



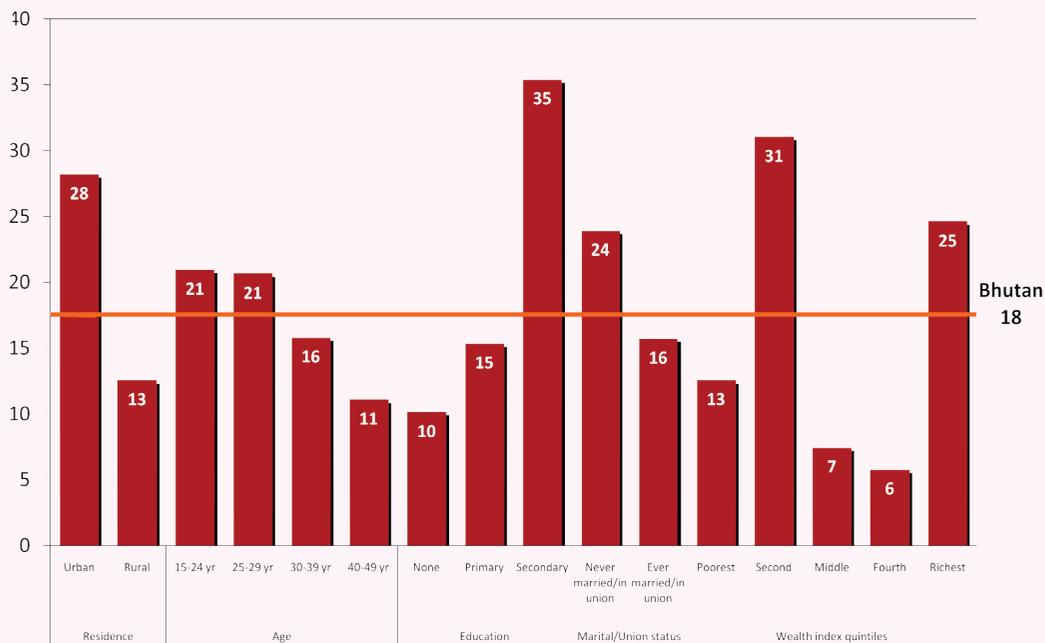
The Ministry of Health detected 29 new HIV positive cases across the country in the last one year, taking the total number of detected cases to 246 (122 females and 124 males). Most infected are between 25 to 39 years - the most economically productive age groups. Almost 90% of infections were through the following three main causes:

- Unsafe sex with multiple partner
- Increased casual sex
- Low condom use

According to BMIS 2010, one fifth of women (15-49 years) were unaware that HIV can be transmitted from the mother to her unborn child. One in four women aged 15-49 years have heard of HIV/AIDS but only 18% knew how HIV was transmitted.

Less than half of rural women received counseling on HIV/AIDS compared to two third of women in urban areas. Therefore, women in rural areas are comparatively more vulnerable to HIV infections.

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN AGED 15-49 YEARS WITH COMPREHENSIVE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT HIV/AIDS BY DIFFERENT BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS



There is positive relationship between women's knowledge of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and their education level and household wealth. Women aged 15-49 years with secondary plus education possess three times more comprehensive knowledge of HIV compared to those without any education. It also varies between urban and rural areas.

SUMMARY OF HIV INDICATORS, BMIS 2010

Indicator	Value
Comprehensive knowledge about HIV prevention	18%
Comprehensive knowledge of HIV prevention among young people	21%
Knowledge of mother to child transmission of HIV	56%
Accepting attitude towards people with HIV	28%
Women who know where to be tested for HIV	55%
Women who have been tested and know the result	9.8%
Sexually active young women who have been tested for HIV and know the results	13%
HIV counseling during antenatal care	54%
HIV testing during antenatal care	47%
Young women who have never had sex	96%
Sex before age 15 among young women	3.7%
Sex with multiple partners	0.3%
Condom use during sex with multiple partners	21%
Sex with non-regular partners	1.4%
Condom use with non-regular partners (61% in urban and 54% in rural areas).	62%

About 10% of the 246 detected cases in Bhutan are 'mother-to-child transmission.' Research indicates if expecting mothers volunteered to be screened for HIV during ante-natal care (ANC), they could have prevented HIV transmission to their unborn children.

Women in southern and eastern dzongkhags have the poorest knowledge on Mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Bumthang and Zhemgang has the highest proportion of women with the knowledge on mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN AGED 15-49 YEARS WITH KNOWLEDGE OF MOTHER-TO-CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV (WOMEN) BY DZONGKHAG

