HIV and AIDS in Asia and the Pacific

The HIV epidemic in Asia and the Pacific varies throughout the region. For example, new HIV infections in South and South-East Asia are decreasing, whereas in East Asia, they are rising.

Across all countries, key affected populations are vulnerable and being left behind. 18 countries in the region still criminalise same-sex activities, while drug detention centres punish people who use drugs and deny them access to HIV treatment and harm reduction methods.

However, other legal reforms have been positive, such as the formal recognition of transgender as a third gender in Pakistan and India.

Asia & the Pacific regional overview

5.8 million people are living with HIV in Asia & the Pacific. Punitive laws are a major barrier to HIV prevention. China has made substantial progress in tackling its HIV epidemic, however the number of new infections is rising. HIV prevalence in India is only 0.2%, but its huge population means this equates to over 2.1 million people living with HIV.

China (2015)

501,000 people living with HIV
0.3% adult HIV prevalence (2014)
115,000 new HIV infections (2014)
21,000 AIDS-related deaths (2014)

Source: UNAIDS/WHO/China (2015)

India (2017)

2.1m people living with HIV
0.2% adult HIV prevalence (ages 15-49)
88,000 new HIV infections
69,000 AIDS-related deaths
56% adults on antiretroviral treatment
12% children on antiretroviral treatment

Source: UNAIDS/WHO/India (2018)

58% adults and children living with HIV

Thailand (2018)

470,000 people living with HIV
7% adult HIV prevalence
9,400 new HIV infections
14,000 AIDS-related deaths
80% adults on antiretroviral treatment
56% children on antiretroviral treatment

Source: WHO/UNAIDS/2015

Myanmar (2019)

240,000 people living with HIV
0.7% adult HIV prevalence (ages 15-49)
10,000 new HIV infections
7,700 AIDS-related deaths
77% adults on antiretroviral treatment
73% children on antiretroviral treatment

Source: WHO/UNAIDS/2015

Thailand is a world leader in the Myanmar has the second
provision of PMTCT services. However, under 25s are not being reached by prevention efforts.

highest number of people living with HIV in the Southeast Asia region.