



# STOP AIDS

# KEEP THE PROMISE

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Article published in Times of India on 07/02/2010:

## Goa records drop in HIV cases for third year in a row

1094 Cases Detected in 2007, 1019 in 2008, 956 in 2009

Joaquim Fernandes | TNN

**Panaji:** For the first time since HIV was detected in Goa in 1987, the incidence of the virus in the state has dropped for the third year in a row. From 1094 HIV cases in 2007 and 1019 in 2008, Goa recorded just 956 HIV cases in 2009.

After the first case of HIV was detected in Goa in 1987, the incidence of HIV rose consistently until it stabilized in around 2003. For the next six years, Goa recorded an average annual HIV incidence of 1042 cases. But since 2007, in terms of actual numbers, the number of HIV cases have declined in Goa.

"This is a good sign," said Dr Pradeep Padwal, project director of the Goa Aids Control Society (GSACS). "It is also significant that HIV cases in Goa have dropped consistently despite the fact that more and more people are coming forward to get themselves tested. This means that our programme implementation is on the right track."

Dr Padwal said in 2003, 14,249 people tested themselves for HIV, 26,737 people in 2008 and in 2009, the number rose to 30,646. Yet, the number of HIV cases showed a drop.

GSACS has been working to control HIV at two levels. One is the high risk group of female sex workers, male homosexuals and intravenous drug users. The other is the bridge population comprising single migrants, long distance truck drivers and those who are inclined to visit sex workers.

Dr Padwal said, "We have different strategies for different levels. For the high risk and the bridge population, we have targeted interventions. For the low risk group comprising the general population, we have programmes for creat-



- Total number of HIV cases detected in Goa since 1987 up to 2009 is 12,633
- Reported AIDS deaths in Goa up to November 2009 is 660
- Estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Goa is 16,000
- About 87% of cases detected in Goa during 2009 belong to the age group of 15-49 years
- Males infected in the age group of 15-34 are higher than females—47.3% males and 37.5% females
- Nearly 50% of male-detected cases and 41% of female-detected cases are in the age group of 35-49 years
- During 1999-2009, the sexual route was the predominant mode of transmission
- Majority of cases are reported from Salcete (17.1%), Mormugao (16.5%) Tiswadi (11.5%) and Bardez (15.5%)

ing awareness."

For the low risk group, the message from GSACS is simple: Observe ABC (Abstinence, Being faithful to your partner and Condoms). For the high risk groups, GSACS will not preach the first two messages of abstinence and faithfulness but move directly to condom promotion.

Dr Padwal said, "Our strategies have fructified so far. But we will be able to reduce it further with everybody's help. We don't want to take any credit. The credit goes to all the stakeholders."

The total number of HIV cases detected in Goa since 1987 up to 2009 is 12,633. The total number of AIDS cases reported to GSACS during 2009 is 1229. (While HIV is the virus, AIDS is the disease caused by the virus). The reported AIDS deaths in Goa up to November 2009, is 660.

The estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Goa is 16,000. HIV infec-

tion is now prevalent in all parts of Goa and a majority of the cases are reported in the four coastal talukas—Salcete (17.1%), Mormugao (16.5%) in South Goa district and Tiswadi (11.5%) and Bardez (15.5%) in North Goa district

About 87% of the cases detected in Goa during 2009 belong to the age group of 15-49 years. Males infected in the age group of 15-34 are a little higher than females—47.3% males and 37.5% females.

Nearly 50% of male-detected cases and 41% of female-detected cases are in the age group of 35-49 years. During 1999-2009, the sexual route was the predominant mode of transmission. Between 83% and 96.0% of Goans contracted HIV through sex. This was followed by perinatal (4 to 7.6%). The number of persons infected with the virus by transmission through blood, blood products and infected syringes and needles is negligible in Goa.

# PERFORMANCES

## BASIC SERVICES

### **Trainings conducted by Goa State AIDS Control Society in the month of February:**

- ✚ Goa SACS conducted training for the counselors of ICTCs at Nirmala Institute of Education from 15/02/10 to 19/02/10. For quality counseling, refresher trainings are imparted to the counselors working at the ICTCs at regular intervals. Nirmala Institute of Education is recognized by NACO as a college of excellence for such trainings. They have trainers who are trained by NACO.
- ✚ Training on HIV testing for Laboratory Technicians from Directorate of Health Services was conducted in two different batches. First batch was trained from 17/02/10 to 19/02/10 and second batch was trained from 22/02/10 to 24/02/10. The dept. of Microbiology, Goa Medical College figures in the list of NACO recognized State Referral Laboratory. One of its activities is to impart inductions/reorientation trainings to the Laboratory Technicians on HIV testing. Counseling and testing for HIV is to be a part of NRHM Services to the community for their training to Laboratory Technicians working at DHS is a must for the HIV testing at all the 24 hour PHCs.

## STI

### **Activities carried out under STI by Goa SACS:**

- ✚ Training of four Preferred Providers has been conducted in February.
- ✚ One Supervisory visit of STD Clinics based in South Goa was carried out on 04/02/10 by Dr. Pankaj Shukla (Prof. & HOD, Dept. of Skin & Venereal Diseases, GMC), Dr. Lalitha Umraskar (DD, STI, Goa SACS) and Dr. Saroj Salelkar (Clinical Officer, TSU, Avert Society).
- ✚ Supportive Supervisory Visits were carried out to six TI NGOs wherein training of Project Managers, Out Reach Workers and Peer Educators was conducted. STI CMIS formats were explained and Concepts of RMC/PT were clarified with the NGOs.

# IEC

**Activity report of IEC organized by Goa State AIDS Control Society in the month of February which includes RRC & Mainstreaming:**

Sr. No.	Date	Name of the Programme & Venue	No. of Participants	Resource Persons
1.	02/02/10	Establishment of RRC in Govt. College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Sanquelim	150	Project Director, Goa SACS, Deputy Dir.(IEC),Mr. Gomes, Principal, Govt. College of Arts, Science & Commerce & Mr. Rao, Program Officer, NSS Unit.
2.	05/02/10	Workshop on awareness on HIV/AIDS, Sattari-Valpoi, Mauxi	70 Self Help Groups	Consultant (CSM) & A. D. (T. I.), Goa SACS
3.	20/02/10	District Youth Programme with NYK at Azad Bhavan, Porvorim.	200	Project Director, DD (IEC), Shri Kalidas Ghatwal, North Goa District Coo-ordinator.
4.	24/02/10	National Policy on HIV/AIDS in the world of work, Crompton Greaves, Kundaim	25 Executives & Staffs	Project Director & Consultant (CSM) Goa SACS
5.	24/02/10	HIV/AIDS awareness program, Rasaim, Loutolim	40 Sub-Contractors' workers.	Consultant (CSM) & A. D. (T. I.), Goa SACS



Project Director addressing the District Youth Programme at Azad Bhavan, Porvorim



Project Director Inaugurating RRC at Govt. College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Sanquelim



Project Director distributing certificates to the participants of District Youth Programme at Azad Bhavan, Porvorim



Project Director addressing the crowd at the inauguration of STI Clinic, Curti Ponda



Project Director addressing the workshop



Participants attending the workshop

## BLOOD SAFETY

**Blood Donation Camps organized by Goa State AIDS Control Society:**

Sr. No.	Date	Venue	Units
1.	03/02/10	I.A.S. Miramar	36
2.	09/02/10	GVM Ponda	46
3.	10/02/10	Dempe College of Arts & Science	39
4.	13/02/10	St. Andrews' Church, Vasco	34
5.	19/02/10	Don Bosco College	82
6.	22/02/10	Tapobhumi, Kundai (Ponda)	51
7.	26/02/10	Govt. Polytechnic, Mayem	36
8.	26/02/10	Govt. Polytechnic, Curchorem	50



Blood Donation Camp organized



Director, DHS inaugurating the seminar



Project Director, Goa SACS addressing in the seminar



Seminar of Stakeholders for promotion of Voluntary Blood Donation was organized by Goa SACS in collaboration with State Blood Transfusion Council on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2010 at, Secretariat (Seminar Hall), Porvorim. Director, DHS inaugurated the Seminar in the presence of the Official of Technical Resource Group representing South India from NACO.

## Contact us:

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