

# Bangladesh



## SUMMARY OF SITUATION

The following and additional data and citations can be found at [www.aidsdatahub.org](http://www.aidsdatahub.org)

### HIV Prevalence

- Wide range of estimates for number of MSM from 40,000 by national program to more than 1 million.
- HIV prevalence among MSM in 2007 was estimated at 0.2%.
- Prevalence of active syphilis among MSM was estimated at 3.8% (2004-2005).

### Selected Behaviors & Knowledge (2007)

- Reported condom use with last time anal sex among MSM is 30% and 24 % for commercial and non-commercial partners respectively.
- Percentage of MSM who could correctly identify ways of preventing the sexual transmission of HIV and who reject major misconceptions about HIV transmission is 20%.
- 6 % of MSM reported being tested for HIV in the past year and of knowing the test result.
- In 2004, 78% of MSM reported greater than ten partners in the last month and 21% of the respondents reported more than 51 partners in the last month (sample size=200).

### National Response

- Male-to-male sexual activity is illegal and there are no anti-discrimination laws that specify protection for MSM.
- MSM are formally and informally organized. A national MSM sexual health service, Bandhu Social Welfare Society, is the largest MSM sexual and reproductive health programme in Asia.
- National Strategic Plan (2004-2010) focuses on provision of necessary help and services to vulnerable populations including MSM.
- Government has mobilized and secured funds through international donors to support intervention measures among high risk groups including MSM.

## RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

For more information, contact the UNAIDS Bangladesh office at [panakadans@unaids.org](mailto:panakadans@unaids.org)

- Decriminalize homosexuality and remove other laws impeding effective HIV prevention.
- National strategic plan should include a costed comprehensive response for MSM and TG.
- More systematic and regular surveillance of HIV rates, risk behaviors and MSM communities.
- Fully fund prevention programs, including condom and lubricant provision, peer education and outreach, community development, mass media, and individual counseling.
- Develop the capacity of MSM community-based organizations to provide advocacy and peer-based programs.
- Scale up MSM-friendly VCT and sexual health screening centers.
- Expand care, treatment and support facilities for HIV-positive MSM and TG.
- Address stigma and discrimination toward PLHIV in MSM communities.
- Specific prevention activities should focus on transgender people.



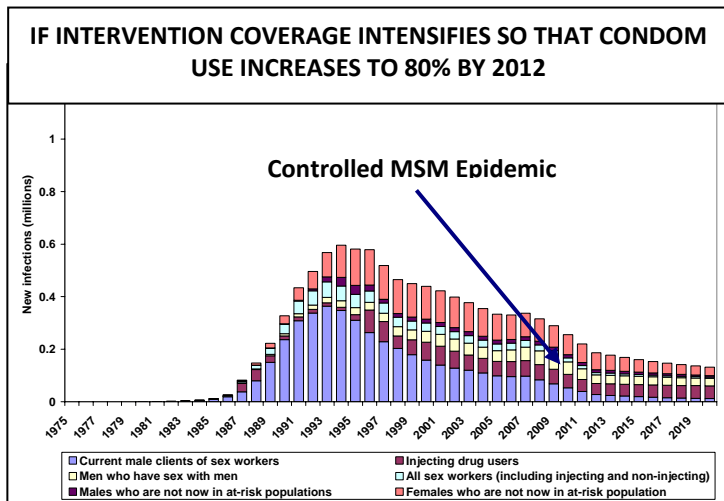
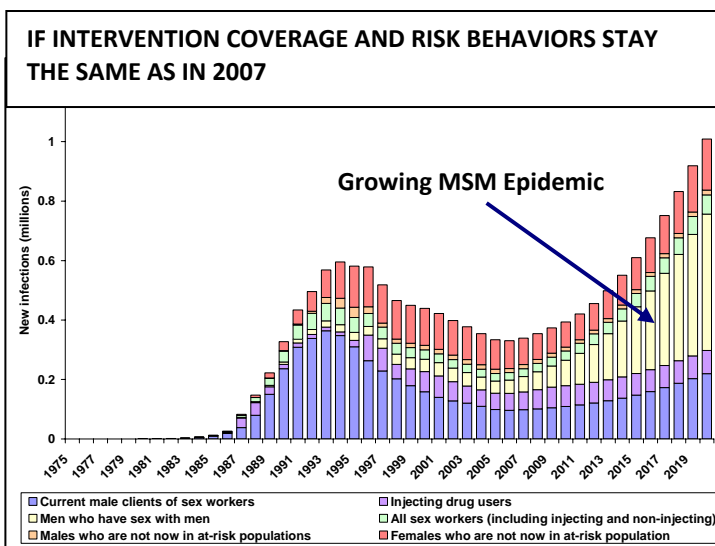
# The Regional Picture

## REPORT ON THE COMMISSION OF AIDS IN ASIA

The Commission on AIDS in Asia used the Asian Epidemic Model (AEM) to construct a picture of how the regional HIV epidemic in different sub-populations has developed over the years, and how it is likely to grow in the future if prevention stays the same.

The regional projection shows that Asia is on the brink of a large increase in new infections among MSM if risk behavior stays at current levels of low condom use with many concurrent male partners.

AEM is a computer model that simulates the spread of HIV within and between important at-risk populations and their partners. Key inputs are levels of HIV (prevalence), and the most important HIV-related risk behaviors of each sub-population and their sizes. The regional projection was made by adding up results of AEMs for countries in Asia.



The main risky behaviors for MSM are the frequency of unprotected anal sex contacts with regular and commercial male partners, and unprotected vaginal sex with commercial and regular female partners. The probability of HIV being transmitted during anal sex between a HIV+ man and another man or transgender is much higher than during vaginal sex with a woman.

However if high coverage with effective interventions raises condom use in anal sex among men to 80% levels over the next few years, then the growing epidemic among MSM can be controlled as shown in the model on the left.

### KEY MSM SESSIONS AT ICAAP

8 Aug.	08.00	Forum: From 200 to 0: Responding Effectively to HIV Among MSM in Asia and the Pacific
10 Aug.	16.00	Satellite: MSM and HIV in Asia and the Pacific – Cross-Cutting Issues
11 Aug.	16.00	Symposium: Overcoming legal barriers to comprehensive prevention among men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender (TG) persons in Asia and the Pacific
	18.00	Satellite: MSM HIV Infection in Developed East and South-East Asia
	18.00	Satellite: Gender Variance and Male-Male Sexualities Across the Global South
12 Aug.	11.30	Launch: The Pacific Sexual Diversity Network Strategic Plan
	14.00	Symposium: Addressing Legal Barriers and Criminalization of Risk Populations