

Condom use in intimate partner relationship by high risk Injecting Drug Users in the North East India

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Introduction:

The intervention of project ORCHID is confined to Manipur and Nagaland of North East India where the population is 2.4 million and 2.0 million respectively. Manipur and Nagaland are the two highest HIV prevalence states in India, i.e., Manipur 1.7% and Nagaland 1.3% (NACO 2008).

IDU is relatively common i.e., 1-2% of total population. The most common drug are heroin and Spasmoproxyvon. IDU is the main route of HIV transmission but sexual route is also increasingly important. HIV prevalence among IDUs in Manipur is 20% and in Nagaland 2.4%. Insurgent groups exert powerful control over moral and social behaviours.

In all the 4 high prevalence the epidemic is declining except in Manipur and Nagaland. The HIV prevalence among IDUs in Manipur has increased from 17.9% to 28.6% from 2007 to 2008 and Nagaland it has increased from 1.9% to 3.2%.

This paper tries to find out causes of rapid transmission of HIV/AIDS among the IDU population, particularly the causes for making their intimate partner more vulnerable.

Objective:

- To assess the sexual risk of IDUs most at risk i.e., IDUs who shared N/S and did not use condom with non regular partner.
- To analyse the socio-demographic determinants of IDUs who are at most risk.

Method:

Respondent driven sampling (RDS) carried out in 2006 and 2009 in four districts: Two from Manipur – Ukhrul, Chandel and two from Nagaland – Kiphre, Zunebphoto. These 4 districts were selected because they were not covered by the IBBA. Consenting participants were administered a structured questionnaire. The total sample size for each selected district was 400 IDUs. Questionnaire designed to capture self-reported information on: Characteristics of IDU recruits, Injecting behaviours, Sexual behaviours, Knowledge of HIV, Exposure to Project ORCHID interventions and Community mobilization.

Data were analysed using RDSAT.

Result:

The use of condom by IDUs who are at high risk is never used with regular partner for all three categories of population in all the four districts.

The analysis shows that IDUs who share needle as well as practice unsafe sex with non regular partner never used condom with their regular partner putting their partner at high risk.

The IDUs who are who have moderate risk also hardly use condom with their regular partner. The condom use is highest among the low risk IDUs among the three categories.

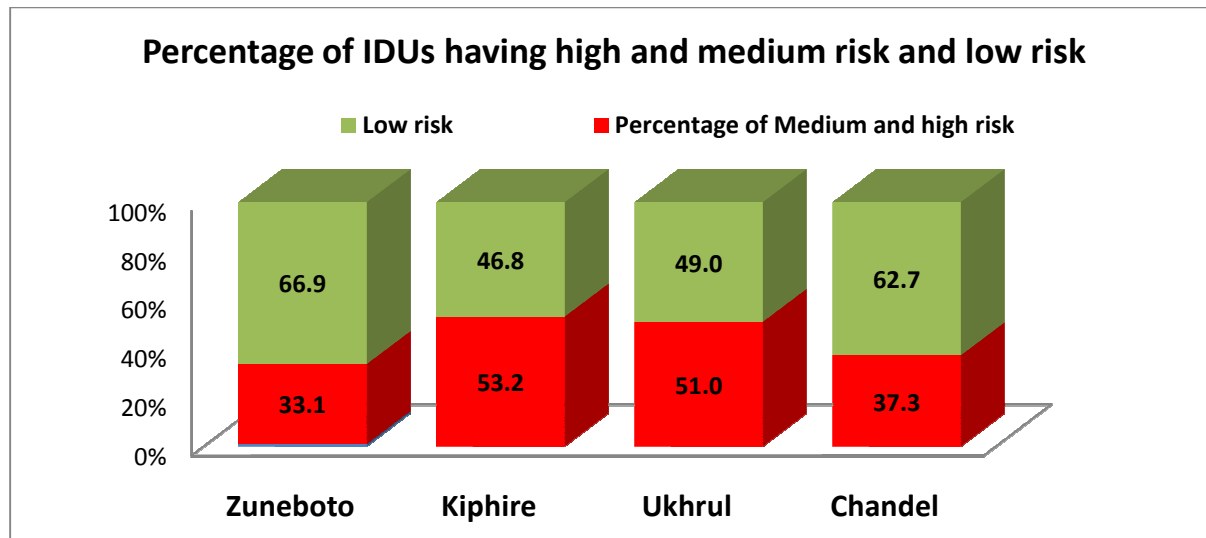
Districts	Risk category	Consistent condom use with regular partner		
		No	Yes	N
Zuneboto	Low Risk ¹	80.8	19.2	208
	Moderate Risk ²	93.2	6.8	94
	At high Risk ³	100.0	0.0	9
	Total	84.9	15.1	311
Kiphire	Low Risk	91.3	8.7	141
	Moderate Risk	95.5	4.5	130
	At high Risk	100.0	0.0	30
	Total	93.8	6.2	301
Ukhrul	Low Risk	82.5	17.5	119
	Moderate Risk	87.2	12.8	106
	At high Risk	100.0	0.0	18
	Total	85.1	14.9	243
Chandel	Low Risk	93.1	6.9	126
	Moderate Risk	95.9	4.2	68
	At high Risk	100.0	0.0	7
	Total	94.3	5.8	201

The analysis shows that there is about half of the IDUs in the district of Kiphire and Ukhrul in the high and medium risk categories. In the high risk group none of the IDUs use condom with regular partner, but in the medium risk group the condom use with regular rate varied from 4% to 13%.

¹ IDUs who never shared needle and syringe and used condom with their non regular partner consistently.

² IDUs who either shared needle and syringe or had sex without condom with non regular partner

³ IDUs who shared needle and syringe as well as had sex without condom



Conclusion: There are about 3-10% of the IDUs who have double risk of transmission of HIV due to sharing of needle as well as not using condom with non regular partner. This leads to higher chance of transmission of HIV of HIV to their partners as none of them also use condom with their regular partner.

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