



**DISEASE CONTROL
PRIORITIES PROJECT**



Evidence to influence policy

NCDs and tobacco in the Caribbean

George Alleyne

NIH, June 11, 2007

INVESTING IN GLOBAL HEALTH “BEST BUYS” AND PRIORITIES FOR ACTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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The Nassau Declaration, CARICOM Heads of Government-2001

- “The health of the Region is the wealth of the Region”.
- They were “cognizant of the critical role of health in the economic development of our people”.
- Mandated the formation of a “Task Force”
- Specific purpose- “to review and help to propel health to the center of the development process”.



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The Commission's Report: main findings

“Disease” problems—

- Noncommunicable disease
- HIV/AIDS
- Sequelae of injury and violence

Health system problems

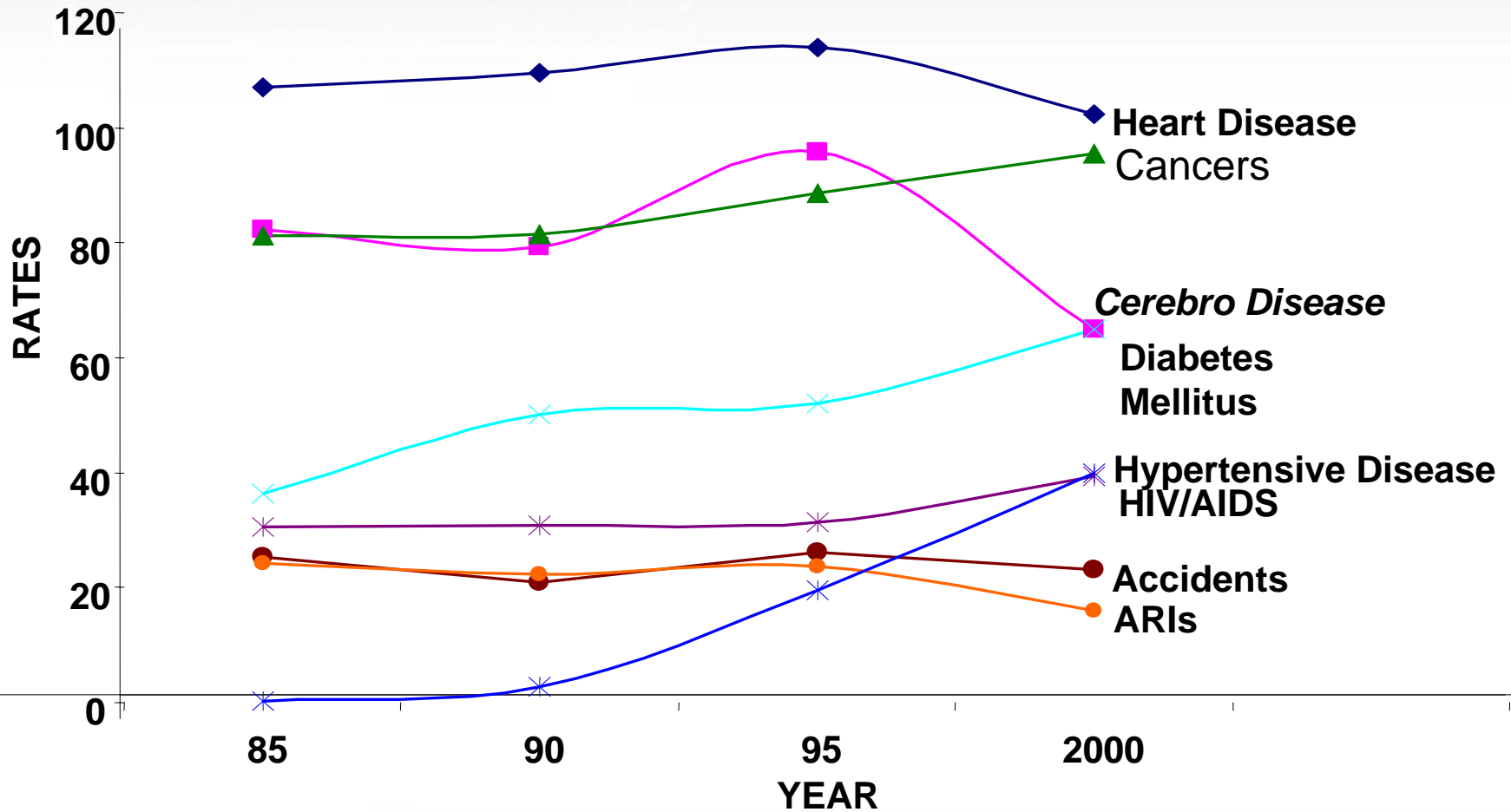
- Management
- Human resources
- The case for health insurance; health tourism
- Strengthen the public health infrastructure

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CRUDE MORTALITY RATES FOR SELECT DISEASES BY YEAR:

CAREC MEMBER COUNTRIES





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Major causes of death in the Caribbean

1980 (%)		2000 (%)	
• Heart Disease-	20	• Heart Disease-	16
• Cancer	- 12	• Cancer	- 15
• Stroke	- 11	• Stroke	- 10
• Injuries	- 8	• Diabetes	- 10
• Hypertension	- 6	• Injuries	- 7
• ARI	- 5	• HIV/AIDS	- 6
• Diabetes	- 4	• Hypertension	- 6



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Age adjusted death rates /100,000 population--1998

Cause	BAR	TRT	JAM	CAN	USA
All CVD	256.6	324.8	182.3	158.4	210.3
Stroke	89.1	92.1	77.1	30.7	34.7
Cor. HD	58.1	151.5	25.8	86.2	101.8
H/t HD	14.4	34.6	25.3	2.8	10.1
Diabetes	67.9	105.1	53.4	11.7	15.0

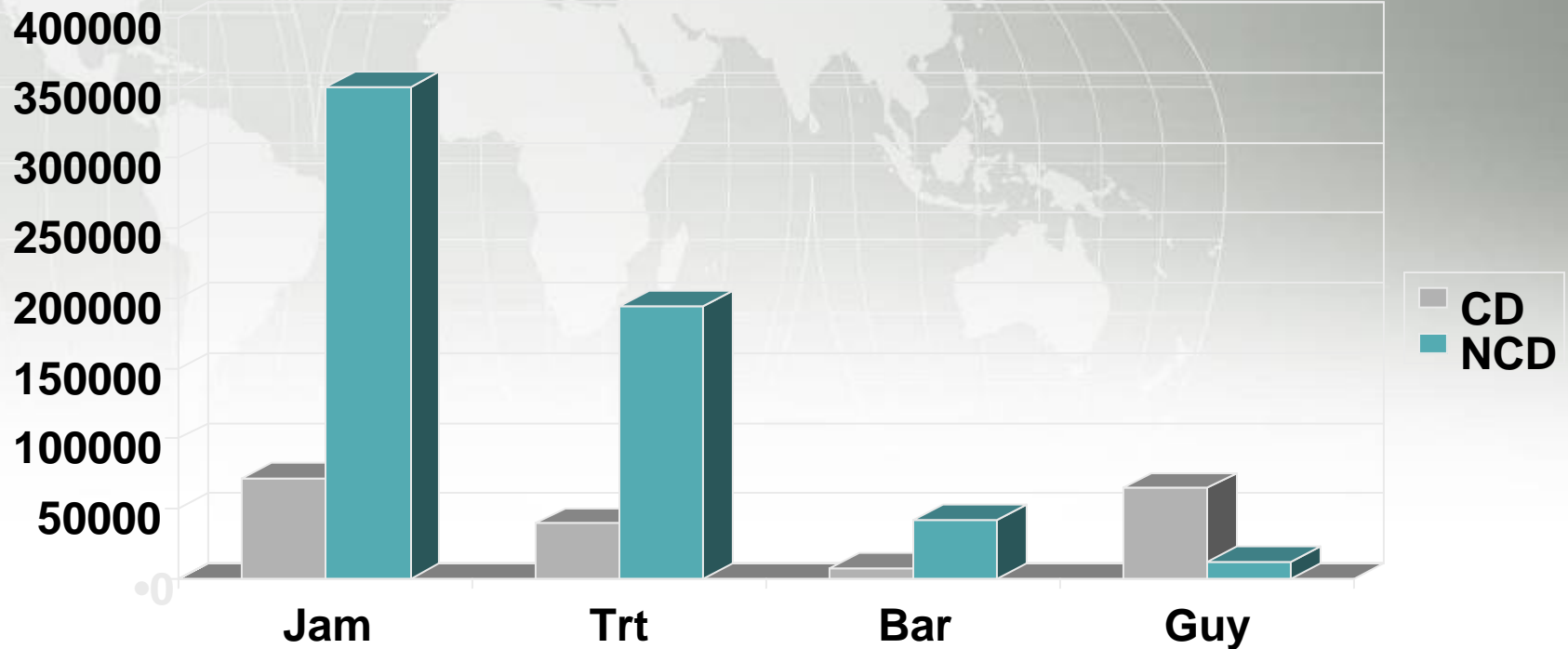
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Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) 2001



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Policy instruments to be considered

- **Legislation---food labeling
food imports**
- **Taxation-----increase on tobacco
reduce on fruits and vegetables
increase on alcohol**
- **Regulation--advertising to school children
exercise in schools
healthy school meals**



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National consultation in Trinidad (06/9)

Inputs:

political

technical---local epidemiology, BOD

---risk factors....tobacco

....obesity



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Tobacco control in Trinidad and Tobago

Prabhat Jha and George Alleyne



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Estimated tobacco deaths in Trinidad and Tobago, 2002, ages 35+

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	Total	Due to smoking	Total	Due to smoking
Lung cancer	79	71	27	24
Oral cancers	27	19	12	8
Respiratory disease	46	23	41	10
Ischemic heart disease	956	239	801	100
Stroke	592	148	600	75
Other vascular	185	46	167	21
Total	1806	546	1621	239
Tobacco deaths as % of all medical deaths		30%		15%



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Four main messages for government

•4 actions to save 25,000-50,000 lives in Trinidad and Tobago:

- Take tobacco seriously: **big** cause of death and **big** cause of poverty
- Focus on adults **stopping** as well as kids
- Triple excise tax** on cigarettes (would double the retail price, drop consumption by at least 30%, and raise about TT\$ 80 M more tax revenue)
- Other interventions: **big, local packet warnings** labels with tax stamp (to counter smuggling), **absolute** ad ban, **complete** ban on public smoking, smoking question on **death certificates**



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Recommendations to PM:

- Increase taxes on tobacco
- Strengthen warning on cigarette packages
- Ban smoking in public places
- Establish register for NCDs
- Compulsory physical education in schools
- Regulate food ads to children

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One month later

Mr. Speaker, to emphasize further the Government's commitment to promoting healthy life styles...

- **increase in tobacco tax of 15%**
- **increase in tax on alcohol-15%**

...*Prime Minister's budget speech*



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**September 14, 2007
Regional Summit of Heads of Government to
discuss NCDs exclusively**

**Regional action on
tobacco
trade policy
obesity, diet, physical activity**

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