

IBBS ROUND II

The HIV/STI Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance

Female Sex Workers

The HIV/STI integrated Biological and Behavioral surveillance (IBBS) in Viet Nam was designed to estimate and monitor changes in HIV and STI prevalence, risk behaviors, and HIV intervention exposure among risk population groups as injecting drug users (IDUs), female sex workers (FSWs), and men who have sex with men (MSM). This document is one in a series of reports on IBBS. Round I was conducted in 2006 and Round II in 2009.



In 2006, IBBS round I surveyed 3547 FSWs (include 1588 SSWs and 1959 VSWs) in seven provinces An Giang, Can Tho, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), Hanoi, Hai Phong, and Quang Ninh. In 2009, IBBS round II surveyed 5458 FSWs (include 2690 SSWs and 2768 VSWs) in 11 provinces that included seven provinces in IBBS round I (2006) and four new provinces: Dong Nai, Lao Cai, Nghe An, and Yen Bai. Participants were recruited based on time-location cluster sampling using either take all sampling or systematic random sampling. There were two types of FSWs: Street-based Sex Workers (SSWs) and Venue-based Sex Workers (VSWs).

HIV/STI Prevalence

In 2009, HIV prevalence among FSWs was highest in Ha Noi, Hai Phong, HCMC and Can Tho (>15%). HIV prevalence was lowest in Quang Ninh, Nghe An and Da Nang (<3%). SSWs in Hai Phong had the highest prevalence at 23%. In general, SSWs had higher HIV prevalence than VSWs (Figure 1).

Among VSWs, the HIV prevalence was higher in 2009 than in 2006 in Ha Noi, Hai Phong and HCMC, but lower in the remaining cities. Among SSWs, the HIV prevalence appears to have stabilized or dropped in Ha Noi, Quang Ninh, Da Nang and Can Tho, but increased in An Giang, HCMC, and Hai Phong.

STI prevalence appears to have decreased between 2006 and 2009 for both SSWs and VSWs in Ha Noi. Chlamydia prevalence appears to have increased for SSWs in HCMC (10% in 2009 compared to 6% in 2006). Gonorrhea prevalence was low and relatively rare in both cities (Figure 2). Syphilis prevalence remains low among FSWs, at less than 2% in most provinces surveyed, except for Can Tho, An Giang.

Figure 1:
HIV prevalence among VSWs and SSWs - IBBS 2009

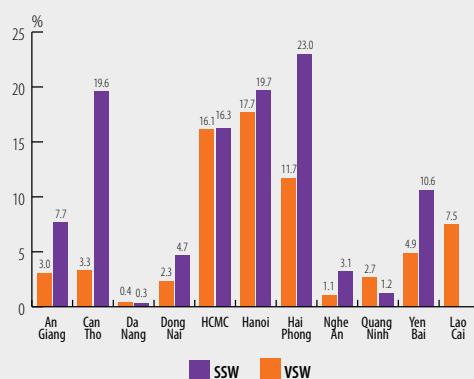
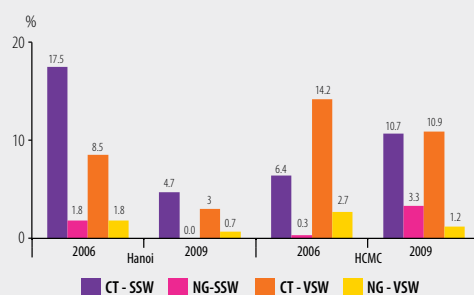


Figure 2:
Chlamydia (CT) and Gonorrhea (NG) prevalence among VSWs and SSWs in Hanoi and HCMC - IBBS 2006 and 2009



IBBS is a collaborative initiative of the following agencies:

National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) | Vietnam Authority of HIV/AIDS Control (VAAC) | FHI 360 | The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) | United States Agency for International Development (USAID) | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

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HIV/STI Behavioral Indicators

Sex partners & condom use

Overall, consistent condom use with regular partners in the last month was low in all provinces for both VSWs and SSWs. Consistent condom use in SSWs was generally higher for sex with one-time clients and regular clients than with regular sex partners. Consistent condom use was very low in Ha Noi, HCMC, and Dong Nai (Figure 3). A similar pattern was found in VSWs (Figure 4).

Figure 3:
Consistent condom use in the last month among SSWs by sex partner type – IBBS 2009

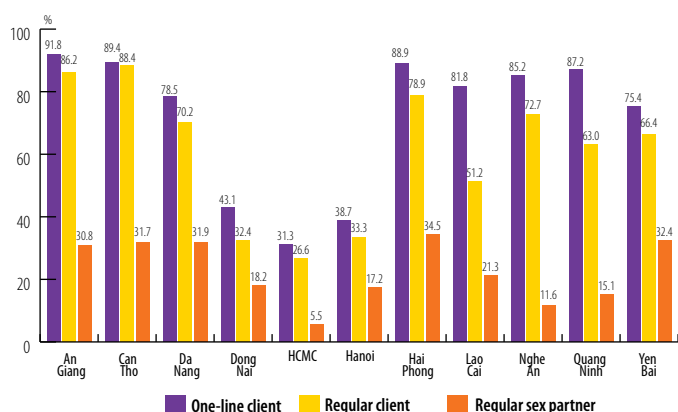
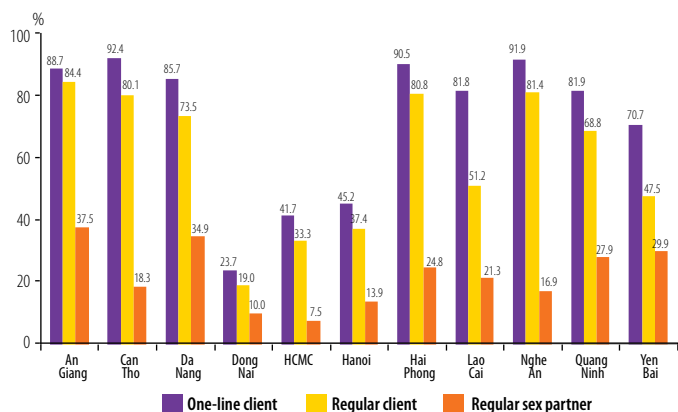


Figure 4:
Consistent condom use in the last month among VSWs by sex partner type – IBBS 2009



Between 2006 and 2009, consistent condom use of SSWs and VSWs appears to have dropped considerably both for one-time and regular clients. Between 2006 and 2009, consistent condom use among SSWs in HCMC decreased from 69% to 31% for one-time clients, and 64% to 27% for regular clients. In Ha Noi, the proportion of FSWs who reported consistent condom use was 72% to 39% for one-time clients, and 56% to 33% for regular clients. Among VSWs it dropped from 81% to 42% for one-time clients, and 72% to 33% for regular clients in HCMC and from 81% to 45% for one-time clients, and 57% to 37% for regular clients in Ha Noi. On the other hand, data from Hai Phong, Da Nang, and Can Tho show an overall increase in consistent condom use for 2009.

Drug use

In 2009, drug use among FSWs, both VSWs and SSWs, is generally much higher in urban hubs and ports, like Ha Noi, Hai Phong, HCMC and Can Tho, especially among SSWs. SSWs generally report more drug use than VSWs (Figures 5 and 6). Drug injection was also higher in these provinces and SSWs were much more likely to report drug injection than VSWs.

Between 2006 and 2009, drug injection among SSWs seems to have increased substantially in Hai Phong (from 7% to 18%) and HCMC (from 5% to 13%). Drug injection appears to have stabilized or reduced for the other provinces/cities surveyed in both rounds of IBBS (Figures 5 and 6). Because sex workers in Vietnam face a double stigma related to their drug use and commercial sex work, these self-reported data might even lower than in reality.

Figure 5:
Drug injection among SSWs – IBBS 2006 and 2009

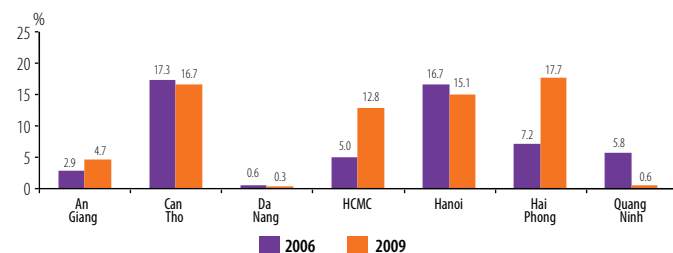
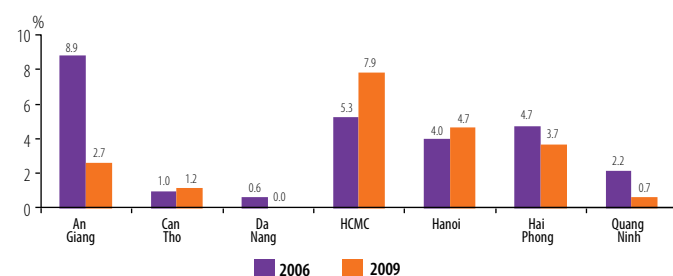
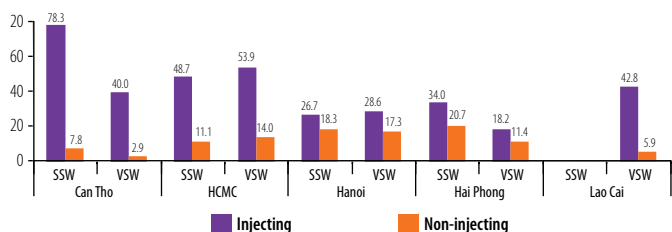


Figure 6:
Drug injection among VSWs – IBBS 2006 and 2009



HIV prevalence for FSWs who inject drugs was higher than those who did not inject drugs in all provinces surveyed. Prevalence is especially high among FSWs who inject in Can Tho, HCMC, Lao Cai, Hai Phong, and Ha Noi. In Can Tho, the difference was stark; 78% of SSWs who inject were HIV-positive versus 8% for those who did not. SSWs and VSWs who injected in HCMC had comparably high prevalence at 49% and 54%, versus 11% and 14% for those who did not inject (Figure 7). Injecting FSWs prevalence figures were equal to or higher than those of male IDUs in the same provinces. These data suggests that drug injection remains a critical risk factor for HIV transmission among FSWs. In addition, over 10% of SSWs in Ha Noi, Quang Ninh, HCMC, Can Tho and Yen Bai reported that their regular sex partners inject drugs.

Figure 7:
HIV infection among FSWs who inject drugs and who do not inject drugs – IBBS 2009



Exposure to Interventions

HIV Testing

Figures 8 and 9 present data on the proportion of FSWs who had an HIV test and who received their result. Although HIV testing primarily increased among FSWs, except in Quang Ninh, rates remained low except in a few provinces. In general, more SSWs reported that they tested for and known the results than VSWs. The proportion ranged from 17% (Yen Bai) to 86% (Nghe An) for VSWs, versus 21% (Yen Bai) to 79% (Hai Phong) for SSWs. Testing in the newly surveyed provinces of Lao Cai and Yen Bai was significantly lower than the other provinces.

Figure 8:
Proportion of VSWs ever tested for HIV and known the results – IBBS 2006 and 2009

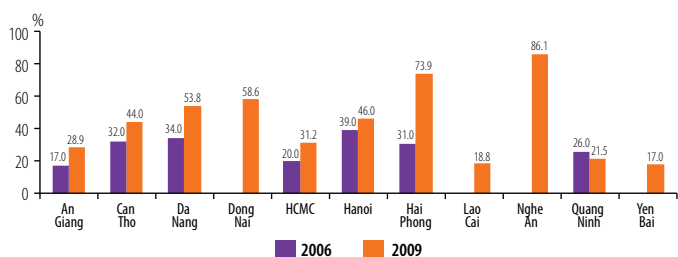
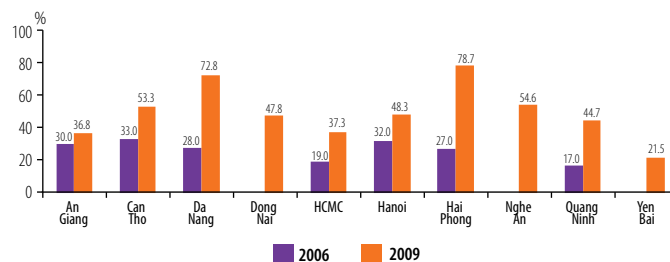


Figure 9:
The proportion of SSWs ever tested for HIV and known the results – IBBS 2006 and 2009



Condom Program

Majority of FSWs surveyed in 2009 reported getting cheap or free condoms in the last six months. However, over 60% of FSWs in HCMC, Lao Cai and Dong Nai reported they had not. Some provinces saw overall reductions in reported access to cheap/free condoms between 2006 and 2009 (HCMC, Can Tho and Da Nang). Others saw significant overall increases (Hai Phong and An Giang).

VSWs and SSWs show differences in access to cheap/free condoms for the two subgroups in a number of provinces. Overall, a higher proportion of SSWs reported accessing cheap/free condoms. Over 80% of SSWs in Hai Phong, An Giang, Can Tho and Nghe An reported accessing cheap/free condoms in the last six months.

Figure 10:
Proportion of VSWs who obtained cheap or free condoms in the last 6 months – IBBS 2006 and 2009

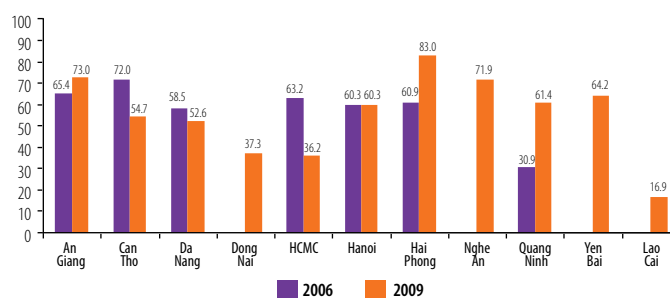
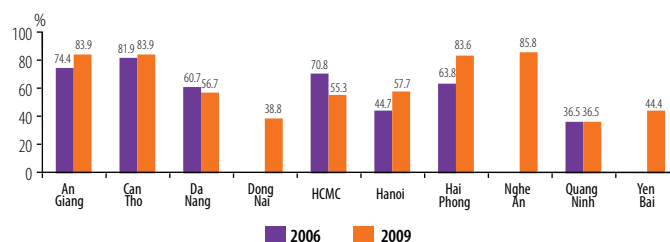


Figure 11:
Proportion of SSWs who obtained cheap or free condoms in the last 6 months – IBBS 2006 and 2009



F e m a l e S e x W o r k e r s

Indicators	An Giang	Can Tho	Da Nang	Dong Nai	HCMC	Hanoi	Hai Phong	Nghe An	Quang Ninh	Yen Bai	Lao Cai
HIV prevalence among VSWs (n)	263	354	251	300	304	300	300	274	298	123	160
Percent	3	3.3	0.4	2.3	16.1	17.7	11.7	1.1	2.7	4.9	7.5
Chlamydia (n)	NA	NA	NA	NA	304	300	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Percent	NA	NA	NA	NA	10.9	3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
VSWs reported unusual genital discharge in the past 12 months (n)	263	352	251	300	304	300	300	274	298	122	160
Percent	35.4	49	12.4	58	42.7	57.3	22.7	27.7	32.2	9	30
VSWs reported unusual genital pain/ulcers in the past 12 months (n)	263	352	251	300	303	300	300	274	298	122	160
Percent	7.6	17.5	4	35.3	11.5	22.7	7.7	22.6	21.8	1.6	16.3
Consistency of condom use with one-time client in the past month (n)	194	299	216	228	216	280	284	272	166	99	159
Percent	88.7	92.4	85.7	23.7	41.7	45.2	90.5	91.9	81.9	70.7	81.8
Consistency of condom use with regular client in the past month (n)	218	291	166	284	279	278	271	172	288	101	121
Percent	84.4	80.1	73.5	19	33.3	37.4	80.8	81.4	68.8	47.5	51.2
Consistency of condom use with regular sex partner in the past month (n)	128	190	109	120	145	144	114	154	172	67	75
Percent	37.5	18.3	34.9	10	7.5	13.9	24.8	16.9	27.9	29.9	21.3
VSWs who ever injected drug (n)	263	354	251	300	304	300	300	274	298	123	160
Percent	2.7	1.2	0	0.3	7.9	4.7	3.7	0.4	0.7	0	4.4
VSWs who had HIV tested and known results	263	352	251	297	305	300	299	273	298	121	160
Percent	28.9	44	53.8	58.6	31.2	46	73.9	86.1	21.5	17.4	18.8
Indicators	An Giang	Can Tho	Da Nang	Dong Nai	HCMC	Hanoi	Hai Phong	Nghe An	Quang Ninh	Yen Bai	
HIV prevalence among SSWs (n)	300	138	300	300	299	300	300	282	159	151	
Percent	7.7	19.6	0.3	4.7	16.3	19.7	23	3.2	1.3	10.6	
Chlamydia (n)	NA	NA	NA	NA	299	300	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Percent	NA	NA	NA	NA	10.7	4.7	NA	NA	NA	NA	
SSWs reported unusual genital discharge in the past 12 months (n)	300	138	300	300	300	300	300	281	159	151	
Percent	34.7	44.2	19.3	49.7	44.2	53	30.7	40.9	48.4	20.5	
SSWs reported unusual genital pain/ulcers in the past 12 months (n)	300	138	300	298	300	300	300	281	159	151	
Percent	12	23.9	9	23.8	14.3	22	18.7	32.7	14.5	9.3	
Consistency of condom use with one-time client in the past month (n)	245	123	274	204	272	279	288	257	39	126	
Percent	91.8	89.4	78.5	43.1	31.3	38.7	88.9	85.2	87.2	75.4	
Consistency of condom use with regular client in the past month (n)	247	112	228	225	247	264	227	205	46	137	
Percent	86.2	88.4	70.2	32.4	26.6	33.3	78.9	72.7	63	66.4	
Consistency of condom use with regular sex partner in the past month (n)	117	60	116	121	108	112	84	113	86	74	
Percent	30.8	31.7	31.9	18.2	5.5	17.2	34.5	11.6	15.1	32.4	
SSWs who ever injected drug (n)	300	138	300	300	300	300	300	282	159	151	
Percent	4.7	16.7	0.3	-	12.8	15	17.7	1.1	0.6	4.6	
SSWs who had HIV tested and known results	299	137	298	299	300	288	300	282	159	149	
Percent	36.8	53.3	72.8	47.8	37.3	48.3	78.7	54.6	44.7	21.5	

IBBS Round II: The HIV/STI Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance

This IBBS Highlight summarizes data from the full report, "Results from the HIV/STI Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance (IBBS) in Vietnam, Round II —2009". The full report is available from the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) and FHI 360 in Vietnam.