

INDIA

The 2003 WHO/HAI survey in India was conducted in the state of Rajasthan. The geographic subregions included the capital of the state, Jaipur, and 3 other regions -- Ajmer, Bikaner, and Kota. Field data were collected from April to June, 2003, from 3 sectors: public health facilities, private pharmacies, and a non-governmental sector of limited-profit cooperative pharmacy outlets. The cooperative outlets are supported by the government in that they may charge a smaller sales tax. Only procurement price data were obtained from public sector facilities, as patients in certain vulnerable categories are provided with medicines for free, while other patients take their prescriptions to private pharmacies. Public procurement prices for most medicines are fixed at state level in Rajasthan. However, a minority of substances are tendered at the subregion level. Also, in case of stock-outs, some subregional or local purchasing may occur. For these reasons, there are occasional variations among the public procurement prices. The investigators in the Rajasthan survey visited 20 outlets in each sector and gathered data on 36 different substances.