

# Trekking Tour and Problem of Substance Abuse and HIV Virus Transmission

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## ABSTRACT

It is known that problems of drug dependence and HIV are of major worldwide concern. These issues are equal concern in Thailand. Information from various studies showed that trekking are influencing factor in the spread of the epidemic. It has effected not only hill tribes in the target villages but also guides and tourists themselves. Tourists seem to trek where they can drink alcohol, smoke opium and sometimes, use heroin. Many villagers inject heroin. Even though there is no exact information from villagers that some women have sexual relationships with tourists, one guide from nine interviewees revealed that he had a relationship with a tourist. Moreover health examinations showed less knowledge of health care issues, particularly concerning the spread of diseases. These things may lead to serious problems in the future.

**Key words :** Trekking Tour, HIV transmission

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