

1. An estimated **4.9 million** people were living with HIV in the year 2007.¹
2. An estimated **1.6 million** people living with HIV can be found in Southeast Asia (UNAIDS/WHO, 2006). Of the estimated **440,000** people who became newly infected that year- *women constituted the greatest number of new infections in several countries.*
3. In **Cambodia** new adult infections are thought to be roughly equal between men and women².
4. In 2007 in **Thailand**, 50% of the 10,375 new infections were women aged 15-19 years and *the rate of female infections was twice higher than of male ones.*³
5. Although three out of four adults living with HIV in Asia are men, *the proportion of women living with HIV has risen steadily* – from **19% in 2000 to 24%** in 2007.⁴
6. **Thailand** mirrors the global trend; the proportion between men and women living with HIV is becoming narrower: the ratio between men and women was 5:1 in 1989⁵ has narrowed the gap to 2.68 -3:1⁶, i.e. almost one third of adults living with HIV are women.
7. Women in **Cambodia** represent an increasing proportion of the number of People Living with HIV (PLHIV), increasing from 38% in 1997 to 52 % in 2006⁷.
8. In **Laos**, women constitute 43% of the cumulative cases from 1990-2008.
9. Approximately 1/3 of the people living with HIV in **Vietnam** and **Philippines** are women.
10. The HIV/AIDS epidemic in **India** is increasingly affecting women and young girls, especially where heterosexual sex is the main mode of transmission (NACO, 2007). Out of the estimated adults living with HIV, 38.4% were females (NACO, 2006)
11. The Asia epidemic of HIV is driven by unprotected sex, the sharing of contaminated needles and syringes by IDUs and unprotected sex between men who have sex with men, all of which account for more than 75% of all new infections in the Asia region.
12. At least **75 million men regularly buy sex from about ten million women**. Men engaging in paid sex form the biggest population group infected with HIV with an estimated **50 million women being wives of these high risk men** (AIDS Commission of Asia 2007).

Trends

- Despite impressive declines in new HIV infections, **Thailand** and **Cambodia** have the **highest adult prevalence rates** in the region (1.4% and 0.9%, respectively).
- There are indications that the epidemic is *slowing down in Myanmar* with the decrease in prevalence rates from 0.9% in 2003 to 0.7% in 2006.
- **Vietnam** and **Malaysia** share a common trend of a rapidly rising epidemic with an estimated 0.5% of its adult population living with HIV in 2007.
- Indonesia's prevalence rates have also increased from 0.1% in 2001 to 0.2% in 2005.
- In contrast, the **Philippines** and **Laos** are considered to be low/slow prevalence countries with rates of <0.1% and 0.2% in 2007, respectively, while **China's** prevalence rate has remained stable at 0.1% since 1999 (UNAIDS, 2008).⁸

¹ Commission of AIDS in Asia report, 2007

² NCHADS Surveillance Unit. Current Situation of HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Cambodia: Consultative meeting on Situation and Response Analysis November 2007 . Phnom Penh : s.n., 2007.

³ Bureau of Epidemiology Report

⁴ (Reports of the Commission on AIDS in Asia- 2008)

⁵ Institute of Population and Social Research, Mahidol University. Health of Thai people.

⁶ Statistics on AIDS, unpublished document, 2004, Bureau of Epidemiology

⁷ NCHADS Surveillance Unit. Current Situation of HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Cambodia: Consultative meeting on Situation and Response Analysis November 2007 . Phnom Penh : s.n., 2007.

⁸ (<http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/HIVData/Epidemiology/latestEpiData.asp>.)