



The Amount of HIV testing was increased by Mobile Clinic Among PWID in Tak, Thailand

ORGANIZATION: GIVE HOPE GROUP

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BACKGROUND:

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, referring people who inject drugs (PWIDs) to take HIV testing in community hospitals was almost disrupted. This included the target group who have travelled inconveniently. 90% of PWID in Tak province live in remote areas far from hospitals. Inconvenient travel resulted in fewer PWIDs receiving HIV testing at community hospitals in 2021. Give Hope Group (GHG) as a community-based organization (CBO) working on preventing HIV transmission in PWIDs and promoting harm reduction, reached 1,141 PWIDs in Tak province. However, only 60 PWIDs were referred to take HIV testing at community hospitals, which was 5.2% of the total.

METHODS:

In 2022, Give Hope Group changed the HIV testing approach by emphasizing community testing. Four outreach workers certified by the Division of AIDS and STIs, Ministry of Public Health, conducted HIV testing in the areas together with a professional nurse network from 8 sub-district health promotion hospitals. The mobile clinic approach enabled them to reach remote communities, and an oral fluid test was used.



RESULTS:

During October 2021 and August 2022, Give Hope Group reached 27 communities for HIV testing, and 286 PWIDs were tested. There were 17 cases of HIV positive, which was 5.9% of the total. They were tested again to confirm the results at community hospitals-100% of the results aligned with the results from the initial test.

CONCLUSION:

13 patients, or 76%, were referred to antiretroviral therapy, while the rest were in the process of acquiring treatment from community hospitals. Additionally, the partners of the patients were invited to take HIV testing. Consequently, there were more data to assess the overall transmission of HIV in the areas, which enabled the related organizations to draft appropriate plans for preventing new HIV cases.



SCAN HERE

