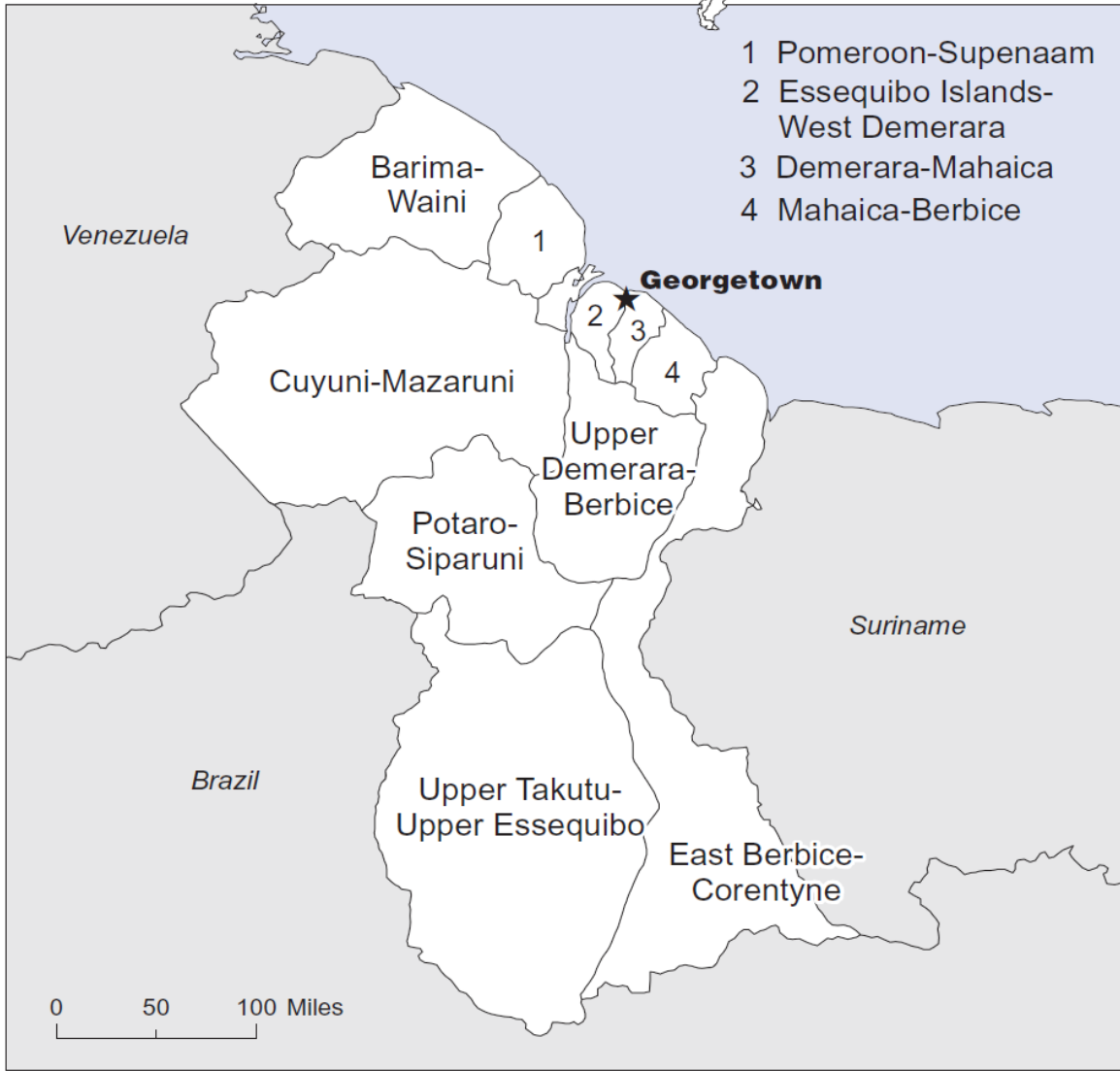


# GUYANA



**G**uyana is located on the northeastern coast of South America, where it is bordered by Venezuela to the west, Brazil to the south, and Suriname to the east. It is the only English-speaking country in South America. The country covers an area of approximately 215,000 km<sup>2</sup> and has an estimated population (mid-year 2006) of 767,000, the majority of whom live along the coastline.

## HEALTH CONDITIONS AND PROBLEMS

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

#### MALARIA

Malaria is a major public health problem and remains endemic in the interior regions, particularly affecting the Amerindian population. For 2005, a total of 38,984 new cases were reported, of which *Plasmodium falciparum* represented 39% and *P. vivax* 54%. The average annual parasite index in 2005 was 173.95, while the percentage of malaria risk areas stood at 21.5%. Since 2003, *P. malariae* strains have been diagnosed, corresponding to approximately 3% of all new cases. The majority of these cases (73%) occur in male adults. Malaria often goes untreated, especially in children, and many people have multiple episodes per year. Bed nets are used by 61% of children under age 5, but only 11% of the nets are treated with insecticide. Malaria is also thought to be a major contributory factor to anemia in women and children<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpted from Pan American Health Organization. 2007. Health in the Americas, 2007. Volume II – Countries. Guyana. p. 401. Washington, D.C.: PAHO.