

Allahabad City

Expanding Contraceptive Use in Urban UP

Allahabad City Profile

Urban Health Initiative (UHI) is implemented by a consortium of partners working together to improve urban health in India. Allahabad city is a priority city for urban health investments.

Allahabad city, also known as Prayag, is an ancient holy city of India. The city of Allahabad is situated at the confluence of two sacred rivers, the Yamuna and the Ganges. The confluence is known as Sangam and is visited by thousands of Hindu pilgrims every year.

Allahabad is among the largest cities of Uttar Pradesh in terms of population and area. The geographical area of Allahabad is about 62 sq km (under municipal corporation). Its spatial extension falls at 25° 28' N latitude and 81°54' E longitude. The district of Allahabad is surrounded by the Pratapgarh districts in the North, district Jaunpur in the Northeast, Sant Ravidas Nagar and Mirzapur in the east, Kaushambi and Chitrakoot in the west and the state of Madhya Pradesh in the South.

Fig 1: Allahabad Location Map



Allahabad has its own domestic airport, Bambruali, which is located 14 km from the city. Apart from Indian Airlines, few private airlines also provide flight services to and from Allahabad. However, nearby cities, i.e. Varanasi (147 km) and Lucknow (210 km) also have airports. Allahabad is well connected by a network of trains to almost all major destinations throughout the country i.e. Kolkata, Delhi, Patna, Guwahati, Chennai, Mumbai, Gwalior, Meerut, Lucknow, Kanpur and Varanasi. Allahabad is located on National Highways 2 and 27. The government and private bus services are available to and from Allahabad to all nearby major destinations.

From early days of civilization, Allahabad has been a seat of learning, wisdom and culture. The oldest monument is a pillar (c.242 BC) with inscriptions from the reign of Asoka.

Allahabad served as the capital of the United Provinces from 1901 to 1949 and the centre of the Indian independence movement against the British rule, with Anand Bhawan being the epicentre. It was in Allahabad that Mahatma Gandhi proposed his program of non-violent resistance to liberate India.

Table 1: District level indicators, Allahabad

Population – District*	4,936,105 persons
Urban population-District*	1,206,785 persons
Slum population-District***	318,544 persons
SC & ST*	1,069,370 persons
TV at home**	36.1%
Mobile Phone ownership**	34.4%

Indicators based on DLHS-2 and DLHS-3¹

Indicator	DLHS-3 Total	DLHS-2 Total
Women married <18 yrs	26.7	33.9
Women 20-24 with 2+ births	63.2	-
Institutional Births	25.0	20.0
Family planning Use		
Any method	42.3	40.5
Any modern method	36.5	30.4
Any non-modern method	-	
Female sterilization	28.5	21.5
Male sterilization	0.3	0.2
IUD	1.1	1.6
Pill	1.3	0.6
Condom	4.8	6.5
Family Planning Unmet need		
Spacing	11.8	8.8
Limiting	16.0	17.1
Total	27.8	25.9

Source: * Census of India, 2001; ** District Level Household Survey-3, 2007-08; *** State Urban Development Authority, 2003-04

Aside from having many prime educational institutions and organizations, the presence of key government offices gives Allahabad city an important status. Allahabad is a district administrative headquarters, a cultural centre and a trading centre. It has a university, museum, High Court of Uttar Pradesh, office of Auditor General of Uttar Pradesh, office of Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pension) PCDA, Uttar Pradesh, Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad (UP BOARD) Office, Police Headquarter, Engineering College (MNREC), Medical and Agriculture College, and the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT). The main tourist

¹ DLHS data are district-wide, and have a rural bias.



attractions in Allahabad include: the Sangam; Anand Bhawan; Swaraj Bhawan; Bharadwaj Ashram; Akshya Vat; Fort; and all Saint Cathedral.

Fig 2: Allahabad City Map



The weather and climate of Allahabad is tropical. The summers are extremely hot, with a maximum temperature as high as 45° Celsius. The winter season remains cold and foggy at times. During the Monsoon season, Allahabad city receives heavy rains and the weather becomes hot and humid.

City Institutional Structure

Municipal Corporation of Allahabad (Allahabad Nagar Nigam) is one of the oldest municipalities of the state. The corporation came into existence in 1864, when the Lucknow Municipal Act was passed. Administratively, the city municipal area has been divided into 80 wards and there are 185 documented slums in the city. A member (the Corporator) from each ward is elected to form the Municipal Committee. The Corporators elect the Mayor of the city. The chief executive is the Commissioner of Allahabad, who is appointed by the state government.

The Allahabad Municipal Corporation is incorporated as a special department, which could function systematically with the aim of providing civic infrastructure facilities throughout the city. The obligatory functions of the municipal corporation include ensuring sufficient water supply to all, maintaining and regularly cleaning rivers. The municipal corporation also undertakes construction of schools and health centres. In addition, the corporation has undertaken development projects pertaining to the construction of tube wells, parking spaces and bridges. The Allahabad Municipal Corporation takes care of all ongoing development in the city. It regulates property tax rates for different residential and commercial properties. According to the 2021 master plan, presently about 62% of total city area is occupied under residential activities, 17% is occupied under transportation related activities, only 7% has been used for the activities related to public and semi-public services and the remaining 14% of city area is being used for other activities.

Based on the status of development, Allahabad city can be divided into two zones, i.e. underdeveloped areas and

developed areas. Underdeveloped areas of the Old City include the Central Business District or Chowk which is also the economic centre of the city. The localities which come under this category are Bakshi Bazar, Atala, Katra, Malviya Nagar, Atarsuiya, Zero Road and Sahagunj. This area has a high population density and the market layout is haphazard, with major roads used as both transport corridors and market streets. Localities such as Civil Lines, Lukargunj, Georgegunj, Tagoretown and Ashok Nagar are relatively developed areas of the city. The newer city around Civil Lines area was conceived during the British rule. This area is well planned based on a grid-iron road pattern with additional diagonal roads. It is a relatively low-density area with wide tree lined avenues. It houses major educational institutions, offices, gardens and cantonment areas. The outer growth areas include satellite towns along major highways passing through city. It also includes city areas Trans Ganges and Yamuna.

The imprints of Britishers and Mughals can be seen in buildings, gardens and places in Allahabad. The architectural styles reflect a good mix of western Gothic and Mughal influence. Allahabad is also one of the greenest cities in the state.



During the rains many parts of the city face an acute problem of water stagnation. The city is surrounded by embankments for protection against floodwater from the river, but these embankments also obstruct the flow of rainwater. Additionally, the city faces an acute residential problem. According to Master Plan 2005, presently there is a shortage of 94,000 houses, which is expected to reach up to 264,000 by 2021.

Demographic & Social Profile

Census data classifies Allahabad city as the 32nd most populous city in India with the population of 975,000. Allahabad city has a larger household size (6.66) than that of Uttar Pradesh (6.45), indicating the predominance of the joint family concept in the city. The city has a relatively poor sex ratio at 807 females per 1000 males, with the number of males being 539,772 and females 435,621. Approximately 10% of the total population falls between 0-6 years. The literacy rate was recorded at 81%, which is slightly better than many other cities of U.P. About 12.4% of the total population belongs to the Scheduled Caste (SC) category. The city registered a population growth of about 23% during the last decade. According to the 2001 Census, the average

population density is 16,559 persons per sq. km. Yet, due to unplanned population growth, the distribution of the density in various wards is very uneven and varies between as high as 106,254 per sq. km (at Ward No. 34) to 2,515 per sq km (Ward No. 75).

Vulnerable Population

There are a large number of poor people in Allahabad city. Allahabad has 185 slums spread all over the city. The total population living in slums is 318,000, which is about 30% of the entire city population. It is estimated that 1/3 of the slum population can be categorized in the urban poor category. Slum clusters are mainly found on unused government land, near the river bank, railway tracks, embankments and bridges. During the city visit undertaken as part of the data gathering for city profiling, it was found that a sweeper colony has developed in the campus of Cholera Hospital. The embankments, i.e. Benibandh and Bakshibandh, are other locations where slums are found. The population in the low-income group is mainly found in Wards 12, 34, 41, 57, 66, 71, 75 and 77, which includes localities such as Malakraj, Minhajpur, Nai Basti, Sarai Garhi, Mohatsim Gunj, Narayan Singh Nagar, Meergunj, and Bashi Bazar, Chakiya, Benigunj, Puramanohar das, and Sultanpur. Meergunj slum is located at the centre of the city. Apart from slums, many people are living in housing that fall under the following categories: S.D.P. (Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme), S.C.S.P. (Schedule Caste Sub Plan), and I.L.C.S. (Integrated Low Cost Sanitation).

As previously mentioned, there are 185 known slum areas in the district having a population of 335,438. Apart from the hospitals in the district headquarters, there are 11 urban health posts (Table 2).

Table 2. Health posts in urban slums

Name of municipality	No. of slums	Population	No. of health posts
Urban Allahabad	185	333194	11

Health System and Infrastructure

Health services in Allahabad city are mainly provided by the Public sector, including the Department of Medical, Health and Family Welfare, and the Private sector (hospitals, nursing homes, and clinics). In addition, charitable hospitals provide subsidized health services to the poor. Two district health-training centres and 535 Anganwadi centres are also working in the city. Additionally, there are Central Government health facilities, which include Railways hospital, ESI hospital/dispensaries and Cantonment hospitals/dispensaries. The distribution of all second tier facilities is outlined in Table 3.

First Tier Facilities

Primary health care is provided by first tier centres located in various parts of the city. In Allahabad city, 12 urban health posts are providing maternal and child health and family welfare services to the entire urban population. Their primary facilities include OPD Services, ANC registration,

ANC check-ups, family welfare services, and routine Immunization. Apart from these urban health posts there are three maternity homes.

Second Tier Facilities

There are a total of five secondary and tertiary health care facilities in Allahabad city (see Table 3). Additionally, one T. B. hospital and three blood banks are also located in the city. Secondary and tertiary health services are mainly provided by the district male and female hospitals, specialty hospital and Medical College hospital. The Medical College and the district hospitals cater to patients from neighboring districts as well. The Swarooprani hospital and District women's hospital (Dufferin Hospital) play an important role in the provision of specialized maternal health services. These hospitals play a major role in catering to the needs of both urban and rural population.

Table 3: Distribution of Health Facilities

Type of Facilities	Number
Government Health Facilities	
<i>First Tier (Primary Health Care Facilities)</i>	
Urban Family Welfare Centre	3
D Type Urban Health Centre	12
Medical Care Unit	-
Dispensary	30
AWC	535
ESI Dispensary	7
<i>Second Tier Facilities</i>	
District / Joint Hospital	1
District Women Hospital	1
Post Partum Centre	1
Hospital	1
Medical College	1
Tuberculosis Hospital	1
Children Hospital	1
ESI	1
Railway	2
Defence	3
Private Health Facilities	
<i>Private for Profit</i>	
Health Practitioners	1421
Maternity /Nursing Homes	272
Certified Abortion Providers	6
Certified NSV/DMPA Providers	10
<i>NGO/ not for profit/ Charitable</i>	
Clinics	
Other	
District health training centres	2
Blood bank	3

Source: Office of Chief Medical Officer, 2009

Private Health Service Providers

Though public health infrastructure is fairly extensive, the private sector is an important player in urban areas. The private sector is primarily focusing on curative aspects,

rather than on the preventive side of health care. Various indigenous systems of medicine health facilities viz. Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic are also available.

Private not for profit Health Service Providers

Allahabad city also has many charitable health care providers offering services.

Health Indicators

According to the recent District Level Household and Facility Survey (DLHS-3) 2007 – 2008, only 36.5% of currently married women are using a modern method of contraception. The DLHS-3 estimates the unmet need for Family Planning in Allahabad at 27.8%, comprised of 11.8% unmet need for spacing methods and 16.0% unmet need for limiting methods. Various data show that the district is in the second stage of demographic transition — implying low death rates and a moderate and declining fertility level.

Economic Base

Allahabad is one of the biggest commercial centres in the Uttar Pradesh. It has 18 medium and large industrial units, and more than 3,000 small scale industries (SSI). The 3rd All India Census for Small Scale Industries shows that there are more than 10,000 unregistered SSI units in the district employing thousands of people. ITI Naini and IIFCO Phulpur, Triveni Glass are some of the major industries located in the city. Even though a large number of workers are engaged in household and cottage industries and other sectors, about 54% of the total population in the district lives below poverty line.

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