

Original Article

Estimation of Male Population Who Engaging in Commercial Sex and Exploring of Associated Factors In Taiwan

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Abstract

Sex workers and their clients are a vulnerable hidden population. In general, they have a higher risk of HIV transmission than others. This study aimed to explore the number of male clients who have ever been to entertainment venues involved in prostitution and explored the factors associated with their consuming intention. Taiwanese male adults aged ≥ 20 years were included in this study. Through computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) system, a postal questionnaire or phone interview was conducted if respondent was willing to participate in the survey. A total of 1,091 questionnaires were completed. According to the Ministry of the Interior household registration data (2010); age, educational background, and residential area were weighted to make the sample representative. The results showed an estimation of 2.33 million people who might have ever been to entertainment venues involving in prostitution, and 0.47 million people who might have had sex trade in the past year among Taiwanese male ≥ 20 -year-olds. Among who have had sex trade, 70% used condom during every sex trade. Taiwan male adult who has lower Double Standard Scale (DSS), lower educational level, higher income, and not married had higher rate to visit those entertainment venues involved in prostitutions. This study suggests the government should enhance the condom use program among clients of sex industry.

Keywords: Male, sex related consuming, sex trade

The Change of HIV Stigma Attitude among Adult Males in Taiwan: 2009-2012

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Abstract

Public stigma of HIV/AIDS not only negatively affects patients' schooling, employment, receiving medical care and residential security but also indirectly deters those who perceiving risk for HIV infection from HIV testing and seeking treatment, which in turn increases the risk of continuing spread of HIV/AIDS. Therefore, it is urgent to grasp factors contributing to public's stigma towards HIV/AIDS and make efforts to de-stigmatize HIV infected persons.

The purpose of this study is to understand the recent shift in public stigma of AIDS in Taiwan and to examine factors contributing to AIDS stigma among males aged 15-59 years in Taiwan.

This research used data derived from "AIDS public survey" databases collected yearly by Taiwan CDC from 2009-2012. In addition to HIV stigma attitude scale, variables examined by this study included socio-demographic characteristics, HIV risk perceptions, and mass media message exposure. Data were analyzed by means of bivariate methods, multiple regression and trend analysis.

The major findings are: (1) age, occupation, HIV risk perceptions and exposure to mass media messages were significant predictors of AIDS stigma attitude, (2) while time (year) of survey was also a determinant in the regression analysis, it was found that AIDS stigma attitude increased steadily over the years up till 2012 when the increase began slowing down, (3) the youngest (15~19) and oldest (50~59), people with lower educational attainment, blue collar workers, housekeepers and the unemployed, and residents living in remote islands and the eastern parts of Taiwan were more likely to hold HIV/AIDS misconceptions and therefore biased risk perceptions.

In the past few years, the HIV/AIDS stigma carried by adult males in Taiwan has kept increasing steadily until 2012. Some segments of this population were particularly apt to be stigma holders. Tailored educational and communication programs should be developed to reduce their prejudicial attitudes and as a result gradually shape an overall supportive environment.

Keywords: AIDS stigma, prejudice, social distance, risk perceptions

Surveillance of Drug-resistance of Newly Diagnosed HIV-1 Infected Patients in Taiwan, 2010-2012

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Abstract

Human immunodeficiency virus type-1 (HIV-1) is the pathogen causes the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). The HIV-1 virus of drug-resistance might produce widespread transmission of primary HIV-1 virus of drug-resistance, and could discount and influence the efficiency of therapy. By monitoring the naive patients and build database, these are the important references for not only examination of drugs used in Taiwan but also a recommendation for clinicians to consider drugs. We studied the prevalence of transmitted HIV-1 drug resistance in Taiwan between 2010 and 2012, and revealed that the mutation rate of ARV drug-resistance from newly diagnosed patients with HIV-1 was 9.8%, 6.6% and 7.4%, respectively. The results of this study will improve understand of serious situation of HIV-1 drug-resistance and realize its impact. In conclusion, we will obtain more complete blueprint of epidemiology of HIV-1 drug-resistance and provide a reference for policy making by government institutions and medical units.

Keywords : Human Immunodeficiency Virus type-1 (HIV-1) 、 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) 、 Drug-resistance

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