

Thesis Title Prevalence of Human Immunodeficiency Virus
Antibody and P24 Antigen in Female Sex Workers,
Ratchaburi Province and Associated Factors

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Abstract

A cross-sectional analytic study was conducted in 202 female sex workers seeking medical treatment at Venereal Diseases and AIDS Center Region 4, Ratchaburi, Unit of Venereal Diseases and AIDS Banpong and Venereal Diseases and AIDS Clinic at Darmonoensaduak Hospital, Ratchaburi Province during June to July 1995. All studied female sex workers were interviewed some information and risk behaviors and their blood specimens were collected for testing anti-HIV by Particle Agglutination (PA) and Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA or ELISA). P24 antigen was detected by EIA. After the

laboratory results, the female sex workers were divided into two groups, anti-HIV positive and anti-HIV negative. The variables obtained from interviews were analysed by χ^2 -test and Odds Ratio.

The results revealed that prevalence of HIV infection in female sex workers was 39.60%. The P24 antigen positivity was detected only 1 case (0.50%). The highest prevalence (46.30%) was in the group of age 21-30 years. That was significantly higher than the prevalence in the group of age over 30 years ($P = 0.0027$). The prevalence in the group of age 20 years or less was 42.00% which was significantly higher than the prevalence in the group of age over 30 years ($P = 0.0146$). When it was classified by duration of prostitution, it was not statistically significant ($P > 0.05$). Anti-HIV positivity in studied female sex workers by PA and ELISA was not statistically significant ($P = 0.711$). The factors associated with HIV infection in this group were age (≤ 30 years): OR 3.17, $P = 0.0034$; income per month ($\leq 5,000$ Bahts): OR = 2.10, $P = 0.0196$; domicile (north-east): OR = 3.91, $P < 0.0001$; having a history of STDs in the last 3 months: OR = 2.54, $P = 0.0115$; no condom use (everytime of sexual intercourse): OR = 22.37, $P < 0.0001$; average daily number of sexual partners (> 3 persons/day): OR = 2.06, $P = 0.0473$; knowledge and attitude about AIDS (lower than mean score): OR = 1.82 and 1.90, $P = 0.0390$ and 0.0284 , respectively. This study found several factors associated with HIV infection in female sex workers, which may be valuable in preventing and controlling the HIV infection in this target group.