

## EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDIES FOR HIV PREVENTION RESEARCH IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION—*This project consists of three studies*

#### (1) ASSESSMENT OF HIV INCIDENCE AND RISK BEHAVIORS AMONG CLIENTS SEEKING HIV TESTING IN BANGKOK

This study is being conducted at the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Center (TCRARC) among male and female clients of the Anonymous HIV Testing Clinic.

#### Interesting Findings

Of 435 persons testing for HIV, 406 (93%) consented to participate. HIV prevalence was 12%. Nine incident infections were detected for an estimated annualized HIV incidence rate of 5.8% (95% CI, 2.02-9.7); 4.2% among women, (95%CI, 0-10.0) and 6.6% in men, (95% CI, 1.7-11.4). Men who reported sex with men (MSM) had the highest incidence at 17.3% (95% CI 2.1-32.5). A large proportion (20%) of participants did not identify risk (NIR) and estimated HIV incidence was 8.3% (95%CI 0-19.8) in this group. Among women with NIR, incidence was 13.1% (95%CI 0-38.8). No associations were found between HIV status with age, marital status, education, or reported condom use.

#### (2) PUBLIC HIV PREVENTION EDUCATION AND SURVEY OF WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN HIV PREVENTION TRIALS

This project will develop culturally and linguistically appropriate HIV prevention educational materials aimed at a specialized target population: clients attending the TCRARC Anonymous HIV Testing Clinic. Following the distribution and review of these materials with the target population, the study will identify which HIV prevention methods are most acceptable and of interest to the target population, utilizing a brief anonymous survey.

#### Interesting Findings

In July 2006, we collected data from 806 individuals from 5 target groups: HIV VCT clients, men who have sex with men (MSM), female sex workers (FSW), injection drug users (IDU) and youth (14-22 years). High proportions of all groups expressed willingness to participate in prevention trials.

	Microbicide	Vaccine	Chemoprophylaxis
VCT Clients	82%	81%	84%
MSM	98%	91%	91%
FSW	99%	88%	94%
IDU	98%	94%	95%
Youth	92%	72%	73%

#### (3) COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES IN PREPARATION FOR HIV PREVENTION TRIALS IN WOMEN IN THAILAND

This work supports the planning phases for an HIV Prevention Clinical Trial of antiretroviral chemoprophylaxis in Thai women at risk for HIV. Participants include leaders and members of CBOs, NGOs, religious organizations, other Thai HIV prevention and therapeutic research groups, and governmental organizations such as the Thai Ministry of Health. The work includes convening and chairing general discussions and specific working groups with community leaders, who will identify optimal approaches for introducing at-risk populations to current and novel HIV prevention technologies and chemoprophylaxis studies. Other topics for discussion include trial design and procedures, content of educational materials, appropriate materials and procedures for obtaining informed consent of participants, effective strategies for subject recruitment, and social and scientific issues specific to HIV prevention chemoprophylactic interventions such as behavioral disinhibition, social benefits and harms associated with trial participation.

**PROJECT END DATE:** June 2007