Truck drivers spend long periods of time away from home, and they would have a tendency to engage in relations with sex workers while on the road. A 2008 study showed that nearly a third of the long-distance truckers had paid for sex in the past twelve months.\(^1\) 2008-2009 estimates reveal HIV prevalence of 1.62% among long-distance truckers.\(^2\) Realizing the increasing prevalence of the epidemic among truck drivers and helpers, various targeted interventions have been aimed at them most often to promote preventive behaviour.

**Key Findings:**

- 95.5 percent TDH reported that they have heard about HIV/AIDS, however less than one third (21.7%) of the respondents were aware of STI.\(^3\)

- 1 out of 2 respondents were aware of modes of transmission of HIV/AIDS including vertical transmission (59.4%) and breast feeding (57.9%).\(^3\)

- A high proportion of TDHs reported to be aware that using condoms consistently every time with all partners (94.6%) and having one faithful uninfected partner (87.4%) can prevent HIV/AIDS.\(^3\)

- Only 3.1 percent of the respondents reported to perceive risk to themselves of contracting HIV/AIDS.\(^3\)

- 92.4% of TDHs reported that they used condom every time they had sex with female commercial partners. This proportion was comparatively lower in case of non-commercial and non-regular partners (50.1 percent).\(^3\)

- About 18.3 percent respondents reported that they had ever taken an HIV test. Out of those respondents who had ever taken an HIV test about 76.8 percent took a voluntary test for HIV and in case of 14.3 percent respondents, HIV test was suggested to them.\(^3\)

- Out of the 16.9% who reported one symptom of STD, 1 out 2 sought treatment.\(^3\)

- 90.1 percent Truck drivers and helpers reported that they had seen billboards/posters/leaflets on STI/HIV/AIDS.\(^3\)

- At the aggregate level, more than one-third (29.4 percent) of the respondents reported that they had received interpersonal education on HIV/AIDS\(^3\)
Moving from Communication to Behavior Change: Findings below are from the Maharashtra Behavioral Surveillance Survey 2009. Overall 3604 truck drivers and helpers were interviewed for the BSS conducted in Phase I which covered 24 districts of Maharashtra.

### EXPOSURE TO COMMUNICATION

**HIV/AIDS/STI/STD**
- IPC: 29.4%
- MASS/MID MEDIA: Seen bill boards/posters/leaflets on HIV/AIDS: 90.1%
- Attended/Participated in HIV/AIDS related Meetings: 8.7%

### IDEATION

**HIV/AIDS**
- Awareness: 95.5%
- Knowledge of Transmission:
  - Vertical Transmission: 59%
  - Breastfeeding: 57%
- Knowledge of prevention:
  - Consistent Condom Use: 94.6%
  - Abstinence: 43.8%
  - Having one uninfected and faithful partner: 87.4%
- Perceived Risks of HIV: 3.1%
- Attitude (PLHA)
  - Not willing to care for HIV infected family/friend: 21.1%
  - Will not buy veg/fruits from HIV infected vendor: 24.6%
  - Unwilling to let HIV infected teacher continue teaching: 20.9%
  - Will not shake hands with HIV infected: 21.9%

**STI/STD**
- Awareness: 21.7%

### INTENT TO CHANGE

**HIV/AIDS**
- Sexual behavior
  - Median Age at first sex with male partner: 19.7 years
  - Sex with male partner: 3.2%
  - Anal Sex: 82.1%
- Condom use
  - Last sex with female commercial partner: 97.1%
  - Consistent condom use with commercial partner: 92.4%
  - Consistent condom use with regular partner: 7.5%
- HIV Testing
  - Undergone HIV Testing: 18.3%
  - Voluntary Testing: 76.8%

**STI/STD**
- Reported one symptom of STD: 16.9%
- Sought Treatment: 51%
- Went to government hospital/clinic for treatment: 27.3%
- Went to private clinic for treatment: 23.7%

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2. NACO and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 2009-10. Annual Report