

IBBS ROUND II

The HIV/STI Integrated Biological and Behavioral Surveillance

LAO CAI Surveillance Highlights

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. This document is one in a series of reports on IBBS. Round I was conducted in 2006 and Round II in 2009.

Lao Cai is a newly surveyed province, therefore only 2009 data is reported here.



One in five injecting drug users in Lao Cai were HIV-positive

The 2009 data showed that HIV prevalence among injecting drug users (IDUs) in Lao Cai was high at 21.7%. However, HIV prevalence among IDUs in Lao Cai was higher among ethnic minorities. Nineteen percent of Kinh who injected drugs were HIV positive compared to 34% of IDUs who belonged to an ethnic minority. Two-third of IDUs in Lao Cai had been to a treatment center (known as O6 centers), (Figure 1).

Most injecting drug users did not use condoms with their sex partners

IDUs in Lao Cai had the highest percentage of unsafe sex among all the cities/provinces surveyed. More than two-thirds reported that they did not use condoms with their regular partner(s). And 54% reported that they did not use condoms with female sex workers (FSWs). Seventy-eight percent of IDUs already infected with HIV did not use condoms with their regular sex partner(s) (Figure 2).

Moreover, the proportion of IDUs who had HIV tested and received results in 2009 was limited at 37.3%.

Needle sharing was a widespread practice

Needle/syringe sharing among IDUs in Lao Cai was common. Among IDUs who were already infected with HIV, as many as 66.2% reported that they had previously shared needles/syringes (Figure 3). This shows a large potential risk for ongoing HIV transmission in the IDUs population.

Figure 1:
HIV prevalence among target population in Lao Cai, IBBS 2009

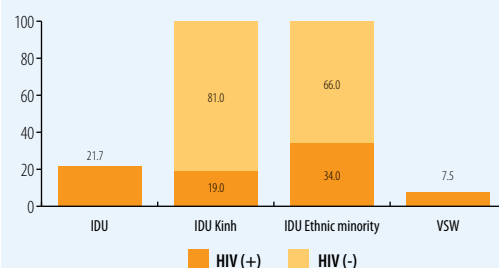


Figure 2:
Risk behaviors and exposure to interventions among IDUs in Lao Cai, IBBS 2009

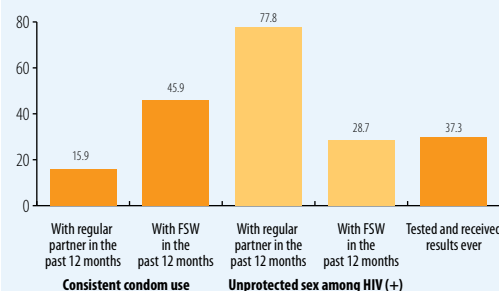
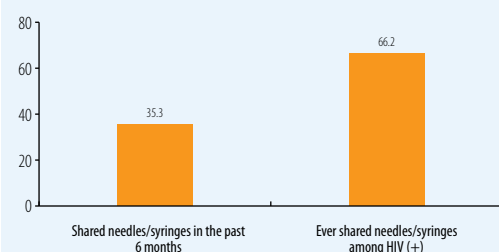


Figure 3:
Needle sharing behavior among IDUs in Lao Cai, IBBS 2009



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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LAO CAI Surveillance Highlights

The HIV/STI Integrated Biological and Behavioral Survey in Lao Cai was conducted in 2009. Participants were recruited based on time-location cluster sampling for both female sex workers and injecting drug users.

Key Indicators	2009 (%)
Injection drug users	(n= 300)
HIV prevalence	21.7% (n= 299)
Syphilis prevalence	0.3%
Shared needles/syringes in the past 6 months	35.3%
Access to free clean needles/syringes in the past 6 months	0.7%
Consistent condom use with FSWs in the past 12 months	45.9% (n= 61)
Consistent condom use with regular partner in the past 12 months	16.0% (n= 175)
Access to free/cheap condom in the past 6 months	3.4% (n= 206)
Had an HIV test at VCT center and received result in the past 12 months	8.3%
Female sex workers	VSWs (n=160)
HIV prevalence	7.5%
Syphilis prevalence	1.3%
Consistent condom use with one-time client in the past month	81.8% (n= 159)
Consistent condom use with regular client in the past month	51.2% (n= 121)
Consistent condom use with regular partner in the past month	21.3% (n= 75)
Self-reported drug injection	4.4%
Access to free/cheap condoms in the past 6 months	16.9%
Had an HIV test at VCT center and received result in the past 12 months	15.6%

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