Stats News & Views

Special Topic Statistical Bulletin - COVID-19

Issue 36, 27 November 2020

The **Special Topic Statistical Bulletin on COVID-19 in CARICOM Countries Issue 36,** provides an update of the trajectory of the COVID-19 in the CARICOM Region up to **27 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 27 November is **52,482**. The total number of deaths is **1257**, recovered cases, **39,935** and active cases, **11,149**. If deaths all causes are counted for The Bahamas and Jamaica, then the total number of deaths is **1324**.

The number of new cases for the period **21-27 November** stood at **1880**, an increase of **143** from **14-20 November** (1737 adjusted). The countries that contributed significantly to the total number of new cases were: **Belize, 531 (28 percent), Jamaica, 429 (23 percent), Trinidad and Tobago, 325 (17 percent), Guyana, 305 (16 percent)** and **The Bahamas, 108 (6 percent)**.

Jamaica has the highest number of cases with **10,669** followed by **Haiti** with **9264** (3-day reporting lag). **The Bahamas** follows with **7503**, **Trinidad and Tobago, 6586**, **Belize, 5587, Suriname, 5311 and Guyana, 5310**. The number of cases for **Saint Lucia** stood at **246**. Adjusting the number of confirmed cases for population size the top five countries for rates per 100,000 population are: **The Bahamas**, **1967.64 Turks and Caicos Islands**, **1811.14 (748 confirmed cases)**, **Belize, 1403.59; Suriname, 910.98** and **Guyana**, **716.60**.

Jamaica tops in the number of deaths with 283, if deaths under investigation are included and those due to non-COVID-19 causes are excluded and is at **317 deaths all causes. Haiti is at 232 deaths**. **The Bahamas is at 185** (including deaths under investigation and excluding non-COVID-19 causes) and **218 deaths all causes**. **Guyana** follows with **149**, **Belize, 141, Trinidad and Tobago, 118 and Suriname** has **117 deaths**.

Situation at a Glance

SEPTEMBER 2020						
Sun	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
.....	.....	9th 26,165	.....	.....	.....	.....
NOVEMBER 2020						
22nd 51,260	23rd 51,498	24th 51,725	25th 51,959	26th 52,251	Friday, 27th 52,482	

Doubling Rate—2.01

Total number of confirmed cases increased by 26,317 over 79 days

Total number of deaths increased by 627 in 71 days at a rate of 2.00

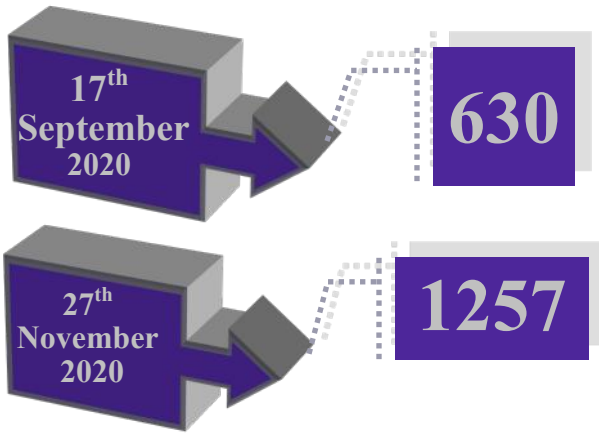


TABLE 1: SUMMARY ALL COUNTRIES -NUMBER OF CONFIRMED CASES, NEW CASES AND DEATHS - 17 OCTOBER – 27 NOVEMBER 2020

Date	No. of Confirmed Cases	No. of New Cases	No. of Deaths
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	46752	258	1105
06-Nov	46980	228	1109
07-Nov	47186	206	1116
08-Nov	47413	227	1121
09-Nov	47549	136	1125
10-Nov	47855	306	1131
11-Nov	48223	368	1136
12-Nov	48528	305	1142
13-Nov	48861	333	1155
14-Nov	49253	392	1161
15-Nov	49443	190	1165
16-Nov	49650	207	1172
17-Nov	49836	186	1177
18-Nov	50057	221	1187
19-Nov	50346	289	1192
20-Nov	50602	252	1198
21-Nov	50890	288	1206
22-Nov	51260	370	1211
23-Nov	51498	238	1220
24-Nov	51725	227	1231
25-Nov	51959	234	1239
26-Nov	52251	292	1244
27-Nov	52482	231	1257

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 27 NOVEMBER 2020

Country	Confirmed Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Recoveries	Active Cases	Tests Conducted
Total Member States	**51,133**	**1,834**	**1,239**	**38,691**	**11,063**	**395,756**
Antigua and Barbuda	141	2	4	130	7	4502
The Bahamas	7503	108	185	5862	1423	42815
Barbados	270	17	7	249	14	46136
Belize	5587	531	141	3056	2390	29993
Dominica	85	13	0	73	12	5655
Grenada	41	0	0	30	11	1126
Guyana	5310	305	149	4272	889	29154
Haiti	9264	35	232	7951	1081	35695
Jamaica	10669	429	283	5953	4315	113343
Montserrat	13	0	1	11	0	590
Saint Lucia	246	43	2	109	135	15634
St Kitts and Nevis	22	3	0	19	3	3902
St Vincent and the Grena-dines	85	1	0	79	6	9555
Suriname	5311	22	117	5187	19	21149
Trinidad and Tobago	6586	325	118	5710	758	36507
Total Associate Members	**1,349**	**46**	**18**	**1,244**	**86**	**175,636**
Anguilla	4	1	0	3	1	2651
Bermuda	251	24	9	213	29	105987
British Virgin Islands	72	0	1	71	0	6100
Cayman Islands	274	13	2	252	20	52620
Turks and Caicos Islands	748	8	6	705	36	8278
Total CARICOM	**52,482**	**1,880**	**1,257**	**39,935**	**11,149**	**571,392**

Notes:

1. New Cases are for the period **21-27 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 Table 1A includes **22 deaths** that are under investigation and excludes **33 deaths** that are classified as due to non-COVID-19 causes. The total number of deaths of COVID-19 patients all causes is **218.**
4. For Jamaica, the number of deaths in the Table 1A includes **32 deaths** that are under investigation and excludes **34 deaths** that are classified as due to non-COVID-19 causes. The total number of deaths of COVID-19 patients is **317.**
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 in CARICOM is **1324.**
6. There is a lag of 3 days in the data for Haiti.

TABLE 2: CONFIRMED CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION

COUNTRY	CONFIRMED CASES	RATES PER 100,000
Total Member States	**51,133**	**276.35**
Antigua and Barbuda	141	148.40
The Bahamas	7503	1967.64
Barbados	270	98.31
Belize	5587	1403.59
Dominica	85	118.06
Grenada	41	36.78
Guyana	5310	716.60
Haiti	9264	81.18
Jamaica	10669	391.16
Montserrat	13	260.00
Saint Lucia	246	137.43
St Kitts and Nevis	22	41.51
St Vincent and the Grenadines	85	76.58
Suriname	5311	910.98
Trinidad and Tobago	6586	484.55
Total Associate Members	**1,349**	**626.75**
Anguilla	4	26.67
Bermuda	251	392.35
British Virgin Islands	72	246.99
Cayman Islands	274	416.33
Turks and Caicos Islands	748	1811.14
Total CARICOM	**52,482**	**280.38**

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.

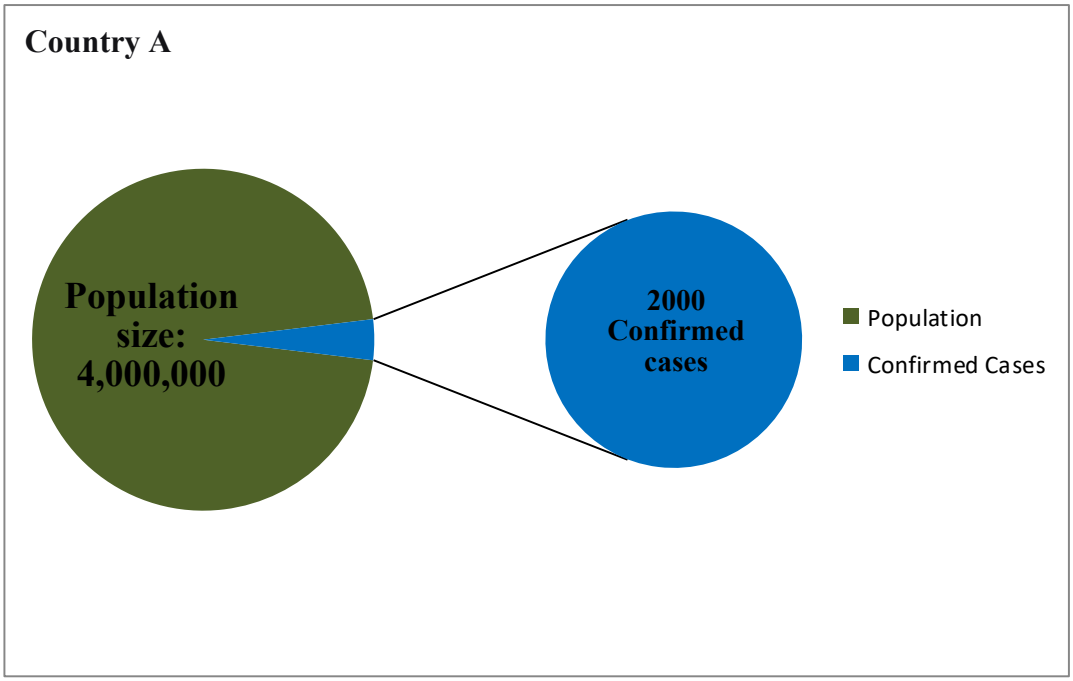
TABLE 3: EXPLANATIONS

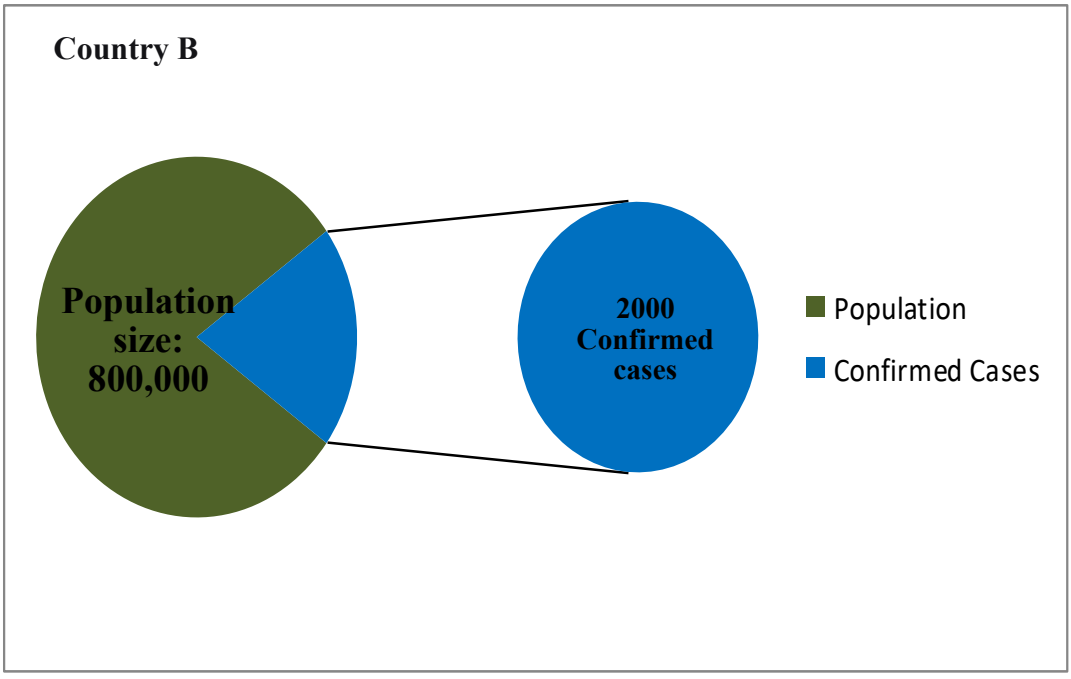
Key Term/Issue	Explanation
Number of Cases per 100, 000 population	The number of cases per 100,000 population is calculated by dividing the number of cases by the total population, and then multiplying the result by a standard population size in this case 100,000. $Rate = \frac{No.of\ Confirmed\ Cases}{Total\ Population}\ x\ 100{,}000$ 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.

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