

ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation	Sexual Behaviors on HIV and Sexual Transmitted Infection among Female Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) in Phuket
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The purpose of this study was to examine sexual risk behaviors, knowledge and awareness about HIV/AIDS amongst commercial sex workers (CSWs) and to study the health status and sexual health of women in Phuket. Data was collected by using systematic and qualitative research; in-depth interviews were used for collecting qualitative data including, HIV/AIDS surveillance data. In addition, the questionnaire for health status collecting, SF-36 (Short form 36), was applied to collect data from CSW informants. The data collection along with surveillance behavior associated with HIV/AIDS infection among female commercial sex workers occurred in June, 2007. This data was analyzed and presented using descriptive statistics. For qualitative data were applied data analysis techniques of Colaizzi (1987) and summarized as a concept induction (Analytical Induction)

The study revealed that the rate of HIV infection among commercial sex workers was likely reduced compared to previous years. This may reflect on the misunderstood perceptions or the recognition of inaccurate information, such as: cleaning the vagina immediately after sexual intercourse will prevent HIV/AIDS infection; trusting partners who are in a close relationship such as, their regular customers who look clean or a boyfriend; women may not be using condoms to gain more bargaining power; sexual assault; and heavy alcohol consumption with customers may reduce ability to assess risk. Other factors that may prevent condoms use are the quality of the condoms or being used without proper lubricants and the resulting discomfort de-motivates use. Condoms may be improperly used or the condom may leak during sexual intercourse.

This study clearly shows the information about risk behaviors and the sexual health of commercial sex workers in Phuket. This information will be useful for those who have duties related to HIV prevention and control. However, studies using surveillance data have a limitation, due to population migration and changing patterns of commercial sex workers' work from direct to indirect commercial sex workers and the limitations of the tools used to collect data that was not covered. It is suggested, that the next study should be a continuously conduct study and focus on anthropological methods to further refine the qualitative data.