

HIV infection among Thai and hill tribe drug addicts attending the Northern drug dependence treatment center : 1989-1998

Usaneyya Puangpan¹ and Laied Dheerarat²

¹ Institute of Health Research, Chulalongkorn University

² Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Public Health

ABSTRACT

The result of HIV infection among Thai and Hill Tribe drug addicts reported in this paper obtained from the laboratory data of the Northern Drug Dependence Treatment Centre. It was found that during the past decade, the trend of HIV positive among the hill tribe has increased, from 3% in 1989 to 12% in 1990 while the percentage of HIV positive among the Thai addicts has been reduced from 30% to 22% in the same period. According to the population characteristics, social and behaviour of drug Use, it can be concluded that cause of HIV infection among Hill Tribal addicts was not only to needle sharing but due to other factors, such as sexual relationship. Further study in risk behaviours related to HIV infection in Hill Tribe population is recommended.

Key words : HIV, Hill tribe, Drug addicts, drug dependent

The 2000 Thai National Symposium on Population Studies is financially supported by the Population Council. 23-24 November.