

Dominican Republic (the)

Population (in millions) (2011)	10.1
Country classification (2012)	Upper-middle-income
Gross national income per capita (PPP int \$) (2011)	\$9420
Total health expenditure as % of GDP (2010)	6.22%
Per capita total health expenditure (PPP int \$) (2010)	\$577.57
Per capita government health expenditure (PPP int \$) (2010)	\$250.39
Life expectancy at birth (in years) (2009)	71
Human Development Index (2011)	0.689
Median age (in years) (2010)	25
Total fertility rate per woman (2010)	2.6

The Government of the Dominican Republic reports as follows.

National coordination

There is no written national strategy or plan that focuses exclusively or primarily on the prevention and control of viral hepatitis.

There is no designated governmental unit/department responsible solely for coordinating and/or carrying out viral hepatitis-related activities. It is not known how many people work full-time 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) and newborns.

Awareness-raising and partnerships

The government did not hold events for World Hepatitis Day 2012 and has not funded other viral hepatitis public awareness campaigns since January 2011.

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 no routine surveillance for viral hepatitis.

There are standard case definitions for hepatitis. Deaths, including from hepatitis, are reported to a central registry. The percentage of hepatitis cases reported as "undifferentiated" or "unclassified" hepatitis is not known.

Liver cancer cases and cases with HIV/hepatitis coinfection are not registered nationally.

Information was not provided on whether the government publishes hepatitis disease reports.

Hepatitis outbreaks are required to be reported to the government. Information was not provided on whether they are further investigated. There is adequate laboratory capacity nationally to support investigation of viral hepatitis outbreaks and other surveillance activities for hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Information was not provided on whether this is the case for hepatitis E.

There is no 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 not established the goal of eliminating hepatitis B.

Nationally, 82.1% of newborn infants in a given recent year received the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 24 hours of birth and 79.7% of one-year-olds (ages 12–23 months) in a given recent year received three doses of hepatitis B vaccine.

There is no national policy that specifically targets mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis 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 not 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 auto-disable syringes for therapeutic injections. Single-use or auto-disable

syringes, needles and cannulas are always available in all health-care facilities.

Official government estimates of the number and percentage of unnecessary injections administered annually in health-care settings are not known.

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.

It is not known whether there is a national policy relating to the prevention of viral hepatitis among people who inject drugs.

The government does not have 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).

Information was not provided on whether there are national clinical guidelines for the management of viral hepatitis.

Information was not provided on whether the government has national policies relating to screening and referral to care for hepatitis B or hepatitis C.

Information was not provided on whether people testing for hepatitis B or hepatitis C register by name, or whether the tests are free of charge for all individuals or compulsory for members of any specific group.

Publicly funded treatment is available for hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Information was not provided regarding who is eligible for this, or on the amount spent by the government on such treatment for hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

The following drug for treating hepatitis B is on the national essential medicines list or subsidized by the government: interferon alpha. The following drug for treating hepatitis C is on the national essential medicines list or subsidized by the government: interferon alpha.

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