

HIV/AIDS RELATED RISK BEHAVIORS AMONG MALE INJECTING DRUG USERS (IDUs) IN SON LA PROVINCE, VIET NAM

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to examine the risk behaviors and their determinants among Male Injecting Drug Users (IDUs), especially focusing on the effect of an HIV/AIDS intervention program on the risk behaviors of IDUs in Son La province, Vietnam. This study used the data from a cross-sectional survey of 502 male IDUs conducted by the Vietnam HIV/AIDS prevention project of the World Bank.

Results illustrated that 27.5% of IDUs reported sharing needles and syringes. 15.9% of the IDUs reported having sex with female sex workers and 30% of them used condom consistently. 56.4% of IDUs received clean needles/syringes and 33.1% of IDUs received condoms from the intervention program. IDUs with access to the program were 71% less likely to share needles/syringes than those without access ($p<0.01$). Besides, IDUs receiving free condoms were 17.3% times more likely to use condoms with their wives/girlfriends.

By using logistic regression, it was demonstrated that the intervention program in Son La reduced the amount of these HIV/AIDS related risk behaviors of IDUs. The HIV/AIDS intervention program should be increased to guarantee the availability and accessibility of condoms, clean syringe and needle distribution to IDUs.

**KEY WORDS: HIV/AIDS/ IDUs/ PREVENTION /PROGRAM/INTERVENTION/
RISK BEHAVIOR**

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