

COMMUNITY-BASED MULTI-DIMENSIONAL MODEL OF INTERVENTIONS FOR PEOPLE WHO USE STIMULANT DRUGS IN VIETNAM

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Background:

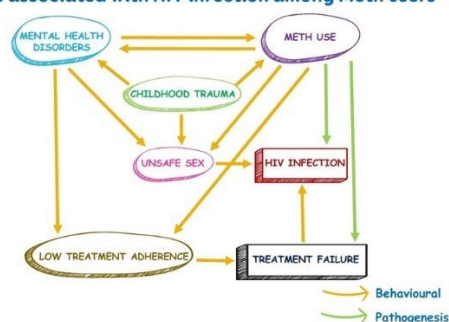
Statistics in Vietnam showed that the number of people who use stimulants increased fivefold from 2014 to 2018-2023. Vietnam Authority of HIV/AIDS recognized a surge of new HIV infection largely due to sexual transmission, which is linked to alarming trend of ATS use. Main harm reduction programs in Vietnam & its region focus only on provision of clean needles and syringes and methadone. Technical competencies and experiences in stimulant harm reduction are virtually non-existent.

Description of model of care/intervention/program:

SCDI is a leading NGO in Vietnam working with the marginalized populations, including people who use drugs since 2010. Since 2017, SCDI developed a logical framework of the risk factors associated with the methamphetamine use (the most common ATS in Vietnam). According to the framework, we built community-based intervention packages that target each factor. The interventions are evidence-based and designed to be feasible for community to implement; including:

- 1) HIV
- 2) Harm reduction
- 3) Chemsex
- 4) Mental health
- 5) Adverse childhood experiences/ trauma healing

Factors associated with HIV infection among Meth users



Effectiveness:

The interventions were implemented in 7 provinces of Vietnam, reached total of 10,105 people who use stimulants. A cross-cut evaluation done in Hanoi showed that, for two years 2022 – 2023, there was a significant improvement in knowledge of clients on HIV transmission, safer sexual behavior, safer drug use, and mental health. The analysis with 800 clients showed a decrease in the score of high risk for methamphetamine use (82.6% before and 54.3% after intervention); there is also a decrease in psychotic disorders among the clients with 53.8% before and 12.1% after intervention; decrease in suicidal thoughts with 9% before and 1.3% after intervention.

Conclusion and next steps:

We are advocating for the legally adoption of the model to the policy to cement and sustain the community-based comprehensive harm reduction for people who use stimulants.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

The conference collaborators recognise the considerable contribution that industry partners make to professional and research activities. We also recognise the need for transparency of disclosure of potential conflicts of interest by acknowledging these relationships in publications and presentations.