

# SHARED INCIDENT DATABASE (SID) ANALYSIS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## BACKGROUND

CVC is a regional coalition of over 40 civil society organizations (CSOs) working with populations vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. These include sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender persons, people who use drugs, people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), migrant populations, incarcerated persons and ex-prisoners, and marginalized youth. CVC has a long-standing commitment to community systems strengthening, the use of rights-based approaches and advocating for duty bearers to take action to reduce human rights violations. PLHIV and key populations often experience human rights violations including violence and the denial of access to health, housing, and employment. They lack the legal and social protection afforded other members of society and are highly stigmatized and socially excluded on account of their behavior being deemed deviant or criminal.

In 2016, CVC established the Shared Incident Database (SID), the first regional civil society-led human rights reporting mechanism. SID facilitates comprehensive data collection through standardized intake procedures to document human rights violations, for which the data can be used to support redress, as well as to inform strategic priorities and program activities, policy development and legislative reform. SID has been instituted in eight (8) Caribbean countries: Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and Suriname. As of March 31, 2018, there were 28 CSOs that are registered SID users.

This analysis aimed to assess the overall use of the database and conduct a comprehensive data analysis on human rights violations reported by key populations and documented by CSOs in the SID.

This was in order to determine relationships between variables, identify trends, patterns and key issues, and present findings and recommendations that can inform decision-making at the national and regional level.

## METHODOLOGY

The period under review from the SID was April 2018 to December 2022. CVC approached CSOs in the relevant countries to obtain signed consent forms approving the use of non-identifying aggregate data collected by the CSO and documented in SID. Data analysis was performed using quantitative software SPSS v. 29 and MS Excel.

Variables in the database included: **Case ID; Country; Region/Parish/District; CSO; Gender; Age; Key population group; Incident date, type, location and setting; Redress type requested; and Case status.** Following simple descriptive analyses and frequencies at the CSO and country level, cross tabulations were performed to ascertain patterns, trends, and demographic correlations. The results of this analysis were then compared to the previous report from 2018 to determine emerging patterns overtime with a view to guiding interventions and strategies in-country

# RESULTS

## REGIONAL STATS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Data from ten (10) countries were analyzed: **Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and countries from the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), viz. Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines.** The number of reported cases averaged 14/month, fluctuating over the period under consideration, and then dropping to an all-time low in September 2022. The largest number of reports were made in **Suriname** (43.1%; 338), followed by Guyana (29%; 227), Jamaica (14.9%; 117), the OECS countries (6.6%; 52) and Belize (6.4%; 50).

**TOTAL CASES: 784**  
(13 Duplicates)

COUNTRY	CSO
Belize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Belize Trans Colors (BTC)</li> <li>Empower Yourself Belize Movement</li> <li>Promoting Empowerment Through Awareness for Lesbian and Bisexual Women (PETAL)</li> </ul>
Guyana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comforting Hearts</li> <li>Guyana Trans United (GTU)</li> <li>Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD)</li> <li>United Bricklayers</li> </ul>
Jamaica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jamaican Network of Seropositives (JN+)</li> <li>JASL Jamaica AIDS Support for Life</li> <li>J-FLAG</li> <li>Stand Up for Jamaica</li> <li>Transwave</li> </ul>
OECS Countries Antigua and Barbuda Dominica Grenada St Kitts and Nevis St Vincent and the Grenadines St Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women Against Rape Inc.</li> <li>Dominica Planned Parenthood Association</li> <li>GrenCHAP Inc.</li> <li>SKN Alliance</li> <li>RedRoot SVG Inc.</li> <li>United and Strong Inc.</li> </ul>
Suriname	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Double Positive Foundation</li> <li>Foundation HE+HIV</li> <li>Parea Suriname</li> <li>Suriname Men United</li> <li>New Monday</li> <li>Stg. Building Bridges...Saving Lives (SBBSL)</li> <li>Foundation Liefdevolle Handen</li> </ul>

The **mean age was 34.4** years, with the youngest person aged 14 and the oldest aged 74. When grouped into categories, persons aged 26 to 30 formed the largest group (20.9%; 161), closely followed by the 21 to 25 age group (19.1%; 147). **Women made the largest number of reports** (48.1%; 371), followed by men (36.7%; 283) and trans women (11.3%; 87). Trans men, non-binary, and gender queer persons made up 1.8% (14) of the reports, with the rest being ‘other’ or not disclosed.

Overall, **men who have sex with men (MSM) were the largest recorded key population** (28.3%; 221), followed by sex workers (17.4%; 136), women (15%; 117) and transgender persons (12.7%; 99).

## DETAILS OF THE INCIDENTS

**Verbal harassment** was the most common type of incident (26.2%; 325), followed by **physical abuse** (19.7%; 245) and emotional abuse (10.4%; 129). Gender based violence (GBV) (9.5%; 118), being forced to leave home (4.8%; 59), leave a job (4%; 50) and blackmail (3.4%; 42) were also fairly common reports. Verbal harassment, physical abuse, emotional abuse and GBV were also the

most common reports in most countries. In Jamaica and Suriname breach of confidentiality and blackmail were the third most common incidents respectively. The largest number of incidents occurred in the **workplace** (33.9%; 266) and in the **community** (30.9%; 242). After ‘other’, the next most common location was private businesses (8.8%; 69), public health facilities (1.7%; 13) and online (1.3%; 10). The least reported locations included outdoors, places of worship, public transportation, and in law enforcement facilities. Workplace and community were the most frequent locations in each country as well. Incidents at places of worship and outdoors were only reported in Guyana, the country that also made up 75.4% of the reports which happened at private businesses.

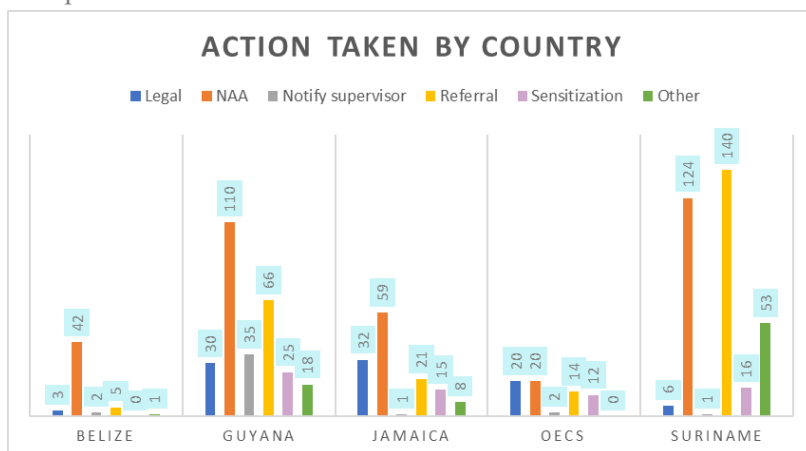
‘**No additional action**’ was the most frequent outcome (40.3%; 355). Referral to counselling or social assistance was the second most common and most common tangible action (27.9%; 246). Only 10.3% of persons utilized legal or other redress, and less had sensitization sessions (7.7%; 68). All the cases for the region were classed as “resolved”.

## GENDER CROSS TABULATIONS FOR THE REGION

Most of the women and men were 26 and older, while most of the trans women were 30 or younger. Women formed the majority of PLHIV, sex workers and migrants, while men formed the majority of students. Verbal harassment and physical abuse were the most common incidents for all genders. More women reported emotional abuse, GBV, breach of confidentiality and blackmail compared to men. On the other hand, more men reported being forced to leave home or a job. Trans women formed a significant minority of those forced to leave a job or outed because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. A larger percentage of trans women made reports about physical violence (43.5%; 37) compared to the percentage of women (38.4%; 118) or men (33.3%; 77) who made this report. As a group, however, gender queer persons had the largest percentage of reports about physical violence (80%; 4).

	BELIZE	GUYANA	JAMAICA	OECS	SURINAME
AVERAGE AGE	30.8	32.3	38.2	31.2	35.8
MOST COMMON AGE GROUP	26-30	26-30	36-40	26-30	21-25
GENDER MAKING THE MOST REPORTS	WOMEN	MEN	WOMEN	WOMEN	WOMEN
MOST RECORDED KEY POPULATION	LESBIAN/ BISEXUAL WOMEN	MSM	PLHIV	MSM	SEX WORKERS
DISTRICT/COUNTRY WITH MOST REPORTS	BELIZE CITY	EAST BERBICE-CORENTYNE	KINGSTON	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	PARAMARIBO

For all genders except the non-binary person, the most common location for incidents was the workplace, community and other. Men made the most reports for incidents that occurred at private businesses, public transportation. The most common action for women was referral to counselling or social services (43.7%), and they made up many of the persons utilizing this action (67.2%). Men however, most commonly had ‘no additional action’ (56.9%). Trans women also most commonly had ‘no additional action’ (48.3%).



## OTHER CORRELATIONS OF INTEREST

harassment were the most common types of incidents. Sex workers and women lodged the majority of reports concerning emotional abuse (39.1%; 36.7%), GBV (31%; 35.3%) and blackmail (80%; 57.1%), while MSM reported the majority of cases regarding being forced to leave a job (58%) or leave home (34.1%).

- ‘No additional action’ was the most common outcome for all key populations except sex workers, women, migrants, persons of low socioeconomic status, and the displaced; for these groups referral to counselling or social services was the most common action taken. Many women also took legal or other redress (23.5%), as did MSM (21%), PLHIV (21%) and sex workers (21%).
- Migrants/mobile populations made up 4.1% of the reports. They were almost all women (80%; 20), mostly aged less than 35 (72%; 18) and mainly reported in Suriname (72%; 18), although Guyana recorded 16% and the OECS reported one case. As expected, the most frequently reported incidents were verbal harassment (48%; 12) and physical abuse (40%; 10), but also GBV (24%; 6), discrimination against relative (20%; 5), blackmail, rape and emotional abuse (all at 16%) occurred. Most of the incidents concerning migrants occurred in the workplace (48%; 12) or in the community (40%; 10) and resulted in mostly referrals to counselling or social services (76%; 19).

- The most common type of workplace incident was verbal harassment (59.1%; 155), followed by physical abuse (33.6%; 88) and GBV (17.6%; 46). In the community it was physical abuse (51.5%; 124), followed by verbal harassment (50.2%; 121) and emotional abuse (29%; 70).
- Of all the incidents, blackmail (90.5%; 38), rape (86.4%; 19) and being denied housing (69.2%; 9) had the highest percentage of resultant action in the form of referral to counselling or social services. Verbal harassment (46.7%) and physical abuse (45.6%) were the incidents most often subjected to legal or other redress.

## COMPARISON OF RESULTS

The reporting period for the last analysis was slightly longer (2013 to 2018), but had almost double the number of reports (1413) despite fewer reporting CSOs and the absence of the OECS countries. In the previous analysis most of the reports were made by males, (46.1%; 652) compared to (36.7%; 283) in the present analysis, which demonstrates an inversion in the gender reporting statistics. Direct comparison difficult due to differences in grouping but the trend remains that ‘harassment or verbal abuse’ and ‘physical violence’ are the most common types of incidents. In the current analysis, the percentages of reported verbal harassment and physical violence increased, but being denied access to healthcare has decreased.



## CONCLUSION

Reporting through the SID for these Caribbean countries has decreased both from the previous time period and during the 2018 to 2022 period. Data entry errors have generally improved since the last analysis but remains high, especially in Suriname.

Most of the reported incidents across the region were singular in nature. Continuing from the previous analysis, verbal harassment and physical abuse remained the most common incidents, and have increased slightly. Meanwhile, the number of reports of being denied access to healthcare has decreased. GBV was not reported on for the 2013 to 2018 period, but in this analysis, it was one of the most common reports in most countries. Breach of confidentiality and blackmail were also significant issues in Jamaica and Suriname. Generally, the most common locations for incidents were in the workplace and the community, where physical abuse and verbal harassment predominated. The presence of GBV as the third most common incident in workplaces deserves notice. The overall gender distribution of reports is now mostly by women in all countries but Guyana. While the percentage of physical abuse remains about the same in women and men, it has declined in both genders since the 2013 to 2018 period. Trans women and gender diverse persons had some of the highest rates of reported physical violence, comparatively greater than either women or men.

Many of the workplace and community incidents resulted in some kind of action, but overall ‘no additional action’, followed by referral to counselling or social services were the most common results in four of the five countries. In Suriname this order of frequency was inverted. Not many persons utilized the option of legal action except for the OECS countries, where it tied with ‘no additional action’ as the most common outcome.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations applicable to each country include:

- Interventions to **improve the declining use of SID**. Targeting use and awareness among trans/gender diverse persons and other key populations
- Intersectional approaches with feminist, women, sex worker and trans focused organizations to **address verbal harassment, physical abuse and GBV confronting cis and trans women**.
- Conducting sensitization sessions and exploring other interventions in **workplaces** in order to decrease GBV, verbal harassment, and physical abuse.
- Including information on the **perpetrator's relationship** to the complainant can help identify the frequency of intimate partner violence compared to other types of violence. This could in turn assist with determining the scope of intimate partner violence (IPV) in various populations, with more tailored responses.
- While action on reports will always depend on the wishes of the reporter, **awareness about redress measures** and procedures for efficiently initiating the process could be strengthened.
- Assess the procedures for action and redress, especially whether persons find counselling and referral to social services adequate and effective.

### BELIZE

- Discuss GBV with reporting organizations, the community, and strengthen mechanisms for action when reported.
- Ensure results of the analysis as it concerns the lesbian and bisexual women be disseminated within local and regional networks, where it can form part of the evidence base on challenges facing this population.

### GUYANA

- Implement key populations-specific gender-based violence awareness campaign utilising traditional media/ social media to reduce incidents of verbal harassment, physical violence, and employment-discrimination. Given the higher rates reported in trans women, this population should receive special focus.
- Although these reports were in the minority, 3.1% of reports occurred with law enforcement, therefore sensitization sessions around sexual and gender diversity with personnel in law enforcement should be considered.
- Conduct workplace sensitization sessions on employment discrimination especially in private businesses in East Berbice-Corentyne where the majority of being forced to leave the job or not hired occurred.

### JAMAICA

- Implementing interventions to raise awareness about the need for general confidentiality in health care and workplaces, but especially as it relates to health information and HIV status.
- Accelerating campaigns addressing stigma and discrimination in relation to HIV in the community and workplace
- Conducting sensitization sessions with personnel in public health care around sexual and gender diversity

### OECS COUNTRIES

- Especially targeting private businesses in Antigua and Barbuda for workplace sensitization sessions would be useful. Given that more women reported incidents in private businesses, addressing misogyny in business/workplace seems necessary.

### SURINAME

- Reinforcing training for the Double Positive Foundation on data entry and its utility in analyzing SID
- Ensuring the MSM and lesbian/bisexual women populations are especially aware of redress measures and procedures.