



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
(Research Unit)
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India



World AIDS Day (1st December)

India on its way to end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030

(Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

November 30, 2022

Introduction

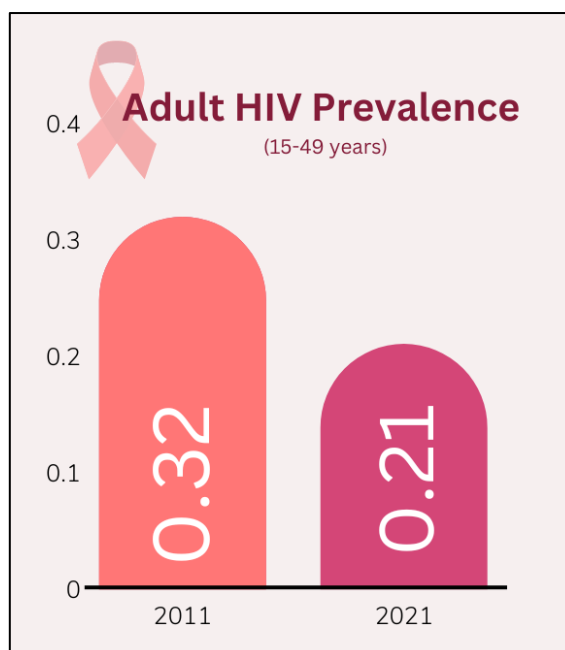
[World AIDS Day](#)¹ is observed on December 1 every year since 1988. It is dedicated to raising awareness, educating and improving the understanding of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) as a global public health problem. It provides an opportunity to understand the interdependence between progress in ending [Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome \(AIDS\)](#) and the progress towards Universal Health Coverage and the Right to Health.

Theme for 2022

World Health Organization (WHO) will commemorate World AIDS Day – 2022 with the theme “**EQUALIZE**” and is calling on global leaders and citizens to boldly recognize and address the inequalities which are holding back progress in ending AIDS and to equalize access to essential HIV services.

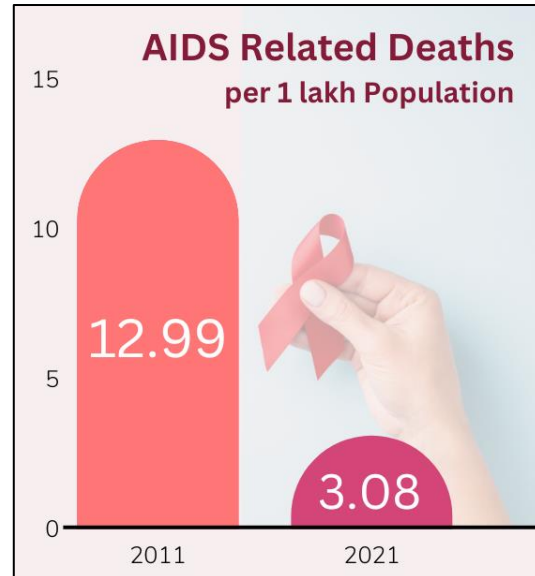
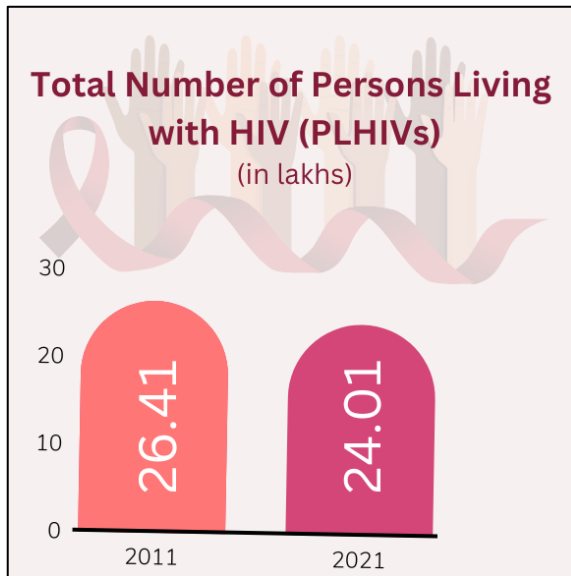
India: HIV Estimates 2021

- At the national level, estimated **adult HIV prevalence** (15-49 years) has declined since the epidemic's peak in 2000, where prevalence was estimated at 0.55% in 2000, through to 0.32% in 2011, and **0.21% in 2021**.
- The northeast region States have the highest adult HIV prevalence (2.70% in Mizoram, 1.36% in Nagaland and 1.05% in Manipur), followed by southern States (0.67% in Andhra Pradesh, 0.47% in Telangana and 0.46% in Karnataka).
- The **number of People Living with HIV (PLHIV)** is estimated at around **24 lakhs**.



¹ https://www.nhp.gov.in/world-aids-day-2021_pg

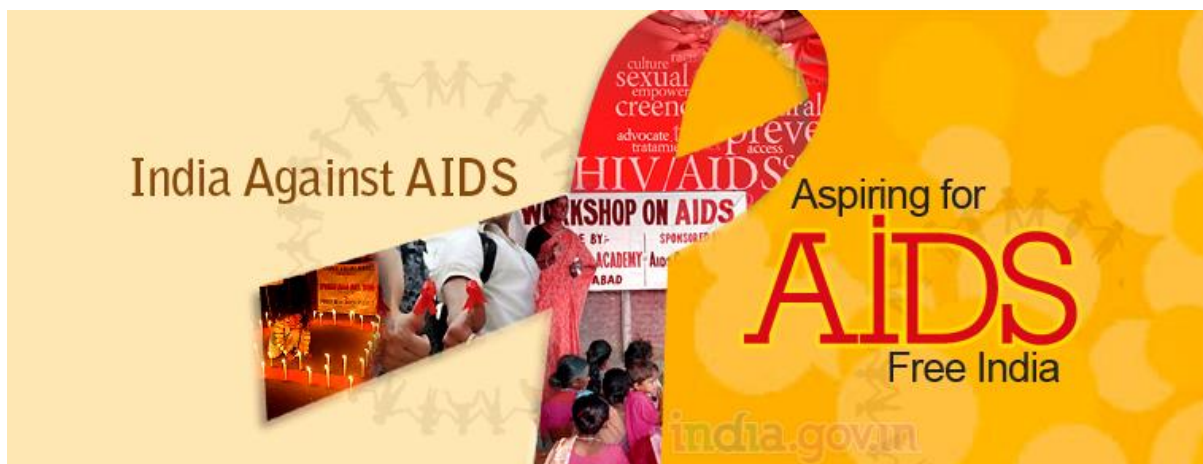
- Southern states have the largest number of PLHIV viz. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka being the top three.
- **Annual New Infections (ANI)** are estimated at 62,970 in 2021 in India. There is an estimated **46.3% decline in ANI at the national level from 2010-2021**.
- **AIDS-Related Deaths (ARD)** are estimated at 41,970 in 2021 in India. A decline of **76.5% in ARD has been estimated at the national level from 2010-21**.



India's Response to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

India's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic was initiated in the form of sero-surveillance in 1985. While initial responses (1985-1991) focused on the search of HIV in different population groups and locations, screening of blood before transfusion, and targeted awareness generation; the **launch of the National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP) in 1992** institutionalized the beginning of a comprehensive response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in India. NACP has evolved as one of the world's largest programmes through five-distinct phases.²

Evidence-driven AIDS response of India, following a three-pronged strategy of **prevention-detection-treatment** while keeping the community and gender in the centre, has been a global success story.



² http://naco.gov.in/sites/default/files/NACP_V_Strategy_Booklet.pdf

The following are the **major interventions taken by the Government of India** towards the attainment of United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals 3.3 of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030:

1. The HIV & AIDS Prevention and Control Act, 2017

[The Act](#) provides a legal and enabling framework to safeguard the human rights of infected and affected populations. It safeguards the rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV. The provisions of the Act address HIV-related discrimination, strengthen the existing programme by bringing in legal accountability, and establish formal mechanisms for inquiring into complaints and redressing grievances.

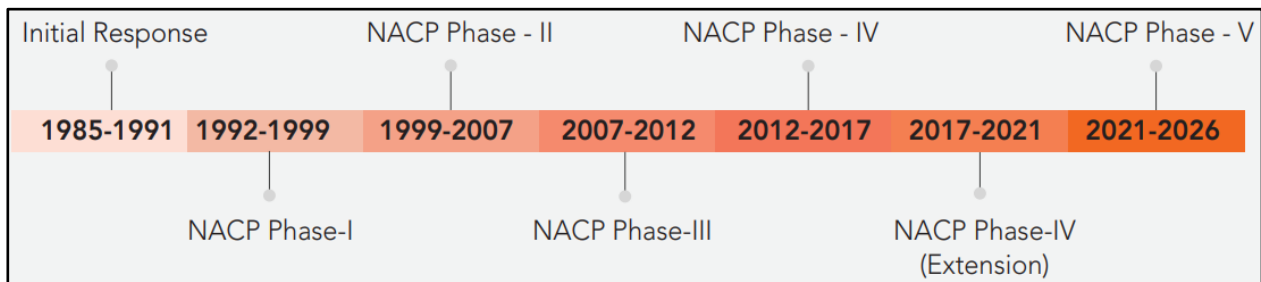


2. National AIDS and STD Control Programme (NACP)

The national AIDS response was initiated by the Government of India in 1992 with the launch of the first phase of the National AIDS and STD Control Programme. Since then, four phases of NACP have been successfully completed. The Phase-IV (Extension) of NACP concluded on March 31, 2021. To know about the highlights of all phases, [Click Here](#).



The Programme offers free HIV prevention, detection and treatment services in facility and community settings to high-risk, vulnerable and other 'at-risk' populations and PLHIV without any stigma and discrimination, promoting equity and inclusiveness. The Programme includes community system strengthening through formal and informal engagement with an emphasis on the decentralized model of district-level programme monitoring and community feedback loop.



On [March 21, 2022](#), Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National AIDS and STD Control Programme, a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Government of India from April 01, 2021 to March 31, 2026 with an outlay of Rs 15471.94 crores by approving phase-V of the Programme.

The **major benefits** of this extension include the following:

- Around 8 crore of people will be covered annually with a tailored package of prevention-detection-treatment services.
- More than 99.5% of the adult population will be kept HIV-free.
- Around 27 crore HIV tests will be undertaken, including around 14 crores among pregnant women, in five years of NACP Phase-V.
- 21 lakh HIV-infected people will be on Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) by the end of the project period.
- Around 80 lakh viral load tests will be conducted on-ART HIV-infected people to monitor the effectiveness of treatment towards the attainment of viral load suppression.

3. Laboratory Services

Under NACP, routine access to quality-assured HIV-related laboratory services is made universally available. The testing laboratories are assessed for their performance under External Quality Assurance (EQA).

4. Adolescence Education Programme (AEP)

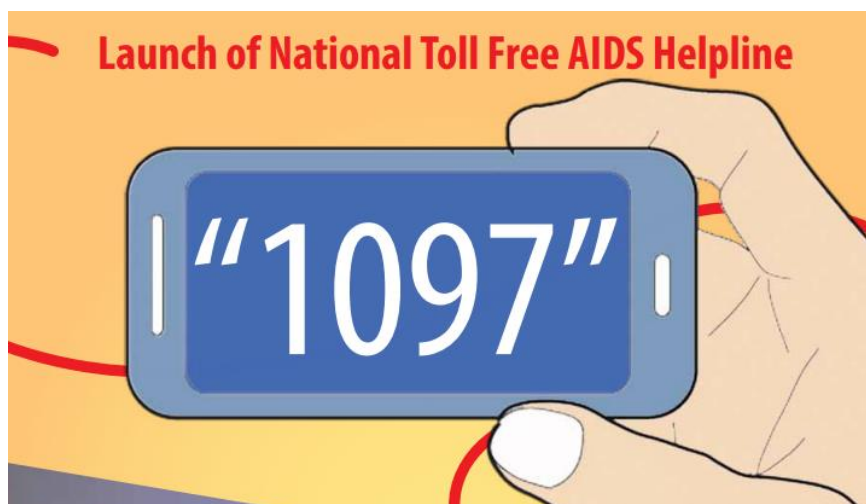
The programme is a key intervention to build the life skills of young people and help adolescents to cope with negative peer pressure and develop positive behaviour cultivating awareness of sexual health and preventing HIV infections. The programme is implemented in collaboration with NCERT and Education Department. A 16-hour curriculum is taught in the schools to adolescent students of classes VIII, IX and XI. Currently, the programme is functional in more than 50,000 schools in the country.

5. Mission SAMPARK







Launched in [December 2017](#), the Mission aims to extend the benefit of the test and treat policy and reach out to all those “who are aware of their HIV positive status” but “are not on ART” and link them back as much as possible for HIV care.

6. National Toll-free AIDS Helpline

The [National Toll-free AIDS Helpline \(1097\)](#) provides information, counselling, referral and feedback services regarding HIV/ AIDS to the callers. The Helpline has served as the most effective IT tool for the programme in enabling access to services during the COVID-19 pandemic for people living with HIV (PLHIV) in the country.



Ending AIDS/HIV Epidemic: Progress So Far

-  The **annual new HIV infections in India has declined by 48%** against the global average of 31% (the baseline year of 2010).
-  The **annual AIDS-related deaths have declined by 82%** against the global average of 42% (the baseline year of 2010).
-  The HIV prevalence in India continues to be low with an **adult HIV prevalence of 0.22%**.
-  Around **14.20 lakh People Living with HIV (PLHIV) are taking lifelong, free, high-quality anti-retroviral treatment (ART)** from NACP-supported facilities. This is one of the **World's largest cohorts of PLHIV under government-funded treatment programmes**.
-  **Viral Load Testing facilities** have been scaled up, and HIV counselling, testing and community-based screening for early diagnosis have been ramped up to achieve the target of **Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV**.
-  During the COVID-19 pandemic, India took swift and timely action by involving communities, civil society, and development partners to mitigate the impact of COVID on HIV services.

References:

- [Sankalak - Status of National AIDS Response](#)
- [Strategy Document - National AIDS and STD Control Programme Phase-V \(2021-2026\)](#)
- [India HIV Estimates 2021](#)
- [MoHFW Annual Report 2021-22](#)
- [World AIDS Day 2022 \(WHO\)](#)
- <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1808185>