

# Boletín Regional de Epidemiología de Campo (BREC)

## Centroamérica participa en Reunión de Directores de Programas de Entrenamiento en Epidemiología de Campo (FETP) en Madrid, España.

*Editorial*

*Dr. David S. Rodríguez, Coordinador de FETP en SE COMISCA*

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**Contenido:** **Pág.**

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HIV infection in Belize, Central America, 2011-2015 12



### Comité editorial

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- \* Anaité Díaz, Directora del Departamento de Epidemiología, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala

Directores de los Programas de Entrenamiento en Epidemiología de Campo (FETP) de todo el mundo participaron en la Reunión Anual de Directores organizada por *Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET)* en Madrid, España del 27 al 29 de Junio de 2016.

De la Región Centroamericana asistieron a esta reunión los epidemiólogos coordinadores de FETP Lorna Pérez de Belice, Moisés Mayén de Honduras, Edith Rodríguez de Honduras, Xiomara Badilla de Costa Rica, Raquel Pimentel de República

Dominicana y David Rodríguez de SE COMISCA.

Entre muchos temas de interés, cobró importancia la revisión de los indicadores y estándares del proceso de acreditación de programas así como la experiencia y lecciones aprendidas de programas que han sido acreditados: Estados Unidos, Alemania, Reino Unido y Sudáfrica.

El Dr. Carl Reddy del FETP de Sudáfrica fue elegido como el nuevo Presidente de TEPHINET, quien sucede en el cargo a la epidemióloga Fadzilah Kamaludin del FETP Malasia

## HIV infection in Belize, Central America, 2011- - 2015

*Informado por: Lourdes Heredia, Intermediate Level FETP, Ministry of Health, Belize*

**Background:** The consistent rise in HIV infection cases globally urges identification of priority areas for prevention programs. In 2015, 2.1 million people were newly infected with the virus and 1.1 million died of AIDS-related disease. HIV case-based surveillance system, is integrated in the Belize Health Information System (BHIS), was established to identify HIV disease patterns and trends in Belize. The objective of this investigation is to characterize HIV situation in Belize.

**Methods:** A descriptive study on sex, age, ethnicity and district address of newly diagnosed cases from 2011 to 2015 from the six districts in Belize using Surveillance data and Epi info 7. Rates were calculated using mid-year population estimates.

**Results:** We identified 1,188 newly diagnosed HIV cases. Males were diagnosed with HIV infection 1.5 times more than females across the five year period. HIV infection was more frequent among creole population (45% of cases). Of all cases, 46.8% were identified in patients with primary level education. Most cases were reported in the Belize District (54.7%). Newly reported rate of HIV infection decreased from 77.3/100.00 population in 2011 to 64.9/100.00 population in 2015. The highest proportion of persons living

with HIV were aged 30 to 39 years (25.6%).

**Conclusions:** While there is a clear picture of most-affected gender and district in Belize, there is insufficient data regarding employment status, occupation, and high risk behaviors in the surveillance system to target specific at-risk populations with preventive programs. Continuous and consistent training and re-training of staff responsible for documenting clients' encounters, on importance of inputting complete and accurate data into the BHIS and inclusion of behavioral risk data in the data system, is crucial for the improvement of HIV surveillance.

**Key words:** : HIV, Belize, Incidence, prevention, case- based Surveillance.

### Cohort of Intermediate Level in Belize 2016



From left to right: Diane Lawrence, Lourdes Heredia, Myra Fernández (Tutor), Margaret Arana, Armando Shal (Tutor), Symone Brooks, Nyana Harrison.