

**FACTORS AFFECTING CONSISTENT CONDOM USE  
AMONG WIVES OF INJECTING DRUG USERS (IDUs)  
IN THANH HOA PROVINCE, VIETNAM, 2010**



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ABSTRACT

The objective of the study is to examine factors affecting consistent condom use among wives of IDUs in Thanh Hoa Province in Vietnam. The study used data from 200 wives of IDUs surveyed in a cross sectional study on determining HIV/syphilis prevalence and risk behaviors related to HIV transmission from IDUs to their wives in Thanh Hoa Province. Selected characteristics of husbands were also taken into the analysis. The survey was conducted in 2010 using Respondent driven sampling method (RDS) to sample the respondents.

The results of the study reveal that factors of both wives and IDU husbands affected consistent condom use among wives. HIV knowledge of wives was a main factor affecting condom use with IDU husbands. Wives who had good HIV knowledge were more likely to use condom consistently than those who had poor HIV knowledge. Moreover, perception of HIV risk, negotiation to use condom of wives had a positive association with consistent condom use. In contrast, age of wives, age difference between IDUs and wives and extramarital relationship of husbands had negative relationship with consistent condom use. IDUs who had sex outside their marriage were less likely to use condom consistently than those IDUs who had sex only with their wives. The odd ratio for consistent use of condom also increased with IDUs working in agriculture compared to those who worked in non-agriculture.

It is recommended that consistent condom use among couple should be strengthened through Information Education and Communication (IEC), Behaviour Change Communication (BCC), Harm reduction program and couple HIV counseling in order to reduce the spread of HIV infection from IDUs to their wives and their children.

KEY WORDS: CONDOM/ WIVES CHARACTERISTICS/ NEGOTIATION/  
HIV/AIDS PREVENTION/ HIV KNOWLEDGE/

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