

Epidemiology of HIV and AIDS in India

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Editorial

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INTRODUCTION

India has the third-largest population of people living with HIV (PLHIV), after South Africa and Nigeria. Despite this, India has made significant progress in reducing new infections by over 50% since 2000 through targeted prevention programs [1]. Understanding the epidemiological trends of HIV is critical for sustaining control and elimination efforts.

Current Scenario

According to the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), around 2.4 million PLHIV live in India, with adult prevalence at 0.22% [2]. The epidemic is concentrated among high-risk groups—female sex workers, men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, and transgender communities [3]. Certain states like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka report higher prevalence due to sociocultural and economic factors.

Challenges

Late diagnosis, limited awareness, and stigma continue to affect early detection and treatment adherence. Migration, poverty, and limited access to health services in rural areas further contribute to regional disparities [4].

CONCLUSION

India has achieved notable success in controlling HIV but must strengthen surveillance, expand testing services, and reduce stigma to meet the global 95-95-95 targets.

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