

**HIV KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES AMONG PRISONERS  
IN DETENTION CENTER IN KHANH HOA PROVINCE,  
VIETNAM 2010**



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**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS  
(POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)  
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY**

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POJJANA HUNCHANGSITH, Ph.D.**ABSTRACT**

This study examines the HIV knowledge and attitudes among prisoners in a detention center in Khanh Hoa Province, Vietnam. It used the secondary data of the latest cross-sectional survey, conducted from July to August 2010 by the Khanh Hoa Hospital for Tropical Disease. The sample size was 300 prisoners who had been incarcerated for one to 37 months in the detention center where imprisonment is only for those who were adjudged for not more than 48 months.

In general, less than 50% of prisoners had sufficient knowledge of HIV transmission and prevention. Approximately, one-fourth of prisoners still had some misconceptions about HIV transmission and prevention. Over 56% of prisoners had a positive attitude toward their own spouse if HIV+, but over 30% reported they would choose to divorce or separate if their spouse became infected. Prisoners were likely to accept and could keep their friendships with HIV+ friends. On the other hand, unwillingness to sharing space and utensils with HIV-infected prisoners was reported by over 30% and 50% of prisoners, respectively.

The results of binary logistic regression indicated that education, sources of information, and history of HIV testing were factors affecting HIV knowledge and attitudes. Meanwhile, the majority of prisoners were male (91%), but 72% of male prisoners were less likely to have a positive attitude toward an HIV+ spouse than were female inmates.

The results suggest to implement an HIV intervention program in the Vietnamese detention centers which has not been done at scale even though it is in the policy by the Ministry of Health. Furthermore, the fact that this study used data from the year 2010, which was the latest available dataset, also recommends that there should be another study on this issue in order to gain more up-to-date data for policy making.

**KEY WORDS: HIV/ KNOWLEDGE/ ATTITUDES/ PRISONERS**

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