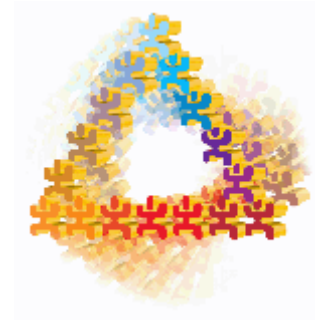




## CARMEN Country Profiles: Aruba



The island country of Aruba, with its nearly 100,000 inhabitants, is burdened with noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). Between 1995 and 1999, the crude death rate varied between 6.2 and 5.8 per 1,000 inhabitants. Cardiovascular (heart) and cerebrovascular diseases (stroke) constituted the leading cause of death for both males and females. The three leading causes of death in 1994–1999 were diseases of the circulatory system, malignant neoplasm and endocrine, nutritional, metabolic, and immunological disorders. In 1999, by Age-Standardized Mortality Rate (ASMR), 37.0% of a total of 548 deaths were attributed to diseases of the circulatory system; and 19.2%, to malignant neoplasm. Detailed mortality data by cause for 1999 show some differences between sexes. Heart disease and cerebrovascular diseases were the leading causes of death for both males and females. For males, these were followed by malignant neoplasm of the prostate, hypertensive disease, and malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lungs. For females, they were followed by diabetes mellitus, diseases of the urinary system, and malignant neoplasm of digestive organs and of reproductive organs.<sup>1</sup>

The Government's goal is to achieve high-quality and affordable health care that is accessible to all. To that end, Aruba's Department of Public Health has identified the health sector's most pressing problems - the rising cost of health care, insufficient availability of medical care, and flawed quality control-and has set specific targets to achieve the goal.

The Ministry of Health in Aruba, in cooperation with existing allies, policy-and legislation-makers and key stakeholders began working on the development of the Action Plan needed to address the NCD risk factors. The Action Plan was presented to the General Assembly in 2004.

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<sup>1</sup> Pan American Health Organization. *Regional Core Health Data Initiative. Country Health Profiles*. 2002.