

FACTORS AFFECTING NEEDLE SHARING AMONG INJECTING DRUG USERS IN VIETNAM

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ABSTRACT

Needle sharing is the primary mode of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) transmission for injection drug users (IDUs). This study examines factors affecting needle sharing among IDUs in Vietnam. The data used for analysis was from the Final Evaluation of Preventing HIV in Vietnam that was conducted by the Vietnam HIV/AIDS Prevention Project during November, 2008 to January, 2009. The sample size of IDUs totaled 338.

Results from the binary logistic regression models showed that IDUs who were young were less likely to share needles than those who were older. Similarly, education levels and duration of drug injection were positively associated with needle sharing. Needle sharing is a more common risk behavior among IDUs who lacked perception on HIV/AIDS. In addition, IDUs who received peer educator support along with free needles and syringes were less likely to share needles than IDUs who did not receive these incentives.

The results suggest that there should be government programs to promote needle exchange for injecting drug users and reducing needle sharing among IDUs in Vietnam.

KEY WORDS: HIV/AIDS/ IDUs /PROGRAM/INTERVENTION/
BEHAVIOR

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