

Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) – Update for ICAAP, Bali, 2009

Myanmar



SUMMARY OF SITUATION

The following and additional data and citations can be found at www.aidsdatahub.org

HIV Prevalence

- Estimated 280,000 MSM in Myanmar (2007).
- Overall estimated HIV prevalence among MSM is 29.3%, which is 42 times higher than adult national HIV prevalence of 0.7% (2008).
- Estimated HIV prevalence in Yangon and Mandalay (Central Myanmar) are 23.5% and 35% respectively.
- Estimated HIV prevalence among young MSM (15-24 years) is 15.5%.
- Estimated prevalence of active syphilis among MSM in Yangon was 14% in 2007.

Selected Behaviors & Knowledge

- 67% of MSM reported use of condoms at last episode of anal sex (2006).
- 53% of MSM reported consistent condom use during anal sex with paid male partners whereas 52% of MSM reportedly used condoms consistently during anal sex with casual male partners (sample size= 828).
- 78% of MSM reported consistent condom use during vaginal sex with paid female partners whereas 19% of MSM reported consistent condom use during vaginal sex with casual female partners (sample size= 828).
- Knowledge and awareness about HIV is high among MSM but 90% of the respondents believed that they are not at risk of HIV (sample size=423).
- No available data on HIV testing.

National Response

- MSM population is hidden and difficult to access due to discrimination and social norms but they are informally organized through local community based organization.
- There is a specific program line for prevention and VCT services for MSM in the national strategic plan.
- The estimated budget for the intervention programs is US\$5,550,000 but there is a budget deficit of US\$4,500,000.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSES

Contact the UNAIDS Myanmar office for more information at sung@unaids.org

- Remove 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.



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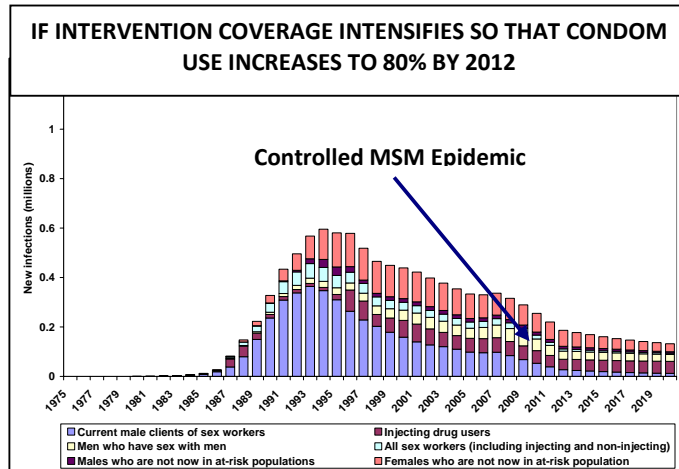
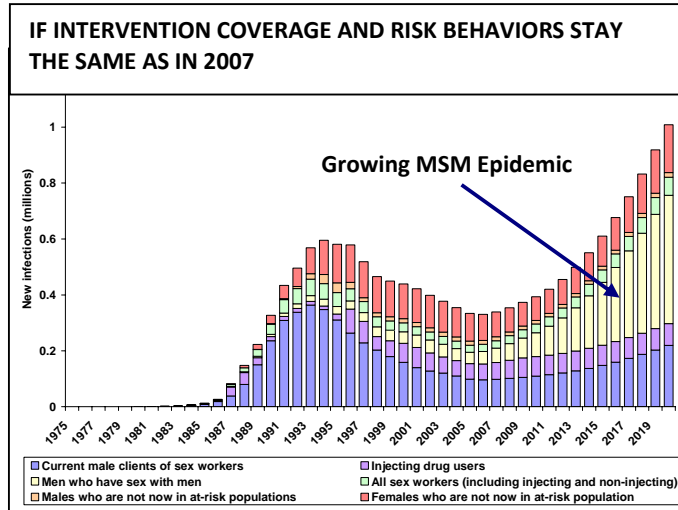
The Regional Picture

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