

**FACTORS AFFECTING SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIOR  
AMONG INJECTING DRUG USERS IN VIETNAM**

The background features a large, faint watermark of the Mahidol University logo. It is a circular emblem with Thai script around the perimeter and a central design that includes a stupa and other traditional symbols.

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M.A (POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)

THESIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: URAIWAN KANUNGSUKKASEM, Ph.D.,  
CHALERMPOL CHAMCHAN, Ph.D.**ABSTRACT**

This study examined the effects of personal and environmental factors on sexual risk behavior among injecting drug users (IDUs) in Vietnam. Secondary data from the cross-sectional survey on “Final evaluation of Preventing HIV Project in Vietnam” was used for analysis. The survey was conducted in 7 Vietnamese provinces between November 2008 and January 2009. From these areas, 587 IDUs who have had sexual intercourse in the last 12 months were selected for this analysis. Binary logistic regression examined the influencing factors on having higher risk sex and inconsistent condom use, which were considered to be sexual risk behaviour of IDUs.

The results show that IDUs have high knowledge of HIV, but their knowledge of STI is still low. The percentage of IDUs engaged in higher risk sex is 79%, while inconsistent condom use at 28%. IDUs who shared a syringe are more likely to be involved in higher risk sex by 4.7 times, and to use condoms inconsistently by 2 times. Married IDUs are less likely to be involved in higher risk sex, but they are more likely to use condoms inconsistently by 2.6 times. IDUs who have higher knowledge of HIV are less likely to be involved in higher risk sex. IDUs from 35-44 years old as compared with those 15-24 years old, and who received free condoms are more likely to use condoms consistently at 51% and 36%, respectively.

The evidence of significant association of sexual risk behaviour and syringe sharing advises that HIV preventive activities are effective. To prevent HIV transmission through sexual risk behavior, free condoms should be provided for all IDUs.

**KEY WORDS: HIV/IDUs/HIGHER RISK SEX/CONDOM/VIETNAM**

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