

THE CAMBODIAN YOUNG WOMEN'S HEALTH STUDY

PROJECT STAFF

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This epidemiological study will establish baseline prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), chlamydia, gonorrhea, and human papillomavirus (HPV), as well as rates of drug use including amphetamine-type substances (ATS) among young women in Phnom Penh, Cambodia who have multiple sexual partners. Using a community participatory approach, CWDA will conduct recruitment of study participants, and ensure that retention of study participants is maintained at high rates through follow up within established community-based networks in Phnom Penh. One hundred women aged 15-29 who report >2 sexual partners within the past month and/or engaging in transactional sex within the past 3 months, will be enrolled and screened for HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhea, and HPV infections. A behavioral interview on demographics, sexual risk and drug-use behaviors will be administered. All consenting participants will be followed prospectively for one year with quarterly follow-up visits.

SIGNIFICANCE

This is a collaboration between a small, women-run NGO, Cambodian Women's Development Association, and the National Center for HIV, AIDS, Dermatology & STDs. This study will explore probable associations between drug use and sexual risk, as measured by HIV, STDs, and HPV infection in this vulnerable group. As well, recruitment and follow-up strategies will be piloted in a cohort of young high-risk women in preparation for future larger prevention research studies including HIV vaccine, microbicide, and chemoprophylaxis trials.