

Chief Medical Officer's Message

Congratulations to the West Indian Medical Journal for this special compendium on HIV/AIDS.

The public health response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic has provided important lessons. Strategies so far have targeted vulnerable populations, persons living with HIV/AIDS and various sectors. However, despite significant gains, the Caribbean region continues to have the second highest prevalence of the disease. Since vaccine studies have not been very promising, greater attention must be paid to prevention. This requires the commitment of all stakeholders.

Children and young people are at greatest risk. This challenges us to work with other sectors to empower them to make the appropriate sexual and reproductive life choices. We must also ensure that the prevention of mother-to-child transmission programme leaves out no mother or child. Health is a basic human right and must be accessible to all. Let us meet the challenges head on so that HIV/AIDS can become history.

Best wishes.

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