

**SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIOR ON HIV INFECTION
AMONG MILITARY CONSCRIPTS,
NAKHON PHANOM PROVINCE, THAILAND**



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ABSTRACT

Cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted to study sexual risk behavior on HIV infection among military conscripts in Nakhon Phanom province, Thailand. The aims of the study were to describe independent variables including predisposing factors, enabling factors, reinforcing factors and sexual risk behavior on HIV infection among military conscripts and to identify the relationship between independent variables and the sexual risk behavior on HIV infection. Data was collected on February 4, 2008. 179 conscripts were selected in this study.

53.63% of all conscripts had sexual intercourse and 43.02% of all conscripts had engaged in sexual risk behavior on HIV infection after joining military. Among those who had sexual intercourse, 50% of them reported that the frequency of sexual intercourse increased. The proportion of consistent condom use with a wife or girl friend was only 7.59%, with commercial sex workers (CSWs) was 50%, with injecting drug user (IDU) was 75% and with men was 0%. It showed that the frequency that always used condoms during sexual intercourse with wife or girl friend and men was quite low. 20.78% of conscripts who had sexual risk behavior engaged in sexual risk behavior with multiple partners after joining the military.

Significant associations were found between sexual risk behavior on HIV infection and having partner, health risk behavior including alcohol use and drug abuse, experience of visiting CSWs, knowing where to obtain condoms, history of sexually transmitted infections (STI), knowing the place for STI treatment in the military camp, and the availability of HIV/AIDS education.

It is recommended that military address and promote consistent condom use not only with vulnerable groups such as CSWs, MSM and IDUs but also with wives or girl friend and with multiple partners for HIV prevention. The availability of STI care service needs to be more available and HIV/AIDS education needs to be improved in the military camp.

KEY WORDS: HIV / SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIOR / MILITARY CONSCRIPTS

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