

Headline	50 million Asian women at risk of HIV infection	Language	English
Date	12 Aug 2009	Page No	37
MediaTitle	The Star	Article Size	69 cm²
Section	World	Color	Black/white
Journalist	N/A	PRValue	3,758
Frequency	Daily		
ADValue	1,253		



50 million Asian women at risk of HIV infection

NUSA DUA (Indonesia): More than 1.5 million women living with HIV in Asia were infected by their husbands or boyfriends and 50 million more are at risk of infection.

The "HIV Transmission in Intimate Partner Relationships in Asia" report by UNAIDS released yesterday said the women at risk are either married or in long-term relationships with men who engage in "high-risk sexual behaviours".

"That is, men who have sex with men, injecting drug users, the clients of sex workers," UNAIDS regional director Prasada Rao said.

"(It's) a problem of great magnitude that the countries have largely ignored (and) a challenge that we may no longer ignore," Rao told reporters on the sidelines of the ninth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP), which is being held in Bali.

Women accounted for 35% of all adult HIV infections in Asia in 2008, up from 17% in 1990.

In Cambodia, India and Thailand, the largest number of new HIV infections occur among married women and in Indonesia the virus is now spreading to long-term partners and sex workers, it added. — AFP