

IBBS ROUND II

The HIV/STI Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance

Injecting Drug Users

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 surveyed 2032 IDUs in seven provinces An Giang, Can Tho, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), Hanoi, Hai Phong, and Quang Ninh. In 2009, IBBS surveyed 3638 IDUs in 12 provinces that included seven provinces in 2006 and five new provinces: Dien Bien, Dong Nai, Lao Cai, Nghe An, and Yen Bai. Participants were recruited based on either respondent-driven sampling or time-location cluster sampling.

HIV/STI Prevalence

HIV prevalence among IDUs was high in many provinces surveyed in Round II, including Dien Bien (56%), Quang Ninh (56%), Hai Phong (48%), and HCMC (46%). It was also relatively high in Ha Noi (21%), Lao Cai (22%), Dong Nai and Nghe An (both 24%). Da Nang had the lowest prevalence among IDUs, at only 1%. Syphilis prevalence was less than 2% in all surveyed provinces (Figure 1).

Figure 2 shows that the HIV prevalence among IDUs were lower in 2009 vs 2006 in Hai Phong (48% vs. 66%), Can Tho (32% vs 37%), and Ha Noi (21% vs. 24%). However, HIV prevalence among IDUs in HCMC in 2009 was higher than in 2006 (46% vs.34%). It is important to note that the higher prevalence may be due to the fact that between 2006 and 2008, approximately 20,000 drug users returned to their communities from drug treatment centers (known as 06 centers) in HCMC.

Figure 1:
HIV/STI Prevalence among IDUs - IBBS 2009

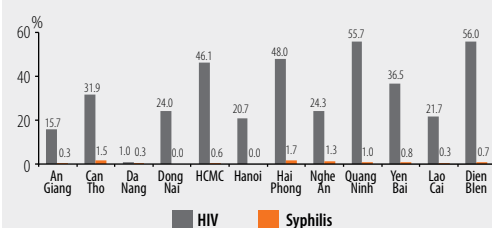
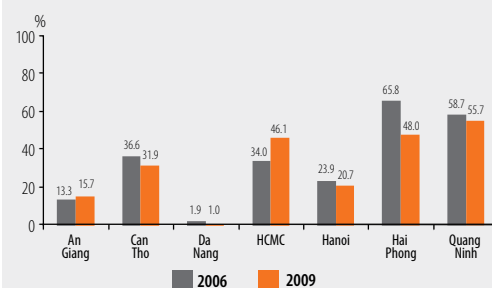


Figure 2:
Comparison of HIV prevalence among IDUs - IBBS 2006 and 2009



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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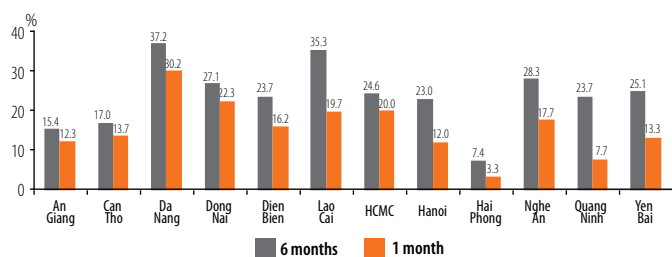


HIV/STI Behavioral Indicators

Needle and syringe sharing

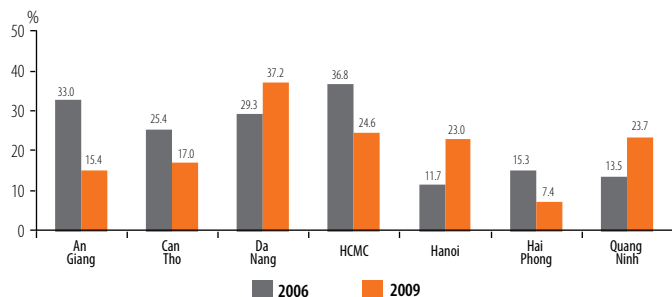
Figure 3 illustrates the percentage of needle and syringe sharing among IDUs in 2009 in the last 6 months and last 1 month. Needle and syringe sharing in the last 6 months was relatively high (15% to 37%) in all provinces surveyed but Hai Phong (7%). Reported sharing in the last six months was highest in Da Nang and Lao Cai.

Figure 3:
Proportion of IDUs reporting needle and syringe sharing – IBBS 2009



Needle sharing in the last 6 months among IDUs in 2009 was lower than in 2006 in Hai Phong, HCMC, Can Tho, and An Giang. Conversely, needle sharing in 2009 was higher than in 2006 in Ha Noi, Da Nang and Quang Ninh (Figure 4). A high percentage of HIV-positive IDUs reported ever having shared needles in 2009. Reported sharing was highest in Quang Ninh where 82% of HIV-positive IDUs reported ever having shared a needle.

Figure 4:
Proportion of IDUs reporting needle and syringe sharing in the past six

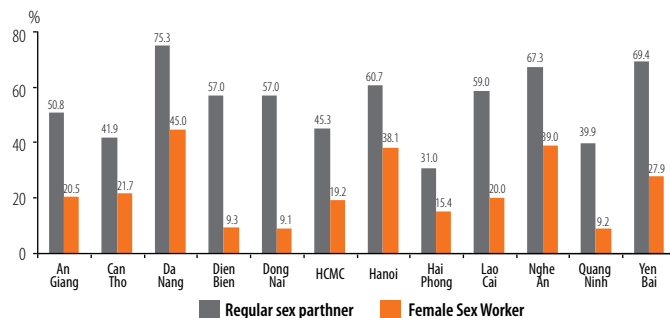


months – IBBS 2006 and 2009

Sex partners & condom use

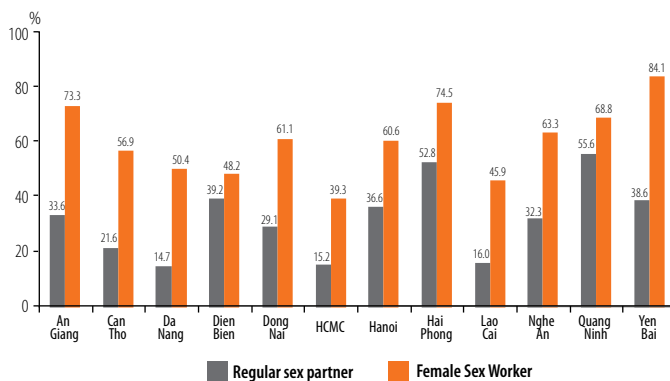
At least 40% of IDUs reported sexual activity with a regular partner in the last 12 months in all provinces, except for Hai Phong (about 30%). In addition to having sex with regular partners, a portion of IDUs in every province reported having sex at least once with a sex worker in the last 12 months, from approximately 9% in Dien Bien, Quang Ninh, and Dong Nai to 45% in Da Nang (Figure 5).

Figure 5:
Proportion of IDUs who had sex by type of partner in the past 12 months – IBBS 2009



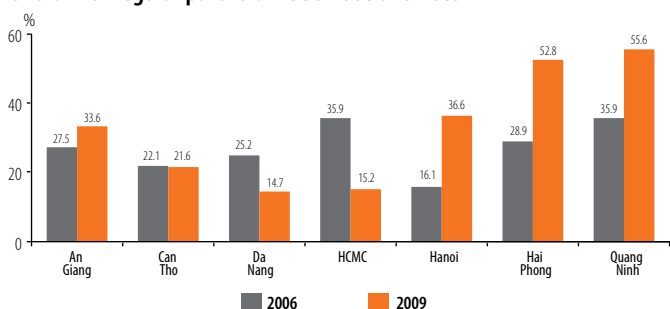
Consistent condom use in the last 12 months among IDUs with regular partners (wives and girlfriends) varied, from 15% in Da Nang to 56% in Quang Ninh. Although consistent condom use with sex workers was higher than with regular partners, it was still low (from about 40% in HCMC to 84% in Yen Bai) (Figure 6).

Figure 6:
Proportion of IDUs who reported consistent condom use by type of partner in the past 12 months – IBBS 2009



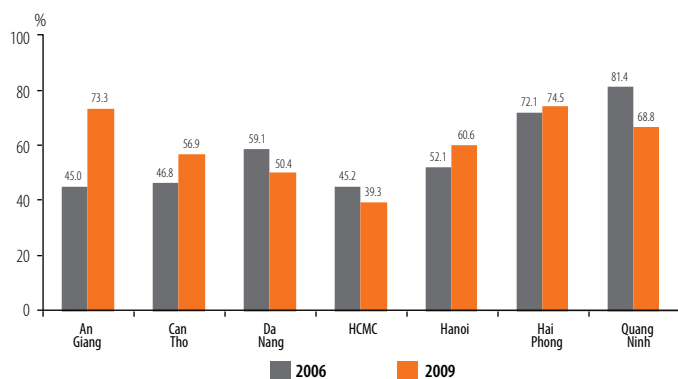
Compared to the 2006 results, a greater proportion of IDUs reported consistent condom use with their regular sex partners in most provinces, specifically in An Giang, Ha Noi, Hai Phong, and Quang Ninh. The reverse was true for Da Nang and HCMC (Figure 7).

Figure 7:
Proportion of IDUs who reported consistent condom use in the past 12 months with regular partners – IBBS 2006 and 2009



Sexual risk practices with sex workers among IDUs appear to have changed little, with the exception of An Giang, where consistent condom use changed from 45% to 73%, and Quang Ninh, which decreased from about 81% to 69% between 2006 and 2009 (Figure 8).

Figure 8:
Proportion of IDUs who reported consistent condom use in the past 12 months with FSWs – IBBS 2006 and 2009

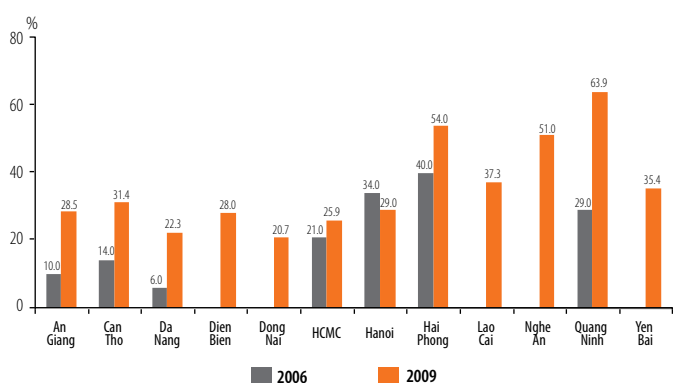


Exposure to Interventions

HIV testing

In all provinces but Ha Noi, the proportion of IDUs who were tested and were aware of their HIV status was higher in 2009 than in 2006, especially in Quang Ninh and Da Nang. Despite these increases, fewer than 30% of IDUs accessed counseling and testing services in the majority of provinces (Figure 9).

Figure 9:
Proportion of IDUs who ever tested for HIV and known the results – IBBS 2006 and 2009

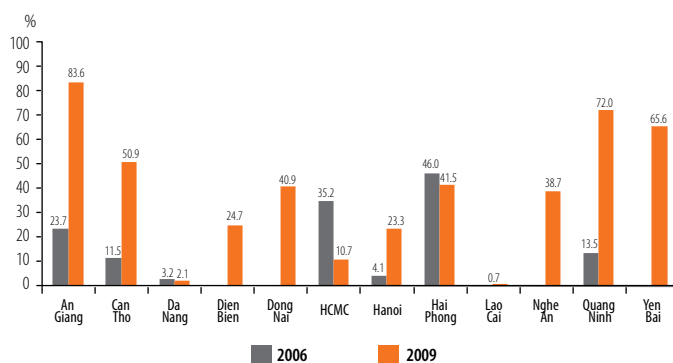


Needles and syringes program

The proportion of IDUs assessing to free needles and syringes varied widely by province. The increase is about three-fold increase in Can Tho and An Giang between 2006 and 2009. About 23% of IDUs in Hanoi reported obtaining free needles and syringes in 2009, 11% in HCMC, and 2% in Da Nang. HCMC saw a significant reduction in reported exposure to free needles and syringes program, down from 35% in 2006.

Despite relatively low obtainment of free needles and syringes in critical provinces, the overwhelming majority of IDUs reported that they were able to purchase or obtain new needles and syringes when needed. Access ranged from 64% in Lao Cai, to up to 99% in provinces surveyed. In most provinces, 80% of IDUs or above reported being able to access clean needles and syringes when needed.

Figure 10:
Proportion of IDUs who obtained free needles/syringes in the past 6 months – IBBS 2006 and 2009



I n j e c t i n g D r u g U s e r s

Indicators	An Giang	Can Tho	Da Nang	Dong Nai	HCMC	Hanoi	Hai Phong	Nghe An	Quang Ninh	Yen Bai	Lao Cai	Dien Bien
Age group (n)	300	273	291	299	309	300	300	300	299	359	300	299
< 20	25.9	5.9	34.4	18.1	6.5	5.3	0.3	2.7	0.3	1.1	0.7	4.7
20 – 25	31	16.1	36.8	23.4	26.2	16.3	5	26	13	5.3	10	16.7
25 – 30	24.9	28.9	12.7	27.4	30.1	24.3	15	21.3	29.8	21.2	15	17.7
30 or more	18.2	49.1	16.2	31.1	37.2	54	79.7	50	56.9	72.4	74.3	60.9
Duration of drug injection (n)	296	263	289	290	304	287	297	298	297	347	297	296
< 1 year	19.6	8.4	26.6	22.8	12.5	14.3	5.7	16.1	3.7	5.5	8.4	11.8
1 year or more	80.4	91.6	73.4	77.2	87.5	85.7	94.3	83.9	96.3	94.5	91.6	88.2
HIV prevalence among IDUs (n)	299	276	291	300	310	300	300	300	300	359	299	300
Percent	15.7	31.9	1	24	46.1	20.7	48	24.3	55.7	36.5	21.7	56
IDUs who reported unusual genital discharge in the past 12 months (n)	299	277	291	300	309	297	299	300	297	357	299	300
Percent	2.3	1.8	5.5	3.7	1	2.7	0	7	0.3	1.1	0.3	3
IDUs reported genital pain/ulcers in the past 12 months (n)	299	277	291	299	309	296	299	300	297	356	299	300
Percent	3.7	5.4	8.3	2.3	0.7	2	0.3	8	0.3	0.6	1	2.3
Sharing needles/syringes in the past 6 months (n)	299	277	290	299	310	300	299	300	300	359	300	300
Percent	15.4	17	37.2	27.1	24.6	23	7.4	28.3	23.7	25.1	35.3	23.7
IDUs who reported having sex with regular partners in the past 12 months (n)	299	277	291	300	309	298	300	300	286	359	300	300
Percent	50.8	41.9	75.3	57	45.3	60.7	31	67.3	39.9	69.4	59	57
IDUs who reported having sex with sex workers in the past 12 months (n)	298	276	291	297	308	299	293	300	261	358	300	300
Percent	20.5	21.7	45	9.1	19.2	38.1	15.4	39	9.2	27.9	20	9.3
Consistent condom use with regular partners in the past 12 months (n)	152	116	218	172	138	205	91	201	117	249	175	171
Percent	33.6	21.6	14.7	29.1	15.2	36.6	52.8	32.3	55.6	38.6	16	39.2
Consistent condom use with sex workers in the past 12 months (n)	60	65	133	36	56	142	47	120	32	101	61	27
Percent	73.3	56.9	50.4	61.1	39.3	60.6	74.5	63.3	68.8	84.1	45.9	48.2
IDUs who had HIV tested and known the results (n)	298	277	291	299	309	300	300	300	299	359	300	300
Percent	28.5	31.4	22.3	20.7	25.9	29	54	51	63.9	35.4	37.3	28
IDUs correctly identifying ways of preventing HIV infection and rejecting misconception of HIV transmission (n)	300	277	291	300	310	300	300	300	300	360	N/A	300
Percent	38.3	48.4	44	34	54.8	41	48.3	57.3	27.3	72.2	N/A	43.7

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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.