

WHO Region of the Americas

Summary

- The Americas contribute about 10% of the new cases of gastric cancer globally. The burden of gastric cancer is greatest in low- and middle-income countries and in specific racial and ethnic groups in high-income countries.
- The burden of *H. pylori* infection in the Americas varies across regions, with lower seroprevalence (< 25%) in North America and higher seroprevalence (~70%) in Central America, and across demographic groups within countries.
- The incidence of gastric cancer is increasing in young people in the USA.
- No primary or secondary preventive measures for gastric cancer have been established in the Americas.
- There is low public awareness of the risk factors and warning symptoms for gastric cancer.
- Several new and important research initiatives are under way in some countries, but only limited strategies for prevention and control are embedded into public health policies.