



Barriers to HIV Testing Among PWID in Thailand: A Focus on Key Challenges

Key Challenges & Solutions

Background

In 2023, the Thai Drug Users' Network (TDN) conducted a survey to explore why people who inject drugs (PWID) are not accessing HIV testing services. Despite the network comprising 7,820 members across six provinces, only 37.12% (2,903 individuals) had undergone HIV testing, leaving 62.88% (4,917 individuals) untested. This study identifies the main barriers preventing PWID from accessing HIV testing and provides recommendations for improving service delivery.

Objective

The study aims to identify the most significant logistical and social barriers to HIV testing among PWID and to propose strategies to enhance access to these vital services.

Methods

- Sample: 450 untested PWID (9.15% of untested population).
- Data Collection: Face-to-face interviews using structured questionnaires.
- Key Areas Covered:
 - General demographics & drug use history
 - HIV knowledge & concerns
 - Barriers to testing
 - Suggestions for service improvement

Conclusion

The main barriers to HIV testing among PWID in Thailand include financial concerns, fear of police, stigma, and logistical difficulties. Solutions such as mobile testing units, extended service hours, and stigma reduction campaigns are essential. These efforts require collaboration between healthcare providers, government agencies, and community organizations to ensure accessible and stigma-free HIV testing for all PWID

Key Findings

1. Financial & Logistical Challenges

- 38.89% feared losing income if seeking testing.
- 31.33% cited long distances to testing centers.
- 28.67% mentioned excessive travel time.

2. Social & Legal Concerns

- 32.44% feared encountering police checkpoints.
- 31.56% worried about seeing acquaintances at testing centers.

3. Stigma & Discrimination

- 31.11% feared negative judgment if tested.

Recommendations for Improvement

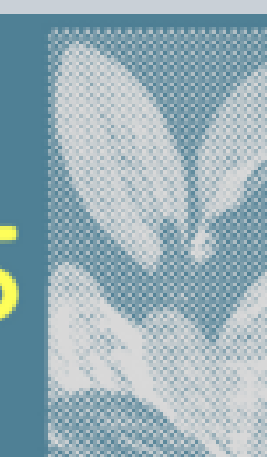
- ✓ Mobile Testing Units – Bring services closer to PWID.
- ✓ Extended Hours – Offer testing outside regular work hours.
- ✓ Stigma Reduction Campaigns – Educate communities & healthcare workers.
- ✓ Police Collaboration – Ensure safe access without fear of arrest.
- ✓ Community-Based Testing – Peer-led services to build trust.



Contact Information



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