

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: FACT SHEET ON CUBAN HEALTH ACHIEVEMENTS

*Mark Ginsburg,<sup>1</sup> Vicki Legion, and Maddy Oden, Leni Reeves, and Bob Schwartz*

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## 1. Health Indicators (Cuba versus the U.S., as of December 2020)

- a. The Covid-19 case rate was 50+ times higher in the U.S. than in Cuba (6,649 vs 129 per 100,000).
- b. The Covid-19 death rate was 85+ times higher in U.S. than in Cuba (111.6 vs 1.3 per 100,000).
- c. Overall, the U.S. infant mortality rate was almost 1.5 times higher than that in Cuba (5.6 vs 3.8 per 1,000 live births) in 2019.

## 2. Why are Cuba's Health Indicators Better than in the U.S.?

- a. Cuba's health care system is community-based, prevention oriented, free and universal; health care is enshrined as a human right.
- b. During the Covid-19 pandemic, medical students regularly contact individuals in every neighborhood in the country, whether urban or rural, to check on possible early symptoms.
- c. Cuba has more than 3 times the doctors per 10,000 inhabitants than does the U.S. (84.2 versus 26.2).
- d. US health indicators show deep racial/ethnic inequalities: e.g., the death rate per 100,000 population from Covid-19 among Blacks is almost twice that among whites (114.3 versus 61.7).

## 3. Cuba's Biopharma Developments

- a. Another contributor to Cuba's impressive Covid-19 and other health indicators stems from Cuba's biopharma industry, which operates 20 research centers and 32 companies, employing 20,000 people under the umbrella of the state-run BioPharma Corporation.
- b. As of December 2020, Cuba had registered and initiated trials for four Covid-19 vaccines: Soberana 01, Soberana 02, Mambisa (CIGB 669), and Abdala (CIGB 66).
- c. Cuba has established and implemented effective treatment protocols, providing *free* medications for prevention, moderate infections, and severe infections of Covid-19.

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<sup>1</sup> The corresponding author is Mark Ginsburg, who can be contacted at [mginsburg49@yahoo.com](mailto:mginsburg49@yahoo.com).

- d. Historically, Cuba has developed important pharmaceutical products used in treating hemorrhagic dengue fever, hepatitis B and C, HIV/AIDS, diabetic foot ulcers, Haemophilus influenza type B (Hib), severe psoriasis, and lung cancer.
- e. Cuba's pharmaceutical products are offered to developing countries at fraction of the prices charged by multinational drug companies.

#### **4. Cuba's International Medical Solidarity**

- a. During the Covid-19 pandemic, in the period March to early December 2020, Cuba sent 53 brigades of health workers to 40+ countries, in addition to those already working in 58 countries.
- b. These recent actions are part of a much longer history of Cuba's international medical solidarity, beginning in 1960 and including fighting Ebola in West Africa (2014-2015).
- c. Since 1960, over 400,000 Cuban medical personnel have performed 1.2 billion consultations, attended 2.2 million births, and performed 8 million surgeries in 164 countries.
- d. Cuba's Latin American Medical School (ELAM), established in 1999, has trained more than 29,000 doctors (half of them women) from 105 countries including the U.S., to serve underserved areas.
- e. Cuba has helped establish medical schools (e.g., in Venezuela, East Timor, and the Gambia) or other arrangements for training of medical personnel in other countries.

#### **5. U.S-Cuba Medical Collaboration**

- a. In June 2016, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Cuban Ministry of Public Health signed a Memorandum of Understanding covering a range of public health issues, including global health security, R&D and IT.
- b. Cuba's Center for Molecular Immunology (CIM) and Buffalo's Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center collaborated in conducting clinical trials in the US of CIMAvax, a lung cancer vaccine developed by CIM.
- c. During 2017-2018 the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical School hosted Cuban experts for a several-month consultation on how to reduce infant mortality in Chicago.
- d. As of December 2020, as part of the "Saving Lives" initiative of the U.S.-Cuba Normalization Campaign (<http://SavingLivesCampaign.org/>), the following cities and other U.S.-based organizations have adopted resolutions calling for medical collaboration with Cuba: Berkeley, Oakland, Richmond, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz (California); Cambridge (Massachusetts); Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania); State Labor Council (Washington).