COI QUERY

Country of Origin	**Cuba**
Title	**Situation of people living with HIV/AIDS**
Reference period	August 2024 to 7 September 2026
Topic(s)	1. Legislation and implementation 2. Treatment by society 3. Access to healthcare and support services
Date of completion	7 September 2026
Query Code	Q25-2026
Contributing EU+ COI units (if applicable)	**N/A**

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All sources used are referenced and cited in the bibliography section. A quality review has been performed in line with the above mentioned COI methodology. This document does not claim to be exhaustive or conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. If a certain event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

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Cite as: EUAA, Country of Origin Information Query, Cuba, Situation of people living with HIV/AIDS, 7 September 2026, url

COI QUERY RESPONSE – Cuba

Situation of people living with HIV/AIDS

1. Legislation and implementation

Information on legislation and implementation related to HIV/AIDS was scarce among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints of this query response. However, the following information may be relevant.

Article 42 of Chapter 5: Rights, Duties and Guarantees, of the Constitution of Cuba (2019) states that:

> 'All people are equal before the law, receive the same protection and treatment from the authorities, and enjoy the same rights, liberties, and opportunities, without any discrimination for reasons of sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ethnic origin, skin color, religious belief, disability, national or territorial origin, or any other personal condition or circumstance that implies a distinction injurious to human dignity'.[1]

A 2023 Spanish-language article by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on gender and human rights barriers in the HIV response, stated that Cuba has updated its regulatory framework in recent years, further promoting the reduction of gender inequalities, respect for human rights, and efforts to combat HIV-related stigma and discrimination, as well as discrimination based on other personal characteristics. More specifically, according to the article, the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba (2019), the National Program for the Advancement of Women (PAM) (2021), the Comprehensive Strategy for the Prevention and Attention to Gender Violence and in the Family Setting (2021), and the Family Code (2022) were among the regulations with the greatest impact in this regard. These instruments allowed for a more comprehensive approach to discrimination by incorporating considerations relating to gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity, which were identified as fundamental aspects in addressing structural obstacles to equality, inclusion, and sustainable development.[2] Corroborating information could not be found.

A 2023 Spanish-language UNDP report on rights and legal literacy in the national response to STIs, HIV and hepatitis indicated that Cuba does not have a special criminal law for people living with HIV that criminalizes HIV transmission or exposure.[3] However, Article 232 of the 2022 Penal Code, 'Propagation of Epidemics', criminalises anyone who maliciously spreads or facilitates the spread of a disease, with a penalty of three to eight years' imprisonment.[4]

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[1] Cuba, Constitution of Cuba, 2019, url
[2] UNDP, Por una vida saludable y sin discriminación: reducir las barreras de género y derechos humanos para una mejor respuesta al VIH, 30 November 2023, url
[3] UNDP, Material de apoyo a la formación en derechos y cultura jurídica en la Respuesta Nacional a las ITS, el VIH y las hepatitis. Por la igualdad de género y la inclusion, 9 February 2023, url, p. 38
[4] Cuba, Penal Code, 2022, url, art. 232

According to HIV Justice Network, there had been no reported cases of HIV criminalisation in Cuba.[5] UNDP noted that Ministerial Resolution No. 141 of 21 August 2000 establishes the medicines that were to be provided free of charge to people living with HIV, as part of guaranteeing their right to health.[6]

In April 2024, UNDP reported that Cuba launched a project with the Ministry of Public Health and Global Fund supporting implementation of the National Strategic Plan for the control of STIs, HIV and hepatitis 2024-2028. It includes expansion of prevention and diagnostic services, PrEP, HIV self-testing, and differentiated services for key populations.[7]

2. Treatment by society

UNDP noted that stigma and discrimination suffered by people living with HIV limited access to health services and reduced the effectiveness of the response to the epidemic.[8]

Further information on the treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS by society could not be found amongst the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints of this query response. However, the following information may be relevant.

According to the US Department of State's (USDOS) 2023 Country Report on Cuba, the government maintained four prisons specifically for individuals with HIV/AIDS, including some inmates who were imprisoned for 'propagating an epidemic' in connection with their HIV status. The report also noted instances of discrimination against people with HIV in hospitals and clinics, while essential HIV medications were frequently unavailable, at times contributing to deaths resulting from inadequate care and neglect.[9] Corroborating information could not be found.

According to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' (IACHR) 2023 report on Cuba, organisations highlighted that Afro-descendant women, particularly Black and mestizo women living with HIV/AIDS, face significantly lower life expectancies than the general population due to 'the intersection of multiple discrimination factors'.[10]

3. Access to healthcare and support services

Information on access to healthcare and support services related to HIV/AIDS was scarce among the sources consulted by EUAA within time constraints of this query response. However, the following information may be relevant.

[5] HIV Justice Network, Cuba, n.d., url
[6] UNDP, Material de apoyo a la formación en derechos y cultura jurídica en la Respuesta Nacional a las ITS, el VIH y las hepatitis. Por la igualdad de género y la inclusion, 9 February 2023, url, p. 37
[7] UNDP, Cooperación renovada para la expansión de los servicios diferenciados de VIH en Cuba, 15 April 2024, url
[8] UNDP, Por una vida saludable y sin discriminación: reducir las barreras de género y derechos humanos para una mejor respuesta al VIH, 30 November 2023, url; UNDP, "As a woman, I feel empowered now" Progress on LGBTIQ+ rights in Cuba, 16 May 2024, url
[9] USDOS, 2023 Country Report on Human Rights Practices – Cuba, 23 April 2024, url, p. 45
[10] IACHR, Annual Report 2023 - Chapter IV.b; Cuba, 2024, url, p. 658

According to data from UNAIDS, 41 000 people were living with HIV in Cuba, as of 2024.[11]

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) stated that Cuba's HIV/AIDS program includes free, universal health care, a coordinated national strategy, and antiretroviral therapy for all people with HIV.[12]
PAHO indicated that, in 2024, 68 % of people living with HIV were receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART), representing 28 845 individuals on treatment. The rate of new HIV diagnoses was approximately 17.8 per 100 000 population, while the age-adjusted HIV/AIDS mortality rate was 2.95 per 100 000 population.[13]

Furthermore, UNDP data indicated that in 2023, 75.6 % of people living with HIV in the country were aware of their serological status. Among those aware of their status, 86.7 % were receiving antiretroviral therapy and 88.7 % had achieved viral suppression. During the same year, HIV prevention services reached 146 458 people from key populations, including 144 288 men who have sex with men and 2 170 transgender people. A total of 168 492 people from these groups were also tested for HIV, including 166 057 men who have sex with men and 2 435 transgender people.[14]

PAHO further reported that ongoing economic constraints, disruptions in energy supplies, and supply chain limitations affected diagnostic capacity, continuity of treatment, and preventive services, potentially leading to service interruptions, drug resistance, and increased morbidity.[15]

A 2025 article published by Granma, the official news outlet of the Cuban government, citing Jacqueline Sánchez, head of the sexually transmitted infection control strategy at the Ministry of Public Health, reported that the annual number of newly diagnosed HIV cases had decreased to 1 708, representing a 14.5 % reduction. The same source stated that the country aimed to achieve 95 % coverage for HIV diagnosis and antiretroviral treatment, expand prophylaxis and combination prevention to key populations, and reduce inequalities and social stigma affecting people living with HIV.[16]

[11] UNAIDS, Cuba, n.d., url
[12] PAHO, Public Health Situation Analysis of Hurricanes Oscar, Rafael & Earthquakes in Cuba, 14 November 2024, url
[13] PAHO, Public Health Situation Analysis No2: Aftermath of Hurricane Melissa amid energy constrains in Cuba, 6 March 2026, url, p. 6
[14] UNDP, Cooperación renovada para la expansión de los servicios diferenciados de VIH en Cuba, 15 April 2024, url
[15] PAHO, Public Health Situation Analysis No2: Aftermath of Hurricane Melissa amid energy constrains in Cuba, 6 March 2026, url, p. 6
[16] Granma, Cuba redujo la mortalidad por VIH/SIDA, 28 November 2025, url

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ADDITIONAL SOURCES CONSULTED

Asylum Research Centre; Crisis24; ecoi.net; EUAA COI Portal; Fédération internationale pour les droits humains (FIDH); Germany – Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF); France – Office Français de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides (OFPRA); Norwegian Refugee Council; Global Protection Cluster; Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)