annex A).

The government does not collaborate with in-country civil society groups to develop and implement its viral hepatitis prevention and control programme.

## Evidence-based policy and data for action

There is routine surveillance for viral hepatitis. There is a national surveillance system for the following types of acute hepatitis: A, B, C, D and E and for the following types of chronic hepatitis: B, C and D.

There are standard case definitions for hepatitis. Deaths, including from hepatitis, are reported to a central registry. No hepatitis case is reported as “undifferentiated” or “unclassified” hepatitis.

Liver cancer cases and cases with HIV/hepatitis coinfection are registered nationally.

The government publishes hepatitis disease reports annually, bi-annually and quarterly.

Hepatitis outbreaks are required to be reported to the government and are further investigated. There is adequate laboratory

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Population (in millions) (2011)                              | 11.3                |
| Country classification (2012)                                | Upper-middle-income |
| Gross national income per capita (PPP int \$) (2011)         | –                   |
| Total health expenditure as % of GDP (2010)                  | 10.63%              |
| Per capita total health expenditure (PPP int \$) (2010)      | \$431.23            |
| Per capita government health expenditure (PPP int \$) (2010) | \$394.46            |
| Life expectancy at birth (in years) (2009)                   | 78                  |
| Human Development Index (2011)                               | 0.776               |
| Median age (in years) (2010)                                 | 38                  |
| Total fertility rate per woman (2010)                        | 1.5                 |

capacity nationally to support investigation of viral hepatitis outbreaks and other surveillance activities.

There is a national public health research agenda for viral hepatitis. Viral hepatitis serosurveys are not conducted regularly.

## Prevention of transmission

There is no national policy on hepatitis A vaccination.

The government has established the goal of eliminating hepatitis B by 2013 for the paediatric population and by 2015 for the rest of the population.

Nationally, 100% of newborn infants in a given recent year received the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth and 100% of one-year-olds (ages 12–23 months) in a given recent year received three doses of hepatitis B vaccine.

There is a national policy that specifically targets mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B (Annex B).

There is a specific national strategy and/or policy/guidelines for preventing hepatitis B and hepatitis C infection in health-care settings. Health-care workers are vaccinated against hepatitis B prior to starting work that might put them at risk of exposure to blood.

There is a national policy on injection safety in health-care settings, which recommends single-use and auto-disable syringes for therapeutic injections. Single-use or auto-disable syringes, needles and cannulas are always available in all health-care facilities.

Less than 5% of injections administered annually in health-care settings are unnecessary, according to official government estimates.

There is a national infection control policy for blood banks. All donated blood units (including family donations) and blood products nationwide are screened for hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

There is a national policy relating to the

prevention of viral hepatitis among people who inject drugs.

The government has guidelines that address how hepatitis A and hepatitis E can be prevented through food and water safety.

## Screening, care and treatment

Health professionals obtain the skills and competencies required to effectively care for people with viral hepatitis through schools for health professionals (pre-service education), on-the-job training and postgraduate training.

There are national clinical guidelines for the management of viral hepatitis, which include recommendations for cases with HIV coinfection.

The government has national policies relating to screening and referral to care for hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

People testing for both hepatitis B and hepatitis C register by name; the names are kept confidential within the system. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C tests are free of charge for all individuals. Hepatitis B tests are compulsory for pregnant women and organ and tissue donors, and hepatitis C tests for organ and tissue donors.

Publicly funded treatment is available for hepatitis B and hepatitis C. All people with medical prescriptions are eligible. Information was not provided regarding the amount spent by the government on publicly funded treatment for hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

The following drugs for treating hepatitis B are on the national essential medicines list or subsidized by the government: interferon alpha, pegylated interferon, lamivudine, adefovir dipivoxil and tenofovir. The following drugs for treating hepatitis C are on the national essential medicines list or subsidized by the government: interferon alpha, pegylated interferon and ribavirin.

The Government of Cuba welcomes assistance from WHO in one or more areas of viral hepatitis prevention and control (Annex C).