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Methamphetamine use prior to sex and the risk factors associated with HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Thailand

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To examine the prevalence of *methamphetamine* use prior to sex and to investigate the risk factors associated with HIV prevalence including *methamphetamine* use to enhance sex pleasure among MSM participating in BMCS in Bangkok, Thailand. A cross-sectional study of 1,744 MSM participating in a cohort of MSM in Bangkok, Thailand between April 2006 and November 2010 was evaluated for HIV prevalence and associated risk factors. Men were tested for STI/HIV infection at baseline. Demographic and behavioral data were collected by audio-computer-assisted self-interview. Logistic regression analysis was used to investigate the risk factors associated with HIV prevalence. Baseline prevalence of *methamphetamine* use was 11.2% (195/1,744), respectively. The overall HIV prevalence was 21.3% (372/1,744). Reported *methamphetamine* use was not associated with HIV prevalence in multiple logistic regressions. After adjusting for potential confounders, risk factors for HIV prevalence were self-identified as homosexual/gay, practice dual role taking of anal intercourse, ever had forced sex, younger age when having first sex, ever diagnosed STI, practice anal douched, recruited sex partners from park, used poppers, clinical appearance of anal warts, and *Treponema Pallidum* (TP), hepatitis B surface antigen, anti-HSV-1 and anti-HSV-1 and 2 positivity. The inverse factors associated with lower HIV prevalence were being a student, a history of HIV testing, and ever paid for sex. Behavior of *methamphetamine* use to enhance sex was common and there is a high prevalence of HIV infection among these men. It underscores the need for innovative and increased efforts to prevent HIV infection in this population.

Biography

Phunlerd Piyaraj is a Lecturer at Department of Parasitology, Phramongkutklao College of Medicine. He is fascinated with researches in public health and infectious diseases and he hopes this study will attract all people and also the government to recognize the burden of HIV infection and *methamphetamine* use among men who have sex with men. In the near future, he plans to do further research of this topic by qualitative method to investigate main factors and causes which are key aspects of the HIV infection and *methamphetamine* use in these hard to reach population.

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