

ABSTRACT

Institutional Arrangements and a national HIV/AIDS Programme – The Case of Trinidad and Tobago

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HIV/AIDS is a world wide scourge with a total of 33.2 million¹ persons currently infected with the disease. The region with the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS is Sub-Saharan Africa², with a total of 22.5 million³ people living with HIV/AIDS and an adult prevalence rate of 5% at the end of 2007. However, the Caribbean region, it is claimed, has the second highest adult prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS, 1%⁴ with a total of 230, 000 people living with the disease at the end of 2007.

A number of evaluations have therefore been conducted to look at measures to curb or minimize the spread of the disease. However, these studies usually adopt a medical slant, as shown in the works of Cleghorn et al (2007), Lau et al (2007) and Gilbert et al (2003) or perform economic evaluations as demonstrated in the writing of Theodore (2004).

¹ United Nations Joint AIDS Programme (UNAIDS). *Global Summary of the AIDS Epidemic December 2007, AIDS Epidemic Update: 1.* http://data.unaids.org/pub/EPISlides/2007/2007_epiupdate_en.pdf // (accessed June 17, 2008).

² The Countries that make up Sub Saharan Africa are: [Angola](#), [Benin](#), [Botswana](#), [Burkina Faso](#), [Burundi](#), [Republic of Cameroon](#), [Cape Verde](#), [Central African Republic](#), [Chad](#), [Comoros](#), [Republic of Congo](#), [Democratic Republic of Congo](#) (Formerly Zaire), [Cote d'Ivoire](#), [Equatorial Guinea](#), [Eritrea](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Gabon](#), [Gambia](#), [Ghana](#), [Guinea](#), [Guinea-Bissau](#), [Kenya](#), [Lesotho](#), [Liberia](#), [Madagascar](#), [Malawi](#), [Mali](#), [Mauritania](#), [Mauritius](#), [Mozambique](#), [Namibia](#), [Niger](#), [Nigeria](#), [Rwanda](#), [Sao Tome and Principe](#), [Senegal](#), [Seychelles](#), [Sierra Leone](#), [South Africa](#), [Swaziland](#), [United Republic of Tanzania](#), [Togo](#), [Uganda](#), [Zambia](#), [Zimbabwe](#).

³ United Nations Joint AIDS Programme (UNAIDS). *Global Summary of the AIDS Epidemic December 2007, AIDS Epidemic Update: 7.* http://data.unaids.org/pub/EPISlides/2007/2007_epiupdate_en.pdf // (accessed June 17, 2008).

⁴ United Nations Joint AIDS Programme (UNAIDS). *Global Summary of the AIDS Epidemic December 2007, AIDS Epidemic Update: 7.* http://data.unaids.org/pub/EPISlides/2007/2007_epiupdate_en.pdf // (accessed June 17, 2008).

This study, therefore, focuses on and evaluates the **structural arrangements** that have been introduced in the twin-island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to implement the policies of the government and coordinate activities as they relate to HIV/AIDS. The thesis has found that the structures that have been put in place are not specific to Trinidad and Tobago, have been modeled after guidelines prepared by international bodies, such as the United Nations.

Keywords: HIV/AIDS, prevalence rates, institutional arrangements; policy diffusion; institutional isomorphism; institutional environment; Simone Francois.