

AIDS in the ASEAN region – facts and figures

- The highest national infection levels in Asia continue to be found in **Southeast Asia** where combinations of unprotected paid sex and sex between men, along with unsafe injecting drug use, are fuelling the epidemics in most countries.
- In 2006, there were an estimated 1.6 million people living with HIV in the **ASEAN region**. There were an estimated 180,000 new infections among people of all ages, and 110,000 deaths due to AIDS in the region
- Total prevalence of adults aged 15 – 49 across the region is 0.5% but in some countries over 1.5% of all adults are living with HIV.
- There are an estimated 530,000 women aged over 15 years living with HIV in the region. This represents 33% of all adults living with HIV in the region.
- **Viet Nam's** epidemic continues to increase, with HIV having been detected in all 64 provinces and all cities. The number of people living with HIV has doubled since 2000 (estimated 260 000 in 2005). Some 40 000 people are being infected with HIV each year, the vast majority being people who inject drugs or who buy or sell sex.
- **Cambodia's** epidemic appears to be stabilizing, having diminished since the late 1990s. There is strong evidence that behaviour change efforts introduced by the state and non-governmental organizations have been effective, particularly in the sex industry.
- In **Thailand**, an estimated 580 000 adults and children were living with HIV at the end of 2005. The number of new annual HIV infections continues to drop—the estimated 18 000 new infections in 2005 were 10% less than in 2004. However, a large percentage of new HIV infections are occurring in people considered to be at low-risk of infection. Approximately one third of new infections in 2005 were in married women who were probably infected by their spouses.
- Men who have sex with men in **Thailand** remain at high risk of HIV infection. In Bangkok, HIV prevalence has risen steeply among men who have sex with men—from 17% in 2003 to 28% in 2005. Among people aged 22 years or younger, prevalence rose from 13% to 22% in the same period.
- In **Myanmar** there are early indications that the epidemic might be diminishing. Nevertheless, the country is experiencing a serious epidemic, with national adult HIV prevalence of approximately 1.3%. HIV prevalence of 2.2% among young people (15-24) in 2005 is a cause for serious concern.
- In the **Philippines**, where HIV is being transmitted primarily during unprotected sex, national adult HIV prevalence remains well under 0.1%. Sentinel surveys suggest that less than 1% of sex workers is living with HIV, however, condom use is not the norm during paid sex (when surveyed in 2002, just 6% of sex workers said they used condoms in the previous week) and the use of non-sterile injecting equipment among injecting drug users is common practice in some areas.