

Fiji's HIV Outbreak 2026

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Science and Technology | Health

Why in News?

Fiji will be confronting one of the region's most urgent health challenges, the fastest-growing HIV outbreak in the world.

- **Prevalence Rate** - Adult HIV prevalence in Fiji has reached **1.6%** (roughly **1 in every 60 adults**).
- **Undiagnosed Majority** - Only **1/3** of people living with HIV in Fiji know their status, and only **1/4** are currently receiving treatment.
- **Projections** - Annual new infections are projected to **triple by 2030**.
- **Impact on Children** - Approximately one child per week is born with HIV in Fiji, and one child dies every month due to AIDS-related complications.
- **Key Drivers Behind the Outbreak**
 - **Substance Use** - Rising methamphetamine use accompanied by needle-sharing practices.
 - **Funding & Health System Strain**- Disruptions to prevention/treatment funding and broader health system pressures.
 - **Stigma & Culture of Silence** - Social stigma and fear of discrimination discourage people from getting tested or seeking treatment early.
- **National Response** - Fiji declared an official outbreak in January 2025 and established a dedicated National HIV Outbreak Cluster Response Task Force.
- **Prevention & Treatment Tools** - Expanded availability of oral **PrEP** (pre-exposure prophylaxis).
- In line to receive **Lenacapavir** (a long-acting injectable HIV prevention drug) through the Global Fund.
- **International Support**- Australia pledged over **US\$10 million** in direct aid, alongside technical and financial support from UNAIDS, WHO, and other international organizations.

Regional Implications & Call to Action

- **Interconnected Pacific Hub** - Due to travel, tourism, seasonal employment, and family networks connecting Fiji with Australia, New Zealand, and other Pacific island nations, the outbreak poses a broader regional health security challenge.
- **Tackling Stigma** - Addressing confidentiality concerns and providing culturally safe health services across the Pacific are critical to building trust and encouraging testing.
- **Call for Pacific Solidarity** - Fiji cannot manage the crisis alone and is urging neighboring Pacific nations to step up with funding, technical assistance, capacity building, and regional health coordination.



Reference

[Down to Earth | Fiji's HIV outbreak](#)

