



**AIDS Accountability Country Profiles are initially provided for a selection of 17 countries in order to give further commentary on their performance according to the AIDS Accountability Country Scorecard and the context in which the response takes place. For further details about the data or the methodology, please see our website [www.aidsaccountability.org](http://www.aidsaccountability.org)**

AIDS Accountability International (AAI) was established to increase accountability and inspire bolder leadership in the response to the AIDS epidemic. We do this by rating and comparing the degree to which public, private and civil society actors are fulfilling the formal agreements they have made to respond to the epidemic.

#### **Facts Cuba**

**Region:** Caribbean

**Population:** 11.4 million

**HIV prevalence:** 0.1% 15-49 years (UNAIDS)

**Gross National Income:** US\$ 1345 per capita (2006)

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## Country Profile: Cuba

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### Introduction

Cuba is something of an enigma in terms of HIV/AIDS. The country has managed to maintain low rates of HIV prevalence among its 11.4 million inhabitants. Despite rising rates in other countries in the Caribbean, the estimated prevalence among 15-40 year olds is 0.1 according to UNAIDS. As early as in 2001, Cuba began manufacturing generic anti-retroviral drugs and has managed to provide anti-retroviral therapy (ART) to the vast majority of those who need treatment. Despite these successes, there has been considerable controversy about Cuba's dispensary approach, particularly in relation to observance of human rights.

### The scores

Cuba scores well (B) on element 1, reflecting a fairly good level of reporting on data concerned with biological and behavioural surveillance. The 2008 reporting was a significant improvement from previous reporting in 2006, when Cuba scored the lowest grade, E.

On element 2, data was not submitted regarding funds spent on prevention programs for most-at-risk populations, sex workers, injecting drug users (IDUs) and men who have sex with men (MSM), only on total funds spent on prevention program, hence the "No data". This is of particular concern, given that most infections in Cuba have occurred as a result of unprotected sex between men.

Unsurprisingly, Cuba scores highly on provision of treatment (element 3) and also did so in 2006. In 2008, it is reported that Cuba provides antiretroviral therapy (ART) to >95% of those who need it.

Cuba's improving score on prevention in element 4 between 2006 and 2008 reflects improved availability of data. For example, in 2006, UNAIDS' UNGASS report lacked any coverage data for prevention programs for most-at-risk populations in Cuba. In 2008, coverage of 60% was reported for programs among sex workers and 56% for programs among men who have sex with men.

Cuba's overall coordination environment, element 5, is reported to be very good (A) with particularly high scores reported for the strategic action framework (A) and the National M&E System (A), although the score for the National Coordinating Authority (C) is lower. For the operating environment for civil society Cuba scored a (B). Unusually, the score given by government for this (C) is lower than that given by civil society itself (A).

In 2007, Cuba reported spending US\$ 40.1 million on its response to HIV/AIDS. With an estimated 6,200 people living with HIV in the country, this equates to over US\$ 6,700 per person with HIV per year (A). Of this, the majority (81%) comes from domestic resources and equates to more than four times the gross national income (GNI) per capita (A). A relatively small proportion of these funds (15%) is spent on prevention. For a population of 11.4 million, this equates to an annual spend on HIV prevention per person of just US\$ 0.56 (C).

Cuba scores well on the human rights element of the scorecard (B), which captures the degree to which human rights have been mainstreamed into the AIDS response. The score is based on reporting to the UNGASS National Composite Policy Index (NCPI). However, it would perform less well if other areas, such as regulations on travel and residence for people living with HIV, general human rights and press freedom, were taken into account.

### *Cuba's Score*

| Elements                             | 2006    | 2008    |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| 1: Data Collection                   | E       | B       |
| 2: Focus on most-at-risk populations |         | No Data |
| 3: Treatment                         | A       | A       |
| 4: Prevention                        | No data | D       |
| 5: Coordination                      |         | A       |
| 6: Civil Society                     |         | B       |
| 7: Financing                         |         | B       |
| 8: Human Rights Mainstreaming        |         | B       |

*Explanation of scores: A= 81-100%, B= 61-80%, C=41-60%, D=21-40%, E=0-20%*

### Reporting –How can Cuba improve?

Cuba received a B on the **AIDS Reporting Index**, which reflects a fairly good level of reporting on the elements in the scorecard. Areas where Cuba can improve its reporting is focus on most-at-risk populations where only total funds spent on prevention was reported. Data reported on IDUs would improve the score on element 4.

| Element | Reported indicators | Total indicators | % reporting |
|---------|---------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1       | 13                  | 15               | 87%         |
| 2       | 1                   | 3                | 33%         |
| 3       | 1                   | 1                | 100%        |
| 4       | 2                   | 3                | 67%         |
| 5       | 57                  | 64               | 89%         |
| 6       | 25                  | 32               | 78%         |
| 7       | 3                   | 3                | 100%        |
| 8       | 33                  | 40               | 83%         |

*Visit our website to make your own scorecard, access more information about the scorecard including indicators on country level and to give your feedback to us. Make your voice heard at [www.aidsaccountability.org](http://www.aidsaccountability.org)*

Source: Cuba Country Progress Report 2008, UNAIDS AIDS Epidemic Update: Region Summary Caribbean 2008