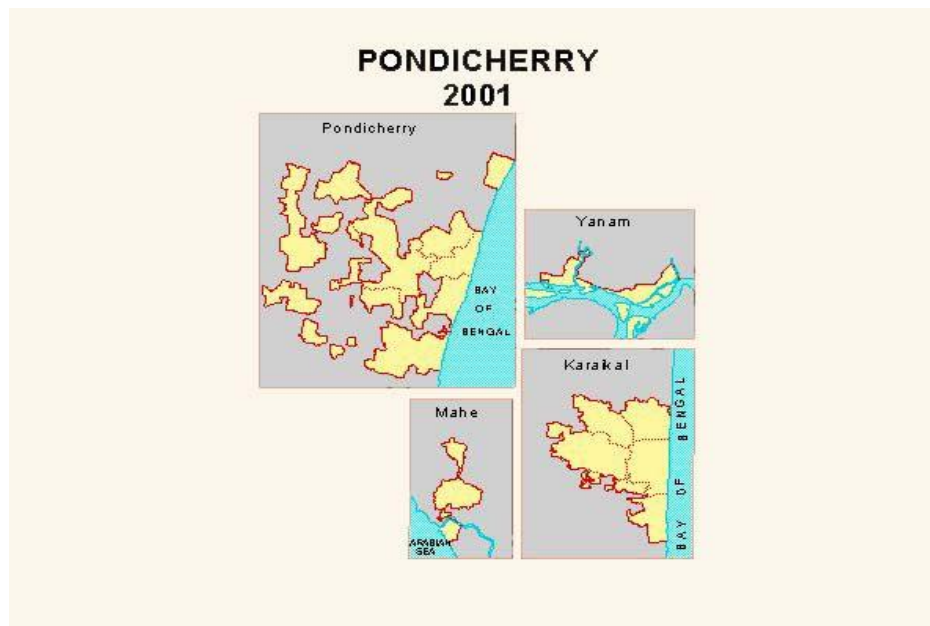


Puducherry Union Territory Profile



The Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry, with a population of 0.97 million, shares a state border and cultural and linguistic similarities with Tamil Nadu. Cross-migration between the two states for education, health, trade and tourism is very high. Puducherry is scattered over three different states and comprises of four coastal regions namely Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe, and Yanam. Puducherry and Karaikal are situated on the east coast in Tamil Nadu, Yanam in Andhra Pradesh, and Mahe in Kerala. Puducherry, is one of the most developed regions in India with good health and development indicators.

Population (2001 Census)	0.97 million
Rural	325,726 (33.43 %)
Urban	648,619 (66.57 %)
Literacy rate	81.49%
UT Health budget for 2006-07 – INR 948.5 million(Planning commission, 2006)	6.72 % of state budget

HIV/AIDS scenario and USG activities in Puducherry

The Puducherry State AIDS Control Society (PACS) is the government body responsible for the prevention, care, treatment and support programs for the UT. Recent mapping and size estimates indicate that Puducherry has nearly 3,000 – 3,800 most-at-risk-populations (MARPs) and nearly 9,000 people living with HIV/AIDS.

The strong and sustained efforts of PACS and other agencies have helped in controlling the epidemic. HIV prevalence among antenatal clinic attendees, MARPs and other groups continues to remain low.

Number of sites in 2007	HIV Prev. 2001 (%)	HIV Prev. 2002 (%)	HIV Prev. 2003 (%)	HIV Prev. 2004 (%)	HIV Prev. 2005 (%)	HIV Prev. 2006 (%)	HIV Prev. 2007 (%)
ANC (2 sites)	0.25	0.25	0.13	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.0
STD (3 sites)	2.0	2.21	2.45	5.74	4.2	4.03	2.92
MSM (2 sites)	-	-	-	5.2	5.6	2.5	2.0
FSW (3 sites)	-	-	-	1.9	0.3	1.4	1.3

USG programs coordinate with PACS to control the HIV epidemic in Puducherry. In Puducherry and Karaikal region, USG supports the targeted interventions for female sex workers, men having sex with men and migrants. These interventions have helped to saturate coverage and increase access to prevention and care services. USG also supports the Technical Support Unit (TSU) in Puducherry. The TSU supports PACS in public private partnership initiatives, mainstreaming, capacity building, strategic planning and scaling-up interventions among MARPs and bridge populations. USG has also supported the mapping of MARPs in Puducherry and covers MARPs and other groups in the annual Behavior Surveillance Surveys.