



Scientists and Health Care Workers  
Committed to HIV/AIDS

# 16th International AIDS Conference

Toronto, Canada - August 13 - 18, 2006

## SURVEILLANCE OF HIV PREVALENCE AMONG POPULATIONS OF MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN IN THAILAND, 2003-2005

*Int Conf AIDS. 2006 Aug 13-18;16 Abstract No. MoAc0101*

van Griensven F.<sup>1</sup>, Varangrat A.<sup>2</sup>, Naorat S.<sup>2</sup>, Sinthuwattanawibool C.<sup>2</sup>, McNicholl J.M.<sup>1</sup>, Mock P.A.<sup>2</sup>, Siraprapasiri T.<sup>2</sup>, Jommaroeng R.<sup>3</sup>, Phanuphak P.<sup>4</sup>, Tappero J.W.<sup>5</sup>, the Thailand MSM Study Group

<sup>1</sup>Thailand MOPH-U.S. CDC Collaboration, Nonthaburi, Thailand; Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States, <sup>2</sup>Thailand MOPH-U.S. CDC Collaboration, Nonthaburi, Thailand, <sup>3</sup>Thai Red Cross Society; Rainbow Sky Association of Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand, <sup>4</sup>Thai Red Cross Society, Bangkok, Thailand, <sup>5</sup>Thailand MOPH-U.S. CDC Collaboration, Nonthaburi, Thailand; Global AIDS Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, United States

---

**BACKGROUND:** HIV prevalence among Thai populations of men who have sex with men is not well described. This information is important to target and inform HIV preventive interventions.

**METHODS:** Identical cross-sectional surveys, using venue-day-time sampling, enrolled 1,121 men from Bangkok in 2003 (response rate: 90.2%) and 2,049 from Bangkok, Chiangmai and Phuket in 2005 (response rate: 97.3%). Participants were Thai,  $\geq 15$  years old, and had had sex with another man in the past 6 months. Palmtop computer-assisted self-interviews collected demographic and behavioral data; EIA tested oral fluid for HIV infection. Our study population consisted of general men who have sex with men (MSM), male sex workers (MSW) and transgendered persons (TG).

**RESULTS:** 1,121 MSM enrolled in 2003; and 821 MSM, 754 MSW, and 474 TG in 2005. In Bangkok, HIV prevalence among MSM increased from 17.3% in 2003 to 28.3% in 2005; among  $\leq 22$  year olds it increased from 12.9% to 22.3% and among those older from 19.1% to 30.2% (all  $p < 0.05$ ). Prevalence at bar/disco's increased from 13.0% to 23.0%, at parks from 16.9% to 29.6% and at saunas from 22.0% to 31.9% (all  $p < 0.01$ ). In 2005, HIV prevalence among MSM in Chiangmai was 15.3% and in Phuket 5.5%. Among MSW, HIV prevalence was 18.9% in Bangkok, 11.4% in Chiangmai and 14.4% in Phuket. HIV prevalence in TG was 11.5% in Bangkok, 17.6% in Chiangmai and 11.2% in Phuket.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Data show that by 2005, HIV was widespread in Thai populations of men who have sex with men. Among MSM in Bangkok, HIV prevalence increased over 50% between 2003 and 2005. In 2005, more than 20% of Bangkok MSM  $\leq 22$  years old were HIV-infected, suggesting high underlying HIV incidence. Thai populations of men who have sex with men should be considered for the implementation and evaluation of preventive interventions.

2006-08-13  
MoAc0101

---

Copyright © 2006 - [International AIDS Society](#) (IAS). All information and content relating to the abstracts from the 16th International AIDS Conference, such as text, graphics, logos, button icons, images, audio clips, and software is protected by copyright. Permission is hereby granted for the non-commercial use or reproduction of the information on this web site, provided that the use of such information is accompanied by an acknowledgement that IAS is the source of the information and the name of the author of the article.

AEGiS is 501c(3) not-for-profit organization made possible through unrestricted grants from [Boehringer Ingelheim](#), [Bridgestone/Firestone Charitable Trust](#), [Bristol-Myers Squibb Company](#), [Elton John AIDS Foundation](#), [GlaxoSmithKline](#), the [National Library of Medicine](#), [Roche / Trimeris](#) and [donations](#) from users like you. *Always watch for outdated information. This article first appeared in 2006. This material is designed to support, not replace, the relationship that exists between you and your doctor.*

AEGiS presents published material, reprinted with permission and neither endorses nor opposes any material. All information contained on this website, including information relating to health conditions, products, and treatments, is for informational purposes only. It is often presented in summary or aggregate form. It is not meant to be a substitute for the advice provided by your own physician or other medical professionals. *Always discuss treatment options with a doctor who specializes in treating HIV.*

Copyright ©1980, 2006. AEGiS. All materials appearing on AEGiS are protected by copyright as a collective work or compilation under U.S. copyright and other laws and are the property of AEGiS, or the party credited as the provider of the content. Permission is hereby granted for the non-commercial use or reproduction of the information herein, provided that the use of such information is accompanied by an acknowledgement that IAS is the source of the information and the name of the author of the article.