Where It’s At

POZ maps the decade’s hot and cold spots for HIVers.

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Five countries *POZ* loves:

1. **Great Britain** If you qualify for disability, the government will foot the bill—or at least part of it—for a new car.
2. **The Netherlands** HIVers can score cannabis at local pharmacies to relieve nausea and a waning thirst for *frites.*
3. **Brazil** Med costs were slashed, thanks to a 1997 law sanctioning generic production of sky-high drugs.
4. **Botswana** Blessed with diamonds but cursed with the world’s highest HIV rate, this African nation gives free meds to all positive citizens.
5. **Japan** Despite economic woes, it doled out the world’s heftiest AIDS comp—$500,000 a head—to HIVers infected through blood transfusions.

Five countries *POZ* shuns:

1. **Thailand** HIV and drug use were curbed by shooting more than 2,500 users and dealers in 2003.
2. **China** Without legal rights, HIVers have been jailed, beaten and barred from swimming pools.
3. **Russia** Nasty drug laws stigmatize users, allowing HIV docs to overcharge or refuse treatment.
4. **India** A 150-year-old law branding homosexuality illegal was reaffirmed, driving HIV underground.
5. **Nicaragua** Official policy prohibits nonprivate docs from treating HIVers, who have to hide their status to get any medical attention.

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