



HIV AND AIDS DATA HUB FOR ASIA-PACIFIC

**EVIDENCE
TO ACTION**

Bhutan

Key Data Issues and Suggestions

SEPTEMBER 2011

REFERENCE SOURCES

This review of reference sources is categorized into two groups, namely general sources and country sources. The general sources include the regional or global documents, such as the Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, Towards Universal Access Progress Report, The World Health Report, World Health Statistics, State of World Population, The Human Development Report, and data from the UN Population Division, The World Bank Database.

The country sources are classified into two: 1) surveys 2) others. The surveys include Behaviour Surveillance Survey (BSS) and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Reports (MICS). The others include studies, research, guidelines and reports. Most reference documents utilized for Bhutan are available in electronic format and can be accessed through the internet. Some documents are available as hard copy version only.

GENERAL SOURCES

All the general sources of data on Bhutan are available. The socio-economic and demographic information/indicators are drawn from these sources. An overall picture of the HIV epidemic in Bhutan can be presented with the help of these general sources.

COUNTRY SOURCES

Surveys

- There are no available DHS reports for Bhutan.
- National Statistics Bureau, UNICEF, & UNFPA. (2011). Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey 2010.
- National AIDS/STI Control Programme Bhutan, Behavioural Surveillance Survey, 2008 Bhutan - Technical Report, 2009.
- International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research Bangladesh, HIV/AIDS Behaviour Survey among the General Population in Bhutan, 2006 - Technical Report. 2008.

Other Sources

- Ministry of Health Bhutan, An Update on Human Immuno Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), 2010.
- National AIDS Control Programme Bhutan, Sexual Behaviors and Networks in Thimphu, Bhutan: A Rapid Assessment, 2010.

- UNODC, DFID, & AusAID, Rapid Situation and Response Assessment of Drugs and HIV in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, 2008.
- UNDP, HIV and Mobility in South Asia – Bhutan, 2010.
- The World Bank, HIV/AIDS in Bhutan, 2008.
- UNDP, Bhutan's Progress: Midway to the Millennium Development Goals, 2008.
- Ministry of Health Bhutan, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Guideline.
- Ministry of Health Bhutan, National Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines for STI, HIV and AIDS control activities in Bhutan, 2008.

INDICATORS

HIV prevalence and epidemiological status: The data on cumulative reported HIV and AIDS cases is available until 2010 July. Data on HIV estimate such as adult HIV prevalence, estimated number of people living with HIV, and estimated death is available for 2009, 2007 and 2001. HIV prevalence data is not available for key affected populations such as sex workers, people who inject drugs and men who have sex with men since the sentinel survey methodology relies only on passive case reporting system.

Vulnerability and HIV knowledge: Limited data available among drug users and sex workers. In fact, the data for sex workers per se is very limited and it is available as bar girls or female sex workers who visited key venues such as bars, hotels, restaurants, karaoke, etc. The knowledge related data among MSM is not available. The knowledge related data among general population is available from Behavioural Survey among General Population in 2006. The data for clients of sex workers (Truckers, Taxi drivers, Royal Bhutanese Police, and Male members of Royal Bhutanese Army) is available from Behavioural Surveillance Survey 2008.

Risk behaviours: Similar to knowledge data, data on risk behaviour is also limited among key affected population as well as general population. The data for drug users and bar girls are available from Behavioural Surveillance Survey 2008. A rapid assessment on sexual behaviours and networks in Thimphu 2010 shed some light on risk behaviour among patrons and female sex workers who visited the key venues such as bars, hotels, restaurants, karaoke, etc. Risk behavior related data among general population is available from Behavioural Survey among General Population, 2006. The data for clients of sex workers (Truckers, Taxi drivers, Royal Bhutanese Police, and Male members of Royal Bhutanese Army) is available from Behavioural Surveillance Survey 2008.

Socio-economic impact of the epidemic: No data available related to funds spent by government on HIV and AIDS and on share of government funding in AIDS funds.

National response: ART and PPTCT coverage data are available for 2008 and 2009. Data on HIV testing is not available for key affected populations but multiple cluster indicator survey 2010 can provide data on HIV testing among young people and general population. The data on prevention coverage among key affected population is not available.

OVERALL IMPRESSION AFTER THE DATA REVIEW

Strength

- Since the available surveys and data are still very limited, the strengths can only be highlighted as a comparison to the past few years. As compared to the last five years, more data are available from some surveys (such as Behavioral Surveillance Survey and multiple cluster indicator survey) and rapid assessment.

Weaknesses

- HIV sentinel surveillance system is not in place among key affected populations. Hence, HIV and STI prevalence among key affected populations are not available and it is difficult to know the level and nature of the epidemic. Data on reliable size estimate among key affected populations is still lacking.
- Knowledge and behavior related data are very scarce among drug users and sex workers.
- No robust information on biological, behavior and response data among MSM.
- Data related to national response is very limited.