

Thesis Title Preventive behaviors against HIV/AIDS among
Injection Drug Users in Bangkok.
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ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study on preventive behaviors against HIV/AIDS was conducted among injection drug users in the 13 detoxification clinics of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration during April 17, 1995 to May 12, 1995.

A sample of IDUs who came to the detoxification clinic during the study's time were selected to fulfill the questionnaires. Twenty IDUs were sampled in each clinic except one clinic, twenty-two IDUs were sampled. The objectives of this study were to determine the socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge of HIV/AIDS, risk practices involving HIV/AIDS and sources of information about

HIV/AIDS and to study the relationship between these independent variables and preventive behaviors. The preventive behaviors in this study included sexual behavior and needle and syringe sharing.

There were 262 IDUs recruited in this study, 90.5% were males. The average age was 32 years. 67.1% had education more than 6 years of primary education. Half of them had partners. The mean duration of drug injection was about 11 years and the mean duration of treatment was about 8 years. The result of the study showed that the injection drug users had a high level of knowledge of HIV/AIDS as a result of receiving information through various kinds of media. In the past 5 years, 64.9% shared needles and syringes with others, but now they stopped sharing needles and syringes.

The relationship between the following independent variables : drug use, needle and syringe sharing, condom use, partner selection, stopping of sexual intercourse and the frequency of information showed significant association to preventive behaviors. The other variables : socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge of HIV/AIDS, drug injection, sexual reduction, and source of information did not show any significant association to preventive behaviors.

It could be concluded that the change of risk behaviors among IDUs : sexual behaviors and needle and syringe sharing should be maintained to prevent HIV/AIDS.