

**HIV/AIDS PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR AMONG MEDICAL
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN YANGON CITY, MYANMAR**



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ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional descriptive study design, using a two-stage cluster sampling method, was used to obtain samples from 272 medical students in Yangon, Myanmar. Descriptive statistics and chi-square tests were used to determine the significant factors and their association.

The result showed that 53.3 percent of the students had high preventive behavior regarding HIV/AIDS. Most of the students (83.3%) replied that they avoided sexual intercourse. Only a few (16.2%) were engaged in sex and among them, 75.6 percent had been having sex with only one sexual partner. But only 40 percent had ever used condom whenever they had sex. 76.1 percent of the students had ever read sexual education magazines/journals/books and 79.4 percent replied that they had listened to HIV/AIDS preventive education programs on television/radio. But only 98.2 percent of the respondents answered that they had never shared injection needles and 98.1 percent answered they didn't have tattoos. Most of the students had good knowledge about HIV/AIDS transmission (99.3%) and prevention (92.6%) and they had a good perception of HIV/AIDS. Most specifically, factors associated with HIV/AIDS preventive behavior were gender, knowledge and information from media sources. Male students were more likely to have about twice the preventive behaviors than females (OR=1.9). The samples with a high level of knowledge were more likely to have about twice the preventive behaviors than those with low level of knowledge (OR=2.15). The respondents who had good information from media sources were more likely to have about twice high preventive behaviors than those who had poor information (OR=2.05).

Condom usage among sexually active medical students was 40 percent and so health and sex education in this aspect should be promoted in the most conducive settings preferred by the target group. There is a need to cooperate more with NGOs and peer-educators. Also the promotion of health education via the mass media is needed.

KEY WORDS : MEDICAL STUDENTS / HIV/AIDS PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR

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