

The Eastern Caribbean-Community Access Project (EC-CAP): Increasing Access to HIV/AIDS Services through Evidence-Based Programming

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Project Description

In collaboration with the Caribbean HIV/AIDS Alliance and Intrahealth, CAPS is working in four Eastern Caribbean countries to enhance the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The USAID-funded Eastern Caribbean Community Action Project (EC-CAP) supports prevention, development and use of strategic information, roll-out of community-based counseling and testing, and provision of care services (palliative and home based care).

As one of three partners, the CAPS team's specific aims are:

1. To identify the barriers and facilitators to access and delivery of HIV prevention, testing, and treatment services (Antigua-Barbuda, Barbados, St. Vincent-Grenadines)
2. To assess the feasibility and acceptability of prevention interventions for different population groups at risk for HIV (St Kitts-Nevis, Barbados)
3. To provide technical support and capacity building to improve regional, country and programmatic monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems for assessing the quality and impact of HIV services (all countries)

CAPS is providing specific expertise and technical support to design a series of special studies to:

- Describe HIV risk and health seeking behavior
- Conduct studies on implementation and scale-up community-based HIV counseling and testing
- Train local prevention providers on monitoring and evaluation systems, data use and program planning
- Provide local organizations with technical assistance in strategic information, package findings and recommendations of the evaluations into best practice publications
- Disseminate the publications at the international, regional, and national level

Interesting Findings

- From needs assessments conducted thus far, we have discovered that each country is in a different state of preparedness to provide comprehensive HIV/AIDS services.
- Some challenging conditions for this work:
 - Secrecy around sex exchange and stigmatizing attitudes towards MSM and PLWHA
 - Overall lack of reliable surveillance data

Project Recruitment Dates: Beginning March 2008

Project End Date: September 2011

