

**FACTORS RELATED TO SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIOR OF HIV
INFECTION AMONG MIGRANT FISHERMEN
IN RANONG, THAILAND**

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AMONG MIGRANT FISHERMEN IN RANONG, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

This cross-sectional study aimed to describe sexual risk behaviour for HIV infection among migrant fishermen in Ranong, Thailand.

Between January and February 2004, 159 migrant fishermen from 15-49 years of age in Muang district, Ranong, Thailand were asked to complete a face to face structured interview on sexual risk behavior for HIV infection and related factors.

The results showed that 81% of respondents were under 25 years old and nearly one-third were married or living with sexual partners. Most respondents (81.8%) had education at primary and secondary school. Just under 65% had had sexual intercourse during the past 12 months. Of these, two-thirds reported that they had consistently used condoms when having sex with sex workers. These respondents were more likely to know that condom use and having only one uninfected faithful sex partner could protect them from HIV, and more likely to know how to obtain condoms from pharmacies than the respondents who inconsistently used condoms with sex workers. In addition, only about one half of the respondents reported that clinics or hospitals were available for STI treatment near their boat's berth or their residence. Over 40% of those respondents who inconsistently used condoms with sex workers reported that they had tried addictive drugs during the past 12 months.

It is recommended that new HIV intervention should target migrant fishermen and distribute understandable information and knowledge of HIV/STI prevention. Local clinics, hospitals and pharmacies (drug store) should provide better STI/HIV prevention and care services for migrant fishermen. Drug abuse among migrant fishermen calls for further study.

KEY WORDS: MIGRANT FISHERMEN / SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIOR / HIV
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