Stats News & Views

Special Topic Statistical Bulletin - COVID-19

Issue 33, 6 November 2020

The **Special Topic Statistical Bulletin on COVID-19 in CARICOM Countries, Issue 33**, provides an update of the trajectory of the COVID-19 in the CARICOM Region up to **6 November 2020**. The Bulletin provides information on the pattern of the disease of the total number of confirmed cases, new cases and deaths for each country and the total for CARICOM. The data are preliminary and will be adjusted as more reliable data are made available.

The total number of confirmed cases for CARICOM countries as at 6 November is **46,968**. The total number of deaths is **1109**, recovered cases, **35,143** and active cases, **10, 589**. If deaths all causes are counted for The Bahamas and Jamaica, then the total number of deaths is **1159** deaths.

The number of new cases for the period **31 October – 6 November** stood at **1786**, an increase of **73** from the previous period **24-30 October**. The countries that contributed significantly to the total number of new cases were: **Belize, 554 (31 percent), Jamaica, 378 (21 percent), Guyana, 314 (18 percent), The Bahamas, 233 (13 percent) and Trinidad and Tobago, 130 (7 percent)**. The contributions for Trinidad and Tobago and The Bahamas to the total number of new cases have declined markedly.

Jamaica has the highest number of cases with **9472** followed by **Haiti** with **9127**. However, Haiti has a 3-day reporting lag. **The Bahamas** follows with **6947**, **Trinidad and Tobago, 5798**, **Suriname, 5227, Guyana, 4457 and Belize, 4016**. The number of cases for **Saint Lucia** is on the uptick and is now **110** as at 6 November. Adjusting the number of confirmed cases for population size the top five countries for rates per 100,000 population are: **The Bahamas**, **1821.83**; **Turks and Caicos Islands**, **1711.86 (707 confirmed cases)**; **Belize, 1008.92; Suriname, 896.57** and **Guyana**, **601.48**.

Jamaica tops in the number of deaths with 249, if deaths under investigation are included and those due to non-COVID-19 causes are excluded and is at **270 all causes. Haiti is at 232 deaths**. **The Bahamas is 177** (including under investigation and excluding non-COVID-19 causes) and **206 deaths all causes**. **Guyana follows with 133**, **Suriname has 112 deaths**, **Trinidad and Tobago, 111 and Belize is at 67 deaths**.

Situation at a Glance

SEPTEMBER 2020						
Sun	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
.....	.....	.....	2nd 23,385	.....	.....	.....
NOVEMBER 2020						
1st 45,674	2nd 45,843	3rd 46,181	4th 46,494	5th 46,742	Friday, 6th 46,968	

Doubling Rate—2.01

Total number of confirmed cases increased by 23,583 over 65 days

Total number of deaths increased by 556 in 58 days at a rate of 2.01

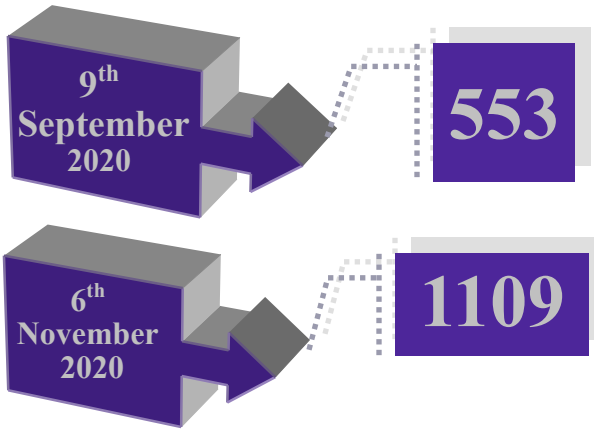


TABLE 1: SUMMARY ALL COUNTRIES -NUMBER OF CONFIRMED CASES, NEW CASES AND DEATHS - 26 SEPTEMBER – 6 NOVEMBER 2020

Date	No. of Confirmed Cases	No. of New Cases	No. of Deaths
26-Sep	33902	314	722
27-Sep	34186	284	732
28-Sep	34593	407	745
29-Sep	35021	428	766
30-Sep	35388	367	777
01-Oct	35784	396	785
02-Oct	36165	381	793
03-Oct	36550	385	802
04-Oct	36942	392	807
05-Oct	37283	341	816
06-Oct	37661	378	829
07-Oct	37968	307	834
08-Oct	38434	466	844
09-Oct	38889	455	862
10-Oct	39274	385	871
11-Oct	39619	345	883
12-Oct	39913	294	889
13-Oct	40134	221	898
14-Oct	40515	381	915
15-Oct	40861	346	923
16-Oct	41216	355	934
17-Oct	41565	349	945
18-Oct	41774	209	950
19-Oct	42057	283	965
20-Oct	42399	342	964
21-Oct	42819	420	977
22-Oct	43164	345	986
23-Oct	43469	305	993
24-Oct	43715	246	997
25-Oct	43908	193	1007
26-Oct	44084	176	1023
27-Oct	44330	246	1028
28-Oct	44530	200	1041
29-Oct	44851	321	1054
30-Oct	45182	331	1062
31-Oct	45311	129	1068
01-Nov	45674	363	1076
02-Nov	45843	169	1083
03-Nov	46181	338	1087
04-Nov	46494	313	1098
05-Nov	46742	248	1105
06-Nov	46968	226	1109

Note: The Number of Confirmed Cases and the Number of Deaths are **cumulative values** while the Number of New Cases is not cumulative and reflects the **daily** number of cases. Please see Issue 10 for the explanation on how the cumulative values are derived. Please check previous Issues for the data for earlier dates.

TABLE 1A: SUMMARY OF SELECTED VARIABLES BY COUNTRY AS AT 6 NOVEMBER 2020

Country	Confirmed Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Recoveries	Active Cases	Tests Conducted
Total Member States	**45,727**	**1,763**	**1,092**	**33,962**	**10,547**	**342,351**
Antigua and Barbuda	130	3	3	118	9	3905
The Bahamas	6947	233	177	4942	1799	37120
Barbados	242	6	7	228	7	38521
Belize	4016	554	67	2330	1619	24514
Dominica	63	13	0	35	28	5004
Grenada	30	2	0	27	3	1126
Guyana	4457	314	133	3467	857	21372
Haiti	9127	70	232	7618	1277	33358
Jamaica	9472	378	249	4878	4249	100125
Montserrat	13	0	1	11	0	383
Saint Lucia	110	32	0	32	78	12218
St Kitts and Nevis	19	0	0	19	0	3255
St Vincent and the Grenadines	76	2	0	71	5	7531
Suriname	5227	26	112	5102	13	20058
Trinidad and Tobago	5798	130	111	5084	603	33861
Total Associate Members	**1,241**	**23**	**17**	**1,181**	**42**	**150,027**
Anguilla	3	0	0	3	0	662
Bermuda	209	10	9	181	19	90738
British Virgin Islands	72	0	1	70	1	5461
Cayman Islands	250	10	1	236	13	48134
Turks and Caicos Islands	707	3	6	691	9	5032
Total CARICOM	**46,968**	**1,786**	**1,109**	**35,143**	**10,589**	**492,378**

Notes:

1. New Cases are for the period **31 October-6 November 2020**.
2. Data for some countries for the number of tests conducted are often not continuously updated and should be used with caution.
3. For The Bahamas, the number of deaths in the Table includes **25 deaths** that are under investigation and excludes **29 deaths** that are classified as due to non-COVID-19 causes. The total number of deaths of COVID-19 patients is **206.**
4. For Jamaica, the number of deaths in the Table includes **31 deaths** that are under investigation and excludes **21 deaths** that are classified as due to non-COVID-19 causes. The total number of deaths of COVID-19 patients is **270**.
5. If all deaths of COVID-19 positive persons are counted for The Bahamas and Jamaica, then the total number deaths of COVID-19 positive persons (all causes) in CARICOM is **1159**.
6. There is a lag of 3 days in the data for Haiti and 1 day for Bermuda.

TABLE 3: EXPLANATIONS

Key Term/Issues	Explanation
Data on Testing	Testing for the occurrence of COVID-19 provides an understanding of the pandemic. It tells us how the virus is spreading. Testing should be able to tell us about the total number of cases or persons infected. However given the availability or lack thereof of equipment for testing and the establishment of protocols in many countries that invariably implies that persons should fulfil stated criteria to qualify to be tested, it is likely that the total number of cases are unknown. This data set on testing has increasingly become available for most CARICOM countries with some countries consistently reporting this information. A possible difference in the data is that the tests are performed in different testing laboratories across countries. In some cases testing is done for countries or validated by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) while in other cases they are conducted at national laboratories. Another difference is that tests may include repeated testing for confirmed cases to determine whether these persons have recovered. It is also possible that different types of tests are being reported. Why is data on testing needed? The simple answer is that without data on tests conducted on the COVID-19 we cannot possibly understand how the pandemic is progressing, and which contacts to trace and to quarantine.
Projections	The projections in this and previous Issues largely rely on using observed doubling rates, the rates of change of the latest period of data (prior to the estimation) or using fitted trend lines. No sophisticated modelling has been utilised. For example in the case of Chart 2, a linear projection is undertaken and the equation of that straight line is given as follows: $y = -103.42 + 25.045\ x$ Where y represents the number of confirmed cases and x the number of time periods from the commencement of the first case. Simply put, it is possible to use this equation to obtain predicted values. Assuming that it is necessary to calculate the number of predicted cases on the 29th April as per the linear trend, the number of time periods (x- value) from the 10 March is roughly 50 so the predicted value works out as follows: y_p = -103.42 + 25.045 x 50 = 1252.25 -103.42 =1148.83. The actual value for this same period is 1178 confirmed cases.

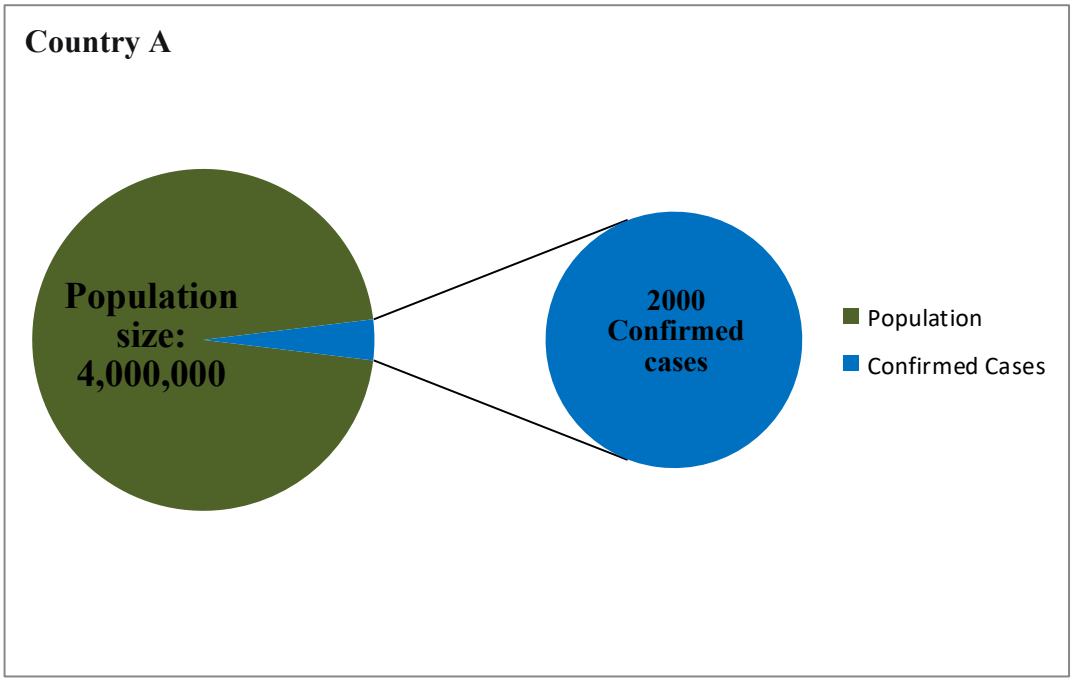
TABLE 3: EXPLANATIONS

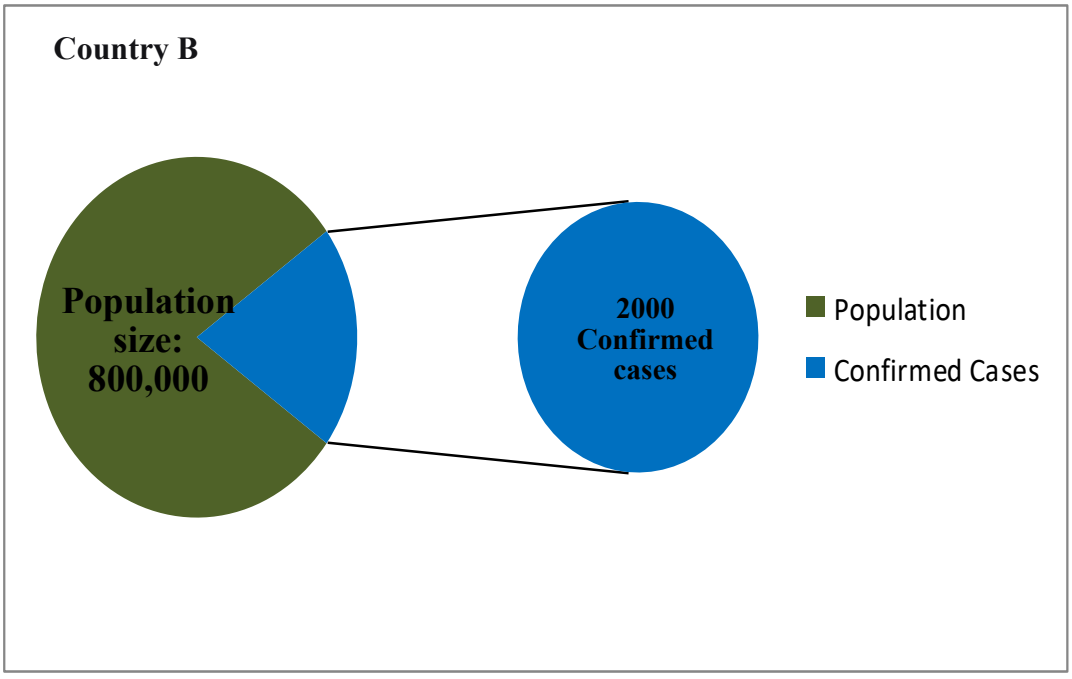
Key Term/Issue	Explanation
Number of Cases per 100, 000 population	The number of cases per 100,000 population is calculated by dividing the number of cases by the total population, and then multiplying the result by a standard population size in this case 100,000. $Rate = \frac{No.of\ Confirmed\ Cases}{Total\ Population}\ x\ 100{,}000$ It is useful for comparing countries/regions of varying population sizes For very small values/small populations these rates may be unstable.

ILLUSTRATION OF CONFIRMED CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION

While both countries A and B, in the illustration have 2000 Confirmed Cases – the impact in Country A with a population of 4,000,000 is much smaller than the impact in Country B with a population size of 800,000.

For Country A the impact (per 100,000 persons) is 2000/4,000,000 X 100,000, which is 50 persons.
For Country B the impact is 2000/800,000 X 100,000 which is 250 persons, about 5 times larger.





KEY REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LINKS ON COVID-19

CARICOM Today:- https://today.caricom.org/covid19/regional/

Regional Statistics Programme (RSP): http://statistics.caricom.org/covid19_bulletin.html

UN DATA HUB:- https://covid-19-response.unstatshub.org/useful-links/international-organisations-resources/

CARPHA (Caribbean Public Health Agency) - https://carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus

Article: Tracking the Covid-19 Pandemic in CARICOM– Statistics of a Pandemic

https://today.caricom.org/2020/05/04/tracking-covid-19-pandemic-in-caricom/

Please note that this Newsletter will be on the Regional Statistics Programme's (RSP) website as well as on the UN Data Hub.

Produced By:

The Regional Statistics Programme
Caribbean Community Secretariat
P.O. BOX 10827, Georgetown, Guyana
Email: stats1@caricom.org
Website: statistics.caricom.org