

## Population and Health Aspects of Drug Use in Thailand

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### Abstract

The prevalence of HIV infection from sentinel surveillance surveys has demonstrated that a vulnerability to HIV transmission has remained extremely high for drug injector populations. It is reported that about 50 percent of the injectors are HIV infected. Additionally, users of other type of substance also have a high HIV prevalence. These include alcohol and methamphetamine users.

The study aims to examine size of drug user population, age and sex structure, relationship between drug users and other population groups, and their risk behavioral dynamic. The analysis draws mainly upon the sentinel surveillance, reported from drug treatment centers, and related literature review.

Finding from the study has revealed that the government's successful eradication of drug use may somehow have an effect on the reduction of numbers of drug dependent in treatment centers. This action may push them underground and hard to reach for observe the prevalence trend and for any HIV prevention purpose. Although, drug users are greatly affected by state policy, some people have continued using drug. Worse yet, their vulnerability to HIV transmission have remained obscure.

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