

AIDS in India: Some statistics

India has a population of one billion, around half of whom are adults in the sexually active age group. The first AIDS case in India was detected in 1986, and since then HIV infection has been reported in all States and Union Territories.

The spread of HIV in India has been diverse, with much of India having a low rate of infection and the *epidemic being most extreme in the southern half of the country and in the far North-east*. The highest HIV prevalence rates are found in Maharashtra in the west; Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in the south; and *Manipur and Nagaland in the North-east*.

As of May 2005, 92% of all nationally reported AIDS cases have been found in 10 of the 38 States/Union Territories. The greatest numbers were in Maharashtra and Gujarat in the west; Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in the south; and Manipur in the North-east. In the southern States, the infections are mostly due to heterosexual contact, *while infections are mainly found amongst injecting drug users in Manipur and Nagaland*.

Estimated numbers of adults and children living with HIV/AIDS, end of 2003

Group	Living with HIV/AIDS
Adults	5,000,000
Women	1,900,000
Children	120,000
Total	5,100,000
Adult HIV prevalence estimate	0.9%

These are UNAIDS/WHO estimates. Adults are defined as men and women aged 15 to 49. These estimates include all those with HIV infection, whether or not they have developed symptoms of AIDS.

The Indian National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) estimates that 5.134 million people were living with HIV in 2004. This represents a slight increase from the 2003 estimate, and a substantial increase from 4.58 million in 2002. Only South Africa has more people living with HIV.

AIDS data, end of May 2005 (India)

Gender	Cumulative AIDS cases
Male	77,457
Female	31,892
Total	109,349

The statistics for AIDS cases may be a poor guide to the severity of the epidemic, as in many situations a patient will die without HIV having been diagnosed, and with the cause of death attributed to an opportunistic infection, such as tuberculosis or PCP.

AIDS cases in NE states

The following are the statistics of HIV/AIDS cases in 2005 in the North-eastern states :

N E States	AIDS cases
Assam	225
Arunachal Pradesh	0
Nagaland	736
Manipur	2,866
Mizoram	106
Meghalaya	8

Sikkim	8
Tripura	5

Some areas report an HIV prevalence rate of 0 in antenatal clinics. This does not necessarily mean that there is no HIV in the area, as some of them report the presence of the virus at STD clinics and amongst injecting drug users. In many states and territories, the average antenatal HIV prevalence is based on reports from fewer than five clinics.

(Source : Website)