Stats News & Views

Special Topic Statistical Bulletin - COVID-19

Issue 38, 11 December 2020

The **Special Topic Statistical Bulletin on COVID-19 in CARICOM Countries Issue 38,** provides an update of the trajectory of the COVID-19 in the CARICOM Region up to **11 December 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 11 December is **58,274**. The total number of deaths is **1333**, recovered cases, **44,742** and active cases, **12,039**. If deaths all causes are counted for The Bahamas and Jamaica, then the total number of deaths is **1409**.

The number of new cases for the period **5-11 December** stood at **2861**, a decrease of **40** from **28 November-4 December** (2901 adjusted). The countries that contributed significantly to the total number of new cases were: **Belize, 1582 (55 percent), Jamaica, 545 (19 percent), Guyana, 238 (8 percent), Trinidad and Tobago, 117 (4 percent), Bermuda, 103 (4 percent) and The Bahamas, 89 (3 percent)**.

Jamaica has the highest number of cases with **11,608** followed by **Haiti** with **9491** (3-day reporting lag). **Belize** follows with **8965, The Bahamas, 7659, Trinidad and Tobago, 6852, Guyana, 5839 and Suriname, 5339**. Adjusting the number of confirmed cases for population size the top five countries at rates per 100,000 population are: **Belize, 2252.23; The Bahamas**, **2008.55; Turks and Caicos Islands**, **1861.99 (769 confirmed cases)**; **Suriname, 915.78** and **Guyana**, **787.99**.

Jamaica tops in the number of deaths with 301, if deaths under investigation are included and those due to non-COVID-19 causes are excluded and is at **342 all causes. Haiti is at 233 deaths**. **The Bahamas is at 187** (including deaths under investigation and excluding non-COVID-19 causes) and **222 deaths all causes**. **Belize, is at 185, Guyana, 154, Trinidad and Tobago, 122 and Suriname** has **117 deaths**.

Situation at a Glance

SEPTEMBER 2020						
Sun	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
.....	.....	.....	16th 29,061	.....	.....	.....
DECEMBER 2020						
.....	.....	8th 56,701	9th 57,424	10th 57,948	Friday, 11th 58,274	

Doubling Rate—2.01
Total number of confirmed cases increased by 29,213 over 86 days

Total number of deaths increased by 670 in 82 days at a rate of 2.01

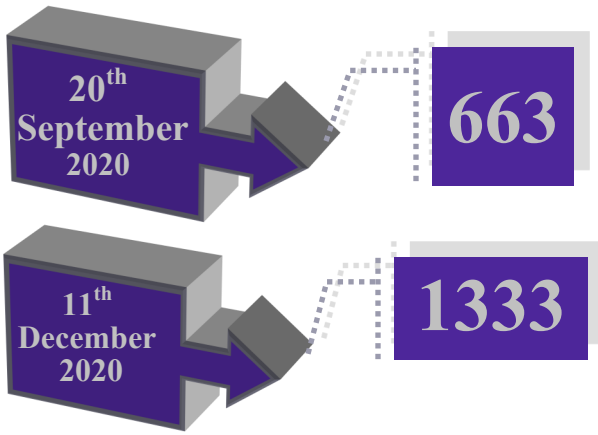


TABLE 1: SUMMARY ALL COUNTRIES -NUMBER OF CONFIRMED CASES, NEW CASES AND DEATHS - 31 OCTOBER – 11 DECEMBER 2020

Date	No. of Confirmed Cases	No. of New Cases	No. of Deaths
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	50350	293	1192
20-Nov	50602	252	1198
21-Nov	50890	288	1206
22-Nov	51261	371	1211
23-Nov	51498	237	1220
24-Nov	51725	227	1231
25-Nov	51967	242	1239
26-Nov	52281	314	1245
27-Nov	52512	231	1258
28-Nov	52723	211	1263
29-Nov	52967	244	1270
30-Nov	53198	231	1274
01-Dec	53327	129	1276
02-Dec	54592	1265	1277
03-Dec	55065	473	1295
04-Dec	55413	348	1303
05-Dec	55789	376	1310
06-Dec	56082	293	1313
07-Dec	56453	371	1317
08-Dec	56701	248	1321
09-Dec	57424	723	1331
10-Dec	57948	524	1440
11-Dec	58274	326	1333

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 11 DECEMBER 2020

Country	Confirmed Cases	New Cases	Deaths	Recoveries	Active Cases	Tests Conducted
Total Member States	**56,730**	**2,729**	**1,315**	**43,426**	**11,831**	**436,080**
Antigua and Barbuda	147	3	4	138	5	5126
Bahamas	7659	89	187	6069	1357	46272
Barbados	292	8	7	269	16	52861
Belize	8965	1582	185	4219	4561	34005
Dominica	87	2	0	81	6	6437
Grenada	43	2	0	41	2	1126
Guyana	5839	238	154	4944	741	33350
Haiti	9491	102	233	8241	1017	38206
Jamaica	11608	545	301	7799	3383	124240
Montserrat	13	0	1	11	0	626
Saint Lucia	274	12	4	187	83	17231
St Kitts and Nevis	27	5	0	23	4	4376
St Vincent and the Grenadines	94	7	0	81	13	11866
Suriname	5339	17	117	5220	16	22106
Trinidad and Tobago	6852	117	122	6103	627	38252
Total Associate Members	**1,544**	**132**	**18**	**1,316**	**208**	**195,340**
Anguilla	10	3	0	3	6	2651
Bermuda	391	103	9	233	149	117415
British Virgin Islands	76	3	1	72	3	9229
Cayman Islands	298	9	2	267	29	55584
Turks and Caicos Islands	769	14	6	741	21	10461
Total CARICOM	**58,274**	**2,861**	**1,333**	**44,742**	**12,039**	**631,420**

Notes:

1. New Cases are for the period **5-11 December 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 **24 deaths** that are under investigation and excludes **35 deaths** that are classified as due to non-COVID-19 causes. The total number of deaths of COVID-19 patients all causes is **222.**
4. For Jamaica, the number of deaths in the Table 1A includes **30 deaths** that are under investigation and excludes **41 deaths** that are classified as due to non-COVID-19 causes. The total number of deaths of COVID-19 patients is **342.**
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 **1409.**
6. There is a lag of 3 days in the data for Haiti and 1 day for Bermuda and Cayman Islands.

TABLE 2: CONFIRMED CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION

COUNTRY	CONFIRMED CASES	RATES PER 100,000
Total Member States	**56,730**	**306.60**
Antigua and Barbuda	147	154.71
Bahamas	7659	2008.55
Barbados	292	106.32
Belize	8965	2252.23
Dominica	87	120.83
Grenada	43	38.58
Guyana	5839	787.99
Haiti	9491	83.17
Jamaica	11608	425.59
Montserrat	13	260.00
Saint Lucia	274	153.07
St Kitts and Nevis	27	50.94
St Vincent and the Grenadines	94	84.68
Suriname	5339	915.78
Trinidad and Tobago	6852	504.12
Total Associate Members	**1,544**	**717.35**
Anguilla	10	66.67
Bermuda	391	611.20
British Virgin Islands	76	260.71
Cayman Islands	298	452.80
Turks and Caicos Islands	769	1861.99
Total CARICOM	**58,274**	**311.33**

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.

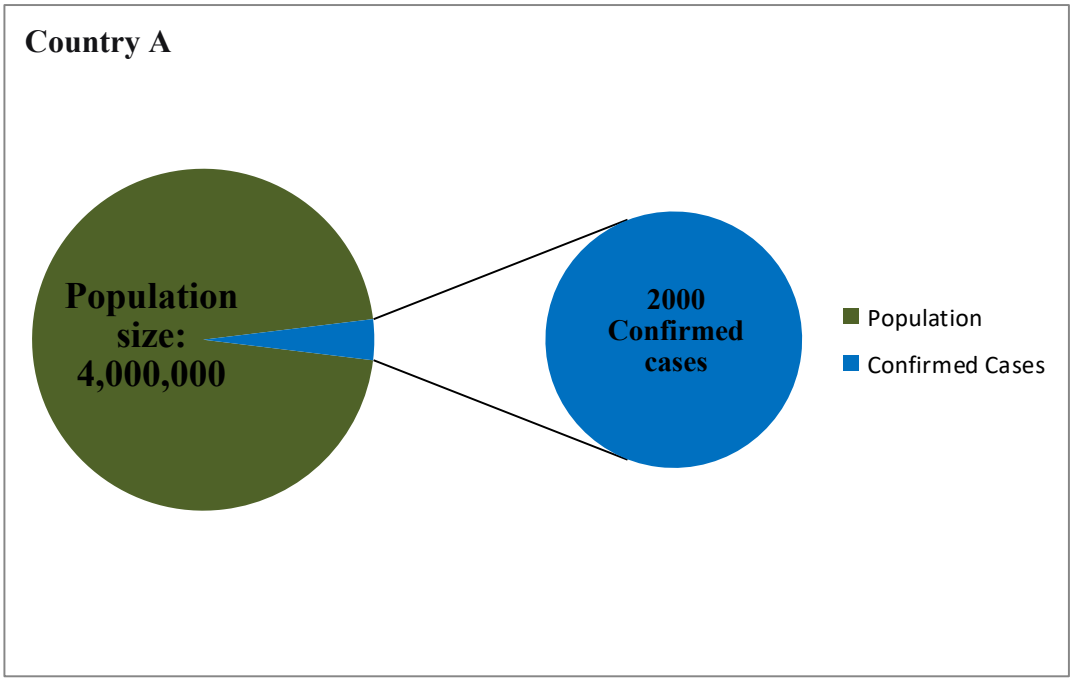
TABLE 3: EXPLANATIONS

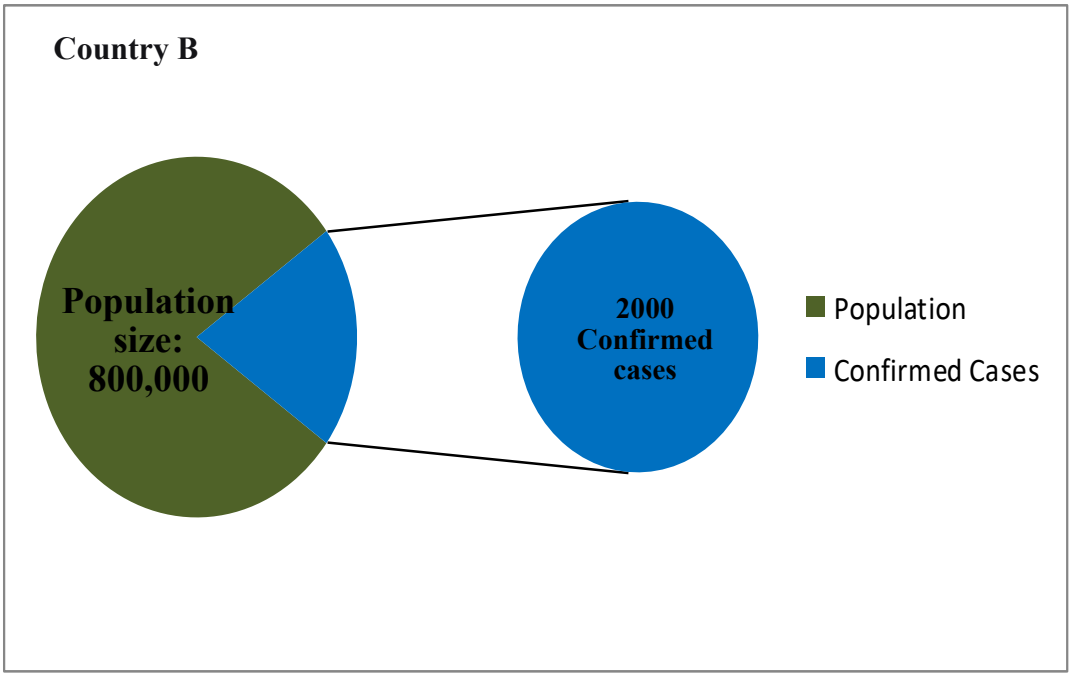
Key Term/Issue	Explanation
Number of Cases per 100, 000 population	The number of cases per 100,000 population is calculated by dividing the number of cases by the total population, and then multiplying the result by a standard population size in this case 100,000. $$Rate = \frac{No.of\ Confirmed\ Cases}{Total\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