

HIV/AIDS was first identified in India in 1986, when serological testing found that 10 of 102 female sex workers in Chennai were HIV positive. The initial response of the health authorities was slow primarily due to a common belief that AIDS would not become a problem in India due to the low levels of multi-partner sexual activity and other risky sexual behaviours among Indians (John et al., 1987). However, in the face of increasing numbers of people being identified with HIV, the Government of India (GOI) initiated a systematic response by first establishing the National AIDS Committee (NAC) and then, in 1992, the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Since then, comprehensive educational and awareness programmes have been implemented with mandates to increase prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in India. Under the National AIDS Control Programme (NACP), educational programmes have focused on enhancing people's knowledge about HIV/AIDS and building behavioural skills to enhance prevention practices (NACO, 2005). This chapter presents the findings from NFHS-3 on the current levels of HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour of the adult population. The latter part of the chapter provides an additional discussion of HIV/AIDS knowledge and patterns of sexual activity among young people, as youth are a specific target of many HIV prevention efforts. The findings in this chapter will assist the NACP to identify particular groups of people most in need of information and services and most vulnerable to the risk of HIV infection.

11.1 KNOWLEDGE OF AIDS AND SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE

All women and men interviewed were asked if they had ever heard of an illness called AIDS. Respondents who had heard of AIDS were then asked a series of questions to ascertain the extent of their knowledge. Table 11.1.1 shows the percentage of women age 15-49 who have heard of AIDS and indicates that knowledge varies substantially by all background characteristics shown in the table. Only 6 in 10 women age 15-49 in India have heard of AIDS.

While the proportion of women who have heard about AIDS shows some decline with increasing age, other background characteristics are associated with far greater differentials. Eight in 10 urban women have heard of AIDS (83 percent), while half of rural women have heard of AIDS. Less than one-third of women with no education have heard of AIDS (30 percent). Knowledge increases steadily with increasing education, reaching almost universal knowledge among women who have completed 12 or more years of schooling (99 percent). Knowledge climbs steadily with increasing wealth. Only one-quarter of women in the lowest wealth quintile have heard of AIDS; this proportion increases to 60 percent in the middle quintile and 92 percent in the highest quintile.

Table 11.1.1. Knowledge of AIDS: Women

Percentage of women age 15-49 who have heard of AIDS, and among women who have heard of AIDS, percentage who received information from specific sources, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06 and trends in percentage who have heard of AIDS and who have received information among ever married women age 15-49, NFHS-3 and NFHS-2

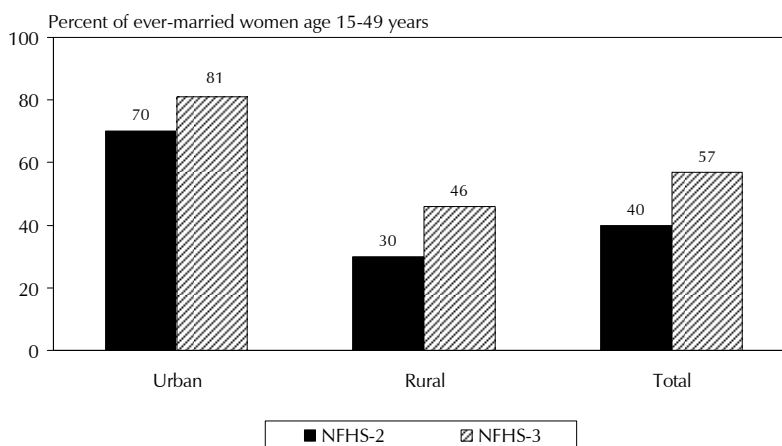
Background characteristic	Among women who have heard of AIDS, percentage who received information from:										Number of women who have heard of AIDS	
	Percentage who have heard of AIDS	Number of women	Radio	Television	Cinema	Newspaper/magazine	Poster/hoarding	Health worker	Friend/relative	School/teacher		Other sources
Age												
15-24	65.4	47,590	39.5	80.9	5.7	29.0	11.8	5.3	29.2	16.5	10.4	31,120
15-19	64.3	24,811	39.5	80.2	5.3	29.0	11.4	4.2	27.8	24.6	7.9	15,965
20-24	66.5	22,779	39.6	81.6	6.0	29.1	12.2	6.4	30.7	8.0	13.1	15,155
25-29	62.6	20,417	37.0	80.4	5.6	28.0	11.9	7.2	32.6	3.3	15.8	12,783
30-39	58.0	33,522	35.4	77.8	5.2	25.0	10.8	7.6	34.0	1.7	16.8	19,455
40-49	54.3	22,856	34.2	77.7	5.2	23.3	9.5	6.8	34.0	1.4	14.7	12,408
Residence												
Urban	83.2	40,817	32.2	91.4	8.0	36.3	15.1	5.2	26.4	9.3	12.4	33,965
Rural	50.0	83,568	41.2	69.8	3.4	19.3	8.0	7.4	36.2	7.0	14.7	41,801
Education												
No education	30.3	50,487	27.8	59.7	1.4	1.1	2.0	5.4	42.1	0.3	16.2	15,276
<5 years complete	57.2	9,918	32.5	69.1	2.6	5.1	4.1	6.4	33.3	0.5	13.3	5,670
5-7 years complete	69.4	18,820	33.4	77.7	3.6	13.4	7.5	6.6	33.9	1.9	12.2	13,070
8-9 years complete	85.1	17,383	41.3	82.7	4.5	26.3	11.5	6.2	28.0	9.7	10.5	14,788
10-11 years complete	94.9	12,887	40.9	88.8	7.5	41.5	15.4	6.4	25.9	15.8	12.7	12,227
12 or more years complete	99.0	14,882	44.7	94.6	11.7	62.4	22.9	7.8	24.6	16.1	16.5	14,730
Marital status												
Never married	76.1	25,462	40.6	84.6	7.0	36.4	14.4	4.5	26.8	24.5	7.0	19,378
Ever had sex	58.1	196	40.5	67.1	5.3	25.8	8.9	5.5	37.5	10.3	10.3	114
Never had sex	76.2	25,266	40.6	84.7	7.0	36.5	14.4	4.5	26.7	24.6	7.0	19,264
Currently married	57.2	93,089	36.2	78.0	5.0	24.0	10.2	7.1	33.2	2.4	16.1	53,264
Married once	57.5	91,254	36.3	78.1	5.0	24.1	10.2	7.1	33.1	2.4	16.2	52,500
Married more than once	41.6	1,835	30.1	70.9	2.5	17.0	6.9	8.2	34.3	2.0	12.6	764
Widowed/divorced/separated/deserted	53.6	5,834	32.0	73.6	4.1	16.6	8.9	7.1	39.6	1.6	13.1	3,124
Religion												
Hindu	60.6	100,151	37.8	80.0	5.5	26.7	11.5	6.5	32.0	7.9	13.8	60,732
Muslim	55.2	16,936	36.6	74.0	4.1	21.9	7.9	5.6	30.7	6.5	10.8	9,344
Christian	84.6	3,053	36.6	77.2	9.0	40.8	13.4	8.7	33.3	14.0	21.2	2,583
Sikh	75.7	2,222	18.6	93.4	2.1	37.1	14.2	6.2	25.6	9.7	11.9	1,682
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	83.8	1,010	34.5	80.9	6.7	20.0	6.4	8.4	33.6	8.6	18.2	846
Jain	93.5	406	29.4	93.4	11.7	56.8	20.2	4.3	26.4	14.6	11.4	379
Other	27.0	484	51.5	55.1	4.4	21.9	7.9	9.5	38.6	9.5	16.2	131
Caste/tribe												
Scheduled caste	55.3	23,125	33.4	76.9	4.2	18.6	8.6	8.0	34.0	7.3	14.9	12,796
Scheduled tribe	38.6	10,119	35.4	61.9	2.8	17.7	8.6	9.0	37.7	8.0	15.3	3,901
Other backward class	58.5	48,880	39.0	78.9	6.0	24.5	11.3	5.6	31.5	8.4	12.9	28,591
Other	72.7	41,207	37.2	83.5	5.8	34.1	12.6	6.2	30.3	8.0	13.7	29,951
Don't know	50.5	649	43.7	76.3	7.3	22.9	4.2	10.5	32.2	10.0	18.7	328
Wealth index												
Lowest	23.9	21,718	39.0	44.4	1.1	4.7	4.1	8.3	43.7	3.0	15.9	5,189
Second	40.7	23,616	38.9	55.9	2.1	7.8	4.6	7.2	41.6	4.9	13.9	9,620
Middle	60.0	25,088	38.1	71.7	3.4	13.5	7.5	6.9	36.2	6.4	15.051	15,051
Fourth	77.6	26,106	36.9	85.8	4.9	24.3	10.5	6.2	29.8	7.7	12.3	20,267
Highest	92.0	27,856	35.8	95.0	9.3	48.5	17.8	5.7	24.7	11.4	14.3	25,640
Total	60.9	124,385	37.2	79.5	5.4	26.9	11.2	6.4	31.8	8.0	13.7	75,766
Ever married women age 15-49												
NFHS-3 (2005-06)	57.0	98,923	36.0	77.7	4.9	23.6	10.1	7.1	33.5	2.3	16.0	56,388
NFHS-2 (1998-99)	40.3	90,303	41.5	78.8	8.1	26.8	12.5	3.6	30.9	1.0	na	35,946

Note: Total includes women with missing information on education, religion, and caste/tribe, who are not shown separately.
na = Not applicable

A smaller percentage of Hindu (61 percent) and Muslim (55 percent) women have heard of AIDS than women from most other religions. More than three-quarters of Sikh, Christian, Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist, and Jain women have heard of AIDS. A smaller proportion of scheduled tribe women have heard of AIDS (39 percent) than scheduled caste women (55 percent), women from other backward classes (59 percent), and women not belonging to any of these castes or tribes (73 percent).

Knowledge of AIDS is higher among never married women (76 percent) than currently married women (57 percent). Thus, care should be taken when comparing NFHS-2 with NFHS-3 findings to assess change in knowledge over time, as NFHS-2 did not interview never married women. A comparison of ever-married women in NFHS-3 with ever-married women interviewed in NFHS-2 indicates that knowledge of AIDS is becoming more widespread. According to NFHS-2, in 1998-99 only 40 percent of ever-married women age 15-49 had heard of AIDS; seven years later, according to NFHS-3, 57 percent of ever-married women age 15-49 reported that they had heard of AIDS. The increase in knowledge has occurred among both rural and urban women. The proportion of ever-married rural women who have heard of AIDS increased from 30 to 46 percent and the proportion of ever-married urban women who have heard of AIDS increased from 70 to 81 percent in the seven years between the two surveys (Figure 11.1).

Figure 11.1 Trends in AIDS Knowledge among Women by Residence



While one might expect knowledge of AIDS to be more common among never married women who have had sex than among never married women who have not had sex, this is not the case. The small number of never married women who ever had sex was less likely to know about AIDS (58 percent) than those who never had sex (76 percent). Similarly unexpectedly, a smaller proportion of women who have been married more than once have heard of AIDS (42 percent) than women who have been married only once (56 percent).

It is surprising that two in five women in India have not heard of AIDS, despite comprehensive efforts to enhance knowledge and awareness through various approaches, including intensive use of electronic media and programmatic efforts of more than 1,000 targeted interventions across the country.

NFHS-3 provides the first opportunity to assess the level of knowledge of AIDS among men across the country, as earlier rounds of NFHS did not interview men. Table 11.1.2 shows that the percentage of men age 15-49 who have heard of AIDS (84 percent) is substantially higher than the percentage among women (61 percent). As with women, knowledge of AIDS does not vary as much by age as it does by other background characteristics. The vast majority of urban men have heard of AIDS (95 percent), compared with three-quarters of rural men (77 percent). The greatest differentials in knowledge are seen by education and wealth quintiles. Only half of men with no education (51 percent) and half of men in the lowest wealth quintile (53 percent) have ever heard of AIDS, while knowledge is almost universal among men at the highest education level and in the highest wealth quintile (100 and 98 percent, respectively).

Variation in knowledge of AIDS among men of different religions and caste groups shows a similar pattern to that observed for women, although the differentials are not as large. The proportion of men who have heard of AIDS does not vary by the number of times they slept away from home or the amount of time they spent away from home in the past 12 months.

Similar to never married women, a higher proportion of never married men have heard of AIDS (90 percent) than have currently married men (80 percent). Unlike women, a slightly higher proportion of never married men who have ever had sex have heard of AIDS (93 percent) than never married men who have never had sex (89 percent).

Table 11.1.2. Knowledge of AIDS: Men

Percentage of men age 15-49 who have heard of AIDS, and among men who have heard of AIDS, percentage who received information from specific sources, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Percentage who have heard of AIDS	Among men who have heard of AIDS, percentage who received information from:										Number of men who have heard of AIDS	
		Radio	Television	Cinema	Newspaper/magazine	Poster/hoarding	Health worker	Friend/relative	School/teacher	Other sources			
Age													
15-24	88.0	55.4	81.3	12.5	51.5	30.7	8.8	45.2	18.2	14.8	22,005		
15-19	86.4	54.5	79.5	11.3	49.6	28.3	7.5	43.2	26.3	11.5	11,244		
20-24	89.8	56.4	83.2	13.8	53.4	33.1	10.0	47.3	9.7	18.3	10,761		
25-29	87.7	56.5	81.3	13.3	53.4	33.4	12.6	45.6	5.2	20.7	9,519		
30-39	82.1	54.7	78.2	12.1	51.3	33.2	13.7	42.9	2.6	21.5	15,629		
40-49	74.9	52.5	76.7	9.7	50.8	31.8	13.7	40.6	2.0	22.9	11,128		
Residence													
Urban	94.8	49.7	90.7	16.4	60.6	37.8	9.9	42.5	9.7	19.7	24,174		
Rural	77.1	58.5	71.7	8.9	45.2	27.9	12.9	44.7	8.2	18.7	34,107		
Education													
No education	51.2	45.3	55.9	6.8	5.8	9.4	8.6	55.6	0.4	24.9	6,433		
<5 years complete	70.7	48.8	64.5	7.1	20.3	16.8	9.7	51.3	0.4	20.2	5,029		
5-7 years complete	83.0	50.5	75.2	9.2	39.2	26.5	9.0	45.7	3.2	17.8	9,559		
8-9 years complete	93.3	56.9	80.3	9.7	53.8	32.3	10.8	40.9	10.0	14.8	13,427		
10-11 years complete	97.6	56.4	87.2	14.2	67.2	37.3	11.1	40.1	15.6	16.9	10,129		
12 or more years complete	99.6	61.4	93.0	19.0	79.7	47.8	16.9	39.6	13.5	22.9	13,694		
Marital status													
Never married	89.8	55.2	84.3	13.9	55.5	32.6	9.1	44.6	18.5	15.4	22,724		
Ever had sex	93.4	57.9	82.7	13.0	54.9	33.2	11.7	53.1	10.2	18.0	3,190		
Never had sex	89.2	54.8	84.5	14.0	55.6	32.5	8.7	43.2	19.8	15.0	19,534		
Currently married	80.3	54.5	76.8	10.9	49.4	31.7	13.3	43.4	2.6	21.6	34,942		
Married once	80.9	54.5	77.1	11.0	49.9	31.9	13.3	43.2	2.7	21.6	33,325		
Married more than once	69.8	54.7	69.9	9.0	39.3	27.4	13.9	47.7	1.2	20.9	1,618		
Widowed/divorced/separated/deserted	65.2	61.5	65.5	6.9	32.9	26.7	11.9	36.6	1.3	16.3	614		
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months													
None	83.6	51.7	80.1	12.8	50.0	29.5	9.4	41.3	9.4	18.1	18,071		
1-2	83.6	53.8	77.9	10.1	49.1	31.6	11.0	42.5	9.3	17.0	10,510		
3-4	81.5	57.2	79.0	10.7	50.2	31.6	12.0	45.0	8.3	17.2	9,329		
5+	84.4	57.2	80.2	12.9	54.8	34.5	13.8	46.1	8.2	22.0	20,194		
Time away in the past 12 months													
Away for more than 1 month	82.7	59.3	74.3	11.5	50.9	32.2	11.5	44.5	8.0	20.6	6,417		
Away for 1 month or less	83.7	55.7	80.3	11.7	52.6	33.3	12.9	45.0	8.6	19.4	33,749		
Not away	83.6	51.7	80.1	12.8	50.0	29.5	9.4	41.3	9.4	18.1	18,071		
Religion													
Hindu	83.4	55.3	80.0	12.3	52.6	32.7	11.9	43.8	9.0	19.4	47,647		
Muslim	82.2	56.7	74.6	10.4	44.3	27.0	10.5	44.9	7.0	16.4	7,192		
Christian	87.7	49.5	79.2	13.5	59.3	33.4	11.0	39.5	11.6	27.2	1,375		
Sikh	92.7	28.3	89.9	4.3	43.3	29.1	9.4	43.3	9.0	16.3	1,177		
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	93.6	59.3	86.6	13.3	58.1	33.0	9.8	34.6	5.8	16.7	557		
Jain	100.0	21.3	94.5	28.6	74.2	54.5	21.0	44.8	14.9	26.6	103		
Other	47.1	53.2	44.3	7.3	32.3	19.4	7.7	55.8	6.9	20.8	109		

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Background characteristic	Among men who have heard of AIDS, percentage who received information from:											Number of men who have heard of AIDS
	Percentage who have heard of AIDS	Number of men	Radio	Television	Cinema	Newspaper/ magazine	Poster/ hoarding	Health worker	Friend/ relative	School/ teacher	Other sources	
Caste/tribe												
Scheduled caste	80.8	13,188	54.8	77.0	10.6	43.6	29.6	12.0	45.9	8.2	19.7	10,651
Scheduled tribe	63.9	5,725	54.2	64.8	8.4	37.4	23.6	13.3	46.7	8.5	19.3	3,656
Other backward class	84.1	27,219	56.9	79.3	13.7	52.4	31.6	11.6	43.5	9.3	19.3	22,878
Other	89.6	23,214	52.9	83.9	11.5	57.5	35.3	11.4	42.4	8.6	18.6	20,794
Don't know	76.8	177	54.3	74.5	12.1	35.3	16.1	6.2	54.7	6.7	17.7	136
Wealth index												
Lowest	52.9	11,031	59.5	50.9	5.4	24.3	19.2	12.3	47.2	5.2	19.2	5,836
Second	74.7	12,666	59.6	63.5	8.1	34.4	22.6	12.2	48.1	6.2	17.2	9,467
Middle	87.0	14,301	55.4	75.7	10.9	44.4	26.8	10.7	45.3	7.5	18.6	12,435
Fourth	94.1	15,493	52.7	87.8	12.8	57.1	34.4	11.0	42.6	8.8	19.2	14,584
Highest	98.2	16,260	51.9	95.1	16.9	72.4	44.1	12.5	39.8	12.6	20.6	15,960
Total age 15-49	83.6	69,751	54.9	79.6	12.0	51.6	32.0	11.7	43.8	8.8	19.1	58,281
Age 50-54	73.1	4,618	50.3	76.0	9.6	51.8	31.7	13.9	36.2	2.1	24.8	3,375
Total age 15-54	82.9	74,369	54.6	79.4	11.9	51.6	32.0	11.8	43.4	8.4	19.4	61,656

Note: Total includes men with missing information on education, times slept away from home in the past 12 months, time away in the past 12 months, religion, and caste/tribe, who are not shown separately.

The Government of India has been using mass media extensively, especially electronic media, to increase awareness of AIDS and its prevention in the general population. NFHS-3 asked women and men who had heard of AIDS to identify the sources from which they learned about AIDS; results are presented in Tables 11.1.1 and 11.1.2. Television is by far the most common source of information on AIDS, reported by 80 percent of both women and men who have heard of AIDS. Television is also the most common source of information about AIDS in almost all subgroups of the population, including the rural and least educated populations. The next most frequently reported sources after television are radio (37 percent of women and 55 percent of men), friends/relatives (32 percent of women and 44 percent of men), and newspapers/magazines (27 percent of women and 52 percent of men). Other than television and schools or teachers, men mention all sources much more often than women.

11.1.1 Knowledge of HIV Prevention Methods

The National AIDS Control Programme in India has been advocating behaviour change with various innovative approaches and strategies that target audience-specific messages to identified subpopulations (Prasada Rao et al., 2004). HIV/AIDS prevention programmes focus their efforts and messages on promoting three prevention behaviours: delaying sexual debut among young persons (abstinence), limiting the number of sex partners/staying faithful to one partner (being faithful), and use of condoms (the ABC message). NFHS-3 respondents were asked specific questions about whether it is possible to reduce the chances of getting HIV/AIDS by abstaining from sex, having just one uninfected sex partner who has no other sex partners, and using a condom during every act of sexual intercourse. The proportion of women and men who are aware of these HIV/AIDS prevention methods is shown in Table 11.2 by background characteristics.

Knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention methods differs drastically between women and men. Overall, approximately 4 in 10 women and 7 in 10 men know each of the three ABC methods. As with knowledge of AIDS, differentials knowledge of prevention methods by age are not nearly as great as differentials by most other background characteristics. Nonetheless, it is notable that knowledge of each of the three methods of HIV/AIDS prevention is more common in urban areas than in rural areas among both women and men, and the differentials are more pronounced among women than men for all three prevention methods. While it is to be expected that knowledge of each prevention method would rise with increasing education and wealth quintiles, the differentials are stark, and again, even more pronounced among women. Knowledge of each prevention method rises from a clear minority to a clear majority with increasing education. No more than 18 percent of women with no education have heard of each of the three prevention methods, while over 80 percent of women at the highest level of education have heard of each prevention method. Only 12 percent of women with no education and 33 percent of men with no education have heard of using condoms as a means of preventing HIV/AIDS, compared with 81 percent of women and 93 percent of men with 12 or more years of education. Knowledge of each prevention method rises rapidly with increasing wealth quintiles as well, and again, the differentials are larger among women than men.

Table 11.2. Knowledge of HIV prevention methods

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who, in response to prompted questions, say that people can reduce the risk of getting HIV/AIDS by using condoms every time they have sexual intercourse, by having one uninfected sex partner who has no other partners, and by abstaining from sexual intercourse, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Women					Men				
	Percentage who say that HIV/AIDS can be prevented by:					Percentage who say that HIV/AIDS can be prevented by:				
	Using condoms ¹	Limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner ²	Using condoms and limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner ^{1,2}	Abstaining from sexual intercourse	Number of women	Using condoms ¹	Limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner ²	Using condoms and limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner ^{1,2}	Abstaining from sexual intercourse	Number of men
Age										
15-24	39.2	48.4	35.0	43.3	47,590	74.3	76.3	68.6	70.3	24,997
15-19	36.5	46.3	32.4	41.2	24,811	71.4	73.1	65.5	68.1	13,008
20-24	42.2	50.6	37.9	45.6	22,779	77.4	79.7	71.9	72.7	11,989
25-29	39.9	47.4	35.9	42.5	20,417	75.2	77.6	70.2	70.2	10,854
30-39	34.7	42.1	30.9	38.2	33,522	68.9	71.8	63.8	66.4	19,045
40-49	29.2	37.6	25.7	34.3	22,856	60.7	64.8	56.5	60.1	14,855
Residence										
Urban	55.8	64.7	50.5	58.8	40,817	83.6	85.8	78.5	79.0	25,504
Rural	26.7	34.7	23.5	31.1	83,568	62.2	65.4	57.1	60.2	44,247
Education										
No education	11.9	17.8	10.0	15.7	50,487	33.3	37.2	29.0	33.5	12,571
<5 years complete	23.7	34.2	19.4	31.6	9,918	51.5	55.9	45.9	51.5	7,109
5-7 years complete	36.3	46.9	31.2	42.0	18,820	66.3	69.6	59.9	64.1	11,523
8-9 years complete	52.9	63.7	47.0	57.4	17,383	79.1	81.8	73.2	76.0	14,398
10-11 years complete	67.2	77.4	61.1	69.9	12,887	88.1	89.5	82.8	83.5	10,380
12 or more years complete	81.2	88.1	76.2	80.6	14,882	93.2	94.9	89.7	86.4	13,754
Regular media exposure³										
Yes	50.0	59.6	44.8	54.0	80,487	78.4	80.8	72.9	74.4	56,057
No	11.2	16.8	9.6	14.7	43,898	36.0	40.2	32.3	36.8	13,694
Marital status										
Never married	46.1	56.6	41.4	50.9	25,462	76.7	78.1	70.8	72.4	25,307
Ever had sex	34.6	43.9	31.2	34.6	196	82.8	84.6	78.0	79.1	3,415
Never had sex	46.2	56.7	41.5	51.0	25,266	75.7	77.1	69.7	71.4	21,893
Currently married	34.2	41.8	30.5	37.7	93,089	66.6	70.2	61.9	64.3	43,501
Married once	34.5	42.1	30.7	38.0	91,254	67.1	70.7	62.4	64.8	41,184
Married more than once	22.2	28.7	19.9	23.3	1,835	56.2	60.6	52.4	54.7	2,317
Widowed/divorced/separated/deserted	26.0	35.0	22.4	32.4	5,834	52.2	55.1	48.3	50.6	942
Currently residing with spouse⁴										
Yes	34.7	42.2	30.9	38.2	84,101	66.3	69.9	61.6	64.0	42,136
No	30.1	38.1	27.1	33.1	8,988	75.0	78.4	71.7	73.3	1,365
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months										
None	na	na	na	na	na	67.7	71.5	62.5	65.8	21,619
1-2	na	na	na	na	na	69.9	72.4	64.4	66.6	12,568
3-4	na	na	na	na	na	69.0	71.5	64.2	66.3	11,447
5+	na	na	na	na	na	72.6	74.8	67.7	68.6	23,926
Time away in the past 12 months										
Away for more than 1 month	na	na	na	na	na	70.4	73.4	65.9	67.1	7,757
Away for 1 month or less	na	na	na	na	na	71.2	73.4	66.1	67.7	40,320
Not away	na	na	na	na	na	67.7	71.5	62.5	65.8	21,619

Continued...

Table 11.2 Knowledge of HIV prevention methods—Continued

Background characteristic	Women					Men				
	Percentage who say that HIV/AIDS can be prevented by:					Percentage who say that HIV/AIDS can be prevented by:				
	Using condoms ¹	Limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner ²	Using condoms and limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner ^{1,2}	Abstaining from sexual intercourse	Number of women	Using condoms ¹	Limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner ²	Using condoms and limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner ^{1,2}	Abstaining from sexual intercourse	Number of men
Employment (past 12 months)										
Employed	27.6	35.5	24.4	32.4	53,081	68.3	71.3	63.3	65.6	60,377
Professional	81.2	87.6	76.4	79.6	3,436	90.2	92.5	86.2	84.0	4,042
Sales worker	45.2	54.0	40.2	50.4	1,993	82.1	84.3	77.1	77.8	8,352
Service worker	40.4	50.2	36.0	46.2	3,625	77.7	81.3	72.3	75.7	3,149
Production worker	31.7	39.7	27.4	36.7	11,787	68.3	71.1	62.8	65.4	22,214
Agricultural worker	16.0	23.9	13.7	21.4	31,282	54.2	57.9	49.4	53.3	20,279
Other worker	76.3	79.6	69.2	76.1	957	91.2	92.5	86.8	84.4	2,341
Not employed	42.8	51.3	38.3	46.0	71,258	81.4	82.8	75.9	76.6	9,288
Religion										
Hindu	36.2	44.3	32.2	39.9	100,151	70.2	72.8	65.1	67.1	57,112
Muslim	31.0	39.5	27.9	35.5	16,936	66.8	70.6	61.9	63.8	8,747
Christian	50.9	63.1	44.8	59.6	3,053	69.7	74.6	64.1	65.1	1,567
Sikh	56.3	63.0	51.9	57.2	2,222	84.1	84.9	79.0	85.7	1,270
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	43.3	55.2	37.5	49.9	1,010	78.5	82.2	74.7	77.1	596
Jain	77.0	81.8	72.5	75.7	406	94.5	93.0	91.7	86.1	213
Other	15.5	19.8	14.0	17.6	484	34.6	36.7	30.8	34.4	232
Caste/tribe										
Scheduled caste	30.1	38.7	26.6	34.6	23,125	66.0	68.7	60.4	62.8	13,188
Scheduled tribe	19.3	25.6	16.7	22.4	10,119	49.4	51.9	44.7	48.9	5,725
Other backward class	33.1	41.2	29.0	37.0	48,880	70.8	73.6	65.8	67.8	27,219
Other	48.1	56.8	43.7	51.8	41,207	76.7	79.7	71.7	73.2	23,214
Don't know	22.2	29.2	18.1	28.0	649	58.4	60.4	52.9	57.9	177
Wealth index										
Lowest	9.1	13.4	7.6	11.7	21,718	38.6	40.7	34.1	37.3	11,031
Second	16.8	24.9	14.4	22.4	23,616	57.3	60.7	51.6	56.1	12,666
Middle	30.0	39.4	25.7	35.8	25,088	70.0	74.2	64.1	68.2	14,301
Fourth	47.1	57.6	41.6	51.6	26,106	82.3	84.2	76.6	77.4	15,493
Highest	69.5	77.7	64.2	70.7	27,856	89.7	92.0	85.8	84.8	16,260
Total age 15-49	36.3	44.5	32.3	40.2	124,385	70.0	72.8	64.9	67.0	69,751
Age 50-54	na	na	na	na	na	57.3	63.2	53.5	57.3	4,618
Total age 15-54	na	na	na	na	na	69.2	72.2	64.2	66.4	74,369

Note: Total includes women/men with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe and men with missing information on number of times slept away from home in the past 12 months and time away in the past 12 months, who are not shown separately.

na = Not applicable

¹ Using condoms every time they have sexual intercourse.

² Partner who has no other partners.

³ Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.

⁴ Based on currently married respondents only.

The importance of the media as a source of knowledge of HIV/AIDS is evident from the fact that knowledge of each of the three methods of prevention is at least twice as high among women and men with regular media exposure, compared with women and men who do not have regular media exposure. For example, 45 percent of women and 73 percent of men who have regular media exposure know about avoiding HIV by using condoms and limiting sexual intercourse to one uninfected partner, compared with only 10 percent of women and 32 percent of men who are not regularly exposed to media.

Differentials in knowledge of prevention methods by caste and religion indicate that scheduled tribe women and men are least aware of each of the three means of HIV/AIDS prevention and Muslim women and men are less likely to be aware of different means of HIV/AIDS prevention than women and men in other religious groups.

As is true for knowledge of HIV/AIDS, the never married population knows of each prevention method in a somewhat higher proportion than does the currently married population, and this is true for both women and men. The proportion of men who know a prevention method varies little by the number of times they slept away from home or the amount of time they spent away from home in the past 12 months. Among currently married respondents, a somewhat higher proportion of men who do not live with their spouses know each prevention method than men who live with their spouses; however, among women, the reverse is true, although the differentials are generally small.

11.1.2 Knowledge of Transmission

NFHS-3 included questions to assess the prevalence of common misconceptions about AIDS and HIV transmission. Respondents were asked whether they think it is possible for a healthy-looking person has HIV/AIDS. They were also asked whether a person can get HIV/AIDS from mosquito bites, by hugging some one who has HIV/AIDS, or by sharing food with a person who has HIV/AIDS.

Tables 11.3.1 and 11.3.2 present the percentages of women and men age 15-49 who say that a healthy looking person can have HIV/AIDS, the percentages who, in response to prompted questions, correctly reject local misconceptions about HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention, and the percentages with different combinations of information about HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention, by background characteristics. Many Indian adults lack accurate knowledge about the ways in which HIV/AIDS can and cannot be transmitted. Particularly critical is the fact that only 38 percent of women and 61 percent of men know that a healthy-looking person can have (and thus transmit) HIV/AIDS. Many women and men also erroneously believe that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted by mosquito bites; only 38 percent of women and 53 percent of men reject this common misconception. Larger proportions of women and men are aware that HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by hugging some one who has AIDS (43 and 64 percent, respectively) and by sharing food with a person who has HIV/AIDS (42 percent and 61 percent, respectively). Only a minority of women (31 percent) and men (45 percent) reject all three misconceptions. An even smaller minority of women (23 percent) and men (37 percent) have sufficient understanding of HIV/AIDS to both reject the two most common misconceptions among the three asked about—that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted by mosquito bites and that a person can become infected with HIV/AIDS by sharing food or utensils with someone who is infected—and believe that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS.

Table 11.3.1 Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS: Women

Percentage of women age 15-49 who, in response to prompted questions, correctly reject misconceptions about HIV/AIDS transmission or prevention and who say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS, and percentage who have a comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Percentage of women who say that:				Percentage who say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS and who reject the two most common misconceptions ²	Percentage who have a comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS ³	Number of women		
	HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by mosquito bites	HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by someone who has AIDS	A person cannot become infected by sharing food with a person who has AIDS	HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by any of the specified methods				Percentage who reject all three misconceptions and know how to prevent HIV/AIDS ¹	Percentage who say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS
Age									
15-24	43.6	49.2	47.8	36.5	24.3	42.2	27.7	19.9	47,590
15-19	43.6	48.6	47.3	36.3	22.7	41.3	27.3	18.6	24,811
20-24	43.5	49.7	48.4	36.7	26.2	43.1	28.2	21.4	22,779
25-29	39.5	45.0	43.5	32.6	23.7	39.0	24.8	19.4	20,417
30-39	34.6	39.8	38.4	27.8	19.5	34.6	20.7	15.6	33,522
40-49	30.0	34.6	33.4	23.5	15.6	31.4	17.3	12.5	22,856
Residence									
Urban	57.7	65.0	63.3	49.6	36.3	56.2	39.2	30.3	40,817
Rural	28.3	32.7	31.5	22.1	14.0	28.5	15.7	11.0	83,568
Education									
No education	12.7	15.2	14.5	8.7	4.2	14.5	5.4	3.1	50,487
<5 years complete	25.3	31.0	29.4	17.4	8.8	27.1	10.9	6.2	9,918
5-7 years complete	37.9	45.4	42.9	28.7	17.2	37.8	19.6	13.0	18,820
8-9 years complete	55.0	62.3	60.2	44.1	29.9	52.8	32.4	23.3	17,383
10-11 years complete	71.2	79.0	77.9	62.0	44.4	66.5	47.8	36.0	12,887
12 or more years complete	83.6	90.7	89.6	77.4	63.0	80.1	66.1	55.1	14,882
Regular media exposure⁴									
Yes	51.6	59.0	57.3	43.3	30.5	50.6	33.1	24.8	80,487
No	13.0	14.4	13.7	8.8	4.6	13.8	5.8	3.5	43,898
Marital status									
Never married	54.5	60.4	59.3	46.6	30.8	51.4	36.4	25.8	25,462
Ever had sex	34.3	39.7	41.9	29.6	21.7	31.7	21.0	15.9	196
Never had sex	54.6	60.5	59.4	46.7	30.9	51.5	36.5	25.9	25,266
Currently married	34.1	39.3	37.8	27.5	19.3	34.4	20.4	15.4	93,089
Married once	34.4	39.6	38.1	27.8	19.5	34.6	20.6	15.6	91,254
Married more than once	19.7	24.2	23.3	14.4	9.2	22.3	10.6	7.1	1,835
Widowed/divorced/separated/deserted	27.6	32.5	31.5	21.1	12.5	29.3	14.7	9.8	5,834
Currently residing with spouse⁵									
Yes	34.6	39.9	38.5	28.0	19.6	34.8	20.8	15.7	84,101
No	29.8	33.3	31.8	23.0	16.0	30.2	17.1	12.6	8,988
Employment (past 12 months)									
Employed	29.2	33.2	32.2	22.9	15.0	29.6	16.8	12.3	53,081
Professional	82.2	88.6	88.2	76.6	63.7	80.5	67.1	57.4	3,436
Sales worker	44.4	52.3	51.0	35.6	24.7	45.8	27.9	21.2	1,993
Service worker	40.3	48.4	46.0	32.3	21.7	42.3	24.2	17.4	3,625
Production worker	32.3	38.3	36.9	32.9	15.5	32.9	17.5	11.9	11,787
Agricultural worker	18.5	20.7	20.0	12.9	6.9	18.9	8.3	5.2	31,282
Other worker	77.0	83.5	82.2	69.6	55.5	72.9	57.7	47.1	957
Not employed	44.5	50.7	49.1	37.2	26.0	43.6	28.3	21.1	71,258

Continued...

Table 11.3.1 Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS: Women—Continued

Background characteristic	Percentage of women who say that:					Percentage who say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS and who reject the two most common misconceptions ²	Percentage who say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS	Percentage who reject all three misconceptions and know how to prevent HIV/AIDS ¹	Percentage who say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS	Percentage who have a comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS ³	Number of women
	HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by mosquito bites	HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by hugging someone who has AIDS	A person cannot become infected by sharing food with a person who has AIDS	HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by any of the specified methods	Percentage who reject all three misconceptions and know how to prevent HIV/AIDS ¹						
Religion											
Hindu	38.0	43.2	41.6	31.1	21.3	37.3	23.3	17.2	100,151		
Muslim	32.5	36.6	36.4	25.6	16.9	33.4	19.7	14.1	16,936		
Christian	54.1	62.6	62.6	46.0	31.3	56.1	36.7	26.0	3,053		
Sikh	49.4	61.7	59.3	44.2	34.1	49.1	32.0	25.9	2,222		
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	49.2	57.6	58.1	42.4	26.3	49.3	32.1	22.4	1,010		
Jain	82.7	84.4	84.6	75.4	61.8	79.6	67.4	57.8	406		
Other	15.3	16.6	17.6	11.2	8.1	15.7	8.7	6.9	484		
Caste/tribe											
Scheduled caste	31.2	36.8	35.6	24.8	16.0	31.1	17.6	12.7	23,125		
Scheduled tribe	21.3	24.4	23.0	16.3	9.9	22.5	11.9	8.1	10,119		
Other backward class	35.6	40.1	39.0	28.7	18.7	34.6	20.8	14.7	48,880		
Other	49.1	55.6	53.9	41.4	30.5	48.9	32.9	25.4	41,207		
Don't know	23.2	29.1	28.4	16.5	9.2	24.9	11.7	7.3	649		
Wealth index											
Lowest	10.7	12.3	11.2	6.9	3.4	11.2	4.4	2.5	21,718		
Second	19.3	22.4	21.1	13.3	7.0	20.1	8.4	5.2	23,616		
Middle	32.0	37.2	36.0	24.2	14.0	32.4	16.3	10.6	25,088		
Fourth	48.9	56.6	55.3	40.4	26.9	48.0	30.0	21.4	26,106		
Highest	70.2	78.0	76.3	62.6	48.7	68.1	51.3	41.4	27,856		
Total	38.0	43.3	41.9	31.1	21.3	37.6	23.4	17.3	124,385		

Note: Total includes women with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe, who are not shown separately.

¹ Respondents who know how to prevent HIV/AIDS say that the use of a condom for every act of sexual intercourse and having just one uninfected faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting HIV/AIDS.

² Two most common misconceptions in NFHS-3: HIV/AIDS can be transmitted by mosquito bites and by sharing food.

³ Respondents with comprehensive knowledge say that the use of a condom for every act of sexual intercourse and having just one uninfected faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting HIV/AIDS, say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS, and reject the two most common misconceptions in NFHS-3.

⁴ Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.

⁵ Based on currently married women only.

Table 11.3.2. Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS: Men

Percentage of men age 15-49 who, in response to prompted questions, correctly reject misconceptions about HIV/AIDS transmission or prevention and who say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS and percentage who have a comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Percentage of men who say that:							Number of men
	HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by mosquito bites	HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by someone who has AIDS	A person cannot become infected by sharing food with a person who has AIDS	HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by any of the specified methods	Percentage who reject all three misconceptions and know how to prevent HIV/AIDS ¹	Percentage who say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS	Percentage who reject the two most common misconceptions ²	
Age								
15-24	59.1	71.4	68.4	51.0	43.3	63.0	41.1	36.1
15-19	59.2	70.2	67.5	50.7	41.9	59.8	39.7	34.5
20-24	59.1	72.7	69.3	51.4	44.8	62.5	42.7	37.8
25-29	56.3	69.1	66.1	49.1	43.0	66.2	41.8	37.4
30-39	50.0	60.8	57.6	41.5	36.1	61.2	35.3	31.3
40-49	43.8	53.0	50.2	35.6	30.9	54.8	30.2	26.7
Residence								
Urban	67.3	80.5	77.7	60.1	53.0	75.0	51.9	46.6
Rural	44.7	54.8	51.7	36.1	30.4	53.3	28.9	25.1
Education								
No education	20.7	27.1	24.4	13.8	9.9	29.4	9.9	7.5
<5 years complete	31.0	42.0	37.7	21.7	16.1	43.4	15.9	12.5
5-7 years complete	45.8	58.1	54.1	35.5	29.1	54.6	27.2	23.1
8-9 years complete	59.2	71.3	68.6	49.1	41.7	67.6	39.7	34.7
10-11 years complete	70.5	83.9	81.0	62.6	55.4	77.1	53.0	47.7
12 or more years complete	79.9	92.5	90.3	75.2	68.8	86.7	67.6	62.2
Regular media exposure⁴								
Yes	60.0	72.9	69.9	51.9	45.1	68.7	43.6	38.7
No	23.9	28.9	25.8	15.9	12.0	30.7	11.3	9.4
Marital status								
Never married	62.2	74.5	71.8	54.5	46.6	65.8	44.7	39.3
Ever had sex	59.5	75.5	70.3	51.3	46.1	69.8	42.5	38.8
Never had sex	62.6	74.3	72.0	55.0	46.6	65.2	45.1	39.4
Currently married	47.9	58.7	55.5	39.6	34.3	59.0	33.3	29.6
Married once	48.6	59.4	56.3	40.3	35.0	59.5	33.9	30.1
Married more than once	35.4	44.7	41.4	27.4	23.4	50.6	22.6	19.9
Widowed/divorced/separated/deserted	35.7	45.0	42.4	28.4	23.9	43.7	21.2	19.0
Currently residing with spouse⁵								
Yes	47.7	58.4	55.2	39.4	34.1	58.7	33.1	29.3
No	54.5	67.2	63.1	46.0	42.5	67.3	40.4	37.4
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months								
None	53.0	64.2	61.7	45.6	38.0	61.2	37.7	32.4
1-2	52.3	63.4	60.4	43.4	37.4	60.9	36.4	32.3
3-4	51.3	62.5	59.3	43.2	37.4	58.7	35.4	31.5
5+	53.9	65.4	62.0	45.6	40.3	62.6	38.1	34.4
Time away in the past 12 months								
Away for more than 1 month	51.2	62.2	58.2	41.3	36.5	59.9	34.4	31.2
Away for 1 month or less	53.2	64.6	61.5	45.1	39.4	61.6	37.6	33.6
Not away	53.0	64.2	61.7	45.6	38.0	61.2	37.7	32.4

Continued...

Table 11.3.2 Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS: Men—Continued

Background characteristic	Percentage of men who say that:				Percentage who say that a			Number of men	
	HIV/AIDS transmitted by mosquito bites	HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by hugging someone who has AIDS	A person cannot become infected by sharing food with a person who has AIDS	HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by any of the specified methods	Percentage who reject all three misconceptions and know how to prevent HIV/AIDS ¹	Percentage who say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS	Percentage who say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS and who reject the two most common misconceptions ²		Percentage who have a comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS ³
Employment (past 12 months)									
Employed	50.2	61.5	58.4	41.9	36.1	59.7	34.9	30.8	60,377
Professional	76.5	88.8	86.8	71.2	64.2	86.0	66.0	59.9	4,042
Sales worker	61.3	75.6	71.8	53.3	47.2	73.0	44.9	40.4	8,352
Service worker	59.8	73.4	69.8	51.5	44.4	67.5	42.8	37.8	3,149
Production worker	49.2	61.3	58.2	40.6	34.3	58.8	33.0	28.6	22,214
Agricultural worker	37.1	45.6	42.6	28.5	23.7	45.9	22.2	19.3	20,279
Other worker	75.5	87.9	83.8	68.0	61.7	84.3	61.3	55.9	2,341
Not employed	70.6	82.1	79.8	63.6	55.0	71.8	53.0	47.3	9,288
Religion									
Hindu	53.6	64.4	61.4	45.5	39.3	61.0	37.7	33.4	57,112
Muslim	46.1	59.7	56.5	37.6	31.8	59.1	30.4	26.6	8,747
Christian	57.4	68.7	68.9	50.6	41.0	67.3	44.8	36.9	1,567
Sikh	56.8	77.3	71.3	50.4	45.3	74.4	45.1	41.2	1,270
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	66.1	77.7	75.7	60.5	52.8	79.3	54.2	48.4	596
Jain	87.2	93.8	93.3	83.8	79.1	88.1	77.3	73.3	213
Other	25.3	29.3	26.2	18.3	15.9	30.8	16.2	14.2	232
Caste/tribe									
Scheduled caste	47.1	59.0	55.8	38.7	32.7	56.4	31.0	27.2	13,188
Scheduled tribe	36.7	44.8	41.3	29.4	23.6	42.9	23.6	19.9	5,725
Other backward class	54.1	64.5	61.4	45.6	39.5	60.9	37.6	33.2	27,219
Other	59.1	72.0	69.3	51.5	45.0	69.2	44.1	39.4	23,214
Don't know	35.2	47.3	46.3	26.8	22.9	44.5	20.7	17.3	177
Wealth index									
Lowest	24.8	30.4	27.5	16.8	13.0	31.9	12.0	10.1	11,031
Second	38.2	48.3	44.7	28.6	23.2	47.9	21.9	18.6	12,666
Middle	50.3	62.1	58.7	40.8	34.0	59.4	31.6	27.3	14,301
Fourth	63.6	77.4	74.4	55.6	48.2	71.6	46.5	41.0	15,493
Highest	75.6	88.9	86.7	69.8	63.0	83.4	62.7	57.0	16,260
Total age 15-49	52.9	64.2	61.2	44.8	38.6	61.3	37.3	33.0	69,751
Age 50-54	41.5	51.5	49.1	33.9	29.4	52.9	29.2	25.9	4,618
Total age 15-54	52.2	63.4	60.5	44.2	38.1	60.8	36.8	32.5	74,369

Note: Total includes men with missing information on education, times slept away from home in the past 12 months, time away in the past 12 months, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe, who are not shown separately.

¹ Respondents who know how to prevent HIV/AIDS say that the use of a condom for every act of sexual intercourse and having just one uninfected faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting HIV/AIDS.

² Two most common misconceptions in NFHS-3: HIV/AIDS can be transmitted by mosquito bites and by sharing food.

³ Respondents with comprehensive knowledge say that the use of a condom for every act of sexual intercourse and having just one uninfected faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting HIV/AIDS, say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS, and reject the two most common misconceptions in NFHS-3.

⁴ Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.

⁵ Based on currently married men only.

These tables also provide an assessment of the level of comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission. Comprehensive knowledge is defined as: 1) knowing that both condom use and limiting sex partners to one uninfected faithful partner are HIV/AIDS prevention methods; 2) being aware that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS; and 3) rejecting the two most common misconceptions in India—that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted through mosquito bites and by sharing food. NFHS-3 results reveal that only 17 percent of women and 33 percent of men in India have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission.

Tables 11.3.1 and 11.3.2 reveal considerable variation in HIV/AIDS knowledge. The proportions of women and men who reject all three most common misconceptions, who know that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS, or who have comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS decrease with age. Nearly two-fifths of women (37 percent) age 15-24 have sufficient knowledge to reject all three most common transmission misconceptions, but this percentage declines with age to 24 percent among women age 40-49. In fact, correct knowledge as measured by all indicators in the table declines with age for both women and men. The proportion of women and men with correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission is higher in urban than rural areas for all indicators. Education and regular media exposure have strong positive associations with all the indicators of HIV/AIDS knowledge. Among women, for example, 55 percent with at least 12 years of education have comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS, compared with only 3 percent with no education. Among men, the level of comprehensive knowledge varies from 8 percent among those with no education to 62 percent among those with at least 12 years of education.

The wealth index is strongly and positively associated with a correct understanding of HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission. The proportion of women who reject all three of the most common misconceptions increases steadily with the wealth index from only 7 percent for women in the lowest wealth quintile to 63 percent for women in the highest wealth quintile. Similarly, the proportion of women having comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission increases from 3 percent among women in the lowest quintile to 41 percent among women in the highest quintile. The same pattern of knowledge of HIV prevention and transmission by wealth is observed among men. Nonetheless, it is notable that substantial proportions of even the most educated or those in the highest wealth quintile do not have correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS transmission.

A higher proportion of never married women and men have correct prevention and transmission knowledge than women and men who have married. Thirty-one percent of never married women and 47 percent of never married men reject all three misconceptions and know how to prevent AIDS infection, whereas the proportions are only 19 among currently married men and 34 percent among currently married men and only 13 and 24 percent, respectively, among formerly married women and men. The proportions of women having comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS among the never, currently, and formerly married are 26, 15, and 10 percent, respectively. For men, the corresponding proportions among the never, currently, and formerly married are 39, 30, and 19 percent. It is worth mentioning that women and men who are currently married and have been married more than once are less likely to reject most common misconceptions and have comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS than are women and men who are currently in their first marriage. Currently married women residing with their spouse are

more knowledgeable about most common misconceptions and correct means of HIV/AIDS prevention than are women not residing with their spouse, but the opposite is true for men. Employment is negatively associated with knowledge of different means of HIV/AIDS prevention and transmission for both women and men. There are, however, large differentials according to occupation groups. For example, the proportion of men with comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS ranges from 19 percent among men in agricultural occupations and 29 percent among men in production/manual occupations to 60 percent among men in professional, technical or managerial occupations. Knowledge among men does not vary by the number of times slept away from home and time spent away from home in the past 12 months.

11.1.3 Knowledge of HIV/AIDS Transmission from a Mother to Her Child

Informing the population of ways in which HIV can be transmitted from a mother to her baby and that the risk of transmission can be reduced by using antiretroviral drugs are critical to reducing transmission of the virus from mothers to their babies. To obtain information on knowledge of these issues, NFHS-3 asked respondents if HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her baby and whether there are any special medications that a doctor or a nurse can give to a woman infected with HIV/AIDS to reduce the risk of transmitting HIV/AIDS to the baby. Table 11.4 presents the percentage of women and men who know that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her baby and that the risk of transmission of HIV/AIDS to a baby can be reduced by the mother taking special drugs. Less than half of women age 15-49 (47 percent) and almost two-thirds of men (63 percent) in India know that HIV can be transmitted from a mother to her baby, but only one-fifth of women and men know that the risk of such transmission can be reduced with the use of certain drugs.

There are noticeable differences in knowledge about HIV/AIDS transmission from mothers to their babies among women and men by age, marital status, residence, education, regular media exposure, and wealth quintile. Knowledge of transmission from mother to child is highest among women and men who have at least 12 years of education (88 percent each for women and men), who are employed in professional occupations (88 percent and 87 percent), who are living in urban areas (67 percent and 75 percent), and who belong to the highest wealth quintile (78 percent and 82 percent). Knowledge levels are lowest among women and men who are in the lowest wealth quintile (15 and 34 percent), who are not regularly exposed to media (18 and 32 percent), who have no education (19 and 30 percent) and who belong to scheduled tribes (28 and 45 percent). Knowledge of the existence of antiretroviral drugs is low in all subgroups of the population. Even among those in professional occupations, only 46 percent of women and 38 percent of men know that an infected mother can take a drug to prevent HIV/AIDS being transmitted to her baby. The percentages are slightly lower (43 percent of women and 35 percent of men) in the highest education group. In all other subgroups of the population, these proportions are much lower. Particularly notable is the comparatively low level of knowledge of transmission from a mother to her child even among currently pregnant women. Only 40 percent of currently pregnant women know that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her child and only 15 percent are aware that transmission from a mother to her baby can be reduced by taking certain drugs.

Table 11.4 Knowledge of prevention of HIV transmission from a mother to her baby

Percentage of women and men who know that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her baby and that the risk of HIV transmission from an infected mother to her baby can be reduced by the mother taking special drugs, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Women			Men		
	HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her baby	HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her baby and the risk of transmission can be reduced by the mother taking special drugs	Number of women	HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her baby	HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her baby and the risk of transmission can be reduced by the mother taking special drugs	Number of men
Age						
15-24	50.4	20.6	47,590	65.3	20.8	24,997
15-19	48.9	20.3	24,811	62.3	19.7	13,008
20-24	52.1	20.8	22,779	68.5	21.9	11,989
25-29	48.7	20.0	20,417	67.8	20.8	10,854
30-39	44.2	17.1	33,522	63.2	21.1	19,045
40-49	40.6	15.7	22,856	56.9	18.2	14,855
Residence						
Urban	67.0	28.4	40,817	74.6	24.6	25,504
Rural	36.7	13.8	83,568	56.8	17.9	44,247
Education						
No education	19.4	6.1	50,487	30.3	6.5	12,571
<5 years complete	38.8	13.1	9,918	47.3	12.4	7,109
5-7 years complete	50.7	18.2	18,820	56.7	15.6	11,523
8-9 years complete	65.7	26.0	17,383	69.4	20.6	14,398
10-11 years complete	79.8	34.6	12,887	80.3	27.4	10,380
12 or more years complete	88.3	43.0	14,882	88.1	35.3	13,754
Regular media exposure¹						
Yes	62.3	26.0	80,487	71.0	23.6	56,057
No	17.9	5.2	43,898	31.8	7.0	13,694
Marital status						
Never married	60.1	25.8	25,462	68.4	22.1	25,307
Ever had sex	41.6	11.4	196	72.4	21.4	3,415
Never had sex	60.3	25.9	25,266	67.8	22.3	21,893
Currently married	43.4	17.0	93,089	60.8	19.4	43,501
Married once	43.7	17.1	91,254	61.4	19.6	41,184
Married more than once	29.3	10.9	1,835	49.8	16.2	2,317
Widowed/divorced/ separated/deserted	39.3	14.0	5,834	43.5	11.8	942
Currently pregnant						
Pregnant	40.0	15.0	6,429	na	na	na
Not pregnant or not sure	47.0	18.8	117,956	na	na	na
Currently residing with spouse²						
Yes	44.0	17.5	84,101	60.6	19.4	42,136
No	37.9	12.3	8,988	66.5	18.8	1,365
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months						
None	na	na	na	63.1	19.3	21,619
1-2	na	na	na	63.5	19.7	12,568
3-4	na	na	na	60.7	20.1	11,447
5+	na	na	na	64.6	21.6	23,926
Time away in the past 12 months						
Away for more than 1 month	na	na	na	63.5	20.5	7,757
Away for 1 month or less	na	na	na	63.4	20.8	40,320
Not away	na	na	na	63.1	19.3	21,619
Employment (past 12 months)						
Employed	38.3	15.1	53,081	61.5	19.4	60,377
Professional	88.4	45.9	3,436	87.3	37.5	4,042
Sales worker	58.3	22.9	1,993	71.8	22.0	8,352
Service worker	51.9	19.2	3,625	68.1	21.6	3,149
Production worker	43.9	16.4	11,787	60.5	17.7	22,214
Agricultural worker	26.4	9.5	31,282	49.5	15.2	20,279
Other worker	84.2	41.5	957	85.1	29.6	2,341
Not employed	52.9	21.3	71,258	75.0	26.0	9,288

Continued...

Table 11.4 Knowledge of prevention of HIV transmission from a mother to her baby—Continued

Background characteristic	Women			Men		
	HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her baby	HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her baby and the risk of transmission can be reduced by the mother taking special drugs	Number of women	HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her baby	HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her baby and the risk of transmission can be reduced by the mother taking special drugs	Number of men
Religion						
Hindu	46.4	18.9	100,151	63.4	20.6	57,112
Muslim	40.5	14.0	16,936	58.9	17.2	8,747
Christian	71.9	31.2	3,053	72.8	26.4	1,567
Sikh	62.3	19.4	2,222	75.9	16.1	1,270
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	58.2	26.7	1,010	73.1	25.9	596
Jain	80.7	34.4	406	85.2	38.6	213
Other	20.4	10.0	484	35.1	21.2	232
Caste/tribe						
Scheduled caste	40.5	15.8	23,125	59.7	17.7	13,188
Scheduled tribe	27.6	10.5	10,119	44.5	12.7	5,725
Other backward class	45.0	18.5	48,880	63.8	22.3	27,219
Other	57.0	22.4	41,207	69.6	21.3	23,214
Don't know	38.9	23.2	649	43.1	26.6	177
Wealth index						
Lowest	14.6	4.3	21,718	34.0	8.6	11,031
Second	27.2	8.8	23,616	50.8	15.1	12,666
Middle	43.7	16.2	25,088	64.1	20.2	14,301
Fourth	60.3	24.3	26,106	73.8	23.9	15,493
Highest	78.0	35.0	27,856	82.3	29.0	16,260
Total age 15-49	46.7	18.6	124,385	63.3	20.3	69,751
Age 50-54	na	na	na	55.9	19.6	4,618
Total age 15-54	na	na	na	62.9	20.3	74,369

Note: Total includes women/men with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe and men with missing information on number of times slept away from home in the past 12 months and time away in the past 12 months, who are not shown separately.
na = Not applicable
¹ Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.
² Based on currently married respondents only.

Differences in knowledge of transmission of HIV/AIDS from a mother to her baby by religion are also substantial. Among the major religions, Muslim women and men are least likely to know about such transmission, followed by Hindu women and men. Less than one-fifth of Muslim women and men and about one-fifth of Hindu women and men are aware that infected mothers can take antiretroviral drugs to prevent transmission to their babies.

11.1.4 Knowledge of HIV/AIDS across States

Variation across states in selected HIV/AIDS awareness indicators are presented for women and men age 15-49 in Table 11.5. The percentage of women who have heard of AIDS ranges from a low of only 34 percent in Jharkhand to 99 percent in Manipur. In addition to Jharkhand, other states in which the proportion of women who have heard of AIDS is below 50 percent are Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh. Jharkhand is the lowest among the 29 states in knowledge of AIDS among men as well (61 percent). On the other hand, AIDS knowledge among men has become almost universal in Manipur, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Mizoram, where over 95 percent of men are aware of AIDS. Less than three-quarters of men have heard of AIDS in Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh. Notably, knowledge of AIDS is higher among men than women in every state.

Table 11.5 HIV/AIDS-awareness indicators by state

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who have heard of AIDS, who know that HIV/AIDS can be prevented by using condoms, who have a comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS, and who know that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her baby, by state, India, 2005-06

State	Percentage who have heard of AIDS		Percentage who know that HIV/AIDS can be prevented by using condoms		Percentage who have a comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS ¹		Percentage who know that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her baby	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
India	60.9	83.6	36.3	70.0	17.3	33.0	46.7	63.3
North								
Delhi	89.6	97.5	76.1	90.9	48.3	61.9	78.7	81.5
Haryana	64.1	87.2	46.0	79.2	24.7	39.0	52.7	74.2
Himachal Pradesh	82.7	93.1	61.8	86.2	30.0	53.2	68.0	80.9
Jammu & Kashmir	66.6	89.9	42.0	75.3	16.0	28.5	54.8	72.8
Punjab	73.6	91.8	53.7	81.2	23.0	35.0	60.1	74.1
Rajasthan	38.0	76.2	29.8	63.8	17.3	33.4	27.6	55.9
Uttaranchal	69.4	91.9	54.7	79.9	28.7	48.3	56.3	71.0
Central								
Chhattisgarh	45.8	72.4	28.8	63.1	15.0	38.6	30.5	54.7
Madhya Pradesh	49.7	74.4	37.8	67.1	20.3	38.9	39.2	52.5
Uttar Pradesh	45.2	78.0	30.0	69.4	15.9	29.5	33.8	54.9
East								
Bihar	38.7	75.2	22.8	62.3	11.7	24.4	28.8	56.4
Jharkhand	34.0	60.8	24.8	52.9	11.8	25.2	25.6	46.3
Orissa	66.0	78.4	33.0	64.9	11.3	24.5	41.7	57.0
West Bengal	53.7	79.0	30.4	58.9	9.8	14.6	35.4	54.6
Northeast								
Arunachal Pradesh	69.2	75.5	33.3	62.5	12.7	30.2	50.7	62.9
Assam	58.6	79.2	25.9	53.6	8.2	13.5	43.6	61.2
Manipur	98.5	99.3	79.1	92.2	44.0	60.9	90.5	90.5
Meghalaya	62.7	63.9	26.2	40.2	13.1	13.8	49.2	49.7
Mizoram	94.7	96.4	88.6	90.9	65.8	67.8	90.1	85.2
Nagaland	82.6	92.0	42.2	69.3	17.4	31.1	75.9	78.7
Sikkim	78.3	89.0	56.5	71.2	22.2	26.1	64.2	68.5
Tripura	74.4	91.3	41.7	65.8	11.8	21.2	60.1	71.6
West								
Goa	86.3	93.6	47.6	56.8	28.5	30.3	76.5	68.7
Gujarat	52.9	82.2	37.2	72.4	18.8	34.8	41.3	59.4
Maharashtra	81.6	92.5	46.9	80.4	29.5	52.5	60.9	71.1
South								
Andhra Pradesh	76.0	93.9	34.4	68.2	14.7	32.3	59.4	74.4
Karnataka	70.3	87.4	34.8	73.8	11.6	29.1	59.7	69.6
Kerala	95.1	98.5	65.2	82.4	32.7	40.8	79.3	81.1
Tamil Nadu	94.5	98.3	41.9	82.0	12.3	37.4	75.6	81.5

¹ Respondents with comprehensive knowledge say that the use of a condom for every act of sexual intercourse and having just one uninfected faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting HIV/AIDS, say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS, and reject the two most common misconceptions in NFHS-3, namely that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted by mosquito bites and by sharing food.

A comparison of AIDS awareness among ever-married women age 15-49 in NFHS-2 and NFHS-3 shows that there has been a rapid increase in knowledge of AIDS in the past seven years, a period when NACO has strengthened its efforts under the organized response to the HIV epidemic in India. As indicated earlier, for India as a whole, knowledge of AIDS among ever-married women age 15-49 has increased from 40 percent in NFHS-2 to 57 percent in NFHS-3 (Figure 11.1). Further, in 12 states, AIDS awareness increased between the two surveys by 20 or more percentage points (data not shown).

The proportion of women who know that HIV/AIDS can be prevented by using condoms consistently varies greatly across the country, from a low of 23 percent in Bihar to a high of 89 percent in Mizoram. In addition to Bihar, less than one in three women in Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal know that consistent

condom use can prevent HIV/AIDS. Among men, the proportion who are aware of condom use as a means of HIV/AIDS prevention ranges from a low of 40 percent in Meghalaya to a high of 92 percent in Manipur, followed closely by Mizoram and Delhi (91 percent each). While there is very high condom awareness among men in these three states, there are 11 states in which more than one-third of men are not aware of condoms as a means of protection from HIV/AIDS.

The percentage of women and men who have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS is lowest in Assam (8 percent of women and 14 percent of men) and highest in Mizoram (66 percent of women and 68 percent of men). In fact, Mizoram is the only state in India where more than half of women have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Among men, however, comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS exceeds 50 percent in five states, namely Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Delhi, and Mizoram. Across states, the percentage of women and men who know that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted from a mother to her baby is lowest in Jharkhand (26 percent of women and 46 percent of men). Other states where awareness of transmission from mother to child among women is very low are Rajasthan (28 percent), Bihar (29 percent), and Chhattisgarh (31 percent). Among men, in addition to Jharkhand, low levels of awareness about the possibility of HIV/AIDS transmission from mother to child are found in Meghalaya (50 percent), Madhya Pradesh (53 percent), Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal (55 percent each), and Bihar and Rajasthan (56 percent each).

11.2 STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH AIDS AND ATTITUDES RELATED TO HIV/AIDS

Knowledge and beliefs about HIV/AIDS affect how people treat those they know to be living with the infection. While the intricacies of HIV/AIDS-related stigma have become better understood in recent years, stigma nevertheless remains a pervasive problem and occurs in a variety of contexts, including family, community, workplace, and health care settings (Reidpath and Chan, 2005). In NFHS-3, respondents were asked a number of questions to assess their attitudes toward HIV-infected people. Specifically, respondents were asked about their willingness to take care of a relative sick with HIV/AIDS in their own household and to buy fresh vegetables from a vegetable seller who has HIV/AIDS. They were also asked if a member of their family got infected with HIV/AIDS, whether they would want it to remain a secret or not. An additional question explored whether they thought a female teacher or a male teacher who has HIV/AIDS but is not sick should be allowed to continue teaching. Since the results for the question referring to male teachers are almost identical to those for the question referring to female teachers, results for only the latter are shown in the tables. Tables 11.6.1 and 11.6.2 show the percentages of women and men age 15-49 who express positive attitudes toward people with HIV/AIDS for each of these indicators among those who have heard of HIV/AIDS, by background characteristics.

Table 11.6.1 Accepting attitudes toward those living with HIV/AIDS: Women

Among women age 15-49 who have heard of AIDS, percentage expressing specific accepting attitudes toward people with HIV/AIDS, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Percentage of women who:				Percentage of women expressing accepting attitudes on all four indicators	Number of women who have heard of AIDS
	Are willing to care for a relative with HIV/AIDS in own home	Would buy fresh vegetables from a shopkeeper who has HIV/AIDS	Say that a female teacher who has HIV/AIDS but is not sick should be allowed to continue teaching	Would not want to keep secret that a family member got infected with HIV/AIDS		
Age						
15-24	77.4	65.9	78.4	64.3	37.4	31,120
15-19	78.3	66.1	79.0	64.1	37.6	15,965
20-24	76.4	65.6	77.7	64.5	37.3	15,155
25-29	75.1	61.3	74.1	63.9	34.5	12,783
30-39	72.5	55.9	70.7	64.3	30.9	19,455
40-49	70.9	51.6	67.3	62.3	27.7	12,408
Residence						
Urban	78.1	67.0	79.6	61.0	36.6	33,965
Rural	71.9	54.6	69.3	66.2	31.2	41,801
Education						
No education	65.7	41.1	56.2	62.0	21.1	15,276
<5 years complete	68.5	43.5	62.2	65.9	23.9	5,670
5-7 years complete	71.6	52.0	68.5	63.8	28.8	13,070
8-9 years complete	75.6	61.8	76.3	66.3	35.5	14,788
10-11 years complete	79.5	71.3	83.8	63.8	41.0	12,227
12 or more years complete	84.3	82.6	90.7	62.9	46.7	14,730
Regular media exposure¹						
Yes	76.1	63.3	76.7	63.5	35.6	63,538
No	67.2	43.9	59.4	65.9	23.6	12,228
Marital status						
Never married	79.7	70.5	82.3	64.1	40.2	19,378
Ever had sex	69.7	57.2	66.4	67.6	31.9	114
Never had sex	79.8	70.6	82.4	64.1	40.3	19,264
Currently married	73.0	57.1	71.3	64.0	31.8	53,264
Married once	73.1	57.2	71.4	64.0	31.8	52,500
Married more than once	71.3	50.4	65.4	68.1	27.1	764
Widowed/divorced/separated/deserted	71.4	49.2	65.8	60.5	25.2	3,124
Currently residing with spouse²						
Yes	72.9	56.9	71.4	63.9	31.8	48,763
No	74.2	58.6	69.8	65.1	31.5	4,501
Employment (past 12 months)						
Employed	72.0	53.4	68.8	62.4	29.3	27,364
Professional	85.2	84.9	91.2	65.3	49.3	3,353
Sales worker	74.3	58.0	73.3	58.7	28.6	1,490
Service worker	75.2	56.9	70.2	63.9	33.5	2,529
Production worker	72.5	52.3	69.4	60.5	27.9	6,954
Agricultural worker	66.5	42.3	60.0	63.3	23.2	12,133
Other worker	80.4	76.8	88.4	57.4	38.2	903
Not employed	76.2	64.0	76.8	64.7	36.1	48,371
Religion						
Hindu	75.4	61.0	74.5	64.3	34.5	60,732
Muslim	70.1	55.4	69.9	63.2	29.5	9,344
Christian	71.7	56.7	72.0	53.0	24.1	2,583
Sikh	73.9	60.8	73.1	70.8	37.3	1,682
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	75.8	56.3	73.1	66.5	35.5	846
Jain	86.5	79.0	89.7	55.9	44.0	379
Other	72.3	49.9	62.7	73.2	30.2	131
Caste/tribe						
Scheduled caste	73.6	55.8	70.4	63.5	31.3	12,796
Scheduled tribe	71.4	49.5	66.7	70.7	29.4	3,901
Other backward class	75.7	59.3	73.7	59.6	31.3	28,591
Other	74.9	64.5	76.8	67.3	37.7	29,951
Don't know	54.6	44.7	58.5	58.0	19.9	328
Wealth index						
Lowest	68.8	45.6	61.6	65.7	23.7	5,189
Second	68.3	46.0	62.1	66.3	25.4	9,620
Middle	70.6	50.7	67.1	63.8	28.2	15,051
Fourth	75.1	61.2	74.7	64.0	34.6	20,267
Highest	80.3	73.2	84.1	62.6	41.2	25,640
Total	74.7	60.2	73.9	63.9	33.7	75,766

Note: Total includes women with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe, who are not shown separately.

¹Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.²Based on currently married respondents only.

Table 11.6.2 Accepting attitudes toward those living with HIV/AIDS: Men

Among men age 15-49 who have heard of HIV/AIDS, percentage expressing specific accepting attitudes toward people with HIV/AIDS, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

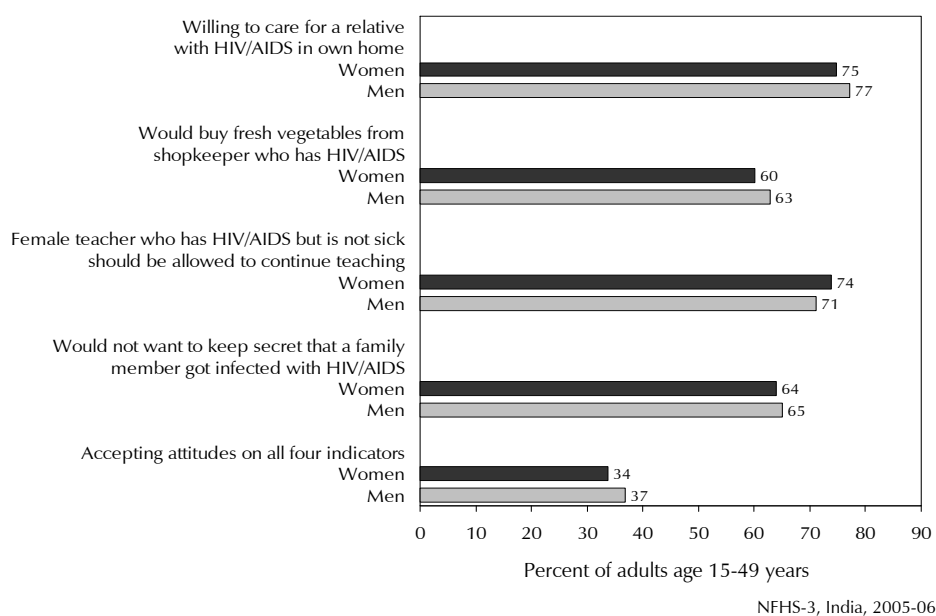
Background characteristic	Percentage of men who:					Number of men who have heard of AIDS
	Are willing to care for a relative with HIV/AIDS in own home	Would buy fresh vegetables from a shopkeeper who has HIV/AIDS	Say that a female teacher who has HIV/AIDS but is not sick should be allowed to continue teaching	Would not want to keep secret that a family member got infected with HIV/AIDS	Percentage of men expressing accepting attitudes on all four indicators	
Age						
15-24	78.9	66.9	74.8	63.0	38.2	22,005
15-19	78.7	65.8	74.2	62.3	37.3	11,244
20-24	79.2	68.1	75.4	63.7	39.1	10,761
25-29	77.9	65.6	73.4	66.1	39.3	9,519
30-39	77.0	60.8	68.7	66.8	36.2	15,629
40-49	73.6	55.2	65.1	66.2	32.7	11,128
Residence						
Urban	80.9	72.3	78.5	63.1	41.6	24,174
Rural	74.6	56.1	65.8	66.6	33.4	34,107
Education						
No education	63.8	39.0	48.2	58.8	19.0	6,433
<5 years complete	66.5	42.7	55.2	63.0	22.6	5,029
5-7 years complete	71.7	52.2	63.0	63.0	28.5	9,559
8-9 years complete	77.3	60.9	69.5	67.6	36.4	13,427
10-11 years complete	82.9	72.8	79.6	66.1	43.2	10,129
12 or more years complete	87.1	83.3	88.4	67.3	51.8	13,694
Regular media exposure¹						
Yes	78.6	66.0	73.7	64.9	38.7	51,138
No	67.7	40.1	51.8	66.9	23.3	7,143
Marital status						
Never married	79.7	69.6	76.9	63.1	39.7	22,724
Ever had sex	77.9	67.1	74.5	63.0	37.4	3,190
Never had sex	80.0	70.0	77.3	63.1	40.1	19,534
Currently married	75.7	58.6	67.4	66.5	35.0	34,942
Married once	75.9	58.9	67.7	66.3	35.1	33,325
Married more than once	71.7	52.1	60.6	69.8	31.8	1,618
Widowed/divorced/separated/deserted	74.0	55.0	62.5	64.3	33.5	614
Currently residing with spouse²						
Yes	75.5	58.3	67.2	66.3	34.7	33,784
No	79.6	66.9	72.5	70.1	41.9	1,158
Employment (past 12 months)						
Employed	76.2	60.6	69.1	65.2	35.3	49,498
Professional	87.4	82.0	87.4	69.1	51.5	3,973
Sales worker	79.0	68.3	74.6	67.3	40.9	7,810
Service worker	78.8	64.1	71.1	67.5	38.7	2,856
Production worker	75.7	59.6	68.0	62.9	33.2	18,402
Agricultural worker	70.4	48.7	59.8	65.4	28.4	14,149
Other worker	82.7	74.7	81.3	65.2	44.5	2,309
Not employed	83.4	75.4	82.4	64.8	45.0	8,711
Religion						
Hindu	77.7	63.5	71.6	65.2	37.3	47,647
Muslim	72.8	56.7	66.4	64.7	31.9	7,192
Christian	79.1	61.4	72.9	54.1	29.2	1,375
Sikh	78.5	72.6	70.9	73.8	46.3	1,177
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	82.3	66.7	74.5	74.7	48.6	557
Jain	85.9	80.1	88.1	74.2	55.7	213
Other	64.3	45.1	56.0	64.5	31.0	109
Caste/tribe						
Scheduled caste	76.1	60.3	68.6	65.1	35.5	10,651
Scheduled tribe	72.7	51.3	63.4	69.3	32.2	3,656
Other backward class	77.9	63.4	71.8	59.8	34.4	22,878
Other	78.0	65.7	72.8	70.3	41.1	20,794
Don't know	59.6	45.9	71.1	59.0	18.1	136
Wealth index						
Lowest	68.9	42.7	54.1	66.1	24.4	5,836
Second	70.4	49.6	60.5	66.2	29.1	9,467
Middle	74.0	55.8	65.3	63.4	31.5	12,435
Fourth	79.4	67.9	75.1	64.3	39.3	14,584
Highest	84.8	78.8	84.3	66.3	47.8	15,960
Total age 15-49	77.2	62.8	71.1	65.1	36.8	58,281
Age 50-54	73.0	55.3	66.4	67.4	33.8	3,375
Total age 15-54	77.0	62.4	70.8	65.3	36.6	61,656

Note: Total includes men with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe, who are not shown separately.

¹ Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.² Based on currently married respondents only.

Both women and men tend to express more positive attitudes in response to the questions concerning willingness to care for a family member with HIV/AIDS (75 percent and 77 percent, respectively) and a female teacher with HIV/AIDS who is not sick (74 percent and 71 percent) than to the questions about buying fresh vegetables from a shopkeeper with HIV/AIDS (60 percent and 63 percent). Relatively low proportions of women (64 percent) and men (65 percent) say that they would not want to keep secret that a family member was infected with HIV/AIDS. The percentage expressing accepting attitudes on all four indicators is low, 34 percent among women and 37 percent among men (Figure 11.2).

Figure 11.2 Accepting Attitudes toward Persons Living with HIV/AIDS



Clear differentials in stigma exist by background characteristics; however, they are not as large as the differentials in knowledge of AIDS. Younger ages, urban residence, higher education, regular media exposure, never married status, and higher wealth quintiles are all related to more accepting attitudes toward those who have HIV/AIDS among both women and men for each of the four indicators. However, the two-thirds of respondents who reported they would not want the HIV/AIDS status of a family member to remain a secret does not vary greatly by background characteristics. In fact, a slightly higher percentage of rural women and men and those with no regular media exposure say that they would not want to keep it a secret if a family member had HIV/AIDS. Married women and men who are not living with their spouse have a slightly higher percentage with a positive attitude toward people living with HIV/AIDS. Women and men not employed in the 12 months preceding the survey and those employed as professionals are more likely to have a positive attitude on all four indicators. Jains and those not belonging to a scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, or other backward class have slightly higher percentages with accepting attitudes on each of the indicators. The percentage of women and men expressing accepting attitudes on all four indicators by and large reflects a similar pattern by background characteristics of respondents as the pattern on each of the four indicators individually.

Table 11.7. Accepting attitudes toward those living with HIV/AIDS by state

Among women and men age 15-49 who have heard of AIDS, percentage expressing specific accepting attitudes toward people with HIV/AIDS, by state, India, 2005-06

State	Percentage of women who:				Percentage of men who:				Percentage of men expressing attitudes on all four indicators
	Are willing to care for a relative with HIV/AIDS in own home	Would buy fresh vegetables from a shopkeeper who has HIV/AIDS	Say that a female teacher who has HIV/AIDS but is not sick should be allowed to continue teaching	Would not want that a family member got infected with HIV/AIDS	Are willing to care for a relative with HIV/AIDS in own home	Would buy fresh vegetables from a shopkeeper who has HIV/AIDS	Say that a female teacher who has HIV/AIDS but is not sick should be allowed to continue teaching	Would not want that a family member got infected with HIV/AIDS	
India	74.7	60.2	73.9	63.9	77.2	62.8	71.1	65.1	36.8
North									
Delhi	87.2	83.2	87.1	66.8	89.3	90.1	89.2	62.0	53.1
Haryana	75.3	67.2	76.8	82.6	87.8	66.8	71.7	76.3	45.8
Himachal Pradesh	82.9	73.7	88.3	68.8	87.0	78.3	87.0	80.2	56.0
Jammu & Kashmir	64.7	47.5	57.9	66.2	69.6	54.6	62.8	84.1	41.0
Punjab	69.9	58.8	71.7	68.9	78.5	71.2	72.3	74.1	45.5
Rajasthan	79.4	72.9	80.7	61.1	82.8	58.4	66.5	57.6	37.0
Uttaranchal	80.8	75.9	82.9	66.4	88.6	79.6	86.5	63.3	53.7
Central									
Chhattisgarh	87.2	75.5	88.9	84.5	97.7	77.9	89.9	73.7	59.2
Madhya Pradesh	83.3	72.8	83.3	69.3	80.1	71.1	76.3	68.1	45.7
Uttar Pradesh	79.4	69.4	78.0	64.9	81.2	64.9	69.3	68.0	40.7
East									
Bihar	92.0	72.6	76.2	65.0	88.9	65.7	74.4	71.3	44.7
Jharkhand	90.0	69.9	83.2	75.4	89.0	61.0	75.2	74.0	40.8
Orissa	82.0	62.7	73.1	93.4	84.4	63.7	69.0	90.2	51.2
West Bengal	66.5	56.6	66.3	76.0	56.5	48.4	56.6	76.0	27.3
Northeast									
Arunachal Pradesh	72.2	45.3	58.0	78.7	72.0	59.6	67.6	64.1	36.2
Assam	65.5	53.7	68.1	87.9	65.8	45.1	59.7	88.4	26.1
Manipur	79.0	72.0	73.6	90.7	89.9	81.9	84.2	90.3	69.9
Meghalaya	52.8	25.3	38.9	67.3	68.2	36.0	48.7	63.7	20.5
Mizoram	76.3	64.9	64.4	54.1	82.5	73.2	64.3	54.1	28.4
Nagaland	62.6	36.1	46.9	75.5	68.1	48.9	57.2	80.9	28.1
Sikkim	66.2	66.1	67.7	67.2	61.7	73.3	68.6	75.8	33.4
Tripura	59.5	53.0	59.4	78.5	66.3	56.9	57.9	78.9	35.9
West									
Goa	73.3	61.9	76.8	48.2	66.3	62.5	70.2	58.9	30.1
Gujarat	87.2	57.9	75.2	61.2	78.8	58.2	65.5	74.3	36.5
Maharashtra	78.1	57.2	76.3	71.0	83.0	67.9	75.4	76.6	48.7
South									
Andhra Pradesh	55.4	45.5	64.9	43.3	61.2	52.2	68.0	35.1	15.6
Karnataka	64.8	52.7	74.6	62.0	69.3	61.0	79.7	57.9	28.5
Kerala	61.8	58.1	76.8	61.6	78.0	66.2	82.8	52.8	32.9
Tamil Nadu	78.5	52.1	67.1	30.1	79.2	67.3	68.5	24.7	13.8

Information on the proportion of women and men with accepting attitudes toward people with HIV/AIDS by state is presented in Table 11.7. The proportion of women who are willing to care for a family member infected with HIV/AIDS is highest in Bihar (92 percent) and lowest in Meghalaya (53 percent). The corresponding proportions among men are 98 percent in Chhattisgarh and 57 percent in West Bengal. The lowest proportions of women and men with an accepting attitude on buying vegetables from an HIV/AIDS infected shopkeeper (25 percent among women and 36 percent among men) and allowing a female teacher infected with HIV/AIDS to continue teaching (39 percent among women and 49 percent among men) occur in Meghalaya. The proportion of women and men who say that they would not want to keep secret that a family member is infected with HIV/AIDS is lowest in Tamil Nadu (30 percent among women and 25 percent among men). The percentage of women having accepting attitudes toward HIV/AIDS infected persons on all four indicators is lowest in Meghalaya (8 percent). Other states having a very low acceptance by women are Tamil Nadu (12 percent), Andhra Pradesh (16 percent), and Nagaland (17 percent). Notably each of these three states is a high HIV prevalence state. These three states show a relatively low percentage of men with accepting attitudes on all four indicators as well, from 14 percent in Tamil Nadu to 16 percent in Andhra Pradesh and 28 percent in Nagaland. Other states with very low proportions of men having accepting attitudes on all four indicators are Assam (26 percent) and West Bengal (27 percent).

11.3 ATTITUDES TOWARD NEGOTIATING SAFER SEX

Comprehensive knowledge about HIV transmission and ways to prevent it are basic requisites for prevention, but translating knowledge into behaviour depends on a number of individual, social, and contextual factors. One of the important determinants of practicing safer sex is control over one's own sexuality. Having comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention may be of little use if people feel powerless to negotiate safer sex practices with their partners. In an effort to assess the ability of women to negotiate safer sex with a husband who has a sexually transmitted infection (STI), both female and male respondents were asked whether a wife is justified in refusing to have sex with her husband when she knows he has a sexually transmitted infection. In addition, male respondents were asked whether a woman who knows her husband has a sexually transmitted infection is justified in asking her husband to use a condom. Table 11.8 shows the percentages of respondents age 15-49 who say 'yes' to these questions. Most women (78 percent) and men (82 percent) believe that, if a wife knows her husband has an STI, she is justified in refusing to have sex with him. Most men (83 percent) also agree that a woman is justified in asking her STI-infected husband to wear a condom. Considering the two actions together, the majority of adult men in India (89 percent) say that a woman can refuse to have sex or ask her husband to use a condom if she knows that he has an STI.

The majority of respondents in all groups support a woman's right to negotiate safer sex. However, there are differences by background characteristics in the percentages of respondents holding this opinion. Women and men age 15-19 are slightly less likely than older women and men to say that a woman can refuse to have sex if her husband is infected with an STI. Women and men living in urban areas, those with higher education, those working as professionals or in 'other' occupations, those who are unmarried and have ever had sex, those who are currently married, Jains and Sikhs, and those belonging to the highest wealth quintile are somewhat more

Table 11.8 Attitudes toward negotiating sex with husband

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who believe that, if a husband has a sexually transmitted disease, his wife is justified in refusing to have sexual intercourse with him or (for men) asking that they use a condom, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Women		Men			
	Wife is justified in refusing to have sex	Number of women	Wife is justified in refusing to have sex	Wife is justified in asking that they use a condom	Wife is justified in refusing sex or asking that they use a condom	Number of men
Age						
15-24	74.5	47,590	79.3	82.5	87.2	24,997
15-19	70.1	24,811	75.3	77.9	83.1	13,008
20-24	79.2	22,779	83.6	87.6	91.6	11,989
25-29	80.5	20,417	84.3	87.4	92.2	10,854
30-39	80.3	33,522	83.8	84.3	90.0	19,045
40-49	78.9	22,856	80.4	79.7	87.2	14,855
Residence						
Urban	80.9	40,817	86.3	90.5	93.3	25,504
Rural	76.4	83,568	78.8	78.9	86.1	44,247
Education						
No education	76.5	50,487	68.5	63.0	75.1	12,571
<5 years complete	73.2	9,918	74.2	73.5	82.2	7,109
5-7 years complete	76.6	18,820	79.8	81.1	86.9	11,523
8-9 years complete	78.3	17,383	83.9	87.0	91.6	14,398
10-11 years complete	79.6	12,887	87.5	92.6	94.7	10,380
12 or more years complete	84.9	14,882	91.7	97.2	98.4	13,754
Regular media exposure¹						
Yes	78.9	80,487	84.4	87.9	91.8	56,057
No	75.9	43,898	69.7	63.8	76.1	13,694
Marital status						
Never married	69.2	25,462	79.2	83.1	87.5	25,307
Ever had sex	79.9	196	85.5	90.9	94.2	3,415
Never had sex	69.1	25,266	78.2	81.9	86.5	21,893
Currently married	80.3	93,089	83.0	83.4	89.5	43,501
Married once	80.4	91,254	83.2	83.8	89.7	41,184
Married more than once	78.0	1,835	79.4	77.2	85.6	2,317
Widowed/divorced/separated/deserted	76.2	5,834	77.8	74.1	84.4	942
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months						
None	na	na	77.8	79.9	85.7	21,619
1-2	na	na	81.3	82.6	89.0	12,568
3-4	na	na	83.2	84.3	90.0	11,447
5+	na	na	84.2	85.8	90.6	23,926
Time away in the past 12 months						
Away for more than 1 month	na	na	82.2	84.1	90.0	7,757
Away for 1 month or less	na	na	83.4	84.8	90.1	40,320
Not away	na	na	77.8	79.9	85.7	21,619
Employment (past 12 months)						
Employed	77.4	53,081	81.8	83.0	88.8	60,377
Professional	86.1	3,436	91.3	95.8	97.6	4,042
Sales worker	76.9	1,993	87.1	91.0	94.7	8,352
Service worker	78.8	3,625	85.5	88.0	92.6	3,149
Production worker	75.0	11,787	81.8	82.9	88.5	22,214
Agricultural worker	76.9	31,282	76.1	74.9	83.3	20,279
Other worker	84.6	957	90.6	95.0	97.2	2,341
Not employed	78.2	71,258	80.2	84.7	88.3	9,288
Religion						
Hindu	78.5	100,151	81.9	83.1	88.8	57,112
Muslim	73.2	16,936	78.2	82.5	87.4	8,747
Christian	76.4	3,053	79.6	80.9	87.3	1,567
Sikh	84.9	2,222	93.3	93.9	95.6	1,270
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	70.2	1,010	83.2	90.0	93.3	596
Jain	92.1	406	92.4	98.1	98.4	213
Other	78.7	484	66.9	55.0	70.1	232
Caste/tribe						
Scheduled caste	77.5	23,125	78.6	81.1	87.0	13,188
Scheduled tribe	72.8	10,119	70.6	68.1	77.6	5,725
Other backward class	78.9	48,880	84.4	84.2	90.1	27,219
Other	78.1	41,207	82.6	87.0	90.9	23,214
Don't know	74.1	649	75.2	80.2	84.3	177

Continued...

Table 11.8 Attitudes toward negotiating sex with husband—Continued

Background characteristic	Women		Men			
	Wife is justified in refusing to have sex	Number of women	Wife is justified in refusing to have sex	Wife is justified in asking that they use a condom	Wife is justified in refusing sex or asking that they use a condom	Number of men
Wealth index						
Lowest	73.5	21,718	69.5	64.7	75.8	11,031
Second	75.6	23,616	77.1	76.3	84.4	12,666
Middle	76.3	25,088	81.0	83.6	89.0	14,301
Fourth	78.6	26,106	85.0	89.8	93.1	15,493
Highest	83.7	27,856	90.4	94.4	96.5	16,260
Total age 15-49	77.8	124,385	81.5	83.2	88.7	69,751
Age 50-54	na	na	81.3	78.0	86.9	4,618
Total age 15-54	na	na	81.5	82.9	88.6	74,369

Note: Total includes women/men with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe and men with missing information on number of times slept away from home in the past 12 months and time away in the past 12 months, who are not shown separately.
na = Not applicable
¹ Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.

likely to agree with a woman's right to negotiate safer sex if her husband has an STI. Several of these differentials are greater for men than for women, particularly with regard to education and wealth. Men who have been away from home in the previous 12 months have a slightly higher proportion who support a woman's right to negotiate safer sex either by refusing to have sex or by asking to use a condom than men who have not been away from home. Notably, differentials according to education and the wealth index in the proportions of men who agree with a wife's right to ask her husband to use a condom tend to be larger than differentials in the proportion of men who agree with a wife's right to refuse sex to her husband.

Attitudes toward a woman's right to negotiate sex with her husband are likely to be influenced by a number of social, cultural, and traditional norms and values prevailing in both traditional and transitional societies. In view of the cultural diversity in the different regions of the country, variations in the accepting attitudes of women's sexual rights may provide an extremely important input for micro-planning and area-specific interventions for ensuring safe sexual practices. Table 11.9 shows the percentages of women and men age 15-49 who agree with a woman's right to negotiate safe sex with her husband by state. While more than three-fourths of women in India (78 percent) have the opinion that a wife is justified in refusing to have sexual intercourse with her husband if he has a sexually transmitted infection, there is tremendous variation across states. The proportion of women who agree with a woman's right to negotiate safe sex is lowest in Orissa (56 percent), followed by Tripura (58 percent) and Meghalaya (65 percent), and is highest in Sikkim (95 percent). Among men, the percentage saying that a woman is justified in refusing sex is lowest in Tripura (57 percent), followed by Meghalaya (60 percent). The proportion of men agreeing that women are justified in asking that a condom be used if the husband has a sexually transmitted infection ranges from 60 percent in Meghalaya to 96 percent in Delhi, Manipur, and Mizoram.

Men's agreement with the right of women to negotiate safe sex, either by refusing sex or by asking to use a condom, portrays an extremely conducive environment for ensuring safe sexual practices among women and men. In 15 out of 29 states in India, more than 90 percent of men have accepting attitudes toward a woman's right to negotiate safe sex in the context of her husband having an STI. In all the remaining states, except Meghalaya and Orissa, the percentage of men accepting a woman's right to negotiate safe sex with her husband is between 80 and 90 percent. In Meghalaya and Orissa, more than one in three men do not agree with the right of women to negotiate safe sex with their husbands.

11.4 HIGHER-RISK SEX

Given that most HIV infections in India are contracted through heterosexual contact, information on sexual behaviour is important in designing and monitoring intervention programmes to control the spread of the virus. In the context of HIV/AIDS prevention, limiting the number of sexual partners and having protected sex are crucial for combating the epidemic.

NFHS-3 included questions on respondents' sexual partners during the 12 months preceding the survey.

Information was collected for the last two sexual partners during the previous 12 months for women and the last three sexual partners during the previous 12 months for men. Information on the use of condoms at the last as well as previous acts of sexual intercourse with each of these partners during the previous 12 months was collected from both women and men. Respondents were also asked to identify what their relationship was with each sexual partner and the duration of the sexual relationship. All women and men who ever had sex were asked how many sexual partners they had during their lifetime. Men were also asked whether they paid for sex at any time in the 12 months preceding the survey. A note of caution is in order here. Given the sensitivity of questions on sexual behaviour, there is a potential for reporting bias of an unknown extent; hence, the results in this section should be interpreted with caution.

Table 11.9 Attitudes toward negotiating sex with husband by state

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who believe that, if a husband has a sexually transmitted disease, his wife is justified in refusing to have sexual intercourse with him or (for men) asking that they use a condom, by state, India, 2005-06

State	Women		Men	
	Wife is justified in refusing to have sex	Wife is justified in refusing to have sex	Wife is justified in asking that they use a condom	Wife is justified in refusing sex or asking that they use a condom
India	77.8	81.5	83.2	88.7
North				
Delhi	82.5	95.9	96.3	97.8
Haryana	87.6	87.4	87.5	90.1
Himachal Pradesh	89.4	88.0	90.5	94.3
Jammu & Kashmir	73.9	81.0	84.9	91.1
Punjab	85.0	91.6	92.1	95.4
Rajasthan	89.1	79.3	79.7	85.0
Uttaranchal	87.8	91.2	88.3	94.0
Central				
Chhattisgarh	86.5	85.4	79.8	89.3
Madhya Pradesh	89.7	86.7	87.5	91.5
Uttar Pradesh	80.2	88.1	86.1	91.8
East				
Bihar	86.3	82.6	78.9	87.4
Jharkhand	87.1	85.5	77.2	87.3
Orissa	56.3	65.3	67.0	71.5
West Bengal	73.1	65.9	76.9	82.9
Northeast				
Arunachal Pradesh	79.4	82.9	87.0	93.8
Assam	75.3	81.7	76.7	87.5
Manipur	87.2	89.2	95.5	97.6
Meghalaya	64.9	60.0	59.5	68.8
Mizoram	87.2	92.2	95.8	97.6
Nagaland	87.0	86.7	88.9	93.1
Sikkim	94.9	88.5	86.3	93.6
Tripura	57.8	56.5	78.5	84.3
West				
Goa	80.8	62.3	76.9	85.0
Gujarat	76.7	76.9	80.5	87.0
Maharashtra	70.5	76.7	86.8	89.9
South				
Andhra Pradesh	69.9	88.2	86.0	92.9
Karnataka	78.4	82.7	83.7	89.6
Kerala	71.1	83.6	86.6	91.9
Tamil Nadu	71.3	82.0	84.3	87.0

11.4.1 Multiple Sexual Partners and Higher-Risk Sex

Tables 11.10.1 and 11.10.2 present five important indicators used to analyze higher-risk sexual behaviour for women and men. These indicators are based on information collected from women and men who have had sexual intercourse in the 12-month period before the survey, as well as from women and men who have ever had sex. The first three indicators in the tables assess the prevalence of multiple partners and of higher-risk sexual intercourse among women and men who reported having intercourse during the 12 months prior to the survey. Higher-risk sex is sexual intercourse with someone who is neither a spouse nor a cohabiting partner. The fourth indicator relates to condom use during the last act of higher-risk sexual intercourse. The fifth indicator, measured among all women and men who have ever had sex, presents the mean number of sexual partners that they have had during their lifetime, providing an assessment of lifetime exposure to one of the elements of higher-risk sex—multiple partners.

Among women and men age 15-49 who had sex in the 12 months preceding the survey, only 1 in every 1,000 women (0.1 percent) and 2 in every 100 men (2 percent) report having had two or more sexual partners in the previous 12 months. While reported prevalence of multiple sex partners is very low in India, the proportion of women and men who had higher-risk sexual intercourse (i.e., sexual intercourse with someone other than a spouse or cohabiting partner) in the previous 12 months is somewhat higher (1 in every 500 women and 5 in every 100 men).

The differentials presented in Tables 11.10.1 and 11.10.2 suggest that multiple partners and higher-risk sex is more common in a limited number of population subgroups, particularly among women. The reported prevalence of multiple sex partners and of higher-risk sexual intercourse among women who reported having sexual intercourse during the 12-month period prior to the survey are considerably higher among never-married women (4 percent have had more than one partner and 51 percent have had higher-risk sex¹) and widowed/divorced/separated/deserted women (1 percent have had more than one partner and 12 percent have had higher-risk sex). Similarly, among men age 15-49 who reported sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, the proportion who reported multiple partners among never married men is 18 percent and the proportion who had higher-risk sex is 94 percent. The corresponding proportions for widowed/divorced/separated/deserted men are 7 percent and 34 percent. In addition, subgroups of men with a higher proportion having higher-risk sexual intercourse in the previous 12 months than their counterparts are: men age 15-19 (63 percent), those not employed in the past 12 months (37 percent), those who spent more than one month at a time away from their usual place of residence (10 percent), those who slept away from home five or more times in the past 12 months (7 percent), those having regular media exposure (6 percent), and sales and production workers (6 percent). Some differences are also observed by religion and caste/tribe, with high risk being more common among Sikh and Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist men than among men of other religions and slightly more common among men from scheduled castes than men in other castes or tribes. Similar differentials are found in terms of men having multiple partners; in almost all cases, however, the percentages with multiple partners are lower.

¹ For this calculation, women and men who are married, but whose *gauna* has not been performed, are designated as never married. These respondents are not considered to have higher-risk sex if they had sex only with their spouse.

Table 11.10.1 Multiple sexual partners and higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months: Women

Among women age 15-49 who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, percentage who had intercourse with two or more partners in the past 12 months and percentage who had higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, and among those having higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, percentage reporting that a condom was used at last higher-risk intercourse, and the mean number of sexual partners in lifetime for women who ever had sexual intercourse, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Women who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months			Number of women	Women who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months		Women who ever had sexual intercourse	
	Percentage who had two or more partners in the past 12 months	Percentage who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹	Percentage who had two or more partners and higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹		Percentage who reported using a condom at last higher-risk intercourse ¹	Number of women	Mean number of sexual partners in lifetime	Number of women
Age								
15-24	0.1	0.4	0.1	23,106	22.2	85	1.02	24,029
15-19	0.2	0.7	0.1	6,649	20.0	48	1.01	6,880
20-24	0.1	0.2	0.1	16,457	25.1	37	1.02	17,150
25-29	0.1	0.1	0.1	18,111	(25.4)	20	1.02	19,158
30-39	0.1	0.2	0.1	30,040	5.3	56	1.02	32,895
40-49	0.1	0.1	0.1	17,873	*	26	1.02	22,605
Residence								
Urban	0.1	0.2	0.1	27,434	24.9	53	1.02	30,404
Rural	0.1	0.2	0.1	61,696	11.7	135	1.02	68,284
Education								
No education	0.1	0.2	0.1	41,833	10.1	86	1.03	47,108
<5 years complete	0.1	0.3	0.1	7,361	*	19	1.02	8,424
5-7 years complete	0.1	0.2	0.0	13,490	(5.7)	33	1.02	14,829
8-9 years complete	0.1	0.3	0.1	10,377	27.7	35	1.01	11,212
10-11 years complete	0.0	0.0	0.0	7,389	*	3	1.01	7,947
12 or more years complete	0.0	0.1	0.0	8,676	(66.1)	12	1.00	9,162
Regular media exposure²								
Yes	0.1	0.2	0.1	54,378	16.5	123	1.02	59,835
No	0.1	0.2	0.1	34,753	13.5	65	1.03	38,853
Marital status								
Never married ³	4.2	51.1	4.2	123	27.3	63	1.11	191
Currently married	0.1	0.1	0.1	88,510	14.3	64	1.02	92,757
Married once	0.1	0.1	0.1	86,794	14.9	62	1.01	90,930
Married more than once	0.3	0.2	0.1	1,717	*	3	1.60	1,827
Widowed/divorced/separated/deserted	1.1	12.1	1.1	497	(4.3)		1.05	5,740
Currently residing with spouse⁴								
Yes	0.1	0.1	0.1	80,708	15.4	59	1.02	83,836
No	0.1	0.1	0.1	7,802	*	6	1.02	8,920
Employment (past 12 months)								
Employed	0.1	0.4	0.1	38,034	11.0	133	1.03	43,694
Professional	0.0	0.2	0.0	2,035	*	5	1.01	2,286
Sales worker	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,379	*	2	1.02	1,685
Service worker	0.2	1.0	0.2	2,361	*	24	1.07	3,105
Production worker	0.1	0.4	0.1	7,556	(10.5)	31	1.03	8,892
Agricultural worker	0.1	0.3	0.1	24,186	(6.9)	67	1.02	27,093
Other worker	0.6	0.9	0.6	517	*	5	1.02	633
Not employed	0.1	0.1	0.0	51,062	26.3	54	1.02	54,955
Religion								
Hindu	0.1	0.2	0.1	72,574	15.5	159	1.02	80,304
Muslim	0.0	0.1	0.0	11,755	*	7	1.02	12,970
Christian	0.1	0.5	0.1	1,943	(21.8)	9	1.04	2,227
Sikh	0.1	0.3	0.1	1,529	*	4	1.02	1,654
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	0.0	0.3	0.0	652	*	2	1.04	763
Jain	0.5	0.5	0.5	272	*	1	1.01	287
Other	0.0	1.3	0.0	313	*	4	1.07	380
Caste/tribe								
Scheduled caste	0.2	0.4	0.2	16,721	(8.8)	62	1.03	18,689
Scheduled tribe	0.1	0.4	0.1	7,325	12.3	32	1.04	8,218
Other backward class	0.1	0.2	0.0	35,425	(20.9)	57	1.02	39,183
Other	0.0	0.1	0.0	28,954	(21.0)	37	1.01	31,754
Don't know	0.0	0.0	0.0	438	a	0	1.01	529

Continued...

Table 11.10.1 Multiple sexual partners and higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months: Women—Continued

Background characteristic	Women who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months			Number of women	Women who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months		Women who ever had sexual intercourse	
	Percentage who had two or more partners in the past 12 months	Percentage who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹	Percentage who had two or more partners and higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹		Percentage who reported using a condom at last higher-risk intercourse ¹	Number of women	Mean number of sexual partners in lifetime	Number of women
Wealth index								
Lowest	0.1	0.3	0.1	16,713	(5.2)	49	1.04	18,705
Second	0.1	0.2	0.1	17,740	(6.7)	41	1.02	19,715
Middle	0.1	0.2	0.1	17,845	(16.2)	41	1.02	19,955
Fourth	0.1	0.2	0.1	18,201	17.4	32	1.02	20,033
Highest	0.0	0.1	0.0	18,632	(48.3)	23	1.01	20,281
Total	0.1	0.2	0.1	89,130	15.4	187	1.02	98,687

Note: Total includes women with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe, who are not shown separately.

a = No cases

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

* Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases.

¹ Sexual intercourse with a partner who was neither a spouse nor who lived with the respondent.

² Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.

³ Includes women who are married, but whose *gauna* has not been performed. If women who are married, but whose *gauna* has not been performed, report having sex with their husband, the sex is not considered higher risk.

⁴ Based on currently married women only.

It is worth mentioning that because many respondents age 15-24 are likely to be never married, it is expected that almost by definition higher-risk sex would be more prevalent in this group than among older women and men. Further, in view of the cultural constraints on sexuality in India, and the earlier age at marriage among women than men, it is not unexpected to have a substantial gender differential in premarital sexual activity in this age group. For example, among men age 15-24 who had sexual intercourse during the 12-month period preceding the survey, 7 percent reported multiple sex partners and 26 percent reported higher-risk sex, compared with 0.1 and 0.4 percent of women in the same age group. This large gender differential is also apparent for the entire never married population that reports ever having had sex.

Consistent condom use is an important tool in the fight to curtail the spread of HIV/AIDS. While effective protection would require condom use at every act of sexual intercourse, the most important time to use condoms is for sexual intercourse considered to be “higher risk”, i.e., sex with someone who is neither a spouse nor a partner with whom one is in a cohabiting relationship. Tables 11.10.1 and 11.10.2 show that, among women who had higher-risk sex during the 12-month period prior to the survey, 15 percent reported that a condom was used the last time they had higher-risk intercourse. Men who engaged in higher-risk sex during the year before the survey were more than twice as likely as women to report condom use at higher-risk sex (38 percent). The number of respondents reporting higher-risk sex is frequently quite small, particularly among women, making it difficult to assess differences in the prevalence of condom use across subgroups. However, the results suggest that condom use during higher-risk sex is more common among never married women and men, those in urban areas, those having regular media exposure, those who have completed at least eight years of schooling, and

Table 11.10.2 Multiple sexual partners and higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months: Men

Among men age 15-49 who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, percentage who had intercourse with two or more partners in the past 12 months and percentage who had higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, and among those having higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, percentage reporting that a condom was used at last higher-risk intercourse, and the mean number of sexual partners in lifetime for men who ever had sexual intercourse, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Men who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months				Men who had higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months		Men who have ever had sexual intercourse	
	Percentage who had two or more partners in the past 12 months	Percentage who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹	Percentage who had two or more partners and higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹	Number of men	Percentage who reported using a condom at last higher-risk intercourse ¹	Number of men	Mean number of sexual partners in lifetime	Number of men
Age								
15-24	7.0	26.0	6.9	5,532	36.5	1,439	1.79	6,719
15-19	14.8	63.0	14.8	1,019	31.3	641	1.89	1,459
20-24	5.3	17.7	5.2	4,513	40.7	798	1.76	5,260
25-29	2.2	5.7	2.2	7,737	46.4	438	1.54	8,224
30-39	1.3	2.0	1.1	17,511	35.0	352	1.45	18,092
40-49	0.8	0.9	0.6	13,463	30.0	124	1.37	14,602
Residence								
Urban	1.8	5.5	1.6	14,843	52.9	821	1.50	15,886
Rural	2.1	5.2	2.0	29,399	29.7	1,532	1.48	31,750
Education								
No education	1.6	3.3	1.4	10,145	20.9	340	1.46	10,962
<5 years complete	2.4	4.2	2.1	5,284	27.5	220	1.46	5,718
5-7 years complete	2.5	6.1	2.3	7,645	33.2	464	1.62	8,216
8-9 years complete	2.4	7.3	2.2	7,862	41.1	573	1.49	8,550
10-11 years complete	1.9	6.7	1.7	5,334	43.7	357	1.48	5,723
12 or more years complete	1.7	5.0	1.6	7,964	53.0	400	1.41	8,457
Regular media exposure²								
Yes	2.2	6.0	2.0	33,878	40.2	2,046	1.52	36,433
No	1.5	3.0	1.3	10,364	21.3	308	1.38	11,204
Marital status								
Never married ³	17.7	94.4	17.7	1,819	40.7	1,716	2.49	3,401
Currently married	1.3	1.4	1.1	42,263	31.1	583	1.41	43,319
Married once	1.2	1.4	1.1	40,005	32.0	551	1.36	41,004
Married more than once	4.1	1.4	1.2	2,258	(15.6)	32	2.26	2,315
Widowed/divorced/separated/deserted	6.9	33.8	5.9	161	(17.7)	54	1.63	916
Currently residing with spouse⁴								
Yes	1.3	1.3	1.1	41,063	30.2	543	1.41	41,963
No	2.3	3.3	2.1	1,200	(43.7)	40	1.44	1,356
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months								
None	1.0	3.4	0.9	12,633	44.7	425	1.35	13,733
1-2	1.8	5.1	1.7	7,503	42.0	382	1.41	8,146
3-4	1.9	5.2	1.7	7,396	31.0	388	1.49	7,934
5+	2.9	6.9	2.7	16,566	36.1	1,138	1.62	17,673
Time away in the past 12 months								
Away for more than 1 month	3.8	9.7	3.7	4,763	31.5	464	1.82	5,266
Away for 1 month or less	2.2	5.5	2.0	26,810	37.7	1,462	1.49	28,599
Not away	1.0	3.4	0.9	12,633	44.7	425	1.35	13,733
Employment (past 12 months)								
Employed	1.9	4.8	1.7	43,431	37.3	2,070	1.48	46,477
Professional	1.1	3.3	1.1	2,860	55.2	96	1.35	3,007
Sales worker	3.0	6.4	2.7	5,749	38.3	367	1.52	6,070
Service worker	1.6	4.1	1.4	2,168	53.5	88	1.43	2,357
Production worker	2.3	5.9	2.2	15,576	38.6	912	1.56	16,728
Agricultural worker	1.4	3.5	1.1	15,363	27.2	537	1.43	16,514
Other worker	1.4	4.1	1.4	1,715	46.4	71	1.40	1,801
Not employed	7.1	36.5	7.1	770	41.9	281	1.74	1,115

Continued...

Table 11.10.2 Multiple sexual partners and higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months: Men—Continued

Background characteristic	Men who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months				Men who had higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months		Men who have ever had sexual intercourse	
	Percentage who had two or more partners in the past 12 months	Percentage who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹	Percentage who had two or more partners and higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹	Number of men	Percentage who reported using a condom at last higher-risk intercourse ¹	Number of men	Mean number of sexual partners in lifetime	Number of men
Religion								
Hindu	2.0	5.2	1.8	36,389	35.7	1,891	1.47	39,275
Muslim	2.1	4.9	1.8	5,417	44.5	267	1.47	5,736
Christian	1.2	4.6	1.2	953	47.6	44	1.81	1,033
Sikh	3.6	12.9	3.4	827	46.2	107	1.90	882
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	5.4	10.6	5.0	354	63.8	38	1.45	396
Jain	2.2	4.2	2.2	134	*	6	1.26	137
Other	0.6	1.3	0.6	160	*	2	1.41	169
Caste/tribe								
Scheduled caste	2.6	6.8	2.4	8,563	34.8	580	1.54	9,363
Scheduled tribe	1.9	5.5	1.5	4,025	23.3	221	1.54	4,398
Other backward class	2.0	4.6	1.9	17,291	32.4	801	1.48	18,585
Other	1.8	5.2	1.6	14,119	50.4	739	1.45	15,021
Don't know	2.1	3.0	2.1	112	*	3	1.33	116
Wealth index								
Lowest	1.9	4.9	1.8	7,965	18.1	393	1.44	8,688
Second	2.6	5.4	2.2	8,564	29.1	461	1.50	9,308
Middle	2.1	5.4	2.0	9,096	31.2	493	1.54	9,773
Fourth	1.9	5.5	1.7	9,236	42.7	512	1.51	9,962
Highest	1.6	5.3	1.6	9,381	62.9	495	1.45	9,906
Total age 15-49	2.0	5.3	1.8	44,242	37.8	2,353	1.49	47,637
Age 50-54	0.4	0.8	0.2	3,811	(7.0)	32	1.39	4,537
Total age 15-54	1.9	5.0	1.7	48,053	37.4	2,385	1.48	52,174

Note: Total includes men with missing information on education, number of times slept away from home in the past 12 months, time away in the past 12 months, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe, who are not shown separately.

¹ Sexual intercourse with a partner who was neither a spouse nor who lived with the respondent.

² Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.

³ Includes men who are married, but whose *gauna* has not been performed. If men who are married, but whose *gauna* has not been performed, report having sex with their wife, the sex is not considered higher risk.

⁴ Based on currently married men only.

those in the highest wealth quintile. In addition, men working as professionals or service workers and men not living with their spouse are more likely to have used a condom during higher-risk intercourse.

Tables 11.10.1 and 11.10.2 show that men who have ever had sex report an average of 1.49 lifetime sexual partners and women who have ever had sex report an average of only 1.02 lifetime sexual partners. The mean number of sexual partners for men who ever had sex is highest among never married men (2.5) and men who have been married more than once (2.3), men age 15-19 (1.9) and 20-24 (1.8), Sikhs (1.9), Christians (1.8), and men who spent more than a month at a time away from home in the last 12 months (1.8).

The proportion of women and men reporting multiple sexual partners and higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months among those who had sex in the past 12 months is presented in Table 11.11 by state. Although the percentage of women having higher-risk sexual intercourse is very low, there is some variation across states. States where the proportion of women having higher-risk sex is at least twice the national average include most of the northeastern states (Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya), Goa,

Gujarat, Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh. However, the percentage does not exceed 2 percent of women in any state. Higher-risk sexual intercourse for men is more prevalent in the northeastern states (13 percent in Nagaland, 12 percent in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim, 11 percent in Mizoram, and 8 percent in Meghalaya). Other states having a relatively high proportion of men reporting higher-risk intercourse in the 12 months preceding the survey are Punjab (12 percent), and Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh (8 percent each).

Table 11.11 Multiple sexual partners and higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months by state

Among women and men age 15-49 who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, percentage who had intercourse with more than one partner and percentage who had higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, by state, India, 2005-06

State	Women			Men		
	Percentage who had two or more partners in the past 12 months	Percentage who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹	Percentage who had two or more partners and higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹	Percentage who had two or more partners in the past 12 months	Percentage who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹	Percentage who had two or more partners and higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹
India	0.1	0.2	0.1	2.0	5.3	1.8
North						
Delhi	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.7	8.4	1.6
Haryana	0.1	0.2	0.0	1.6	5.8	1.4
Himachal Pradesh	0.1	0.1	0.0	1.4	3.2	0.9
Jammu & Kashmir	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.6	5.4	1.6
Punjab	0.2	0.4	0.2	4.6	11.8	4.4
Rajasthan	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.1	4.0	1.7
Uttaranchal	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.3	6.3	2.1
Central						
Chhattisgarh	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.9	3.4	0.8
Madhya Pradesh	0.0	0.1	0.0	3.5	7.5	3.4
Uttar Pradesh	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.4	8.1	2.2
East						
Bihar	0.3	0.3	0.2	2.6	4.3	2.5
Jharkhand	0.0	0.3	0.0	2.3	3.8	2.1
Orissa	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.1	3.4	1.0
West Bengal	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.9	3.3	0.8
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	0.0	0.5	0.0	5.1	12.0	5.1
Assam	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	3.8	1.0
Manipur	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5	2.8	0.4
Meghalaya	0.0	0.4	0.0	1.3	7.6	1.3
Mizoram	0.0	1.6	0.0	1.3	10.7	1.1
Nagaland	0.1	1.4	0.1	2.2	12.5	2.1
Sikkim	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.1	12.0	2.1
Tripura	1.0	1.7	0.9	1.5	6.1	1.5
West						
Goa	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.8	3.0	0.8
Gujarat	0.0	0.5	0.0	2.2	5.3	2.2
Maharashtra	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.5	5.0	1.3
South						
Andhra Pradesh	0.1	0.4	0.1	2.8	5.8	2.4
Karnataka	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	2.7	0.9
Kerala	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.4	3.7	1.4
Tamil Nadu	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.1	2.4	0.9

¹ Sexual intercourse with a partner who was neither a spouse nor who lived with the respondent.

11.4.2 Paid Sex

In recent years there has been growing evidence that heterosexual intercourse is the main mode of STI/HIV transmission in India, and commercial sex workers are believed to be the main source of infections. Of course, with the changing face of commercial sex, monetary exchange for sex may be possible even outside the well designated boundaries of brothels. Payment for sex

has particular importance irrespective of the context, location, and type of partner (Pelto, 1999). Thus, paid sex is considered a special category of higher-risk sex. Male respondents in NFHS-3 were asked to identify the nature of their relationship with their last three partners in the 12 months prior to the survey. If none of these partners was identified to be a sex worker, men were asked directly whether they had paid money in exchange for sex in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Table 11.12 shows the percentage of men age 15-49 who reported having paid for sexual intercourse in the previous 12 months, and among them, the percentage reporting that a condom was used the last time they paid for sex. Less than 1 percent of men reported engaging in paid sex in the 12 months preceding the survey. Less than 2 percent of men in any subgroup shown in the table paid for sex in the past year. The highest percentages of men reporting that they had engaged in paid sex are observed among Sikhs (1.8 percent), Buddhists/Neo-Buddhists (1.5 percent), men who were away from home for more than one month at a time in the past 12 months (1.4 percent), men currently not living with their a spouse (1.2 percent), men age 20-24 (1.2 percent), men who are divorced, separated, widowed, or deserted (1.2 percent), men age 20-24 years, production workers (1.1 percent), and men who have never been married (1.0 percent). Overall, three-fifths of men (62 percent) who reported having engaged in paid sex in the 12 months preceding the survey used a condom the last time they paid for sex. Condom use during paid sex is particularly high for men with 10 or more years of education and men in the highest wealth quintile.

Table 11.12 Payment for sexual intercourse and condom use at last paid sexual intercourse: Men

Percentage of men age 15-49 reporting payment for sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, and among them, percentage reporting that a condom was used the last time they paid for sexual intercourse, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Payment for sexual intercourse in the past 12 months		Condom use at last paid sexual intercourse	
	Percentage who paid for sexual intercourse	Number of men	Percentage reporting condom use	Number of men who paid for sexual intercourse in the past 12 months
Age				
15-24	0.9	24,997	71.2	221
15-19	0.6	13,008	70.4	74
20-24	1.2	11,989	71.6	147
25-29	0.7	10,854	66.7	75
30-39	0.6	19,045	44.1	106
40-49	0.3	14,855	(54.1)	48
Residence				
Urban	0.8	25,504	72.7	192
Rural	0.6	44,247	54.4	258
Education				
No education	0.7	12,571	39.2	88
<5 years complete	0.9	7,109	47.0	61
5-7 years complete	0.9	11,523	60.7	99
8-9 years complete	0.7	14,398	71.8	95
10-11 years complete	0.5	10,380	83.7	53
12 or more years complete	0.4	13,754	82.5	53
Regular media exposure¹				
Yes	0.7	56,057	66.2	377
No	0.5	13,694	42.0	73

Continued...

Table 11.12 Payment for sexual intercourse and condom use at last paid sexual intercourse: Men—
Continued

Background characteristic	Payment for sexual intercourse in the past 12 months		Condom use at last paid sexual intercourse	
	Percentage who paid for sexual intercourse	Number of men	Percentage reporting condom use	Number of men who paid for sexual intercourse in the past 12 months
Marital status				
Never married	1.0	25,307	76.4	242
Currently married	0.5	43,501	46.2	197
Divorced/separated/ widowed/deserted	1.2	942	*	11
Currently residing with spouse²				
Yes	0.4	42,136	43.7	181
No	1.2	1,365	*	16
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months				
None	0.4	21,619	68.9	89
1-2	0.5	12,568	71.4	69
3-4	0.5	11,447	57.6	62
5+	0.9	23,926	59.1	221
Time away in the past 12 months				
Away for more than 1 month	1.4	7,757	53.0	108
Away for 1 month or less	0.6	40,320	63.6	251
Not away	0.4	21,619	68.9	89
Employment (past 12 months)				
Employed	0.7	60,377	60.9	427
Professional	0.2	4,042	*	6
Sales worker	0.9	8,352	63.3	76
Service worker	0.7	3,149	(73.6)	21
Production worker	1.1	22,214	61.3	240
Agricultural worker	0.3	20,279	47.1	69
Other worker	0.6	2,341	*	15
Not employed	0.2	9,288	(86.7)	23
Religion				
Hindu	0.6	57,112	56.5	336
Muslim	0.8	8,747	74.0	74
Christian	0.5	1,567	*	8
Sikh	1.8	1,270	*	23
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	1.5	596	*	9
Jain	0.0	213	*	0
Other	0.1	232	*	0
Caste/tribe				
Scheduled caste	0.8	13,188	62.7	101
Scheduled tribe	0.4	5,725	(39.6)	26
Other backward class	0.6	27,219	57.4	153
Other	0.7	23,214	69.9	167
Don't know	0.2	177	*	0
Wealth index				
Lowest	0.6	11,031	(31.4)	61
Second	0.7	12,666	60.8	83
Middle	0.6	14,301	54.8	86
Fourth	0.8	15,493	65.0	120
Highest	0.6	16,260	85.5	99
Total age 15-49	0.6	69,751	62.2	450
Age 50-54	0.3	4,618	*	12
Total age 15-54	0.6	74,369	61.1	461

Note: Total includes men with missing information on education, number of times slept away from home in the past 12 months, time away in the past 12 months, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe, who are not shown separately.

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

* Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases.

¹ Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.

² Based on currently married men only.

11.5 TESTING FOR HIV

Knowledge of HIV status helps HIV-negative individuals make specific decisions to reduce their risk and increase their safe sex practices to remain disease free. For those who are HIV infected, knowledge of their status allows them to take action to protect their sexual partners, to access treatment, and to plan for the future. Testing of pregnant women is especially important so action can be taken to prevent a baby from becoming infected with HIV. In view of the importance of HIV testing in the overall planning of prevention and control, as well as care and support programmes, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has made considerable efforts to increase the accessibility and availability of voluntary counselling and testing centres (VCTC) across the country under NACP-II by increasing their number of VCT centres from 62 in 1997 to 873 by the end of 2005 (NACO, 2005).

To obtain information on the prevalence of HIV testing prior to the survey, all respondents in NFHS-3 were asked whether they had ever been tested for HIV. The question clearly specified that the interviewer did not wish to know the test results. Respondents who reported they had ever been tested were asked whether they received the results of their last test.

Table 11.13 presents coverage of prior HIV testing by showing the percent distribution of women and men age 15-49 by whether or not they have ever been tested for HIV, including whether or not they got the results of the test. Only 3 percent of women and 4 percent of men have ever been tested for HIV, and some who were tested did not get the result of the test. The

Background characteristic	Women					Men				
	Ever tested and received results	Ever tested, did not receive results	Never tested ¹	Total	Number of women	Ever tested and received results	Ever tested, did not receive results	Never tested ¹	Total	Number of men
Age										
15-24	2.6	0.2	97.2	100.0	47,590	1.3	0.3	98.4	100.0	24,997
15-19	0.9	0.1	99.0	100.0	24,811	0.5	0.2	99.3	100.0	13,008
20-24	4.4	0.4	95.2	100.0	22,779	2.2	0.4	97.4	100.0	11,989
25-29	5.7	0.4	93.9	100.0	20,417	4.8	0.6	94.6	100.0	10,854
30-39	3.0	0.2	96.8	100.0	33,522	5.0	0.7	94.3	100.0	19,045
40-49	1.3	0.0	98.7	100.0	22,856	3.1	0.5	96.4	100.0	14,855
Residence										
Urban	5.4	0.3	94.3	100.0	40,817	5.1	0.6	94.3	100.0	25,504
Rural	1.8	0.2	98.1	100.0	83,568	2.2	0.4	97.4	100.0	44,247
Education										
No education	0.7	0.1	99.2	100.0	50,487	0.7	0.1	99.2	100.0	12,571
<5 years complete	1.5	0.1	98.4	100.0	9,918	1.1	0.1	98.8	100.0	7,109
5-7 years complete	2.4	0.2	97.4	100.0	18,820	2.0	0.3	97.7	100.0	11,523
8-9 years complete	3.2	0.4	96.4	100.0	17,383	2.7	0.4	96.9	100.0	14,398
10-11 years complete	5.4	0.5	94.2	100.0	12,887	4.4	0.7	94.9	100.0	10,380
12 or more years complete	9.8	0.4	89.8	100.0	14,882	7.5	1.1	91.4	100.0	13,754
Regular media exposure²										
Yes	4.3	0.3	95.4	100.0	80,487	3.9	0.6	95.5	100.0	56,057
No	0.6	0.1	99.4	100.0	43,898	0.5	0.1	99.4	100.0	13,694

Table 11.13 Coverage of prior HIV testing—Continued

Background characteristic	Women					Men				
	Ever tested and received results	Ever tested, did not receive results	Never tested ¹	Total	Number of women	Ever tested and received results	Ever tested, did not receive results	Never tested ¹	Total	Number of men
Marital status										
Never married	0.4	0.1	99.5	100.0	25,462	2.0	0.3	97.6	100.0	25,307
Ever had sex	1.2	0.0	98.8	100.0	196	4.6	0.4	94.9	100.0	3,415
Never had sex	0.4	0.1	99.5	100.0	25,266	1.6	0.3	98.1	100.0	21,893
Currently married	3.7	0.3	96.0	100.0	93,089	4.0	0.6	95.4	100.0	43,501
Widowed/divorced/separated/deserted	1.9	0.1	98.1	100.0	5,834	2.1	0.2	97.6	100.0	942
Currently residing with spouse³										
Yes	3.8	0.3	95.9	100.0	84,101	4.1	0.6	95.4	100.0	42,136
No	3.0	0.2	96.8	100.0	8,988	2.3	0.8	96.9	100.0	1,365
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months										
None	na	na	na	na	na	3.3	0.4	96.2	100.0	21,619
1-2	na	na	na	na	na	3.0	0.5	96.5	100.0	12,568
3-4	na	na	na	na	na	2.9	0.5	96.6	100.0	11,447
5+	na	na	na	na	na	3.4	0.5	96.1	100.0	23,926
Time away in the past 12 months										
Away for more than 1 month	na	na	na	na	na	3.5	0.8	95.7	100.0	7,757
Away for 1 month or less	na	na	na	na	na	3.2	0.4	96.4	100.0	40,320
Not away	na	na	na	na	na	3.3	0.4	96.2	100.0	21,619
Employment (past 12 months)										
Employed	2.3	0.2	97.5	100.0	53,081	3.5	0.5	96.0	100.0	60,377
Professional	11.5	0.3	88.2	100.0	3,436	9.5	1.4	89.0	100.0	4,042
Sales worker	4.4	0.2	95.4	100.0	1,993	4.6	0.5	94.9	100.0	8,352
Service worker	3.3	0.5	96.2	100.0	3,625	7.0	1.0	92.1	100.0	3,149
Production worker	2.1	0.1	97.8	100.0	11,787	2.9	0.4	96.6	100.0	22,214
Agricultural worker	0.9	0.1	99.0	100.0	31,282	1.7	0.2	98.1	100.0	20,279
Other worker	9.5	0.2	90.2	100.0	957	6.8	1.3	91.9	100.0	2,341
Not employed	3.5	0.2	96.3	100.0	71,258	1.4	0.3	98.2	100.0	9,288
Religion										
Hindu	2.9	0.2	96.9	100.0	100,151	3.1	0.5	96.4	100.0	57,112
Muslim	2.7	0.1	97.3	100.0	16,936	2.9	0.4	96.8	100.0	8,747
Christian	8.3	0.5	91.2	100.0	3,053	7.1	1.2	91.7	100.0	1,567
Sikh	2.3	0.2	97.5	100.0	2,222	7.1	1.0	92.0	100.0	1,270
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	4.0	0.2	95.8	100.0	1,010	4.5	0.4	95.1	100.0	596
Jain	5.0	0.0	95.0	100.0	406	10.0	0.8	89.2	100.0	213
Other	1.2	0.1	98.7	100.0	484	2.3	0.1	97.7	100.0	232
Caste/tribe										
Scheduled caste	2.2	0.2	97.6	100.0	23,125	2.4	0.4	97.2	100.0	13,188
Scheduled tribe	1.3	0.2	98.5	100.0	10,119	1.4	0.1	98.5	100.0	5,725
Other backward class	3.2	0.3	96.5	100.0	48,880	3.1	0.5	96.4	100.0	27,219
Other	3.5	0.1	96.3	100.0	41,207	4.4	0.7	95.0	100.0	23,214
Don't know	2.6	0.0	97.4	100.0	649	3.3	0.0	96.7	100.0	177
Wealth index										
Lowest	0.5	0.0	99.5	100.0	21,718	0.4	0.1	99.5	100.0	11,031
Second	0.9	0.1	99.0	100.0	23,616	1.0	0.3	98.7	100.0	12,666
Middle	2.1	0.3	97.7	100.0	25,088	2.0	0.4	97.6	100.0	14,301
Fourth	3.7	0.3	96.0	100.0	26,106	3.9	0.5	95.7	100.0	15,493
Highest	6.8	0.3	92.9	100.0	27,856	7.4	1.0	91.6	100.0	16,260
Total age 15-49	3.0	0.2	96.8	100.0	124,385	3.3	0.5	96.3	100.0	69,751
Age 50-54	na	na	na	na	na	2.7	0.3	96.9	100.0	4,618
Total age 15-54	na	na	na	na	na	3.2	0.5	96.3	100.0	74,369

Note: Total includes women/men with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe and men with missing information on number of times slept away from home in the past 12 months and time away in the past 12 months, who are not shown separately.
na = Not available
¹ Includes don't know/missing.
² Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.
³ Based on currently married respondents only.

proportion of women and men who have been tested for HIV but who did not get the test results is very low (0.2 and 0.5 percent among women and men, respectively). Women and men who have been tested for HIV and got their results is relatively high in urban areas, among those with 12 or more years of schooling completed, those in professional and 'other' occupations, those belonging to the highest wealth quintile, and Jains.

Table 11.14 shows how the coverage of HIV/AIDS testing varies across states. The proportion of women age 15-49 who have ever been tested for HIV/AIDS and got the results ranges from only 0.2 percent in Rajasthan to 15 percent in Goa. Coverage of prior HIV/AIDS testing among men reveals a similar variation across states, with a minimum in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, and Meghalaya (1 percent each) and a maximum in Goa (14 percent). States in which 5-9 percent of both women and men report having ever been tested for HIV/AIDS and getting their results are Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and

Table 11.14 Coverage of prior HIV testing by state

Percent distribution of women and men age 15-49 by whether they have been tested for HIV and by whether they received the results of the test, according to state, India, 2005-06

State	Women				Men			
	Ever tested and received results	Ever tested, did not receive results	Never tested ¹	Total	Ever tested and received results	Ever tested, did not receive results	Never tested ¹	Total
India	3.0	0.2	96.8	100.0	3.3	0.5	96.3	100.0
North								
Delhi	5.8	0.3	93.9	100.0	4.0	0.5	95.6	100.0
Haryana	0.8	0.1	99.1	100.0	3.3	0.7	95.9	100.0
Himachal Pradesh	2.4	0.3	97.2	100.0	4.1	1.4	94.5	100.0
Jammu & Kashmir	1.1	0.1	98.8	100.0	1.9	1.7	96.3	100.0
Punjab	2.1	0.2	97.7	100.0	6.6	1.0	92.5	100.0
Rajasthan	0.2	0.0	99.8	100.0	1.0	0.0	99.0	100.0
Uttaranchal	1.8	0.2	98.1	100.0	4.2	0.3	95.5	100.0
Central								
Chhattisgarh	0.4	0.0	99.5	100.0	1.7	0.3	98.0	100.0
Madhya Pradesh	0.4	0.1	99.5	100.0	1.6	0.3	98.1	100.0
Uttar Pradesh	0.4	0.0	99.6	100.0	1.0	0.4	98.6	100.0
East								
Bihar	0.3	0.0	99.7	100.0	1.6	0.4	98.0	100.0
Jharkhand	0.5	0.1	99.4	100.0	1.4	0.4	98.2	100.0
Orissa	0.4	0.0	99.5	100.0	1.8	0.1	98.0	100.0
West Bengal	0.6	0.0	99.4	100.0	1.2	0.3	98.5	100.0
Northeast								
Arunachal Pradesh	2.8	0.2	97.0	100.0	3.0	0.4	96.6	100.0
Assam	0.4	0.0	99.6	100.0	1.1	0.2	98.7	100.0
Manipur	7.8	0.8	91.4	100.0	8.0	0.6	91.4	100.0
Meghalaya	0.6	0.0	99.4	100.0	1.0	0.2	98.8	100.0
Mizoram	5.7	0.5	93.8	100.0	5.8	2.3	92.0	100.0
Nagaland	4.6	0.4	95.0	100.0	5.6	0.8	93.6	100.0
Sikkim	2.4	0.3	97.3	100.0	1.7	0.3	97.9	100.0
Tripura	0.2	0.1	99.7	100.0	1.3	0.2	98.5	100.0
West								
Goa	14.6	0.4	85.0	100.0	14.3	1.3	84.4	100.0
Gujarat	1.1	0.0	98.9	100.0	2.2	0.8	97.0	100.0
Maharashtra	6.8	0.4	92.8	100.0	6.5	0.6	92.9	100.0
South								
Andhra Pradesh	7.4	0.5	92.0	100.0	7.6	0.7	91.7	100.0
Karnataka	8.5	0.3	91.2	100.0	4.5	0.4	95.2	100.0
Kerala	9.3	0.4	90.3	100.0	8.6	1.3	90.1	100.0
Tamil Nadu	8.2	1.1	90.6	100.0	5.3	0.5	94.2	100.0

¹ Includes don't know/missing.

Mizoram. Of these states, all but Kerala and Mizoram are recognized as high HIV prevalence states by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO). NACO has been implementing more intensified VCTC programmes as part of their AIDS prevention strategy in the high HIV prevalence states. Punjab is another state with a notable proportion of men who reported ever being tested for HIV/AIDS and getting the test results (7 percent). The proportions of women and men who have ever been tested for HIV but did not get the result is small in all states; however, 2 percent of men Mizoram and Jammu and Kashmir reported that they have been tested for HIV but did not get their results. The largest proportions of women who reported getting tested and not getting the test results (0.5-1.0 percent) are in Tamil Nadu, Manipur, Mizoram, and Andhra Pradesh.

11.6 REPORTS OF RECENT SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Information about the incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is not only useful as a marker of unprotected sexual intercourse, but also as a co-factor for HIV transmission. In view of the importance of STIs in HIV prevention programmes, since the inception of NACP-1, NACO has been making special efforts to promote early diagnosis and treatment of STIs as part of its family health awareness campaign. NFHS-3 asked respondents who had ever had sex whether they had an STI, had a genital sore or ulcer, or had experienced any abnormal (for men) or bad smelling abnormal (for women) genital discharge in the 12 months prior to the survey. Abnormal genital discharges and genital sores or ulcers have been shown to be useful in identifying STIs, particularly in men.

Table 11.15 shows that 11 percent of women and 5 percent of men who have ever had sex had an STI or STI symptom in the 12 months preceding the survey. Women were over four times more likely to say they had an abnormal bad smelling genital discharge than to report a genital sore or ulcer in the past 12 months. The corresponding reported prevalence of abnormal genital discharge among men is only slightly higher than the reported prevalence of a genital sore or ulcer. Although the reported prevalence of any sexually transmitted disease in the 12 months preceding the survey is very low among women (1.5 percent), as well as men (0.5 percent), women are three times as likely as men to report having an STI in the previous 12 months. Note that since these results are based on self reports and not on clinical tests or examinations, the results should be interpreted with caution.

The overall reported prevalence of STIs/STI symptoms among women and men is higher for those in rural areas, those with little or no education, those not regularly exposed to media, those belonging to scheduled tribes, those in the lowest two wealth quintiles, and women who are production or agricultural workers. Among women in particular, Muslim women tend to report a higher prevalence of STIs/STI symptoms than women from other religions. For men, the number of times slept away from home and time spent away from home in the past 12 months both have a positive association with the reported prevalence of STIs/STI symptoms.

Table 11.15 Self-reported prevalence of sexually-transmitted infections (STI) and STI symptoms

Among women and men age 15-49 who have ever had sexual intercourse, percentage reporting having an STI and/or symptoms of an STI in the past 12 months, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Percentage of women who report that in the past 12 months they had a:				Number of women who ever had sexual intercourse	Percentage of men who report that in the past 12 months they had a:				Number of men who ever had sexual intercourse
	STI	Bad smelling, abnormal genital discharge	Genital sore or ulcer	STI/genital discharge/sore or ulcer		STI	Abnormal genital discharge	Genital sore or ulcer	STI/genital discharge/sore or ulcer	
Age										
15-24	1.4	9.8	2.0	10.9	24,111	0.8	5.3	3.8	8.0	6,735
15-19	1.4	9.8	1.7	10.5	6,900	0.6	7.5	5.5	10.8	1,463
20-24	1.5	9.8	2.1	11.1	17,211	0.9	4.7	3.4	7.3	5,273
25-29	1.4	10.7	2.2	11.7	19,218	0.7	3.3	2.8	5.5	8,257
30-39	1.8	10.9	2.5	12.2	32,998	0.5	2.5	2.0	4.1	18,171
40-49	1.2	8.0	2.1	9.2	22,664	0.3	2.1	1.7	3.4	14,668
Residence										
Urban	1.2	7.0	1.7	8.2	30,499	0.4	2.1	1.4	3.2	15,957
Rural	1.6	11.2	2.4	12.4	68,492	0.6	3.3	2.7	5.4	31,875
Education										
No education	1.8	11.8	2.3	12.9	47,271	0.4	3.1	3.2	5.4	10,997
<5 years complete	1.2	10.8	2.9	12.1	8,448	0.6	3.2	2.7	5.3	5,746
5-7 years complete	1.3	9.0	2.2	10.1	14,875	0.5	3.1	2.5	5.0	8,243
8-9 years complete	1.1	8.5	2.3	9.8	11,234	0.7	3.4	2.2	5.1	8,579
10-11 years complete	1.3	6.9	1.9	8.2	7,975	0.4	2.6	1.9	4.0	5,764
12 or more years complete	1.3	5.3	1.5	6.6	9,183	0.4	2.1	1.1	3.1	8,491
Regular media exposure¹										
Yes	1.3	8.3	2.0	9.5	60,025	0.5	2.8	2.0	4.4	36,594
No	1.8	12.4	2.5	13.6	38,967	0.4	3.4	3.3	5.7	11,237
Marital status										
Never married	1.3	8.4	3.6	9.5	196	0.8	7.8	4.9	10.7	3,415
Ever had sex	1.3	8.4	3.6	9.5	196	0.8	7.8	4.9	10.7	3,415
Currently married	1.5	10.1	2.2	11.3	93,046	0.5	2.5	2.1	4.2	43,490
Married once	1.5	10.0	2.2	11.2	91,212	0.5	2.4	2.0	4.0	41,172
Married more than once	1.6	13.3	3.8	15.1	1,834	0.5	3.3	4.0	6.4	2,317
Widowed/divorced/separated/deserted	1.0	7.8	1.9	8.8	5,749	0.4	5.1	2.3	6.5	927
Currently residing with spouse²										
Yes	1.5	9.9	2.2	11.0	84,077	0.5	2.5	2.1	4.2	42,124
No	2.0	12.0	2.7	13.4	8,969	0.5	2.4	1.5	3.4	1,365
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months										
None	na	na	na	na	na	0.3	2.3	1.6	3.4	13,782
1-2	na	na	na	na	na	0.5	2.9	2.7	5.2	8,180
3-4	na	na	na	na	na	0.4	3.2	2.3	5.0	7,955
5+	na	na	na	na	na	0.7	3.3	2.6	5.3	17,763
Time away in the past 12 months										
Away for more than 1 month	na	na	na	na	na	0.5	4.1	3.3	6.5	5,305
Away for 1 month or less	na	na	na	na	na	0.6	3.0	2.4	5.0	28,706
Not away	na	na	na	na	na	0.3	2.3	1.6	3.4	13,782
Employment (past 12 months)										
Employed	1.6	10.5	2.4	11.7	43,817	0.5	2.9	2.3	4.6	46,669
Professional	1.8	5.4	1.3	6.7	2,291	0.5	2.1	1.2	3.1	3,023
Sales worker	1.2	7.7	2.8	9.1	1,690	0.5	2.5	1.8	4.1	6,098
Service worker	1.8	8.1	1.9	9.3	3,110	0.4	1.8	1.4	3.0	2,364
Production worker	1.5	12.1	3.1	13.4	8,909	0.5	3.1	2.3	4.9	16,778
Agricultural worker	1.6	10.9	2.3	12.1	27,181	0.5	3.1	2.8	5.3	16,600
Other worker	1.3	4.7	1.5	6.4	635	0.5	2.1	1.1	3.2	1,807
Not employed	1.5	9.5	2.1	10.6	55,136	0.5	5.2	3.7	7.1	1,117

Continued...

Table 11.15 Self-reported prevalence of sexually-transmitted infections (STI) and STI symptoms—Continued

Background characteristic	Percentage of women who report that in the past 12 months they had a:				Number of women who ever had sexual intercourse	Percentage of men who report that in the past 12 months they had a:				Number of men who ever had sexual intercourse
	STI	Bad smelling, abnormal genital discharge	Genital sore or ulcer	STI/genital discharge/sore or ulcer		STI	Abnormal genital discharge	Genital sore or ulcer	STI/genital discharge/sore or ulcer	
Religion										
Hindu	1.5	9.4	2.0	10.5	80,565	0.5	2.9	2.2	4.5	39,440
Muslim	2.1	14.2	3.6	16.0	13,007	0.6	3.7	3.2	6.3	5,756
Christian	0.5	6.2	3.1	7.9	2,229	0.5	1.8	1.3	2.6	1,039
Sikh	1.4	8.1	0.9	8.7	1,655	0.0	1.2	0.9	2.0	884
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	0.4	4.3	2.4	5.6	763	0.4	3.0	3.0	6.4	396
Jain	3.6	11.6	2.0	12.6	287	0.0	0.0	1.9	2.0	137
Other	0.4	8.7	2.2	9.6	380	0.0	5.5	4.5	8.4	171
Caste/tribe										
Scheduled caste	1.5	10.1	2.0	11.2	18,741	0.6	3.7	3.0	5.9	9,393
Scheduled tribe	1.7	11.4	2.5	12.5	8,236	0.7	4.0	3.3	6.1	4,408
Other backward class	1.6	9.6	2.2	10.8	39,318	0.4	2.2	1.8	3.6	18,667
Other	1.4	9.8	2.3	11.1	31,848	0.5	3.0	2.3	4.9	15,091
Don't know	0.2	3.3	1.5	4.8	532	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.7	118
Wealth index										
Lowest	1.9	13.2	2.9	14.6	18,755	0.6	3.8	3.7	6.3	8,703
Second	1.7	12.3	2.5	13.4	19,792	0.6	3.8	3.3	6.3	9,339
Middle	1.5	9.9	2.1	11.0	20,010	0.5	3.0	2.3	4.8	9,819
Fourth	1.2	8.0	1.9	9.1	20,100	0.3	2.4	1.3	3.5	10,017
Highest	1.3	6.6	1.8	7.8	20,335	0.4	1.8	1.1	2.8	9,954
Total age 15-49	1.5	9.9	2.2	11.1	98,991	0.5	2.9	2.3	4.7	47,831
Age 50-54	na	na	na	na	na	0.6	1.3	1.5	2.4	4,565
Total age 15-54	na	na	na	na	na	0.5	2.8	2.2	4.5	52,396

Note: Total includes women/men with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe and men with missing information on number of times slept away from home in the past 12 months and time away in the past 12 months, who are not shown separately.

na = Not applicable

¹ Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.

² Based on currently married respondents only.

Table 11.16 shows the prevalence of self reported STIs and STI symptoms across states. The reported prevalence of STIs varies considerably across states among women as well as men. The proportion of women who directly report having an STI in the 12 months preceding the survey is highest in Madhya Pradesh (5 percent), followed by Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Delhi (3 percent each). Other states with reported prevalence of STIs among women of over 1.5 percent are Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and Orissa. States in which at least 1 percent of men directly report having an STI in the past 12 months are Tripura, Rajasthan, and Orissa.

The reported prevalence of STIs or STI symptoms varies substantially across states, ranging from a low of 2 percent among women in Goa to a high of 25 percent among women in Assam, closely followed by Madhya Pradesh (23 percent). In addition to Assam and Madhya Pradesh, states with a prevalence of 15 percent or higher among women are Bihar, Tripura, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. States, in addition to Goa, with a prevalence below 5 percent are Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Prevalence among men is highest in West Bengal (11 percent), followed by Tripura (10 percent) and Orissa (9 percent). States with prevalence among men of less than 2 percent are Karnataka, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, and Nagaland.

Table 11.16 Self-reported prevalence of sexually-transmitted infections (STI) and STI symptoms by state
Among women and men age 15-49 who ever had sexual intercourse, percentage reporting having an STI and/or symptoms of an STI in the past 12 months, by state, India, 2005-06

State	Percentage of women who report that in the past 12 months they had a:				Percentage of men who report that in the past 12 months they had a:			
	STI	Bad smelling, abnormal genital discharge	Genital sore or ulcer	STI/genital discharge/sore or ulcer	STI	Abnormal genital discharge	Genital sore or ulcer	STI/genital discharge/sore or ulcer
India	1.5	9.9	2.2	11.1	0.5	2.9	2.3	4.7
North								
Delhi	2.8	6.5	1.3	8.2	0.6	2.6	1.9	4.5
Haryana	1.0	8.1	0.5	8.4	0.2	1.2	0.6	1.6
Himachal Pradesh	0.1	4.1	0.3	4.3	0.1	2.6	2.6	4.6
Jammu & Kashmir	0.4	8.8	1.0	9.4	0.2	3.2	1.5	4.3
Punjab	0.6	8.7	0.6	9.1	0.0	1.5	1.7	3.0
Rajasthan	1.7	14.1	1.0	15.1	1.5	4.5	3.1	7.0
Uttaranchal	1.2	9.8	1.5	10.7	0.3	4.1	0.6	4.7
Central								
Chhattisgarh	0.3	9.6	2.1	10.4	0.5	1.4	1.5	2.7
Madhya Pradesh	4.5	21.5	3.7	23.2	0.6	3.6	2.8	6.1
Uttar Pradesh	2.9	13.6	1.4	14.6	0.4	2.5	1.9	4.1
East								
Bihar	2.8	15.0	4.1	16.9	0.4	2.7	3.0	4.7
Jharkhand	2.0	12.3	2.9	13.8	0.0	3.6	3.9	6.2
Orissa	1.6	4.4	1.7	5.2	1.5	6.6	2.8	8.7
West Bengal	0.3	12.2	2.5	13.4	0.4	6.7	6.4	11.3
Northeast								
Arunachal Pradesh	0.2	7.7	2.9	9.0	0.4	3.6	1.9	4.7
Assam	0.5	23.3	6.4	24.7	0.2	5.5	2.6	7.2
Manipur	0.8	6.8	2.5	7.8	0.8	3.4	3.6	6.7
Meghalaya	0.1	2.7	1.1	3.7	0.6	3.5	1.3	3.9
Mizoram	0.0	10.6	1.6	11.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.9
Nagaland	0.0	3.2	0.6	3.5	0.1	1.0	0.8	1.8
Sikkim	0.4	8.4	2.1	9.0	0.2	1.2	2.9	3.8
Tripura	0.9	13.4	5.0	15.9	1.8	7.1	3.9	9.8
West								
Goa	0.2	2.1	0.2	2.3	0.3	1.1	1.1	2.1
Gujarat	1.4	10.3	3.5	12.2	0.4	4.2	2.7	6.3
Maharashtra	1.2	3.9	1.5	4.6	0.3	1.8	1.1	2.6
South								
Andhra Pradesh	0.2	3.0	0.4	3.1	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.7
Karnataka	0.3	2.1	0.8	2.9	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5
Kerala	0.4	6.3	6.6	10.9	0.5	2.0	1.3	3.5
Tamil Nadu	0.2	2.3	2.9	4.0	0.1	0.4	0.8	1.1

11.7 BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS AND INJECTIONS

It has been estimated that in the initial stages of the HIV epidemic in India, blood transfusions accounted for 6-8 percent of total infections. However, as a result of concerted efforts and the implementation of a blood safety programme, the share of blood transfusions in transmitting new HIV infections has been considerably reduced (NACO, 2004). Further, injection safety has become part of the government's effort to control the spread of HIV/AIDS with an emphasis on the use of new needles and syringes. Overuse of injections in a health care setting can also contribute to the transmission of blood-borne pathogens, because overuse can amplify the effect of unsafe practices such as the reuse of injection equipment.

Table 11.17 Blood transfusions and injections

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who have ever had a blood transfusion and percentage who received at least one injection from a health worker in the 12 months preceding the survey, the average number of medical injections per person, and among those who received an injection, percentage for whom, for their last injection, the health worker took the syringe and needle from a new and unopened package or the needle was sterilized, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Women					Men						
	Percentage who have had a blood transfusion	Percentage who received an injection from a health worker in the past 12 months ¹	Mean number of medical injections in the past 12 months ¹	Number of women	Last injection, syringe and needle taken from newly opened package or the needle was sterilized	Number of women who received injections from a health worker in the past 12 months	Percentage who have had a blood transfusion	Percentage who received an injection from a health worker in the past 12 months ¹	Mean number of medical injections in the past 12 months ¹	Number of men	Last injection, syringe and needle taken from newly opened package or the needle was sterilized	Number of men who received injections from a health worker in the past 12 months
Age												
15-19	1.4	34.5	1.4	24,811	91.1	8,556	1.9	35.9	1.4	13,008	93.5	4,675
20-24	2.6	45.1	2.0	22,779	92.5	10,264	2.6	37.1	1.6	11,989	95.6	4,448
25-29	4.3	42.0	2.2	20,417	92.2	8,566	2.8	36.0	1.7	10,854	95.0	3,904
30-39	5.7	36.7	2.3	33,522	90.7	12,301	3.3	35.0	1.8	19,045	94.4	6,657
40-49	7.0	35.9	2.6	22,856	89.1	8,199	3.7	35.2	2.2	14,855	93.4	5,231
Residence												
Urban	5.5	35.3	1.8	40,817	95.2	14,410	3.3	33.8	1.5	25,504	96.9	8,613
Rural	3.7	40.1	2.3	83,568	89.4	33,476	2.7	36.8	1.9	44,247	93.0	16,301
Education												
No education	3.7	38.2	2.3	50,487	87.3	19,264	2.6	31.2	1.9	12,571	89.5	3,927
<5 years complete	4.7	40.5	2.3	9,918	88.7	4,018	3.6	37.6	2.1	7,109	91.6	2,672
5-7 years complete	5.1	40.5	2.2	18,820	92.9	7,621	2.6	37.3	2.1	11,523	93.1	4,299
8-9 years complete	4.4	39.7	2.0	17,383	93.4	6,894	2.9	37.6	1.8	14,398	94.6	5,410
10-11 years complete	4.2	37.6	1.8	12,887	96.1	4,849	2.7	37.9	1.6	10,380	97.3	3,937
12 or more years complete	4.9	35.2	1.7	14,882	97.2	5,238	3.3	33.9	1.3	13,754	98.4	4,662
Religion												
Hindu	4.2	39.2	2.1	100,151	90.9	39,221	2.9	36.0	1.8	57,112	94.3	20,583
Muslim	4.2	35.6	2.0	16,936	91.6	6,025	2.8	32.7	1.5	8,747	94.0	2,860
Christian	4.9	33.0	1.8	3,053	95.6	1,009	3.1	34.5	1.9	1,567	96.3	540
Sikh	4.9	35.9	2.7	2,222	93.1	797	1.2	44.0	1.9	1,270	94.7	558
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	4.6	51.1	2.0	1,010	90.7	516	3.4	39.6	1.3	596	96.6	236
Jain	6.8	29.2	1.6	406	96.2	118	4.0	29.7	1.1	213	95.8	63
Other	1.6	30.8	1.3	484	89.0	149	1.7	30.0	1.2	232	96.0	69
Caste/tribe												
Scheduled caste	4.0	38.8	2.2	23,125	89.9	8,975	3.3	34.5	1.9	13,188	92.4	4,552
Scheduled tribe	2.7	35.1	1.4	10,119	86.4	3,552	2.6	33.6	1.6	5,725	92.2	1,922
Other backward class	4.0	43.5	2.5	48,880	91.3	21,274	2.4	38.8	2.1	27,219	94.7	10,566
Other	5.1	33.2	1.8	41,207	93.1	13,676	3.4	33.2	1.4	23,214	95.6	7,706
Don't know	4.3	46.0	2.9	649	87.4	298	5.3	60.3	3.3	177	90.5	107
Wealth index												
Lowest	2.3	37.0	1.9	21,718	85.7	8,046	2.7	31.6	1.7	11,031	88.2	3,488
Second	3.5	40.3	2.3	23,616	88.1	9,507	2.8	36.6	2.1	12,666	91.3	4,636
Middle	3.9	41.5	2.4	25,088	90.2	10,419	2.9	39.5	2.1	14,301	94.6	5,654
Fourth	5.0	40.0	2.2	26,106	94.0	10,442	3.0	36.6	1.7	15,493	96.5	5,675
Highest	6.1	34.0	1.8	27,856	96.8	9,472	3.0	33.6	1.3	16,260	98.3	5,460
Total age 15-49	4.3	38.5	2.1	124,385	91.2	47,886	2.9	35.7	1.8	69,751	94.3	24,913
Age 50-54	na	na	na	na	na	na	4.4	37.1	2.6	4,618	92.6	1,714
Total age 15-54	na	na	na	na	na	na	3.0	35.8	1.8	74,369	94.2	26,627

Note: Total includes women/men with missing information on education, religion, and caste/tribe, who are not shown separately.

na = Not applicable

¹ Injections given by a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, dentist, or other health worker.

Accordingly, in NFHS-3, all women and men were asked if they had ever received a blood transfusion and if they received any injections in the 12 months preceding the survey. If they received any injections given by a doctor, nurse, dentist, pharmacist, or any other health worker, they were asked about the number of injections they received and whether their last injection was given with a syringe from a new, unopened package or whether the needle was sterilized. Note that self-administered medical injections (e.g., insulin for diabetes) are not included as injections given by health personnel.

Table 11.17 presents data on the prevalence of blood transfusions and injections. Four percent of women and 3 percent of men have ever received a blood transfusion. Thus, although the prevalence of blood transfusions is very low, women are somewhat more likely than men to have ever had a blood transfusion. The proportion of women and men who have ever had a blood transfusion is positively associated with urban residence, age of the respondent, and (for women) wealth quintile.

Table 11.17 further shows that women are somewhat more likely than men to have received at least one injection (39 percent and 36 percent, respectively) given by health personnel in the 12 months preceding the survey. The average number of injections received from health personnel was 2.1 among women and 1.8 among men.

The percentage of respondents who received at least one injection from health personnel in the past 12 months varies little by age for men, but among women the proportion is highest at ages 20-29. These ages are prime childbearing ages, suggesting that a large number of these injections may be pregnancy related. A somewhat higher proportion of rural than urban residents received at least one injection from health personnel in the past 12 months, although the differential is greater among women than among men. The largest variation in injection prevalence is by religion. Among women, the percentage reporting they had received at least one injection from health personnel during the 12 months prior to the survey varies from 29 percent among Jains to 51 percent among Buddhist/Neo-Buddhists and 39 percent among Hindus. Among men, the proportion receiving an injection is also lowest among Jains (30 percent), but it is highest among Sikhs (44 percent). Notably, the percentage receiving at least one injection from health personnel does not show any consistent association with education or wealth quintile for either women or men.

The vast majority of respondents who received an injection from health personnel in the past 12 months report that their most recent injection was given with a needle and syringe taken from a newly opened package or given with a needle that had been sterilized (91 percent among women and 94 percent among men). Women and men living in rural areas, having little or no education, belonging to scheduled tribes, and in households in the lowest wealth quintile are the least likely to report that the injection was given using a needle and syringe from a newly unopened package or with a sterilized needle.

Table 11.18 shows the prevalence of blood transfusions and injections among women and men age 15-49 across states. The proportion of women who have ever had a blood transfusion ranges from less than 1 percent in Meghalaya to 7 percent in Gujarat and 6 percent in Delhi and Kerala. For men, the percentage ranges from 1 percent in Punjab to 9 percent in West Bengal and

Table 11.18 Blood transfusions and injections by state

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who have ever had a blood transfusion and received at least one injection from a health worker in the 12 months preceding the survey, the average number of medical injections per person, and among those who received an injection, percentage for whom, for their last injection, the health worker took the syringe and needle from a new and unopened package or the needle was sterilized by state, India, 2005-06

State	Women				Men			
	Percentage who have ever had a blood transfusion	Percentage who received an injection from a health worker in the past 12 months ¹	Mean number of medical injections in the past 12 months ¹	Last injection, syringe and needle taken from newly opened package or the needle was sterilized	Percentage who have ever had a blood transfusion	Percentage who received an injection from a health worker in the past 12 months ¹	Mean number of medical injections in the past 12 months ¹	Last injection, syringe and needle taken from newly opened package or the needle was sterilized
India	4.3	38.5	2.1	91.2	2.9	35.7	1.8	94.3
North								
Delhi	5.6	25.1	1.4	97.8	2.0	20.0	0.8	98.0
Haryana	4.3	37.7	2.5	92.5	1.8	34.8	2.0	97.5
Himachal Pradesh	3.6	18.7	1.1	93.3	2.4	21.6	1.1	97.8
Jammu & Kashmir	4.3	31.7	2.4	97.3	1.9	30.5	1.7	98.2
Punjab	4.9	34.1	2.5	93.6	1.3	45.1	2.1	94.5
Rajasthan	3.7	33.0	1.5	92.9	2.7	32.5	1.4	96.6
Uttaranchal	4.6	26.6	1.5	88.8	2.7	23.6	1.2	91.3
Central								
Chhattisgarh	4.6	56.2	3.1	81.3	2.3	55.7	2.7	90.0
Madhya Pradesh	4.4	42.3	2.4	92.5	2.2	29.7	1.7	94.3
Uttar Pradesh	3.2	39.2	2.6	86.2	1.8	30.9	1.8	89.0
East								
Bihar	3.4	39.6	2.3	89.3	2.7	26.9	1.5	86.1
Jharkhand	4.1	34.6	2.0	89.8	1.6	23.7	0.8	93.1
Orissa	4.2	29.1	1.4	94.9	2.4	36.1	1.9	97.6
West Bengal	4.2	18.4	0.7	87.8	9.2	26.9	0.9	90.5
Northeast								
Arunachal Pradesh	3.2	20.8	1.5	94.6	5.2	21.4	2.3	95.1
Assam	4.3	24.1	0.9	92.9	2.7	27.2	1.3	96.8
Manipur	3.8	21.6	1.1	97.9	2.9	17.2	0.8	98.9
Meghalaya	0.5	12.5	0.4	95.6	4.0	12.3	0.5	100.0
Mizoram	5.0	12.2	0.8	98.6	5.9	9.3	0.6	93.1
Nagaland	3.0	25.9	1.1	98.8	5.0	20.2	0.9	99.8
Sikkim	4.1	21.3	1.0	97.6	2.7	17.5	0.6	95.1
Tripura	4.6	17.5	0.9	94.7	6.7	27.7	0.8	97.2
West								
Goa	3.5	33.9	1.2	89.8	4.9	41.9	1.1	92.9
Gujarat	6.6	34.0	1.2	89.6	2.4	27.9	1.1	94.5
Maharashtra	4.8	51.7	2.0	90.4	3.2	44.4	1.5	96.4
South								
Andhra Pradesh	4.5	39.0	2.3	98.0	1.9	43.3	2.6	98.4
Karnataka	4.2	53.5	3.3	94.1	2.0	58.3	3.1	96.7
Kerala	5.5	27.2	1.1	93.7	3.4	35.9	1.3	95.3
Tamil Nadu	4.6	59.1	4.0	93.9	2.0	47.8	3.2	96.5

¹ Injections given by a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, dentist, or other health worker.

7 percent in Tripura. The proportions of respondents who received an injection from health personnel during the 12 months preceding the survey ranges 12 percent among women and 9 percent among men in Mizoram to 59 percent among women in Tamil Nadu and 58 percent among men in Karnataka. Chhattisgarh is another state where a high proportion of both women and men (56 percent each) received an injection from health personnel during the 12 months preceding the survey. All of the northeastern states have much lower proportions of women and men reporting injections than the all-India average. The proportions of recent injections given with a needle and syringe taken from a newly opened package or a sterilized needle are fairly high across all states. However, considerable proportions of women in Chhattisgarh (19 percent) and Uttar Pradesh (14 percent) and men in Bihar (14 percent) reported that in the case of their

last injection, the needle and syringe were not taken from a newly opened package and the needle was not sterilized.

The percent distributions of women and men who received their last injection from health personnel in the 12 months preceding the survey according to the type of facility at which the injection was given are shown in Table 11.19. About two-thirds of women (64 percent) and three-fourths of men (75 percent) who received an injection in the past 12 months from health personnel received their last medical injection in a private health facility, mostly a private doctor or clinic. By contrast, the last medical injection was received in a public health facility (primarily a government/municipal hospital or a CHC/rural hospital/PHC) by only 25 percent of women and 21 percent of men. Notably, 9 percent of women and 3 percent of men received their last medical injection in their home.

Table 11.19 Source of last medical injection						
Percent distribution of women and men age 15-49 who received a medical injection in the past 12 months and percentage for whom the last injection was given with a safe needle and syringe by type of facility where the last injection was received, India, 2005-06						
Facility for last medical injection	Received injection from health worker in past 12 months		Percentage for whom the last injection was given with a safe needle and syringe			
	Women	Men	Women	Number of women	Men	Number of men
Public medical sector	25.4	20.9	90.9	12,158	93.1	5,218
Government/municipal hospital	10.7	9.5	92.0	5,133	93.3	2,369
Government dispensary	0.8	0.9	93.0	360	97.8	234
UHC/UHP/UFWC	0.2	0.2	94.8	90	93.1	59
CHC/Rural hospital/PHC	8.8	8.4	89.7	4,229	92.0	2,096
Sub-centre/ANM	2.7	0.9	87.5	1,291	93.5	236
Government mobile clinic	0.0	0.1	*	17	*	16
Camp	0.4	0.3	94.2	195	95.3	65
Anganwadi/ICDS centre	1.5	0.1	93.2	727	*	28
Other public medical sector	0.2	0.5	91.7	116	95.1	114
NGO or trust hospital/clinic	0.4	0.5	95.6	190	94.9	120
Private medical sector	64.2	75.4	91.9	30,759	94.9	18,774
Private hospital	21.0	16.8	95.4	10,075	97.6	4,190
Private doctor/clinic	36.1	47.1	90.6	17,306	94.4	11,728
Private paramedic	1.7	2.2	88.9	819	93.0	556
Vaidya/hakim/homeopath	0.2	0.2	95.5	86	*	39
Pharmacy/drugstore	1.9	4.6	92.5	886	97.3	1,145
Other private medical	3.3	4.5	85.1	1,587	88.9	1,116
Other place	9.2	2.9	89.9	4,389	90.5	726
Shop	0.2	0.1	89.4	75	*	17
At home	8.7	2.6	89.8	4,143	90.5	654
Other	0.4	0.2	90.8	171	92.4	56
Missing	0.8	0.3	52.2	390	65.7	75
Total	100.0	100.0	91.2	47,886	94.3	24,913
Number	47,886	24,913	na	na	na	na

ANM = Auxiliary nurse midwife; CHC = Community health centre; ICDS = Integrated Child Development Services; NGO = Nongovernmental organization; UHC = Urban health centre; UHP = Urban health post; UFWC = Urban family welfare centre
na = Not applicable
* Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases.

Public sector and private sector facilities as a whole do not differ substantially in terms of injection safety, although the public sector does lag slightly behind the private sector in this respect. Ninety-one percent of women and 93 percent of men who received injections from a public sector health facility say that in the case of their last injection, either the needle and syringe were taken from a newly opened package or the needle was sterilized. The corresponding proportions for women and men using a private sector medical facility are 92 percent and 95 percent. Differentials between the public sector and private sector in terms of injection safety are larger when government/municipal hospitals are compared with private hospitals. It is notable that although women are slightly more likely than men to have received an injection in the last one year, in almost all types of facilities men are slightly more likely than women to have received an injection for which the needle and syringe were taken from a newly opened package or the needle was sterilized.

11.8 HIV/AIDS-RELATED KNOWLEDGE AND BEHAVIOUR AMONG YOUTH

Knowledge of HIV/AIDS and sexual behaviour among youth age 15-24 are of particular interest because the period between sexual initiation and marriage is for many young people a time of sexual experimentation that may involve high-risk behaviours. This issue has special importance in the context of the emerging trends in new HIV cases in India that show that nearly two-fifths of new infections are reported among people below 25 years of age (NACO, 2004). Another equally important concern is the narrowing gender gap in new HIV infections, suggesting an urgent need to address the issues and concerns of youth, especially through reducing young women's vulnerability to STIs and HIV (Singh et al., 2004). This section considers a number of issues that relate to both transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS among youth, including the extent to which youth have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention modes and knowledge of a source where they can obtain condoms. Issues such as abstinence, age at sexual debut, age differences between partners, and condom use are also covered in this section.

11.8.1 Knowledge about HIV/AIDS and a Source for Condoms

Knowledge of HIV transmission and prevention is crucial in enabling young people to avoid HIV/AIDS. Young people may be at greater risk because they may have shorter relationships with more partners, or engage in other risky behaviours. Table 11.20 shows the percentage of young women and young men age 15-24 with knowledge about various aspects of HIV/AIDS and knowledge of a source of condoms by selected background characteristics. Two measures of knowledge of HIV/AIDS are shown in the table. The first is the percentage of respondents who, when asked prompted questions, say that HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by mosquito bites, by hugging someone who has HIV/AIDS, or by sharing food with a person who has HIV/AIDS, and who say that having just one uninfected, faithful partner and using a condom for every act of sexual intercourse can reduce the chances of getting HIV/AIDS. The second measure of knowledge, comprehensive knowledge, is defined as: 1) knowing that people can reduce their chances of getting HIV/AIDS by having sex with only one uninfected, faithful partner and by using condoms consistently; 2) knowing that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS; and 3) rejecting the two most common misconceptions, namely that HIV/AIDS can be transmitted by mosquito bites or by sharing food with a person who has HIV/AIDS. There is a

Table 11.20 Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and a source of condoms among youth

Percentage of women and men age 15-24 with comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and percentage with knowledge of a source of condoms, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Women age 15-24				Men age 15-24			
	Percentage who reject three misconceptions and know how to prevent HIV/AIDS ¹	Percentage with comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS ²	Percentage who know a condom source	Number of women	Percentage who reject three misconceptions and know how to prevent HIV/AIDS ¹	Percentage with comprehensive knowledge about AIDS ²	Percentage who know a condom source ³	Number of men
Age								
15-19	22.7	18.6	39.0	24,811	41.9	34.5	80.5	13,008
15-17	21.5	17.5	34.9	14,852	40.3	33.2	77.0	7,919
18-19	24.4	20.2	45.1	9,959	44.5	36.5	86.0	5,090
20-24	26.2	21.4	53.9	22,779	44.8	37.8	89.7	11,989
20-22	25.3	21.0	51.7	14,470	44.6	37.6	89.1	7,881
23-24	27.6	22.1	57.9	8,310	45.2	38.3	90.7	4,108
Residence								
Urban	38.8	32.9	56.6	14,931	54.5	47.1	91.3	9,435
Rural	17.7	14.0	41.3	32,660	36.5	29.4	81.0	15,561
Education								
No education	3.8	2.7	32.4	12,524	12.0	9.0	65.2	2,440
<5 years complete	6.0	4.1	31.9	3,422	15.3	10.7	72.8	1,896
5-7 years complete	14.4	10.7	40.8	8,412	28.5	21.7	79.0	4,422
8-9 years complete	28.5	22.5	49.1	9,597	43.2	34.9	85.6	6,778
10-11 years complete	42.7	35.0	54.6	6,912	58.1	49.5	91.6	4,828
12 or more years complete	59.6	52.5	72.8	6,721	70.1	62.2	97.9	4,624
Regular media exposure⁴								
Yes	32.4	26.7	51.2	33,016	47.4	39.7	88.1	21,575
No	6.1	4.7	34.6	14,574	17.2	13.0	64.7	3,422
Marital status								
Never married	30.2	25.3	42.4	23,588	45.6	38.2	84.5	20,721
Ever had sex	21.3	14.3	52.9	176	44.7	36.8	94.2	2,470
Never had sex	30.2	25.3	42.3	23,412	45.7	38.4	83.1	18,251
Ever married	18.6	14.7	49.8	24,003	32.3	25.9	87.1	4,276
Currently residing with spouse⁵								
Yes	19.5	15.4	49.9	20,235	31.8	25.4	86.9	3,905
No	14.8	11.9	51.6	3,273	39.9	35.4	88.0	300
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months								
None	na	na	na	na	42.2	34.8	80.2	7,847
1-2	na	na	na	na	41.9	36.2	84.5	4,913
3-4	na	na	na	na	43.1	35.2	86.3	4,289
5+	na	na	na	na	45.3	37.6	89.0	7,891
Time away in the past 12 months								
Away for more than 1 month	na	na	na	na	41.0	34.2	85.8	3,388
Away for 1 month or less	na	na	na	na	44.5	37.3	87.4	13,741
Not away	na	na	na	na	42.2	34.8	80.2	7,847
Employment (past 12 months)								
Employed	16.7	13.4	37.9	16,134	37.0	30.3	84.1	16,512
Professional	56.5	51.8	76.3	972	57.8	53.0	95.8	727
Sales worker	29.9	24.7	51.1	421	46.0	39.2	91.7	2,341
Service worker	26.5	21.5	48.0	713	40.6	32.1	85.6	902
Production worker	17.2	13.1	37.9	4,215	36.1	29.0	85.1	6,956
Agricultural worker	10.0	7.5	31.9	9,551	28.6	22.2	76.3	5,102
Other worker	60.2	50.4	66.9	262	59.3	52.1	94.4	483
Not employed	28.2	23.3	50.4	31,451	55.5	47.4	86.6	8,445
Religion								
Hindu	24.9	20.3	47.0	37,705	44.4	36.9	85.4	20,239
Muslim	18.3	15.4	42.4	7,307	35.0	28.3	82.9	3,398
Christian	31.5	26.3	40.9	1,043	42.5	37.0	76.5	503
Sikh	40.7	31.5	52.1	789	48.7	45.5	90.1	494
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	30.1	23.9	41.6	380	58.5	57.1	91.6	217
Jain	55.8	53.6	72.3	133	77.4	71.5	100.0	64
Other	9.6	8.5	23.8	197	18.0	14.9	37.0	76
Caste/tribe								
Scheduled caste	20.0	15.9	43.6	9,171	39.7	31.9	84.9	4,903
Scheduled tribe	13.1	10.6	32.4	4,014	30.4	24.9	72.1	1,960
Other backward class	22.5	18.0	45.3	18,921	44.9	36.9	86.3	9,773
Other	32.6	27.6	52.7	15,116	46.8	40.4	86.6	8,221
Don't know	10.9	7.2	35.1	194	32.0	30.5	76.0	52

Continued...

Table 11.20 Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and a source of condoms among youth—Continued

Background characteristic	Women age 15-24			Men age 15-24				
	Percentage who reject three misconceptions and know how to prevent HIV/AIDS ¹	Percentage with comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS ²	Percentage who know a condom source	Number of women	Percentage who reject three misconceptions and know how to prevent HIV/AIDS ¹	Percentage with comprehensive knowledge about AIDS ²	Percentage who know a condom source ³	Number of men
Wealth index								
Lowest	5.3	3.8	30.6	8,175	20.1	14.7	69.2	3,460
Second	9.7	7.1	37.3	9,284	29.8	23.6	78.6	4,577
Middle	19.3	14.7	41.0	10,131	40.0	31.8	85.2	5,407
Fourth	32.1	26.1	52.1	10,241	52.1	43.5	90.7	5,808
Highest	51.4	44.5	66.7	9,759	62.2	55.3	93.3	5,743
Total	24.3	19.9	46.1	47,590	43.3	36.1	84.9	24,997

Note: Total includes women/men with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe and men with missing information on number of times slept away from home in the past 12 months and time away in the past 12 months, who are not shown separately.

na = Not applicable

¹ Respondents who, when asked prompted questions, say that HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by mosquito bites, by hugging someone who has HIV/AIDS, and by sharing food with a person who has HIV/AIDS, and who say that use of a condom for every act of sexual intercourse and having just one uninfected faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting HIV/AIDS.

² Respondents with comprehensive knowledge say that use of a condom for every act of sexual intercourse and having just one uninfected faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting HIV/AIDS, say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS, and reject the two most common misconceptions in NFHS-3 about HIV/AIDS transmission or prevention.

³ Men who used a condom in the 12 months preceding the survey are assumed to know a condom source.

⁴ Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.

⁵ Based on currently married respondents only.

considerable knowledge gender gap among youth in India. While one in four women rejects the three transmission misconceptions and knows ways to prevent HIV/AIDS, more than two in five men have this kind of knowledge. Even fewer (20 percent of women and 36 percent of men) have a comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS.

The level of comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS does not vary greatly by age, although there is a slight increase with increasing age. Comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS increases from 18 percent among women age 15-17 years to 22 percent among women age 23-24 years. The proportions of men with comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS in the corresponding age groups are 33 and 38 percent, respectively. By marital status, comprehensive knowledge is much higher among respondents who have never been married than among those who have ever been married. As expected, comprehensive HIV/AIDS knowledge is much more common among urban than rural youth.

Comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS is strongly associated with education, wealth quintiles, and exposure to media among both young women and men. Young women who have 12 or more years of education are more than 19 times as likely as those with no schooling to have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS, while men with 12 or more years of education are seven times as likely as those with no education to have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Forty-five percent of young women and 55 percent of young men in the highest wealth quintile have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS, compared with 4 percent of women and 15 percent of men in the lowest wealth quintile. Young women living in urban areas are more than twice as likely as their rural counterparts to have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS. While the urban-rural differential in comprehensive knowledge is somewhat narrower among men, it is still substantial (47 percent in urban areas and 29 percent in rural areas). Muslim and scheduled tribe youth are less likely to have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS than youth of other major religions and castes/tribes. Variations in the proportion of

youth who reject three misconceptions and know how to prevent HIV/AIDS reveal similar patterns by background characteristics.

In view of the important role condoms play in combating the transmission of HIV, respondents were asked whether they know where condoms can be obtained. As shown in Table 11.20, young men are much more likely than young women to know where to obtain a condom (85 and 46 percent, respectively). Note that in this table and other tables on youth, men who said they used a condom the last time they had sex with one or more of their sexual partners in the past 12 months were assumed to know where condoms can be obtained.

Among young women, knowledge of a condom source increases sharply with age, from 35 percent among women age 15-17 to 58 percent among women age 23-24. On the other hand, knowledge of a condom source among young men is fairly high at all ages, ranging from 77 percent among men age 15-17 to 91 percent among men age 23-24. Consistent with the patterns observed for knowledge, youth who are better educated, live in wealthier households, have regular media exposure, and live in urban areas are more likely than other youth to know a source of condoms. Youth from scheduled tribes are less likely to know a source of condoms than youth in other caste/tribe categories. Christians are somewhat less likely than youth of most other religions to know a condom source. Young men who slept away from home at any time in the 12 months preceding the survey are somewhat better informed about a source of condoms than other youth.

Table 11.21 shows the percentage of young women and young men age 15-24 with knowledge about HIV/AIDS and knowledge of a source of condoms by states. Comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS among young women varies considerably across states, from 9 percent in Assam to 66 percent in Mizoram. Among young men, comprehensive knowledge is lowest in Meghalaya (13 percent) and highest in Mizoram (64 percent). Young men and young women have relatively low comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS in all the states in the East Region and all states in the Northeast Region except Manipur, Mizoram, and (for women) Sikkim. Additionally, knowledge is particularly low among women in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and among men in Jammu and Kashmir. While knowledge of a source of condoms among youth is much higher than comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS, there is considerable variation across states and by sex. Only 21 percent of women in Jammu and Kashmir and 60 percent of men in Meghalaya know of a source for condoms, while 74 percent of women and 95 percent of men in Delhi know of a source. In addition to Jammu and Kashmir, less than one-third of women are aware of a source of condoms in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Meghalaya. Three of these states with low knowledge among women have been designated as high HIV prevalence states. Therefore, programmes and activities to reduce young women's vulnerability to STIs/HIV in these states should give priority, among other things, to improving the knowledge of a source of condoms.

Table 11.21 Comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and of a source of condoms among youth by state

Percentage of women and men age 15-24 with comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS and percentage with knowledge of a source of condoms, by state, India, 2005-06

State	Women age 15-24			Men age 15-24		
	Percentage who reject three misconceptions and know how to prevent HIV/AIDS ¹	Percentage with comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS ²	Percentage who know a condom source	Percentage who reject three misconceptions and know how to prevent HIV/AIDS ¹	Percentage with comprehensive knowledge about HIV/AIDS ²	Percentage who know a condom source ³
India	24.3	19.9	46.1	43.3	36.1	84.9
North						
Delhi	60.6	48.5	74.0	63.5	56.8	95.1
Haryana	34.7	30.4	52.6	50.1	42.0	85.4
Himachal Pradesh	50.3	38.8	34.4	72.9	61.3	88.2
Jammu & Kashmir	22.4	18.3	20.8	29.6	27.7	76.6
Punjab	36.8	28.6	47.5	41.6	37.1	86.6
Rajasthan	25.2	21.2	54.5	43.1	35.5	86.7
Uttaranchal	40.3	33.4	49.9	56.4	48.6	91.3
Central						
Chhattisgarh	23.3	18.5	41.9	47.4	40.7	81.1
Madhya Pradesh	30.4	27.6	63.4	53.0	46.0	91.9
Uttar Pradesh	22.7	19.2	52.9	43.8	34.1	90.9
East						
Bihar	16.1	14.1	60.0	31.4	26.7	77.1
Jharkhand	15.7	14.0	30.2	34.0	29.7	62.3
Orissa	18.2	12.6	46.7	34.2	28.4	83.8
West Bengal	15.5	10.2	43.1	21.0	14.6	79.5
Northeast						
Arunachal Pradesh	18.7	15.8	49.4	32.1	27.8	73.0
Assam	9.4	8.7	42.4	13.3	14.4	72.6
Manipur	49.6	43.8	51.6	63.8	56.1	84.5
Meghalaya	11.0	11.8	32.1	16.3	13.1	60.4
Mizoram	66.0	65.9	60.4	62.0	63.8	74.2
Nagaland	20.8	18.1	42.7	34.5	32.1	75.3
Sikkim	28.2	25.5	53.4	26.5	25.6	77.8
Tripura	18.3	14.0	43.6	35.8	25.8	73.6
West						
Goa	35.0	31.4	54.5	38.9	37.7	83.7
Gujarat	25.5	20.3	57.1	46.1	36.7	90.5
Maharashtra	37.9	32.9	43.2	59.8	55.7	86.7
South						
Andhra Pradesh	21.5	19.6	25.6	44.8	36.6	85.6
Karnataka	20.5	12.3	31.4	45.7	32.6	79.8
Kerala	38.9	31.9	35.0	47.9	35.1	75.4
Tamil Nadu	20.5	14.1	31.0	47.8	41.2	90.1

¹ Respondents who, when asked prompted questions, say that HIV/AIDS cannot be transmitted by mosquito bites, by hugging someone who has HIV/AIDS, and by sharing food with a person who has HIV/AIDS, and who say that use of a condom for every act of sexual intercourse and having just one uninfected faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting HIV/AIDS.

² Respondents with comprehensive knowledge say that use of a condom for every act of sexual intercourse and having just one uninfected faithful partner can reduce the chance of getting HIV/AIDS, say that a healthy-looking person can have HIV/AIDS, and reject the two most common misconceptions in NFHS-3 about HIV/AIDS transmission or prevention.

³ Men who used a condom in the 12 months preceding the survey are assumed to know a condom source.

11.8.2 Age at First Sex and Condom Use at First Sex

In NFHS-3, women and men were asked their age at the time they first had sexual intercourse and whether or not a condom was used the first time. Table 11.22 shows the proportion of women and men age 15-24 who have ever had sexual intercourse and the proportion who had their first sex before age 15, and the proportion of women and men age 18-24 who had their first sex before age 18. Fifty-one percent of women and 27 percent of men age 15-24 have ever had sex. Ten percent of young women and 2 percent of young men had their first sexual intercourse by age 15, and among those age 18-24, 40 percent of women and 12 percent of men had sex for the first time before reaching age 18. Since the vast majority of sexual initiation in India is within marriage, the large differences by sex in age at sexual initiation are largely a reflection of the much earlier age at first marriage among women than men.

Table 11.22 Age at first sexual intercourse among youth

Percentage of women and of men age 15-24 who ever had sexual intercourse and who had sexual intercourse before age 15 and percentage of women and of men age 18-24 who had sexual intercourse before age 18, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Women					Men				
	Age 15-24			Age 18-24		Age 15-24			Age 18-24	
	Percentage who have ever had sexual intercourse	Percentage who had sexual intercourse before age 15	Number of women age 15-24	Percentage who had sexual intercourse before age 18	Number of women age 18-24	Percentage who have ever had sexual intercourse	Percentage who had sexual intercourse before age 15	Number of men age 15-24	Percentage who had sexual intercourse before age 18	Number of men age 18-24
Age										
15-19	27.8	8.0	24,811	na	na	11.2	2.7	13,008	na	na
15-17	15.6	6.7	14,852	na	na	7.1	3.0	7,919	na	na
18-19	45.9	9.8	9,959	34.5	9,959	17.7	2.3	5,090	12.3	5,090
20-24	75.6	12.5	22,779	43.0	22,779	44.0	1.8	11,989	11.2	11,989
20-22	70.2	11.8	14,470	42.0	14,470	38.7	2.0	7,881	12.0	7,881
23-24	84.9	13.7	8,310	44.7	8,310	54.1	1.4	4,108	9.6	4,108
Residence										
Urban	38.2	4.5	14,931	24.3	10,535	18.9	1.0	9,435	6.4	6,701
Rural	56.4	12.7	32,660	48.1	22,203	31.8	3.0	15,561	14.8	10,378
Education										
No education	76.8	23.3	12,524	67.4	9,642	48.4	4.3	2,440	22.9	1,949
<5 years complete	59.8	15.4	3,422	55.4	2,240	37.9	2.6	1,896	16.5	1,371
5-7 years complete	54.9	11.1	8,412	48.1	5,354	33.8	2.9	4,422	14.1	2,867
8-9 years complete	38.7	3.3	9,597	32.1	5,461	24.6	2.8	6,778	13.3	3,786
10-11 years complete	32.3	1.3	6,912	22.2	3,876	16.5	1.4	4,828	7.0	2,743
12 or more years complete	28.0	0.5	6,721	4.9	6,165	18.9	0.7	4,624	4.5	4,356
Regular media exposure¹										
Yes	42.8	6.4	33,016	30.6	22,435	25.1	2.1	21,575	10.3	14,748
No	68.4	18.5	14,574	61.7	10,303	38.4	3.1	3,422	19.2	2,331
Age at marriage										
Ever married²										
<15 years	94.2	67.1	7,103	92.4	5,563	81.5	29.0	501	67.1	399
15-17 years	97.1	0.3	10,260	89.4	8,976	92.4	3.8	1,092	72.8	1,005
18+ years	98.7	0.0	7,446	0.5	7,446	96.8	1.6	3,076	7.6	3,076
Never married	0.5	0.1	22,781	0.3	10,753	11.5	1.6	20,327	5.9	12,598
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months										
None	na	na	na	na	na	17.7	1.4	7,847	6.7	5,007
1-2	na	na	na	na	na	24.0	1.8	4,913	10.4	3,221
3-4	na	na	na	na	na	30.4	3.0	4,289	13.3	2,951
5+	na	na	na	na	na	36.0	3.0	7,891	15.4	5,855
Time away in the past 12 months										
Away for more than 1 month	na	na	na	na	na	39.2	3.8	3,388	17.2	2,640
Away for 1 month or less	na	na	na	na	na	29.2	2.4	13,741	12.5	9,415
Not away	na	na	na	na	na	17.7	1.4	7,847	6.7	5,007

Continued...

Table 11.22 Age at first sexual intercourse among youth—Continued

Background characteristic	Women					Men				
	Age 15-24			Age 18-24		Age 15-24			Age 18-24	
	Percentage who have ever had sexual intercourse	Percentage who had sexual intercourse before age 15	Number of women age 15-24	Percentage who had sexual intercourse before age 18	Number of women age 18-24	Percentage who have ever had sexual intercourse	Percentage who had sexual intercourse before age 15	Number of men age 15-24	Percentage who had sexual intercourse before age 18	Number of men age 18-24
Employment (past 12 months)										
Employed	49.1	13.4	16,134	45.4	11,241	37.0	2.7	16,512	13.4	13,324
Professional	21.4	2.5	972	8.1	871	23.7	0.2	727	4.7	682
Sales worker	39.9	6.7	421	31.7	335	32.0	2.2	2,341	10.5	1,931
Service worker	37.8	10.3	713	33.0	502	32.7	2.1	902	10.7	732
Production worker	38.6	9.0	4,215	33.8	2,886	37.6	2.4	6,956	13.5	5,601
Agricultural worker	58.7	17.4	9,551	58.8	6,409	41.9	3.8	5,102	17.4	3,934
Other worker	16.8	1.8	262	7.7	238	27.8	1.8	483	7.3	444
Not employed	51.5	8.4	31,451	37.8	21,493	7.4	1.5	8,445	4.8	3,730
Religion										
Hindu	51.9	10.5	37,705	41.6	26,104	27.8	2.5	20,239	11.8	13,888
Muslim	49.2	10.3	7,307	40.6	4,863	23.2	1.7	3,398	10.8	2,255
Christian	33.6	3.7	1,043	20.3	717	18.1	0.2	503	5.1	344
Sikh	33.1	1.9	789	14.9	549	28.9	1.5	494	14.4	339
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	42.5	7.1	380	36.6	251	25.0	0.0	217	8.4	155
Jain	18.9	1.6	133	2.4	89	17.1	4.2	64	6.4	42
Other	54.6	8.7	197	45.6	137	36.0	3.3	76	10.5	49
Caste/tribe										
Scheduled caste	55.2	13.2	9,171	47.7	6,266	33.8	3.3	4,903	15.1	3,364
Scheduled tribe	57.1	14.4	4,014	50.1	2,768	40.3	3.7	1,960	19.0	1,358
Other backward class	52.7	10.6	18,921	43.6	12,872	26.6	2.3	9,773	12.3	6,694
Other	43.7	6.5	15,116	29.7	10,580	20.1	1.4	8,221	6.7	5,559
Don't know	48.9	10.4	194	33.6	128	10.4	0.0	52	(4.2)	37
Wealth index										
Lowest	65.3	19.8	8,175	63.5	5,531	39.4	4.9	3,460	22.8	2,200
Second	60.6	15.9	9,284	57.1	6,173	36.2	3.3	4,577	16.0	3,078
Middle	52.7	10.3	10,131	44.8	6,860	28.6	2.3	5,407	12.9	3,720
Fourth	45.9	5.3	10,241	30.1	7,186	23.0	1.5	5,808	8.4	4,140
Highest	31.8	1.5	9,759	13.7	6,989	14.6	0.7	5,743	3.7	3,940
Total	50.7	10.1	47,590	40.4	32,739	26.9	2.3	24,997	11.5	17,078

Note: Total includes women/men with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe and men with missing information on number of times slept away from home in the past 12 months and time away in the past 12 months, who are not shown separately.

na = Not available

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

¹ Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.

² Includes women who are married, but whose *gauna* has not been performed.

The proportion of young women reporting that they had sex before age 15 is markedly lower among those under age 18 (7 percent) than among older women (14 percent among women age 23-24). The proportion of women who had sex by age 15 is also lower in the younger cohorts than the older cohorts. This likely reflects the effect of rising age at marriage; only a very small proportion of never married young women report that they ever had sex (0.5 percent). For men, there are large differentials by age in the proportion who ever had sex, but the differentials are quite small for the indicators on the age at first sex, at least in part because the proportions initiating sexual activity at an early age are not large among young men.

Other differentials in age at first sex for young women and men reflect the influence of factors associated with delayed marriage, e.g., young women and men in urban areas are much less likely to have had sex by age 15 or by age 18 than young women and men in rural areas. Education, exposure to media, and wealth quintiles also display a negative association with all three indicators. A considerably lower proportion of young Jain and Sikh women (2 percent each) and young Christian women (4 percent) had their first sexual intercourse before age 15 than Hindu (11 percent) and Muslim (10 percent) young women. Among young men, however,

Sikhs are more likely than men of other religions to have had sex before age 18. Young women and men not belonging to scheduled tribes, scheduled castes, or other backward classes are much less likely than other women to have had sex before age 15 and age 18. The number of times slept away from home and the amount of time away from home in the past 12 months both have a clear positive association with the proportion of men who have had sex before age 15 and age 18.

Table 11.23 shows condom use at first sexual intercourse among youth who have ever had sex. Only 3 percent of young women and 15 percent of young men who have ever had sex used condoms the first time they had sexual intercourse. Never-married women and men were much more likely than ever-married youth to have used a condom. Higher educational attainment, a higher wealth quintile, and urban residence are related to a greater likelihood that a condom was used the first time a youth and, particularly, a young man, had sex. Number of times slept away from home and time away from home in the 12 months preceding the survey do not show any association with condom use at first sexual intercourse. As expected knowledge of a condom source is positively associated with condom use at first sex.

Table 11.23 Condom use at first sexual intercourse among youth				
Among women and men age 15-24 who have ever had sexual intercourse, percentage who used a condom the first time they had sexual intercourse, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06				
Background characteristic	Women age 15-24		Men age 15-24	
	Percentage who used a condom at first sexual intercourse	Number of women who have ever had sexual intercourse	Percentage who used a condom at first sexual intercourse	Number of men who have ever had sexual intercourse
Age				
15-19	3.0	6,900	18.5	1,463
15-17	3.6	2,324	18.3	560
18-19	2.7	4,576	18.6	902
20-24	2.6	17,211	14.1	5,273
20-22	2.5	10,154	15.3	3,050
23-24	2.9	7,056	12.4	2,223
Residence				
Urban	4.1	5,702	25.5	1,787
Rural	2.3	18,408	11.3	4,948
Education				
No education	1.4	9,622	6.5	1,180
<5 years complete	1.9	2,047	9.5	720
5-7 years complete	2.4	4,619	13.5	1,496
8-9 years complete	3.7	3,712	16.6	1,667
10-11 years complete	4.9	2,230	20.2	795
12 or more years complete	6.8	1,881	26.1	873
Regular media exposure¹				
Yes	3.6	14,144	17.1	5,421
No	1.5	9,966	6.4	1,314
Age at marriage				
Ever married ²				
<15 years	1.5	6,692	5.6	408
15-17 years	2.5	9,959	4.8	1,010
18+ years	3.9	7,349	8.3	2,979
Never married	21.3	111	29.6	2,338
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months				
None	na	na	15.0	1,389
1-2	na	na	19.0	1,179
3-4	na	na	15.1	1,302
5+	na	na	13.4	2,837

Continued...

Table 11.23 Condom use at first sexual intercourse among youth—Continued

Background characteristic	Women age 15-24		Men age 15-24	
	Percentage who used a condom at first sexual intercourse	Number of women who have ever had sexual intercourse	Percentage who used a condom at first sexual intercourse	Number of men who have ever had sexual intercourse
Time away in the past 12 months				
Away for more than 1 month	na	na	15.7	1,327
Away for 1 month or less	na	na	14.8	4,012
Not away	na	na	15.0	1,389
Employment (past 12 months)				
Employed	2.4	7,922	14.1	6,104
Professional	8.9	208	32.7	172
Sales worker	1.8	168	22.0	750
Service worker	2.9	269	20.4	295
Production worker	3.1	1,625	14.1	2,617
Agricultural worker	1.9	5,606	8.3	2,135
Other worker	5.8	44	21.5	135
Not employed	2.9	16,188	24.7	627
Religion				
Hindu	2.7	19,583	14.1	5,621
Muslim	2.6	3,598	17.7	787
Christian	3.2	351	24.4	91
Sikh	4.2	261	25.5	143
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	2.2	162	37.7	54
Jain	(22.0)	25	*	11
Other	3.1	107	4.4	27
Caste/tribe				
Scheduled caste	2.7	5,060	14.4	1,659
Scheduled tribe	1.3	2,294	8.5	790
Other backward class	2.3	9,968	11.9	2,598
Other	4.0	6,600	23.5	1,655
Don't know	1.4	95	*	5
Wealth index				
Lowest	1.5	5,341	7.0	1,363
Second	1.6	5,630	9.6	1,656
Middle	2.3	5,336	13.8	1,546
Fourth	3.8	4,699	20.2	1,333
Highest	6.3	3,105	33.0	837
Knows condom source³				
Yes	4.3	12,045	16.5	6,041
No	1.2	12,058	1.1	678
Total	2.8	24,111	15.0	6,735

Note: Total includes women/men with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, caste/tribe, and knowledge of a condom source and men with missing information on number of times slept away from home in the past 12 months and time away in the past 12 months, who are not shown separately.
na = Not available
() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases.
* Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases.
¹ Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.
² Includes women who are married, but whose *gauna* has not been performed.
³ Men who used a condom in the 12 months preceding the survey are assumed to know a condom source.

11.8.3 Recent Sexual Activity among Unmarried Youth

Table 11.24 presents data on the percentage of never married women and men age 15-24 who have not engaged in sex, the percentage who had sex in the 12 months preceding the survey, and the percentage that used condoms the most recent time they had sex. The great majority of never married young women (99 percent) and men (88 percent) reported that they had never had sex, and, as a result, the proportions reporting recent sexual activity in the 12-month period

Table 11.24 Sexual intercourse and condom use among never married youth

Among never married women and men age 15-24, percentage who have never had sexual intercourse, percentage who had sexual intercourse in the 12 months preceding the survey, and, among those who had sexual intercourse in the 12 months preceding the survey, percentage who used a condom at the last sexual intercourse, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Never married women					Never married men				
	Percentage who have never had sexual intercourse	Percentage who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months	Number of women	Percentage who used condom at last sexual intercourse	Number who had sex in the past 12 months	Percentage who have never had sexual intercourse	Percentage who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months	Number of men	Percentage who used condom at last sexual intercourse	Number who had sex in the past 12 months
Age										
15-19	99.4	0.4	17,969	18.1	73	91.4	5.1	12,635	31.3	650
15-17	99.5	0.3	12,564	(20.7)	43	93.7	3.7	7,849	28.7	293
18-19	99.2	0.6	5,405	(14.4)	30	87.5	7.5	4,786	33.3	358
20-24	98.7	0.8	5,618	16.8	46	83.0	8.9	8,086	41.2	720
20-22	98.8	0.8	4,356	(16.8)	34	82.8	9.2	5,828	40.0	534
23-24	98.5	0.9	1,263	*	12	83.2	8.2	2,258	44.7	186
Residence										
Urban	99.6	0.3	9,253	36.1	24	90.0	5.6	8,501	52.9	478
Rural	99.0	0.7	14,335	12.9	95	86.8	7.3	12,220	27.7	893
Education										
No education	98.4	1.1	2,917	(14.0)	33	83.1	9.0	1,517	26.9	136
<5 years complete	98.8	1.0	1,385	*	13	85.5	8.0	1,372	26.4	110
5-7 years complete	98.7	0.7	3,831	(13.0)	26	84.9	8.3	3,441	28.9	285
8-9 years complete	99.4	0.4	5,906	(26.6)	22	88.4	6.6	5,777	35.4	379
10-11 years complete	99.6	0.2	4,694	*	11	90.7	5.5	4,448	42.0	244
12 or more years complete	99.7	0.3	4,852	(48.1)	14	90.2	5.2	4,160	53.5	215
Regular media exposure¹										
Yes	99.4	0.4	18,952	19.5	81	88.0	6.7	18,346	38.1	1,233
No	98.7	0.8	4,636	(13.6)	38	88.7	5.8	2,375	22.6	138
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months										
None	na	na	na	na	na	93.1	3.7	6,931	48.7	257
1-2	na	na	na	na	na	88.8	5.8	4,206	41.9	244
3-4	na	na	na	na	na	86.3	7.2	3,453	31.6	250
5+	na	na	na	na	na	83.0	10.0	6,087	31.4	607
Time away in the past 12 months										
Away for more than 1 month	na	na	na	na	na	79.7	10.9	2,587	28.1	281
Away for 1 month or less	na	na	na	na	na	86.9	7.4	11,188	35.5	831
Not away	na	na	na	na	na	93.1	3.7	6,931	48.7	257
Employment (past 12 months)										
Employed	98.7	0.8	8,299	14.8	65	83.9	9.0	12,387	35.5	1,118
Professional	99.7	0.3	766	*	2	87.6	6.5	633	(51.1)	41
Sales worker	99.8	0.2	254	*	0	83.1	10.2	1,914	41.7	195
Service worker	99.9	0.0	442	*	0	83.8	7.6	725	43.1	55
Production worker	99.1	0.4	2,610	*	10	83.4	9.2	5,201	37.0	479
Agricultural worker	98.0	1.3	4,008	(5.1)	50	84.2	8.7	3,513	24.5	307
Other worker	99.3	0.6	219	*	1	87.0	9.9	401	(43.4)	40
Not employed	99.6	0.4	15,284	21.0	54	94.2	3.0	8,296	41.5	250
Religion										
Hindu	99.2	0.6	18,201	18.1	102	87.9	6.6	16,619	34.4	1,104
Muslim	99.7	0.1	3,716	*	3	90.0	5.3	2,899	42.4	153
Christian	97.7	1.0	707	19.2	7	89.5	6.0	460	47.4	28
Sikh	99.5	0.5	530	*	3	82.4	12.8	426	(49.7)	54
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	99.9	0.0	216	a	0	81.7	12.5	199	(59.0)	25
Jain	100.0	0.0	108	a	0	86.9	8.8	61	*	5
Other	92.8	4.2	96	*	4	96.7	1.5	51	*	1
Caste/tribe										
Scheduled caste	99.0	0.7	4,129	*	28	83.6	9.4	3,877	33.7	364
Scheduled tribe	97.3	1.7	1,760	6.9	31	82.8	9.9	1,411	25.8	140
Other backward class	99.3	0.4	8,986	(23.8)	39	89.2	5.7	8,041	28.9	458
Other	99.7	0.2	8,532	(32.7)	21	90.3	5.5	7,269	51.7	399
Don't know	100.0	0.0	99	a	0	95.3	3.1	49	*	2

Continued...

Table 11.24 Sexual intercourse and condom use among never married youth—Continued

Background characteristic	Never married women					Never married men				
	Percentage who have never had sexual intercourse	Percentage who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months	Number of women	Percentage who used condom at last sexual intercourse	Number who had sex in the past 12 months	Percentage who have never had sexual intercourse	Percentage who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months	Number of men	Percentage who used condom at last sexual intercourse	Number who had sex in the past 12 months
Wealth index										
Lowest	98.3	0.9	2,850	*	26	85.0	8.8	2,465	18.9	218
Second	98.8	0.8	3,686	(6.2)	30	84.5	8.2	3,450	25.2	284
Middle	99.2	0.6	4,820	(18.0)	27	87.2	6.9	4,427	29.1	305
Fourth	99.5	0.4	5,563	(16.7)	20	89.3	5.8	5,008	46.3	289
Highest	99.7	0.2	6,668	(51.2)	16	91.3	5.1	5,371	59.9	276
Total	99.3	0.5	23,588	17.6	119	88.1	6.6	20,721	36.5	1,371

Note: Total includes women/men with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe and men with missing information on number of times slept away from home in the past 12 months and time away in the past 12 months, who are not shown separately.

a = No cases

na = Not available

() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases.

* Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases.

¹ Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.

before the survey are low (0.5 percent among women and 7 percent among men). Nearly two-fifths of never married young men reporting recent sexual activity used a condom the last time they had sex (37 percent), compared with less than one-fifth of young women (18 percent).

With such a small percentage of never married women reporting sexual intercourse, it is difficult to draw firm conclusions about patterns by background characteristics for young women. Among young never married men, the prevalence of sex generally increases with age, and is marginally higher among rural than urban youth. The proportion of men who ever had sex tends to decrease with increasing education and wealth, and it is higher among employed young men (16 percent) than those not employed (6 percent). By caste/tribe, the proportion of never married women and men who have ever had sex is slightly higher among youth belonging to scheduled tribes (3 percent among women and 17 percent among men) than among other youth. Never married young men who slept away from home five or more times or who spent more than one month at a time away from their place of usual residence in the 12 months preceding the survey are more likely to have had sex than others.

The highest percentages of young never married men who used a condom during their most recent act of sex is found for urban residents, those with 12 or more years of education, with regular exposure to media, who were not employed in the past 12 months, who are in the highest wealth quintiles, and who do not belong to a scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, or other backward class. The number of times slept away from home and time spent away from home both have a negative association with the use of condom during the most recent sexual intercourse.

11.8.4 Higher-Risk Sex

The most common mode of transmission of HIV in India is through unprotected sex with an infected person. To prevent HIV/AIDS transmission, it is important that young people practice safe sex through the widely advocated ABC method (abstinence, being faithful to one uninfected partner, and condom use). Table 11.25 presents data on the percentage of young women and men who had sex in the 12 months preceding the survey who engaged in higher-risk sexual intercourse (had sex with a non-marital, non-cohabiting partner), and the prevalence of condom use during higher-risk sex. Among sexually active youth age 15-24, less than half a percent of women and 26 percent of men engaged in higher-risk sexual activity in the previous 12 months. One-fifth of these women (22 percent) and nearly two-fifths of these men (37 percent) reported condom use the last time they had higher-risk sex.

Table 11.25 Higher-risk sexual intercourse among youth and condom use at last higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months

Among women and men age 15-24 who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, percentage who had higher-risk sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, and among those having higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months, percentage reporting that a condom was used at last higher-risk intercourse, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Women age 15-24				Men age 15-24			
	Women who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months		Women who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹		Men who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months		Men who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹	
	Percentage who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months	Number of women	Percentage who reported using a condom at last higher-risk intercourse ¹	Number of women who had higher-risk intercourse ¹	Percentage who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months	Number of men	Percentage who reported using a condom at last higher-risk intercourse ¹	Number of men who had higher-risk intercourse ¹
Age								
15-19	0.7	6,649	20.0	48	63.0	1,019	31.3	641
15-17	1.3	2,204	(17.9)	30	79.3	360	28.9	286
18-19	0.4	4,445	(23.2)	19	54.0	658	33.2	355
20-24	0.2	16,457	25.1	37	17.7	4,513	40.7	798
20-22	0.3	9,686	(25.8)	32	22.1	2,536	39.6	561
23-24	0.1	6,770	*	5	12.0	1,977	43.3	236
Residence								
Urban	0.4	5,510	36.5	21	34.5	1,386	53.1	479
Rural	0.4	17,596	17.4	64	23.2	4,145	28.2	960
Education								
No education	0.2	9,182	*	23	15.7	1,031	23.2	162
<5 years complete	0.5	1,959	*	9	21.0	615	29.8	129
5-7 years complete	0.4	4,413	*	18	24.2	1,241	31.9	300
8-9 years complete	0.7	3,575	(32.1)	24	28.4	1,344	35.2	382
10-11 years complete	0.1	2,143	*	2	39.5	623	42.0	246
12 or more years complete	0.5	1,832	*	9	32.5	674	52.6	219
Regular media exposure²								
Yes	0.4	13,586	24.8	53	29.1	4,382	38.5	1,276
No	0.3	9,520	(17.8)	32	14.2	1,150	20.7	163
Marital status								
Never married ³	50.3	119	24.5	60	94.3	1,371	38.0	1,292
Currently married	0.1	22,877	*	17	3.4	4,132	23.6	139
Divorced/separated/ widowed/deserted	7.8	110	*	9	(27.7)	29	*	8
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months								
None	na	na	na	na	21.8	1,151	46.9	251
1-2	na	na	na	na	26.6	929	43.2	247
3-4	na	na	na	na	25.2	1,063	30.2	267
5+	na	na	na	na	28.0	2,363	32.8	662
Time away in the past 12 months								
Away for more than 1 month	na	na	na	na	28.9	1,065	30.4	308
Away for 1 month or less	na	na	na	na	26.5	3,309	35.5	878
Not away	na	na	na	na	21.8	1,151	46.9	251

Continued...

Table 11.25 Higher-risk sexual intercourse among youth and condom use at last higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months—Continued

Background characteristic	Women age 15-24				Men age 15-24			
	Women who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months		Women who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹		Men who had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months		Men who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months ¹	
	Percentage who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months	Number of women	Percentage who reported using a condom at last higher-risk intercourse ¹	Number of women who had higher-risk intercourse ¹	Percentage who had higher-risk intercourse in the past 12 months	Number of men	Percentage who reported using a condom at last higher-risk intercourse ¹	Number of men who had higher-risk intercourse ¹
Employment (past 12 months)								
Employed	0.6	7,466	15.3	48	23.0	5,132	35.8	1,180
Professional	1.7	204	*	3	30.3	135	(53.3)	41
Sales worker	0.3	156	*	0	35.2	616	39.2	217
Service worker	0.1	249	*	0	24.5	225	54.1	55
Production worker	0.5	1,493	*	8	23.5	2,188	36.8	513
Agricultural worker	0.7	5,325	(7.4)	35	16.6	1,852	25.0	308
Other worker	3.5	41	*	1	39.8	116	(44.0)	46
Not employed	0.2	15,638	31.1	37	64.8	395	39.9	256
Religion								
Hindu	0.4	18,810	23.0	71	25.0	4,622	34.2	1,158
Muslim	0.0	3,426	*	0	25.9	639	42.7	166
Christian	2.4	327	16.4	8	39.7	70	53.8	28
Sikh	1.0	257	*	3	47.7	122	(47.9)	58
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	0.0	146	a	0	55.3	43	(63.0)	24
Jain	0.0	25	a	0	*	8	*	5
Other	3.0	92	*	3	2.9	26	*	1
Caste/tribe								
Scheduled caste	0.6	4,870	*	27	28.0	1,338	34.6	374
Scheduled tribe	1.0	2,157	9.9	21	21.2	679	25.7	144
Other backward class	0.2	9,526	*	21	23.3	2,147	30.2	500
Other	0.2	6,370	*	15	30.7	1,341	49.7	411
Don't know	0.0	92	*	0	*	5	*	2
Wealth index								
Lowest	0.6	5,078	*	30	21.7	1,190	19.7	258
Second	0.3	5,394	*	18	21.8	1,377	25.2	300
Middle	0.3	5,105	(23.0)	14	25.0	1,253	32.6	313
Fourth	0.3	4,544	(36.7)	15	27.9	1,065	44.7	297
Highest	0.3	2,986	*	9	42.0	647	60.4	272
Total	0.4	23,106	22.2	85	26.0	5,532	36.5	1,439

Note: Total includes women/men with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe, and men with missing information on number of times slept away from home in the past 12 months and time away in the past 12 months, who are not shown separately.
a = No cases
na = Not available
() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases.
* Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases.
¹ Sexual intercourse with a partner who was neither a spouse nor who lived with the respondent.
² Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.
³ Includes women/men who are married, but whose *gauna* has not been performed. If women/men who are married, but whose *gauna* has not been performed, report having sex with their husband, the sex is not considered higher risk.

The proportion of sexually active young women reporting higher-risk sexual activity in the past 12 months is too small to draw meaningful inferences by background characteristics. Nonetheless, it is not unexpected that among young women who have had sex, higher-risk sex declines with age and is much higher among never married women than currently married women. This is because the share of those who are married and thus are having sex with a marital partner (defined as not high risk) increases with age. Note that the high proportion of the never married who are categorized as not having higher-risk sex are those who are in the category ‘married but *gauna* not performed’ and report recent sexual activity with their husband. In most other tables, these women are categorized as not married because they are not cohabiting with their spouse.

As in the case of women, the share of higher-risk sexual activity in all sexual activity engaged in by male youth declines with age. For men, urban residence, regular media exposure, time spent away from home, and wealth quintile are all strongly and positively associated with youth having higher-risk sex. However, the proportion of men having higher-risk sex first increases with education from 16 percent among men with no education to 40 percent among those who have 10-11 years of completed education but then declines to 33 percent among those with higher education. Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist, Sikh, and Christian youth are more likely than Hindu or Muslim youth to report higher-risk sexual behaviour.

Among sexually active young men who engaged in higher-risk sex during the 12 months preceding the survey, those who are older (age 20-24), never married, living in urban areas, have completed 12 or more years of education, have regular media exposure, have not slept away from home in the past 12 months, are in the highest wealth quintile, and do not belong to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, or other backward classes are more likely to have used a condom during their last higher-risk intercourse than their counterparts.

11.8.5 Age-Mixing in Sexual Relationships

In many societies, young women have sexual relationships with men who are considerably older than themselves. Sexual relations with a significantly older partner may be consensual or may be forced or coerced. A culture of silence surrounding sexuality may result in young women not registering any formal or informal complaint when forced by a man to have sex. Recent studies (Kishor and Johnson, 2006; Watts and Zimmerman, 2002) have highlighted the dynamics of sexual violence, which includes lack of young women's control over their own sexuality. In most cases of sexual violence against young women, the male perpetrators are older than the women, be they a family friend, a relative, or a stranger. Sex between young women and men who are significantly older than the women is theorized to be one of the contributing factors to the spread of HIV and other STIs, under the assumption that older men have been exposed to the risk of HIV and other STIs longer than have the younger women they have sex with, whether it is forced or consensual sex. Accordingly, NFHS-3 asked all women age 15-24 who had sex in the 12 months prior to the survey to identify the age of their last sexual partner and, if they had more than one partner, the age of their next-to-last sexual partner. Women who could not state the exact age of their sexual partner were asked to estimate whether or not the partner was 10 or more years older than them.

Overall, NFHS-3 found that 11 percent of women age 15-19 who had higher-risk sexual intercourse in the 12 months preceding the survey report having sex with a man who was 10 or more years older than themselves. However, the total number of young women age 15-19 who engaged in higher-risk sex in the 12-month period prior to the survey is too few to assess meaningful associations in age mixing by background characteristics. Accordingly, these data are not shown.

11.8.6 HIV Testing

One of the major challenges of the HIV prevention programme in India is the ignorance and denial of HIV risk, especially among youth. More than two-fifths of youth in India believe that they are not vulnerable to HIV although there is growing evidence of increased risky sexual

behaviour among youth (NACO, 2004). In addition, young people, particularly unmarried youth, often face barriers in accessing reproductive health services, particularly services relating to sexual health. As a result, youth are less likely to have their HIV status tested despite the increasing number of VCT centres across the country. To obtain information on the prevalence of HIV testing, all respondents in NFHS-3 were asked whether they had ever been tested for HIV/AIDS. While asking this question, it was clearly specified that the interviewer did not have any intention to know the test results. Respondents who said that they had been tested were asked whether they got the results of their last test.

Table 11.26 Recent HIV tests among youth

Among women and men age 15-24 who have had sexual intercourse in the past 12 months, percentage who have had an HIV test in the past 12 months and received the results of the test, by background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Background characteristic	Women		Men	
	Percentage who have been tested for HIV in the past 12 months and received results	Number of women	Percentage who have been tested for HIV in the past 12 months and received results	Number of men
Age				
15-19	2.0	6,649	0.6	1,019
15-17	1.3	2,204	0.2	360
18-19	2.4	4,445	0.8	658
20-24	2.8	16,457	1.3	4,513
20-22	2.6	9,686	0.9	2,536
23-24	3.0	6,770	1.8	1,977
Residence				
Urban	5.3	5,510	1.9	1,386
Rural	1.7	17,596	1.0	4,145
Education				
No education	0.7	9,182	0.1	1,031
<5 years complete	1.3	1,959	0.2	615
5-7 years complete	1.8	4,413	1.1	1,241
8-9 years complete	3.2	3,575	0.9	1,344
10-11 years complete	6.5	2,143	3.5	623
12 or more years complete	9.5	1,832	2.5	674
Regular media exposure¹				
Yes	4.0	13,586	1.5	4,382
No	0.5	9,520	0.1	1,150
Marital status				
Never married	0.2	119	0.9	1,371
Currently married	2.6	22,877	1.3	4,132
Divorced/separated/widowed/deserted	0.1	110	(0.1)	29
Times slept away from home in the past 12 months				
None	na	na	1.7	1,151
1-2	na	na	1.4	929
3-4	na	na	1.0	1,063
5+	na	na	1.0	2,363
Time away in the past 12 months				
Away for more than 1 month	na	na	1.3	1,065
Away for 1 month or less	na	na	1.0	3,309
Not away	na	na	1.7	1,151
Employment (past 12 months)				
Employed	1.5	7,466	1.2	5,132
Professional	9.0	204	1.7	135
Sales worker	5.4	156	2.3	616
Service worker	1.9	249	3.1	225
Production worker	1.6	1,493	1.0	2,188
Agricultural worker	1.0	5,325	0.8	1,852
Other worker	13.2	41	1.1	116
Not employed	3.1	15,638	1.4	395

Continued...

Table 11.26 Recent HIV tests among youth—*Continued*

Background characteristic	Women		Men	
	Percentage who have been tested for HIV in the past 12 months and received results	Number of women	Percentage who have been tested for HIV in the past 12 months and received results	Number of men
Religion				
Hindu	2.5	18,810	1.1	4,622
Muslim	2.6	3,426	0.8	639
Christian	6.8	327	2.6	70
Sikh	1.3	257	4.9	122
Buddhist/Neo-Buddhist	5.8	146	1.9	43
Jain	(9.5)	25	*	8
Other	1.5	92	0.4	26
Caste/tribe				
Scheduled caste	2.1	4,870	0.9	1,338
Scheduled tribe	1.2	2,157	0.5	679
Other backward class	3.0	9,526	1.1	2,147
Other	2.7	6,370	2.1	1,341
Don't know	2.9	92	*	5
Wealth index				
Lowest	0.3	5,078	0.5	1,190
Second	1.0	5,394	0.4	1,377
Middle	2.7	5,105	0.9	1,253
Fourth	3.9	4,544	1.7	1,065
Highest	6.9	2,986	3.8	647
Total	2.6	23,106	1.2	5,532

Note: Total includes women/men with missing information on education, employment (past 12 months), religion, and caste/tribe and men with missing information on number of times slept away from home in the past 12 months and time away in the past 12 months, who are not shown separately.
na = Not applicable
() Based on 25-49 unweighted cases.
* Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases.
¹ Exposure to radio, television, or newspapers/magazines at least once a week.

Table 11.26 shows the percentage of youth who have had sex in the past 12 months who were tested for HIV/AIDS in the past 12 months and got the result of the most recent test. Sexually active young women are more likely than sexually active young men to have been tested for HIV/AIDS and received their results, although the percentages are very low for both groups (3 percent for women and 1 percent for men). Given the generally low level of testing, differences across groups should be interpreted with caution. Nonetheless, for both women and men the proportions that were tested and got the results increase with age, education, and wealth quintiles. The proportions are also higher among urban than rural residents, among those regularly exposed to media, and among Christians. Notably, young Sikh men have a higher proportion (5 percent) than young men of other religions who have been tested for HIV/AIDS in the past 12 months and received their result.

11.9 ATTITUDES TOWARD FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

Empowering youth with age-appropriate knowledge about the development of the body, sexuality, modes of transmission and prevention of sexually transmitted infections, and the means of maintaining a healthy and safe sexual life is important for the health and welfare of future generations, but is also a key to fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS. Accordingly, working with NGOs, NACO is implementing a School AIDS Education Programme in which HIV/AIDS education, integrated within a broader framework of building family life skills, is provided to students in standards 9-11 and through extracurricular activities.

Given the importance of these efforts, questions that assess the acceptability of providing information in schools on HIV/AIDS and related family-life topics were included for the first time in NFHS-3. NFHS-3 asked all respondents whether they thought that boys and girls in school should be taught about the following topics: moral values, changes in the bodies of boys and girls at puberty (including menstruation), sex and sexual behaviour, contraception, HIV/AIDS, and condom use to avoid sexually transmitted diseases. For each of these topics respondents were first asked whether they believe the topic should be taught in school, and if they said yes, they were asked the age at which the topic should first be taught. Women and men were asked these questions separately for boys and girls. The findings are shown in Table 11.27. The data provide evidence of widespread approval among both women and men age 15-49 of teaching several of these topics in school, including HIV/AIDS. It is hoped that this nationally representative information, the first of its kind, will reinforce and help to guide programmes such as the School AIDS Education Programme.

Table 11.27 shows that almost all women (98 percent) and men (99 percent) say that girls and boys should be taught about moral values in school, and the majority say that such teaching should begin when the children are young (less than 10 years old). The next most commonly approved topics are HIV/AIDS and changes at puberty in the bodies of girls and boys. Approval of teaching about changes at puberty is greatest among both women and men for teaching girls about girls' bodies and boys about boys' bodies. Seventy-six percent of women and 77 percent of men say that girls should be taught about changes in girls' bodies and 68 percent of women and 82 percent of men say that boys should be taught about changes in boys' bodies. The proportion who say that girls should be taught about changes in boys' bodies and boys should be taught about changes in girls' bodies is much smaller, but still substantial. Overall, 54 percent of women and 69 percent of men say that girls should be taught about changes in boys' bodies and 41 percent of women and 64 percent of men say that boys should be taught about changes in girls' bodies. Notably, more men than women approve of teaching these topics to children, including teaching boys about girls' bodies and girls about boys' bodies. Among those who approve of this topic being taught in school, the highest proportion say that it should be first taught to girls and boys when they are 13-15 years of age.

HIV/AIDS is another topic which the majority of women and men agree should be taught in school: almost two out of three women (63 percent) and more than four out of five men (81-82 percent) say that this topic should be taught to both boys and girls. However, women who agree are most likely to say that the topic should be first taught to children when they are at least 16 years old (42-43 percent) and somewhat less likely to say that it should be first taught to children age 13-15 years old. Men by contrast are slightly more likely to say that it should be first taught to children when they are 13-15 years old than when children are 16 years or older. Topics related to HIV/AIDS are sex and sexual behaviour and condom use to avoid sexually transmitted diseases. Even for the teaching of these topics, although the approval is somewhat lower than for the other topics, it is fairly substantial. More than two in five women approve of both topics being taught in school and approval is even higher among men, at 62 percent for teaching about sexual behaviour and 68-70 percent for teaching about condoms. For these topics too, the favoured age at introduction of the topic is 16 years or older. However, among both men and women, a significant proportion also feels that they can be taught at ages 13-15.

Table 11.27 Attitudes toward family life education in school

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 who agree that specific topics on family life education should be taught in school to girls and to boys, and percent distribution of those who agree that a specific topic should be taught in school by the age at which they believe that the topic should first be taught in school, according to background characteristics, India, 2005-06

Topics	Percent- age who say that the topic should be taught in school to girls		Age topic should be first taught in school to girls				Number of respond- ents	Percent- age who say that the topic should be taught in school to boys	Age topic should be first taught in school to boys				Number who say that topic should be taught in school to boys					
	<10 years	10-12 years	13-15 years	16 years or older	Don't know/ missing	Total			<10 years	10-12 years	13-15 years	16 years or older		Don't know/ missing	Total			
WOMEN																		
Moral values	97.9	124,385	78.9	14.9	4.2	1.1	0.9	100.0	121,788	98.0	124,385	79.5	14.1	4.1	1.1	1.1	100.0	121,898
Changes in boys' bodies at puberty	53.9	124,385	6.7	36.7	41.1	13.3	2.1	100.0	67,076	67.8	124,385	7.2	34.1	41.6	14.1	3.0	100.0	84,309
Changes in girls' bodies at puberty including menstruation	76.1	124,385	2.9	37.0	50.2	8.8	1.1	100.0	94,672	41.1	124,385	2.4	23.6	49.7	21.4	2.9	100.0	51,128
Sex and sexual behaviour	46.4	124,385	1.2	10.3	40.7	45.2	2.6	100.0	57,694	42.9	124,385	1.4	9.4	37.5	48.6	3.1	100.0	53,330
Contraception	48.5	124,385	0.9	6.7	33.7	56.2	2.5	100.0	60,380	42.0	124,385	0.9	6.1	30.2	59.6	3.3	100.0	52,194
HIV/AIDS	63.4	124,385	2.4	13.1	37.8	43.1	3.6	100.0	78,916	63.1	124,385	2.7	12.9	36.2	44.1	4.1	100.0	78,491
Condom use to avoid sexually transmitted diseases	43.6	124,385	0.9	5.7	28.4	60.9	4.1	100.0	54,175	42.8	124,385	1.0	5.3	25.6	63.4	4.7	100.0	53,268
MEN																		
Moral values	99.0	69,751	76.8	15.7	5.8	1.3	0.5	100.0	69,030	99.2	69,751	77.9	15.1	5.2	1.3	0.4	100.0	69,172
Changes in boys' bodies at puberty	68.9	69,751	7.1	30.4	43.8	17.6	1.0	100.0	48,030	81.7	69,751	9.3	29.6	43.1	16.8	1.1	100.0	56,954
Changes in girls' bodies at puberty including menstruation	77.1	69,751	2.7	26.4	52.0	18.0	0.9	100.0	53,743	63.9	69,751	3.0	19.8	49.4	26.4	1.4	100.0	44,577
Sex and sexual behaviour	62.1	69,751	1.5	12.3	41.7	43.2	1.3	100.0	43,306	62.4	69,751	1.8	11.2	38.9	46.7	1.4	100.0	43,556
Contraception	65.4	69,751	1.4	10.3	38.8	48.3	1.2	100.0	45,617	63.7	69,751	1.5	9.0	35.7	52.4	1.4	100.0	44,407
HIV/AIDS	80.5	69,751	5.1	18.5	39.8	35.3	1.4	100.0	56,154	81.6	69,751	5.5	18.4	38.4	36.2	1.4	100.0	56,910
Condom use to avoid sexually transmitted diseases	67.7	69,751	1.6	9.8	35.1	51.9	1.5	100.0	47,235	69.8	69,751	1.6	9.2	33.9	53.8	1.5	100.0	48,669

Finally, contraception is an important aspect of family life education. Learning about contraception can help women and men achieve their desired family size. About half of women approve of teaching girls about contraception and somewhat less approve of teaching boys (42 percent) about contraception. A majority of those who agree say that the topic of contraception should be first taught when children are at least 16 years old. By contrast, about two-thirds of men say that contraception should be a topic taught in school. However, as is the case for women, most men who approve of teaching about contraception in school say that it should be taught when children are 16 years or older.

Tables 11.28.1 and 11.28.2 present women's and men's approval of teaching different family life education topics to girls and boys in school by state. The tables show almost universal approval among both women and men in all states for teaching moral values in school to boys and girls. Approval for teaching girls about changes in girls' bodies at puberty and for teaching boys about changes in boys' bodies at puberty is also considerable in most states. For teaching girls about their bodies, approval among women ranges from 70-95 percent in 24 of 29 states and falls below 50 percent only in Assam (42 percent). Similarly, approval among men ranges from 70-95 percent in 23 of 29 states, and does not fall below 50 percent in any state. Among men, approval for teaching this topic to girls is also lowest in Assam (54 percent). Similarly, for teaching boys about their bodies, the majority of women (more than 70 percent in 16 states) and the majority of men (more than 70 percent in 23 states) approve in almost all states. Assam and West Bengal are the only two states where the majority of women do not approve of teaching boys about changes in boys' bodies at puberty. Notably, the percentage approving of teaching boys about changes in their bodies is higher among men than women in all states except Nagaland, Sikkim, and Goa.

In all states, approval among men and women is lower for teaching boys about changes in girls' bodies and teaching girls about changes in boys' bodies. Nonetheless, even for these topics in most states the majority of women and men approve of the topics being taught to the opposite sex. Specifically, at least two-thirds of men approve of teaching girls about changes in boys' bodies in 18 of the 29 states and of teaching boys about changes in girls' bodies in 12 states. Most women do not approve of teaching girls about changes in boys' bodies in four states in the North Region (Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, and Punjab) and in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Assam, and Tamil Nadu. Most women do not approve of teaching boys about changes in girls' bodies at puberty in 15 states. By contrast, a majority of men approve of teaching both girls and boys about changes in the other sex's bodies at puberty in all states except Assam, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, and West Bengal. Even in states where approval among men is below 50 percent, it is never below 40 percent.

Approval of teaching HIV/AIDS in school to boys and girls is high in most states. Among women, at least two-thirds approve of teaching the topic of HIV/AIDS to girls in 16 states and to boys in 16 states. Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, and Rajasthan are the only states where less than half of women approve of teaching this topic to girls and boys in school. Among men, approval for teaching girls and boys about HIV/AIDS is 70 percent or higher in 24 states. The only states where the percentage is below 70 for both boys and girls are Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal, Assam, and Meghalaya. Even in these states, however, about two-thirds of men approve.

Table 11.28.1 Family life education in school by state: Women's attitudes

State	Percentage of women who say that topic should be taught in school to girls										Percentage of women who say that topic should be taught in school to boys				
	Moral values					Changes in girls' bodies at puberty including menstruation					Sexual behaviour				
	Moral values	Changes in boys' bodies at puberty	Changes in girls' bodies at puberty including menstruation	Sexual behaviour	Contraception	HIV/AIDS	Condom use to avoid sexually transmitted diseases	Moral values	Changes in boys' bodies at puberty	Changes in girls' bodies at puberty including menstruation	Sexual behaviour	Contraception	HIV/AIDS	Condom use to avoid sexually transmitted diseases	
India	97.9	53.9	76.1	46.4	48.5	63.4	43.6	98.0	67.8	41.1	42.9	42.0	63.1	42.8	
North															
Delhi	99.5	79.9	95.4	78.0	76.8	86.6	80.5	99.6	90.2	62.5	74.3	72.0	86.4	78.2	
Haryana	98.6	57.0	80.7	45.4	44.9	64.2	45.9	99.2	70.7	43.7	44.0	42.5	63.5	46.6	
Himachal Pradesh	99.0	45.1	87.4	46.1	45.9	77.1	50.3	99.2	73.6	35.7	40.4	34.8	76.9	50.6	
Jammu & Kashmir	98.8	55.1	84.6	49.5	55.1	71.6	49.5	99.1	75.3	42.8	43.6	47.4	71.1	48.2	
Punjab	98.9	48.7	80.6	38.2	37.7	67.0	38.4	98.8	63.1	33.4	36.7	34.8	67.5	40.5	
Rajasthan	98.9	41.7	72.0	35.5	42.2	49.6	35.4	99.0	59.8	31.1	33.8	37.4	49.8	35.0	
Uttaranchal	98.6	45.6	76.2	47.7	48.3	64.2	49.4	98.5	68.4	28.5	36.9	33.5	62.5	44.9	
Central															
Chhattisgarh	98.6	51.6	77.6	42.3	47.2	53.3	40.0	98.6	59.4	36.3	36.3	36.9	52.9	38.9	
Madhya Pradesh	99.2	63.2	87.2	61.3	65.4	65.8	60.8	99.1	75.8	53.2	57.2	60.5	65.7	60.6	
Uttar Pradesh	98.6	45.5	76.0	47.6	52.5	63.9	44.7	98.7	67.3	30.0	43.8	45.9	63.4	43.7	
East															
Bihar	97.5	58.7	75.6	50.5	49.6	41.7	40.9	97.8	68.8	48.3	45.4	42.8	41.5	40.5	
Jharkhand	99.0	58.0	87.7	59.8	62.6	77.3	64.5	98.6	76.1	46.1	59.1	56.0	77.6	64.5	
Orissa	94.7	43.8	56.5	37.1	43.6	59.7	32.7	94.9	53.6	36.2	34.8	37.7	59.6	32.0	
West Bengal	97.5	37.5	51.4	31.8	30.7	43.3	31.4	97.5	47.2	26.3	28.0	27.0	42.4	30.4	
Northeast															
Arunachal Pradesh	99.6	73.3	91.7	52.5	62.6	81.4	63.1	99.6	85.1	63.3	49.6	54.3	81.4	64.0	
Assam	98.2	32.9	41.7	21.0	18.7	46.9	15.5	98.2	39.9	23.0	18.4	15.0	46.3	14.2	
Manipur	98.5	65.9	80.6	46.0	49.7	92.4	50.2	98.6	80.0	47.5	43.4	44.9	92.1	49.9	
Meghalaya	94.7	60.9	65.0	52.1	48.7	62.3	46.9	94.9	66.6	53.9	51.5	47.1	62.5	47.0	
Mizoram	99.4	60.9	92.2	72.3	53.2	93.2	63.6	99.4	89.2	55.5	72.0	37.4	93.5	68.2	
Nagaland	98.6	56.1	76.1	52.8	50.6	81.0	47.6	98.7	69.2	53.1	52.7	45.4	81.1	48.3	
Sikkim	99.3	62.4	86.2	59.2	65.5	82.5	60.5	99.4	79.0	53.9	56.7	58.3	82.1	58.9	
Tripura	98.9	52.5	67.6	39.5	41.7	62.8	35.2	98.8	64.4	30.5	36.5	35.7	62.4	35.1	
West															
Goa	96.5	73.1	86.5	66.6	63.1	81.8	66.2	96.5	82.0	61.7	62.8	57.0	81.7	65.1	
Gujarat	99.3	77.7	85.8	67.2	66.7	69.2	64.0	99.4	82.7	62.6	64.1	60.8	68.5	62.5	
Maharashtra	96.1	60.6	80.9	46.4	48.6	75.8	46.6	96.4	71.6	43.3	43.5	40.9	75.7	45.6	
South															
Andhra Pradesh	95.9	60.7	78.6	41.4	39.9	66.0	39.2	95.8	76.3	50.0	38.5	36.3	65.3	38.0	
Karnataka	97.8	67.7	85.3	48.7	51.3	72.7	45.2	97.8	76.3	53.4	43.8	41.0	72.0	43.4	
Kerala	98.0	68.9	89.6	60.5	54.5	85.7	54.9	98.0	85.9	54.9	54.7	41.8	86.0	51.7	
Tamil Nadu	99.6	44.7	83.1	42.3	51.9	76.4	29.9	99.6	63.8	35.5	39.8	39.8	76.3	32.1	

Table 11.28.2 Family life education in school by state: Men's attitudes

Percentage of men age 15-49 who say that specified topics on family life education should be taught to girls and to boys in school according to topic, by state, India, 2005-06

State	Percentage of men who say that topic should be taught in school to girls					Percentage of men who say that topic should be taught in school to boys								
	Moral values	Changes in boys' bodies at puberty	Changes in girls' bodies at puberty including menstruation	Sex and sexual behaviour	Contra-ception	HIV/AIDS	Condom use to avoid sexually transmitted diseases	Moral values	Changes in boys' bodies at puberty	Changes in girls' bodies at puberty including menstruation	Sex and sexual behaviour	Contra-ception	HIV/AIDS	Condom use to avoid sexually transmitted diseases
India	99.0	68.9	77.1	62.1	65.4	80.5	67.7	99.2	81.7	63.9	62.4	63.7	81.6	69.8
North														
Delhi	99.4	84.0	92.9	84.1	86.9	94.3	89.9	99.4	94.4	83.0	85.0	85.6	94.7	90.8
Haryana	98.4	71.4	74.3	61.2	64.8	82.5	70.6	98.4	82.8	61.9	63.0	64.5	83.6	71.9
Himachal Pradesh	99.7	61.5	73.9	69.2	72.8	92.7	71.7	99.5	78.5	59.1	69.1	69.1	92.0	74.4
Jammu & Kashmir	100.0	54.8	72.1	51.3	60.3	83.5	53.7	99.9	81.6	52.2	53.9	62.1	86.5	70.7
Punjab	99.0	79.7	79.6	70.3	75.3	87.3	80.8	99.3	85.8	70.2	72.5	75.5	87.5	83.4
Rajasthan	99.9	58.3	74.6	52.4	59.4	74.0	62.2	99.8	74.3	53.6	52.9	58.7	76.6	65.6
Uttaranchal	99.8	85.6	87.9	76.7	78.9	90.5	81.1	99.9	93.0	75.0	77.5	79.0	91.8	83.0
Central														
Chhattisgarh	99.2	59.1	67.1	57.4	61.5	70.5	61.6	99.5	78.5	59.4	61.7	60.6	72.9	64.1
Madhya Pradesh	98.4	73.8	84.2	68.0	70.9	81.5	77.2	98.5	85.6	72.1	69.0	70.3	82.9	80.7
Uttar Pradesh	99.6	71.8	81.0	67.1	71.2	81.4	72.5	99.7	88.5	68.1	68.5	71.5	83.1	74.9
East														
Bihar	99.5	74.3	80.8	61.0	61.0	77.0	65.6	100.0	89.9	67.4	60.4	58.9	78.1	67.0
Jharkhand	99.5	77.0	74.8	52.4	53.1	63.5	55.1	99.6	82.8	65.1	54.6	52.5	65.7	57.0
Orissa	98.5	52.3	56.1	45.8	46.9	64.1	49.3	99.0	62.1	45.3	44.6	44.5	64.8	51.0
West Bengal	95.7	54.9	63.9	44.0	46.9	62.8	48.4	96.0	66.5	44.7	41.8	41.9	63.0	47.8
Northeast														
Arunachal Pradesh	97.7	74.6	86.1	65.3	72.9	83.1	60.9	97.6	86.3	70.0	65.5	72.2	83.7	62.7
Assam	99.4	48.8	54.0	31.9	30.5	62.7	29.5	99.6	61.2	46.8	32.3	28.5	63.5	30.3
Manipur	97.9	75.1	83.2	68.1	68.6	95.3	77.6	98.0	85.6	70.6	67.9	67.1	95.6	78.3
Meghalaya	95.9	65.6	66.5	55.9	53.5	68.8	55.1	96.0	68.2	62.4	55.0	53.0	69.1	54.8
Mizoram	100.0	63.5	90.4	70.0	56.6	95.9	69.9	100.0	91.9	60.1	69.8	46.5	96.4	80.5
Nagaland	97.3	53.2	66.6	53.6	53.9	86.3	56.4	97.3	64.8	51.0	53.0	51.6	86.5	56.6
Sikkim	99.8	69.5	75.1	74.3	77.2	92.7	79.8	99.8	75.6	65.1	73.6	73.5	93.0	82.3
Tripura	99.4	67.2	76.5	52.7	60.1	83.1	62.4	99.4	77.2	53.6	49.8	54.3	84.1	62.6
West														
Goa	97.3	69.9	72.5	69.0	66.7	85.3	73.5	97.5	73.6	68.6	69.3	65.6	86.1	73.8
Gujarat	99.4	84.0	85.5	76.4	80.1	86.1	83.3	99.8	87.7	80.6	75.4	79.3	87.3	83.3
Maharashtra	99.0	75.1	77.2	67.0	68.7	87.0	70.5	99.4	85.7	65.5	66.5	66.7	87.7	72.2
South														
Andhra Pradesh	99.3	72.0	81.2	64.2	67.3	89.0	70.7	99.4	82.0	71.0	64.5	64.2	89.5	73.8
Karnataka	99.3	69.0	88.8	74.0	77.4	91.3	82.2	99.4	90.9	82.1	74.6	76.1	91.6	82.3
Kerala	99.2	69.5	85.0	71.6	69.0	92.2	73.2	99.4	90.1	66.1	69.7	62.3	93.4	73.7
Tamil Nadu	99.8	43.9	71.2	58.3	69.7	86.8	64.7	100.0	69.2	44.1	60.4	66.0	88.3	70.3

Approval of teaching of sex and sexual behaviour in school and condom use to prevent sexually transmitted diseases are relatively low in several states, particularly among women. Nonetheless, a majority of women approve of teaching the topic of sex and sexual behaviour to girls in 13 states and to boys in 10 states. A majority of women approve of teaching about condom use to prevent sexually transmitted diseases to girls in 11 states and to boys in 10 states. A majority of men approve of teaching sex and sexual behaviour, as well as condom use for prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, to girls and boys in almost all states. The only states where most men do not agree are Orissa, Assam, and West Bengal.

Finally, the approval among women of the teaching of contraception in school is relatively low in a large number of states, particularly for teaching the topic to boys. Overall, the majority of women agree that the topic should be taught in school to girls in 14 states but to boys in only seven states. Approval of teaching this topic to girls and boys is lowest in Assam (19 percent and 15 percent, respectively). Approval among men about teaching contraception in school is quite high, however. The majority of men approve of teaching girls about contraception in school in 26 states and teaching boys about contraception in 25 states. Again, men in Assam, Orissa, and West Bengal have lower levels of approval.

