

Highlights from Assessments on High-Risk Young People

Project N·A·M

Preventing HIV Among Young Men in Vietnam:
Affecting Gender Norms and Risk Practice



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Overview of Assessments

- *Objectives:* To explore HIV-related risk and protective factors among high-risk groups of young men between 15 and 24 years

Sub-Group	Sample Size &	Research Teams
Street Youth	37 IDI; 28 FGD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality of Life Promotion Center with technical assistance from SC/Sweden & HCMC HIEC • Analysis by Center for Social Organization and Community Development (CSOD)
MSM	26 IDI; 12 FGD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center for Promotion of Advancement of Society (CPAS)
Primary Prevention of Drug Use	<i>Phase 1:</i> 80 IDI (1/2 IDU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation in Health Promotion (CIHP) with Hanoi Medical University (HMU)

Street-Based Youth (HCMC)

- Youth (many street-based youth) conducted the interviews

Some Findings:

- Different types of street-based youth
- Youth living on the streets = most-at-risk
 - Live on streets & sleep in parks, markets, etc. due to family break-down

Street-Based Youth (HCMC)

- Engaged in unstable, street-based work

“Some of my friends work as porters, [but] sometimes they earn money by picking someone’s pocket or snatching and running. I sell lottery tickets at about 4p.m. I don’t earn a lot, just enough for food. In the evenings, we steal from drunk people.”

- 18 year old young man

Street-based Youth (HCMC)

- High level of drug use & risky sexual practices
 - Influenced by focus on immediate survival needs, peers (desire for belonging), emotional difficulties/loneliness
 - Sell sex or have partner who sells sex
 - ‘When rains’ or can’t get money in another way
 - Little to no condom use
 - Lack of skills to use condoms
 - Lack of desire to negotiate condom use
 - Limited use of health or HIV services
 - Do not feel entitled to use services; fear type of treatment at most places and/or law

Street-Based Youth (HCMC)

- Some knowledge about HIV risks & preventive measures
- High resiliency
- Friends / peers give social & financial support

“Some of my friends are affectionate. We are all homeless children, and we share everything like food. In the daytime, we have to work in different places to earn money. At night, we sleep together at the rice stores.”

- 24 year old young man

Youth MSM

- Youth MSM included self-identified homosexual, heterosexual & transgendered youth between 15 and 24 years: Hanoi, HCMC

Some Findings:

- Diverse group of youth
- Most did not feel accepted by society
- Some felt pressured to marry a woman but intended to continue to have sex with males

Youth MSM

- Some discussed high level of risky sexual practices
 - Early sexual experiences, some coerced by older men
 - Despite knowledge of HIV, many shared experiences of multiple and concurrent partners & low use of condoms
 - Type of sexual practices (& therefore HIV risk) differed among sub-groups

Primary Prevention of Drug Use

- Literature review on youth risk and protective factors related to primary drug use prevention

Risk and Protective Factors for Drug Use Initiation

Risk Factors	Domain	Protective Factors
Early Aggressive	Individual	Impulse Control
Lack of Parental Supervision	Family	Parental Monitoring
Substance Abuse	Peer	Academic Competence
Drug Availability	School	Antidrug Use Policies
Poverty	Community	Strong Neighborhood Attachment

Source: Preventing Drug Use among Adolescents: A Research Based Guide for Parents, Educators and Community Leaders, 2nd Edition. National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2003.

Primary Prevention of Drug Use

- Framework guided in-depth interviews with youth IDU and non-IDU: Hanoi, HCMC, Quang Ninh, Hai Phong

Some Findings:

- Most lacked parental supervision
- Started smoking at friends' house or karaoke when:
 - Sad / had life problems
 - Bonding with friends after party, before going to sex workers

"It was after one of my friend's party. He. . . said he had a thing that'll make me feel good after smoking and asked if I wanted to

Primary Prevention of Drug Use

- Nearly all IDU remembered voluntarily trying drugs
- Friends and siblings of IDU described a systematic process that IDU used to initiate others...
- But most IDUs believed that they do not coerce or 'entice' others

Way Forward

- Reports will come out in next 1- 2 months. Will be available on UNAIDS website.
- Programmatic Next Steps:
 - *Street-based youth & youth MSM:*
 - Incorporate findings into peer education / life skills project, that is supported by BCC and community involvement
 - *Primary prevention of drug use:*
 - Next phase: with youth and parents, test out recommendations