

U.S. CDC in Georgia



Accessible version: www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/georgia.html

Since 1995, CDC has collaborated with Georgia's National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC) to enhance public health in key areas. The focus includes strengthening surveillance and laboratory systems, workforce development, coordinating outbreak response, and supporting the development of NCDC as a true National Public Health Institute. CDC partners with Georgia's NCDC, government ministries, and partner organizations to support global health security and build upon data and surveillance, laboratory system strengthening, workforce development, disease prevention and response, and health policy and communications.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Eliminated mother-to-child transmission of hepatitis B virus (HBV), achieved the European regional HBV control goal, reduced chronic hepatitis C prevalence by 67%, and cured more than 98% of people who completed chronic hepatitis C treatment



Developed and implemented a wastewater surveillance protocol for detecting viruses and initiated regular collection of wastewater for SARS-CoV-2 detection



Supported the Lugar Center for Public Health Research (LCPHR) in receiving international accreditation to serve as an external quality assurance provider for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) detection in Georgia and across the region



Trained nearly 500 public health professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic in infection prevention and control protocols, laboratory diagnostics, and contact tracing



Supported training for 129 public health professionals who graduated from the Advanced Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) in Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

In 2023, Georgia was designated as a U.S. Intensive Support Partner Country for Health Security by the U.S. National Security Council. CDC's global health security work in Georgia focuses on providing support to strengthen the country's public health systems. It also focuses on addressing leading public health threats facing the country. CDC's focus areas in Georgia include:

- Antimicrobial resistance
- Healthcare associated infections
- Pandemic respiratory threats
- Viral hepatitis
- Zoonotic diseases (including Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, poxviruses, and rabies)
- Enteric diseases
- Mycotic diseases

Workforce development

In 2022, the Georgia Ministry of Labor, Health, and Social Affairs requested CDC assistance to develop a public health workforce strategy and improve recruitment and retention over the next five years. CDC supports the training of public health professionals through three tiers of FETP (Advance, Intermediate, and Frontline) to strengthen country workforce capacity to identify and stop outbreaks before they spread. In 2021, CDC launched the Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Intermediate FETP with participants from Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, and Moldova.

Emergency response

Since 2020, CDC has trained responders in the Public Health Emergency Management system and in emergency management fundamentals. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC collaborated on key preparedness and response activities including diagnostic testing, disease surveillance, vaccine distribution, and training of public health professionals. CDC supported emergency response activities include:

- Supporting NCDC to host the Public Health Emergency Management Fellowship, adapted from CDC's program to address the unique needs of the region
- Assessing health communications organizational and functional capacity during emergency and peacetime settings through the establishment of a Joint Information Center
- Establishing a regional-level emergency operations center in Kutaisi, West Georgia in 2021

Laboratory systems strengthening

CDC partners with Georgia's NCDC to increase laboratory and workforce capacities in quality management systems, project management, and disease surveillance. CDC collaborates with the LCPHR on:

- Proficiency testing and educational trainings on basic microbiology
- Laboratory testing
- Bacteria isolation methods
- Genome sequencing for routine disease surveillance and detection of foodborne disease outbreaks

DATA MODERNIZATION

CDC supports public health data system modernization. This work includes development and implementation of a national Laboratory Information Management System, wastewater, viral hepatitis, and AMR surveillance data systems.

PANDEMIC RESPIRATORY THREATS

CDC works to strengthen Georgia's capacity to prevent the spread of diseases with epidemic and pandemic potential through developing and implementing:

- Integrated surveillance for influenza-like illnesses and severe acute respiratory infections
- Wastewater surveillance for detecting SARS-CoV-2 and other viruses
- Expanded genomic sequencing capacity and reporting to the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data

VIRAL HEPATITIS ELIMINATION

Georgia launched the world's first national hepatitis C elimination program in 2015. The program offers free testing and treatment to all citizens and is a global model for hepatitis elimination. In 2022, Georgia was designated a World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Viral Hepatitis Elimination. CDC has supported the following activities:

- Genomic research of the hepatitis C virus
- Development of the 2016-2020 and 2021-2025 strategic plan for hepatitis C elimination
- Implementing nationwide nucleic acid testing on all blood donations that are part of the Blood Safety Program

ZOONOTIC DISEASES

CDC implements a multisectoral One Health approach with partners to develop disease control guidelines, strengthen surveillance and response capabilities, and enhance genomic sequence capacity for priority zoonotic diseases. CDC collaborates with Georgia's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture and NCDC to:

- Build capacity for laboratory diagnostics, including whole genome sequencing
- Conduct surveillance surveys on priority zoonotic pathogens
- Respond to zoonotic, foodborne, waterborne, and enteric diseases outbreaks



CDC Global



@CDCGlobal



@CDCGlobal

