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Brazil says it has AIDS under control

BRASILIA: Brazil said Monday its AIDS epidemic was under control, with a 0.61 per cent cut in new cases between 2009 and 2010, although a rise among young homosexuals was a cause for concern.

“The AIDS epidemic remains stable,” the health ministry said in its latest epidemiological report.

The statistics in Latin America’s biggest country showed that the number of new cases fell 0.61 per cent between 2009 and 2010 from 35,979 to 34,212.

“We are seeing a downward

trend in the number of cases over the years. People are living longer and better with the disease,” Health Minister Alexandre Padilha told a press conference.

The number of cases since records began in 1980 totaled 608,230 until last June.

The number of deaths from the disease also fell, from 12,097 in 2009 to 11,965 in 2010.

Brazil, with a population of more than 191 million, produces 10 of the 20 AIDS drugs and also distributes them to African and Latin American countries.

— AFP