



**FACTORS RELATED TO ACQUISITION OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED
DISEASES AMONG COMMERCIAL SEX WORKERS**

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed at identifying factors related to the acquisition of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) among commercial sex workers in low price sex establishments in Bangkok, Saraburi and Udonthani. The study employs data from a project titled Behavioral Research for AIDS Prevention in Thailand Project (BRAIDS). The total number of cases used in analysis is 470.

The majority of respondents were young, had completed a primary education and approximately 40 percent were working in Udonthani. Over half of respondents agreed that their illness was caused by fate. Although the majority had knowledge of the benefits of condom use, they had less knowledge of STDs prevention. They preferred to consult with medical personnel about STDs than other persons. On average, the respondents had been working as commercial sex workers for three years and had around 550 clients during the last six months. One-half used condom every time they had clients. Approximately three-fifths of respondents reported having an STDs infection in the previous six months.

There is a statistically significant relationship between age and STDs, with young women more likely to have STDs than older women. There are no statistically significant relationship between self reported incidence of STDs with knowledge of the benefits of condom use, consultation about STDs or duration of work.

