

DRUG USE AND HIV RISK FACTORS AMONG FEMALE SEX WORKERS IN HO CHI MINH CITY

Lưu Thị Minh Châu¹, Trần Như Nguyên¹, Mai Thu Hiền¹, Phạm Thị Hương²,
Lisa Johnston², Mitchell I. Wolfe², Đoàn Huy Hậu³, Hồ Bá Do³, Đào Xuân Vinh³,
Le Trung Giang⁴, Nguyễn Thu Thảo⁴

¹LIFE-GAP Project/ MOH; ²CDC Vietnam; ³Medical Military University;
⁴Ho Chi Minh Health Department/ LIFE-GAP Sub-project Management Board.



Presentation Outline

- Background
- Goals and objectives
- Methods
- Results
- Conclusion
- Recommendations



Background- Ho Chi Minh City

- One of the developed cities on economic and tourist in Vietnam
- Reported 22,436 HIV of 86,817 total HIV cases in Vietnam
- Estimates of 40,000 - 50,000 HIV cases
- HIV prevalence among Female Sex Worker (FSW) was 15.6%

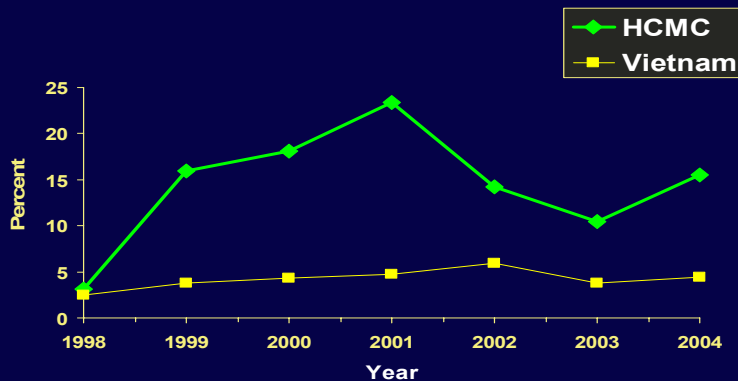
Source: MOH, 31 December 2004



Ho Chi Minh



Background- HIV Prevalence Among FSW in HCMC and Vietnam, 1998-2004



Source: Sentinel Surveillance, NIHE, Vietnam MoH



Goal and Objectives

1. **Goal:** Examine high risk behaviours among FSW in Ho Chi Minh to support HIV prevention program development
2. **Objective:**
 - Describe injecting drug use behaviour and HIV risk factors among FSWs in Hai Phong
 - Identify HIV prevalence by OraQuick™



Methods

- **Subjects:** FSWs. Eligibility criteria:
 - ≥ 18 years old
 - had sex in exchange for money in past 6 months
 - living/ working in Ho Chi Minh City
- **Duration:** April – June 2004
- **Method: quantity research**
 - Questionnaires:** Face- to- face interview by Behavioural Questionnaire
 - Biological Testing:** Oral fluid sample (Oraquick™ HIV test)
 - Sampling: Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS)**
 - Assess hard- to- reach populations
 - 20 initial seeds; sample size: 413
 - 3 coupons
 - Primary incentive (interview) and secondary incentive (peer recruitment)
- **Analysis:** SPSS, no RDSAT

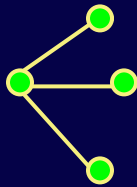


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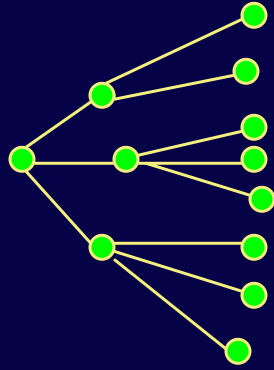
Seed



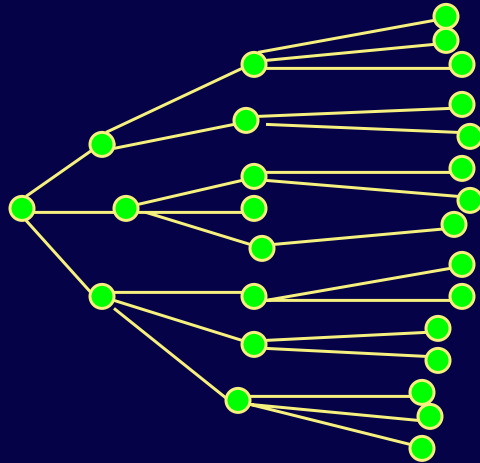
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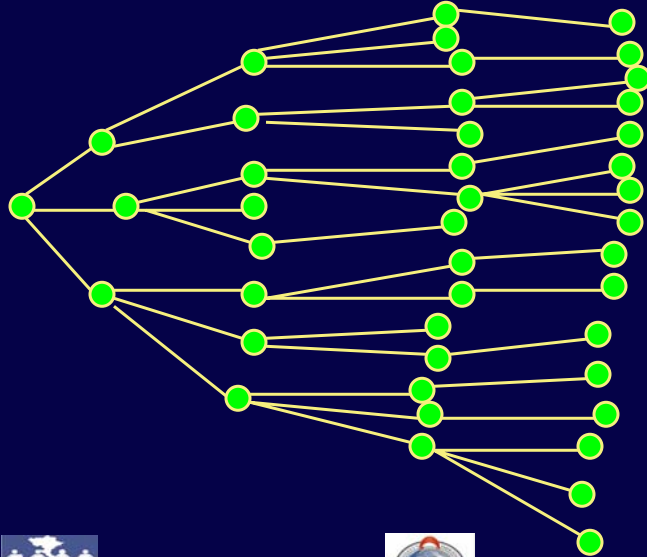
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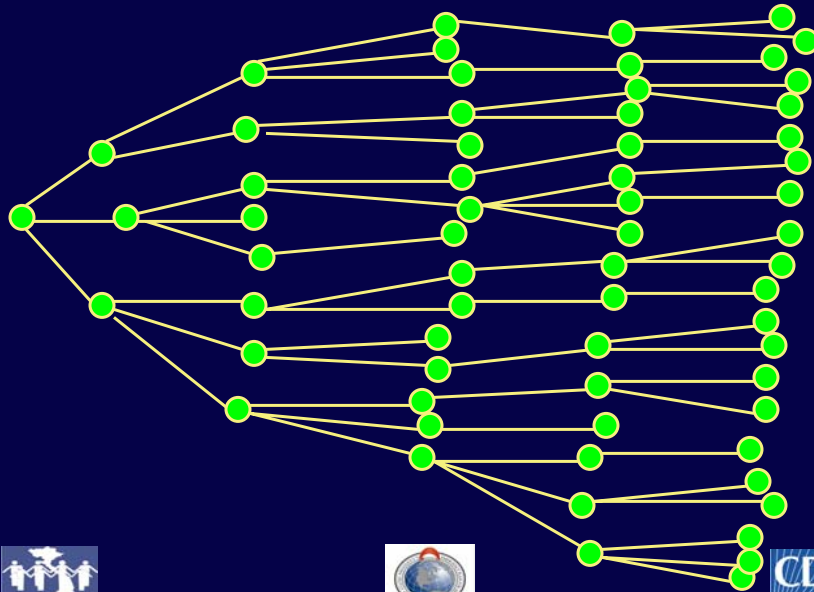
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Wave 1 Wave 2 Wave 3 Wave 4 Wave 5



Wave 1 Wave 2 Wave 3 Wave 4 Wave 5



Results

Demographics

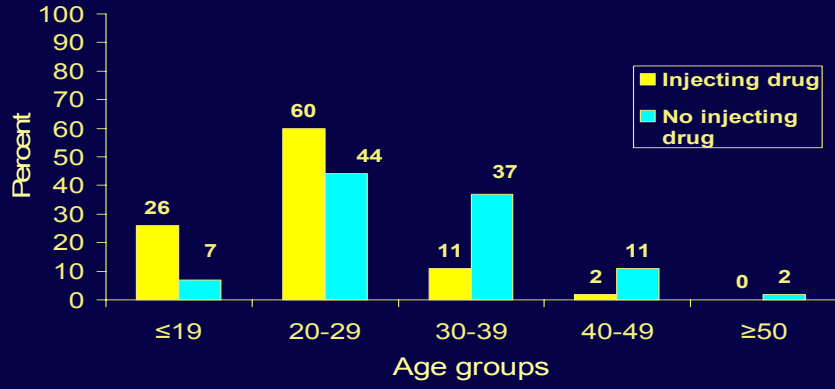


Demographics

- **Age:**
 - Mean: 29 (Range: 17 – 54)
 - 60% aged 20 – 29
- **# children supported:**
 - Mean: 1 (Range: 0 – 8)



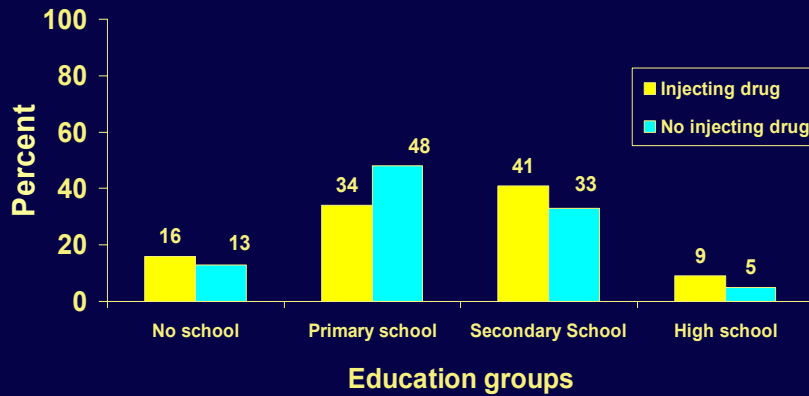
FSW by injecting drug user and age group



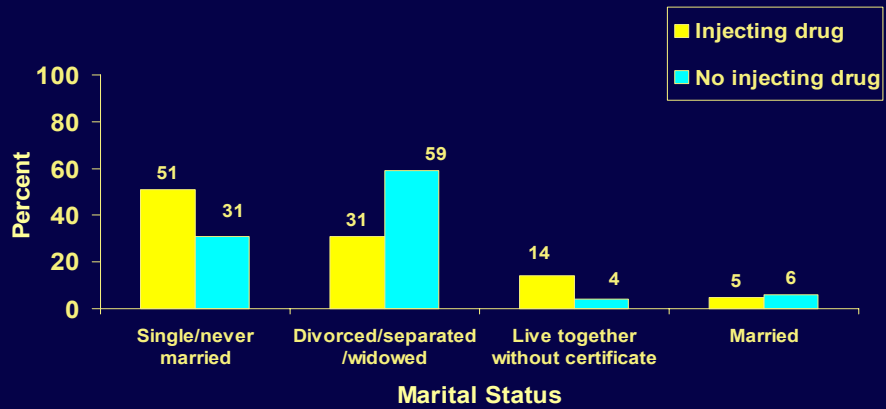
Most FSW injecting drug users are young (86% ≤ 29 years)



FSWs by injecting drug user and education



FSW by injecting drug user and marital status



Results

Injecting drug behaviour

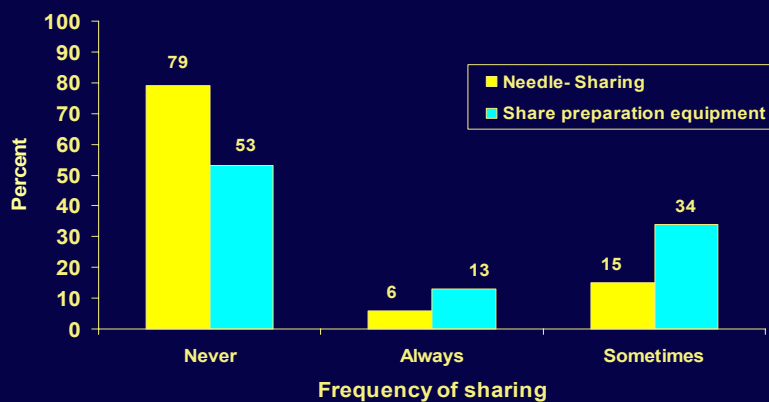


Injecting drugs

- **Proportion of FSWs injecting drug:** 11 %
- **Age at first injection:**
 - Mean: 21 (Range: 13 - 40)
 - 47% ≤ 19 years old
- **# of sharing partners:**
 - Mean: 2 (Range 0 – 8)



Sharing needle and drug preparing equipment (n=47)



21% FSW used to share needle and 47% share preparation equipment



Results

Sexual behaviour

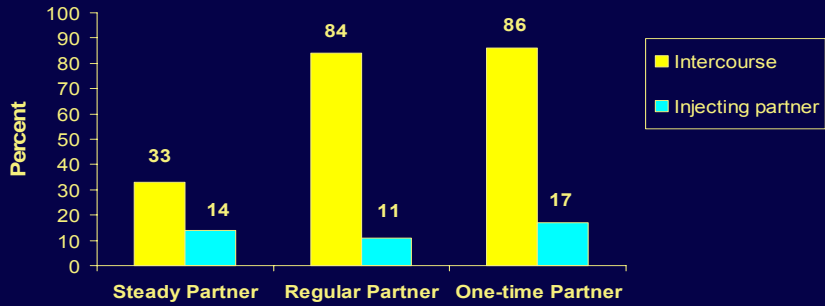


Sexual behaviour

- **Age at first time selling sex:**
 - Mean: 24 (Range: 11 - 49)
 - 33% \leq 19 years old
- **# of sex partner in last month:**
 - Mean: 26 (Range: 1 - 99)



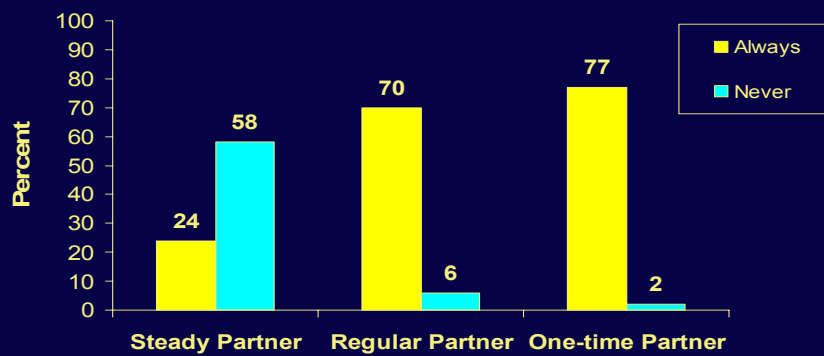
Sexual intercourse with partner and with injecting partner



86% FSW have had sexual intercourse with one-time partner
17% one-time partner and 14% steady partner were reported injecting drug



Condom use (always/never) with clients



23% did not always using condom with one-time partner
More than half never using condom with the steady partner

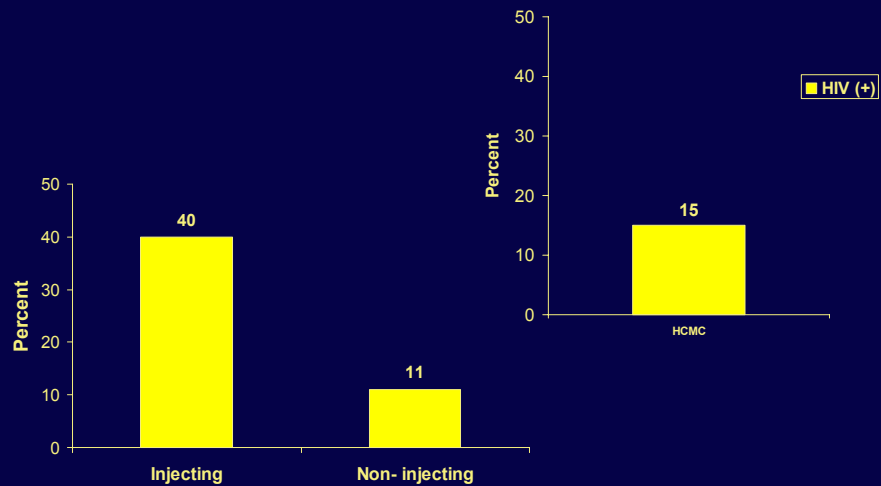


Results

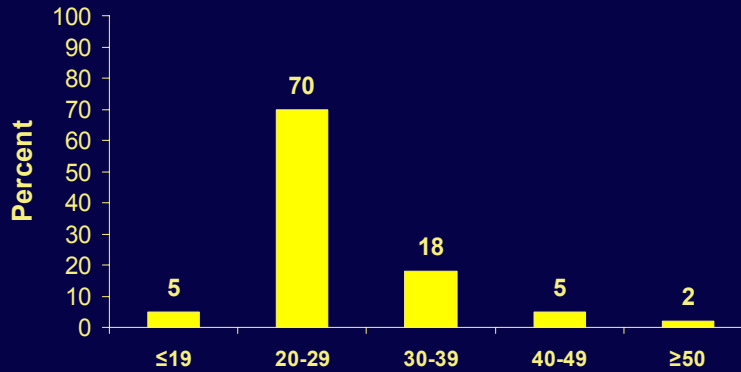
HIV prevalence by OraQuick



HIV Prevalence and injection drug use



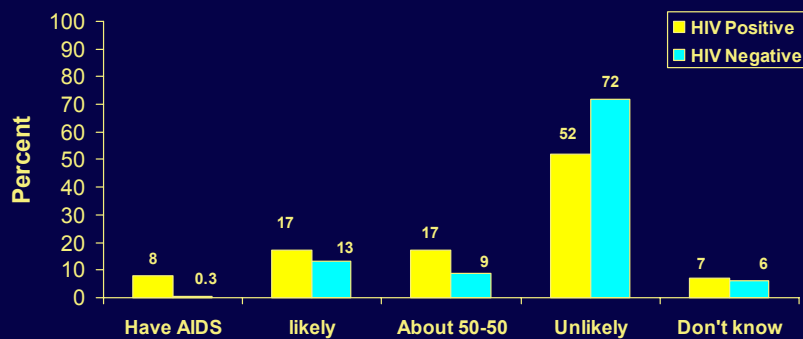
HIV Prevalence among FSW by age groups



Most FSW/HIV+ are young (75% ≤ 29 years old)



HIV testing and understanding of HIV status



How likely do you think it is that you are currently infected with HIV?



Limitations

- **Analysis-** didn't use RDSAT → the data may not be representative of these populations
- **Some factors can effect the results:**
 - Culture: women may not have reported the 'sensitive' issues (drug use, sexual behaviour) honestly
 - “Recall bias”
 - Younger FSW may be more willing to report than older



Conclusion

- 86% injecting drug and 75% HIV positive among FSW **are young age groups**
- Many FSWs still practice **high risk behaviour**
 - 11% FSWs have ever been injecting drugs . 21% of them sharing syringe/needle and 47% sharing preparation equipment
 - 17% one-time partner and 14% steady partner were reported injecting drug
 - 23% did not always using condom with clients with one time clients and 58% never using condom with regular clients
- HIV Prevalence among FSWs is 15% (SS is 15.6%) and injecting FSW is 40%. 92% HIV positive **do not know they are infected**



Recommendation

- Need early interventions in FSWs group, especially injecting FSWs to prevent HIV transmission to the community
- **HIV interventions** for this group must also address IDU-related issues
 - Enhance **100% Condom Program** and **Syringe/needle Exchange Program**
 - Strengthen prevention messages in **Voluntary Counseling and Testing Program (VCT)**
 - Promote messages on **Outreach Community Program** to FSWs link to VCT service



Thank you!

