

Cohort Study of HIV, STIs and Preventive Interventions
among Young MSM in Thailand

Attachment 4

FGD

Public reporting burden of this collection of information is estimated to average 2 hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to CDC/ATSDR Reports Clearance Officer; 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS D-74, Atlanta, Georgia 30333; Attn: OMB-PRA (0920-New)

Focus Group Discussion Guide Questions for Community

- **Youth location and risk behaviors**
 - Is everyone familiar with YMSM? How are your occupations related to YMSM?
 - Does anyone know where they congregate?
 - What activities they usually do?
 - Can anyone share about HIV and STI knowledge among YMSM?
 - What do you think about “HIV is common among YMSM”?
 - What kind of risk behavior that you think YMSM usually do?
- **Health seeking behavior**
 - Do you know any places for YMSM to have HIV testing? Where will they go?
 - Do you know any places for YMSM to have STI testing and treatment?
 - In your opinion, how those places should be to serve YMSM? (Atmosphere, location, staff, etc.)
 - Do you know any facilitators and barriers to get HIV and STI testing among YMSM?
 - Have you ever had experience counseling to YMSM about HIV and STI? Please share your experiences.
 - Do you know any specific messages for health provider to address adolescents?
- **PrEP**
 - Has anyone ever heard about PrEP or PEP?
 - Which HIV prevention tool is better be used among YMSM? (Condom, Microbicide gel, PrEP, PEP, or vaccine)
 - If PrEP and PEP can definitely prevent YMSM from being infected by HIV, do you think YMSM will consider using PrEP? Or PEP? Which one would they prefer? Would you be willing to take a pill every day to prevent HIV? For how long? Would you be willing to take an injection every 3 months?
- **Parental consent**
 - Do you think parental consent is essential for HIV intervention?
 - Will parental consent be a benefit or an obstacle to care and treatment for YMSM?
 - Since parental consent can be waived for HIV testing, what other ways we can support youth in the area of HIV and STI? (such as peer counselor and support group)
- **Communication (how/what channel)**
 - What is the best way to communicate health messages to youth?
 - How can we reach variety of YMSM (young transgender women, young male sex workers, others)? The messages should be different for each group?

- **Outreach/recruitment activity**
 - Who do YMSM look up to? (Role model such as teacher, movie star, etc.)
 - What are the specific methods to engage youth with research? (Activities? Where? School, shopping mall, bars, internet?)
 - How can we advertise cohort study to reach YMSM in school and out of school?
 - What do you think could be a barrier for YMSM to join the study?
 - What type of place do you think YMSM will feel comfortable going to for the study?
 - What type of health information would YMSM like to have the study provide?

**Focus Group Discussion Guide Questions for Adolescents
(Participant age 15-17 years)**

- **Knowledge/ Attitude/ Practice (KAP)**
 - Has anyone heard about HIV/AIDS? Can anyone tell how many ways HIV transmits?
 - Can anyone share opinion about these statements (UNGASS HIV basic knowledge):
 - AIDS can be transmitted by anal sex.
 - AIDS can be transmitted by anal sex without a condom.
 - AIDS can be transmitted by vaginal sex.
 - AIDS can be transmitted by vaginal sex without a condom.
 - AIDS is common among YMSM.
 - Has anyone heard about STI transmission? Can anyone name some STI diseases?
 - Has anyone known someone who is infected by STIs? (Friends, friends of friends, neighbors, relatives, etc.)
 - Has anyone known someone who is infected by HIV?(Friends, friends of friends, neighbors, relatives, etc.)
 - How can you identify who is HIV infected? How should they look like?
 - Do you know any methods of HIV or STI prevention?
 - Has anyone ever heard about PrEP or PEP?
- **Risk perception**
 - Do you think HIV infection is a problem among YMSM in Bangkok?
 - What do you think can be done to reduce new HIV infections among YMSM?
 - What are the risk behaviors that increase HIV infection in YMSM?
 - Where do YMSM usually find sexual partners?
 - Do YMSM use internet for searching new sexual partners?

- Which website/app YMSM usually log in?
- Where do YMSM usually have sex (with different kinds of partner: Steady/Casual/Commercial/internet)?
- Has anyone heard about group sex, swinging party, or orgy? Drug use and sex parties (i.e. “High Parties”) Has anyone joined?
- How often YMSM use a condom (with different kinds of partner)?
- How do YMSM find condoms? Do they carry condoms at all time?
- Do YMSM use drugs? Have you known anyone who was high while having sex?
- Do you think they use a condom while high on drug?
- Do YMSM ask about partner’s HIV status before having sex?

- **VCT service**
 - Knowledge and attitudes towards existing and proposed HIV prevention services including condoms and pre-exposure prophylaxis.
 - Perceived accessibility of existing services
 - Barriers to service use including stigma
 - Do you think YMSM have anyone to talk to about HIV and STI infection?
 - Do you think YMSM know where to go for HIV or STI testing?
 - Do you think YMSM have money to cover the fees or have any health insurance?
 - What kind of ideal places or services that YMSM would like to go for HIV and STI testing and treatment?
 - What will you recommend to improve HIV prevention services? How can it be easily reached by YMSM? (Convenience, easy access, location, process, queue, services, pre and post service, fees, etc.)
 - What barriers should we avoid to increase service use? (Stigma, social harm, social support, etc.)

- **Health seeking behavior**
 - What are facilitators and barriers for YMSM to go to clinics or hospitals for HIV testing?
 - If HIV vaccine is effective, do you think YMSM will be interested in using HIV vaccine? Which HIV prevention tools will they prefer? (Condom, Microbicide gel, PrEP, PEP, or vaccine)
 - Can you describe the kind of health provider that YMSM would feel comfortable to talk to?

- **Acceptability and feasibility to participate in HIV prevention research**
 - If YMSM participate in the HIV research, do you think people will treat YMSM differently?
 - If participating in HIV research includes filling out a survey and taking a blood test, do you think YMSM will want to join the study?

- If YMSM participate in the HIV research, who do you think YMSM will tell about the study?
- What do you think could motivate YMSM to join the study?
- What do you think could be a barrier for YMSM to join the study?
- What type of place do you think YMSM will feel comfortable going to for the study?
- What type of health information would YMSM like to have the study provide?
- If the study offers a person THB 500 as a token of appreciation, or any services, do you think YMSM will be interested? If no one is interested, how much or what type of services will they expect as a token of appreciation?
- Is there anything besides money and HIV testing that would motivate YMSM study participation?

Retention Current Participants

- Can you share the main reasons why you choose to stay in this study?
- Have you ever had any problems coming for clinic visits? (Social harm, traffic, time conflict, etc.) How could you solve that problem?
- Do you have anyone supporting you to come for clinic visits? How about unsupportive ones? Why?

Lost to follow up participants

- Can you share the main reasons why you could not come for clinic visits? (Social harm, traffic, time conflict, etc.)
- How did you feel when you missed clinic visits?
- Do you have anyone supporting you to come for clinic visits? How about unsupportive one? Why?
- **Attitude towards YMSM cohort study (service/staff)**
 - What do you think about the study (Young cohort study)?
 - What do you like the most in this study?
 - What do you like the least in this study?
 - Do you have any recommendations for study staff to improve about the study? (Frequency of study visit, length of study, reimbursement, blood draw, rectal swab, CASI, waiting time, etc.)
 - Do you have any recommendation for study staff to improve about the clinic? (Service, study staff, nurses, location, waiting room, opening hours, etc.)
- **Challenges**
 - What kind of study do YMSM want to join in the future?
 - If there is a study involving HIV vaccine, do you think YMSM will be interested to join?
- **Communication channels**
 - What is the best way to communicate health messages to YMSM?
 - How can we reach variety of YMSM (YTG, YMSW)? The messages should be different for each group?
 - Who do YMSM look up to? (Role model such as teacher, movie star, etc.)
 - What are the specific methods to engage YMSM with research? (Activities? Where? School, shopping mall, bars, internet?)
 - How can we advertise research study to reach YMSM in school and out of school?
 - What do you think could be a barrier for YMSM to join the study? Or stay in the study?
 - What type of place do you think YMSM will feel comfortable going to for the study?

- What type of health information would YMSM like to have the study provide?