



FRIENDS-INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATION:

Sex workers and youth HIV KAP Surveys Report

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From October to December 2023, Mith Samlanh and Kalyan Mith social workers carried out surveys in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap to assess the Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) of sex workers and youth on issues related to HIV.

Questions were adapted based on the target group.

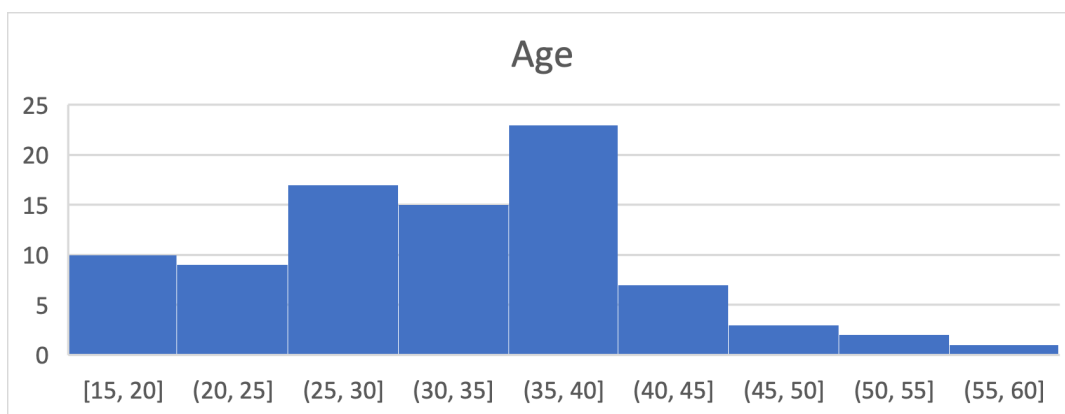
This report presents the results of these two surveys.

KAP survey results among sex workers

DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARTICIPANTS

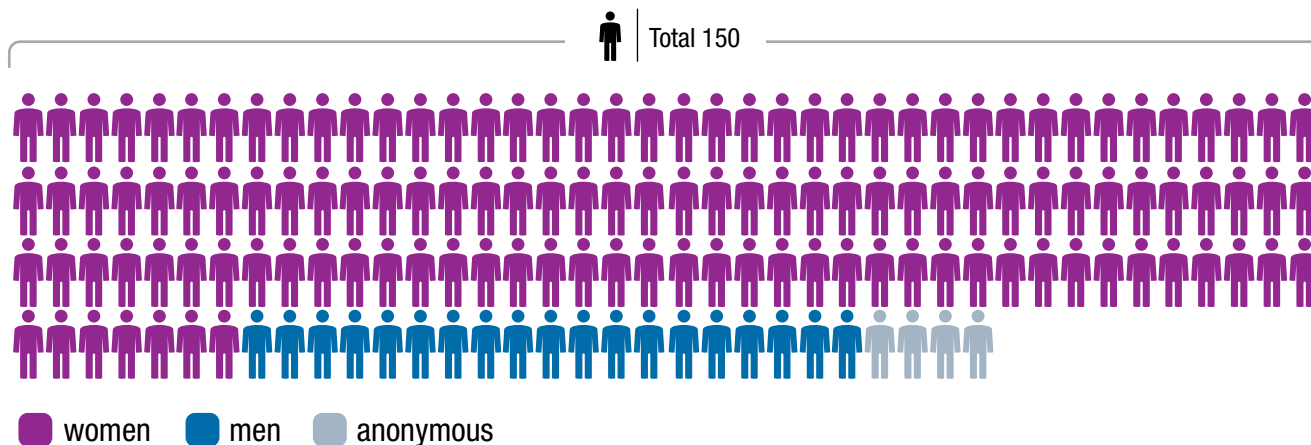
In total, 150 sex workers participated in the surveys. 87% were girls and women-127 females and 19 males- 4 people preferred not to indicate their gender.

The age range was between 15-60 years old, with the average age being 30. 11 participants were under 18, that is between 15 and 17 years old (7%).



RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

Most people in the study, about 8 out of 10, already knew something about HIV as they had previously received training. The majority of those trained had received that training from the Mith Samlanh team. They were scored on what they know, how they act, and what they perceive about HIV, with the highest score being 9. It is hard to be definitive, as there were few persons surveyed without prior knowledge from training, but it would appear that on average, someone who had received training did better than three-quarters of those who did not.



KNOWLEDGE

A good awareness of the risk of transmission was observed among the persons interviewed. 96% of participants agreed that 'Most HIV infections are as a result of unprotected sexual intercourse', and 84% agreed that 'Healthy looking persons... can transmit the disease to others.'

Awareness on how effective the use of condoms to prevent HIV transmission is was quite high as 92 % agreed with the statement that 'Persons who use condoms correctly each time they have sexual intercourse have little or no chance of becoming infected with the HIV'.

However, knowledge around this statement, 'There is a cure for HIV' seemed to be less clear to participants. The majority of participants (68%) agreed with the affirmation, 26% disagreed and 6% did not know. An assumption might be that people get confused between treatment (ARV)/prophylaxis (PrEP) and cure.

ATTITUDE

PARTICIPANTS TENDED TO BE LOWER IN ATTITUDINAL RESPONSES - FOR EXAMPLE:

43% of participants answered they would not drink from the same glass used by a person living with HIV, 46% replied that they would and 11% did not know if they would.

To the question 'If a shopkeeper or food seller is HIV-positive, would you buy items from them?'

72% persons answered yes, 16% no and 12% did not know

However, it appears HIV seemed to have little effect upon friendships, as 89% of participants answered that they would continue their friendship with some infected with HIV.

PRACTICE

83% of participants reported to always use condoms during sexual intercourse, 11% sometimes and 6% never. When asked the reason they were not using, 54% said that this was because clients refused. Participants mentioned that they get paid more when not using condoms, some responded that they do not use condoms with their regular clients.

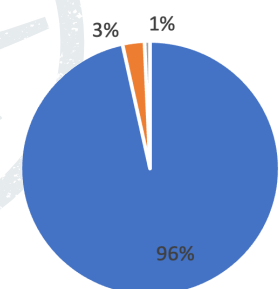


RECOMMENDATIONS

- Revise the material and add the following into key messages
 - It is important to remind there is no cure for HIV, and to clarify the difference between cure and treatment, also the role of ARV treatment.
 - An element of positive attitudes in the trainings by repeating how the virus spreads/does not spread/it is safe to use the same tableware etc.
- Train staff to ensure they can train sex workers and deliver refresher training to all staff.
- Pursue training on HIV with sex workers.
- For the 17% who sometimes/never use condoms, would informing beneficiaries about PrEP for HIV prevention be an option?
- Pre- and post-training in the future might give useful information about the impact of training, considering that the number of non-trained individuals was low in this survey (17%).

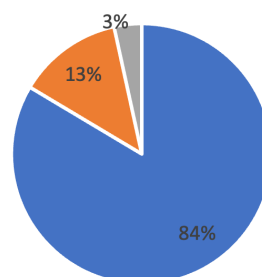


Most HIV infections are as a result of unprotected sexual intercourse



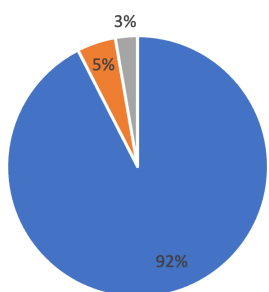
■ Agree ■ I don't know ■ Disagree

Healthy looking persons who are HIV positive can transmit the disease to others



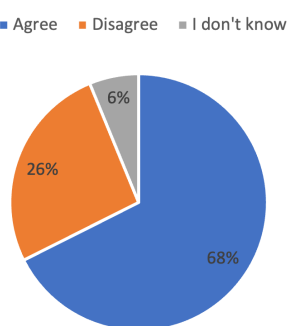
■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ I don't know

Persons who use condoms correctly each time they have sexual intercourse have little or no chance of becoming infected with HIV



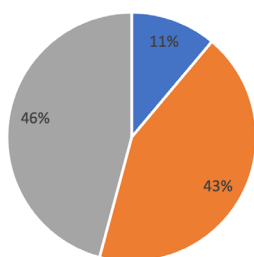
■ Agree
■ Disagree
■ I don't know

There is a cure for HIV



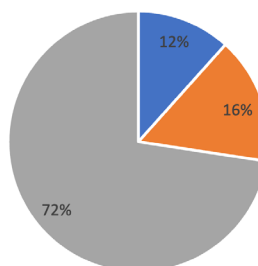
■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ I don't know

Would you drink from the same glass used by a person with HIV?



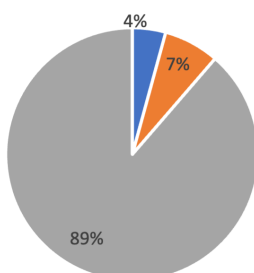
■ I don't know ■ No ■ Yes

If a shopkeeper or food seller is HIV-positive, would you buy items from them?



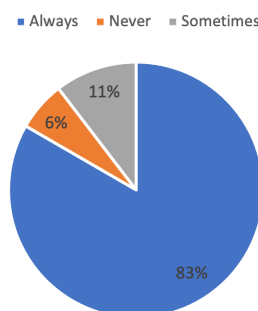
■ I don't know ■ No ■ Yes

Would you continue your friendship if your friend has HIV?



■ I don't know
■ No
■ Yes

How regularly do you use condoms?



■ Always ■ Never ■ Sometimes



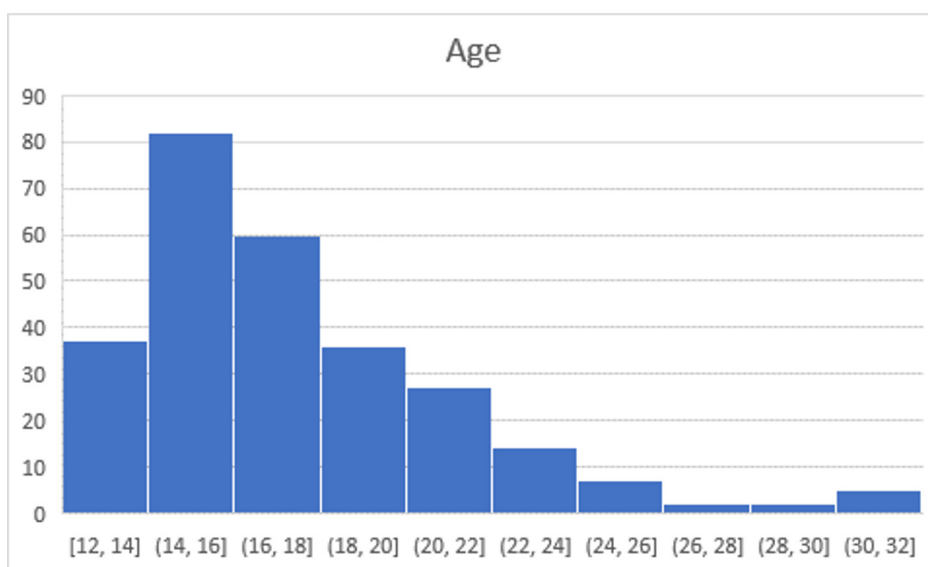


KAP survey results among youth

DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARTICIPANTS

In total, 274 youth participated in the survey, including 104 women and girls (38%).

The age range was between 12-33 years old, with the average being 18.



RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

More than half of the respondents, 54%, reported having received training on HIV.

The data indicates that individuals who received training generally achieved better scores.

Moreover, the average score of a person who received training was higher than the scores of 75% of the individuals who did not receive any training.



KNOWLEDGE

We observed a good awareness of the risk of transmission among the persons interviewed. 92% of participants agreed that 'HIV can be transmitted by sexual intercourse with people... with HIV/AIDS'. 93% also understood that HIV can be transmitted through needles and blood transfusion. 78% agreed that HIV can be transmitted from mother to child, while 11% disagreed and 11% did not know.

The percentages of youth who were aware that HIV cannot be transmitted through a handshake or eating together is 81%, slightly lower than the above. However, there seems to be more confusion around transmission of HIV through mosquito bites (see below).

ATTITUDE

Participants tended to be lower in attitudinal responses - for example:

86% of participants answered they would not drink from the same glass used by a person living with HIV, 7% replied that they would and 6% did not know if they would

To the question 'if a shopkeeper or food seller is HIV-positive, would you buy from them?', 43% answered yes, 49% no and 8% did not know

On the other hand, 74% of participants answered that they would continue their friendship with someone infected with HIV.

PRACTICE

The practice of using condoms needs continued encouragement among youth. 66% said that they used condoms during their last sexual intercourse, and this percentage was only a little more than 50% for their firsts. However, the majority of participants were clear that they should use one condom at a time only (87%).

Some youths gave various reasons for not using condoms such as: being shy to buy condoms, some said they did not carry condoms when they were needed.

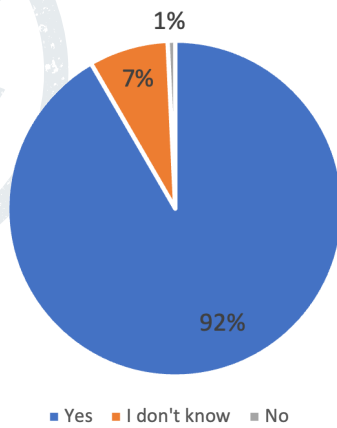


RECOMMENDATIONS

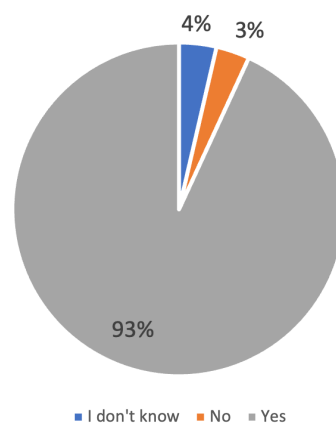
- Pursue the provision of training including information on:
 - how the virus spreads
 - and does not spread (i.e. mosquito bite)
- Add messages to reduce the stigma/discrimination against persons living with HIV.
- Use online channels to disseminate prevention messages.
- Continue the targeted distribution of condoms to youth.
- Understand better the reasons for not using condoms, to address these among youth.
- Explore if there are differences in terms of practice between boys and girls, and if so, the reasons behind them.



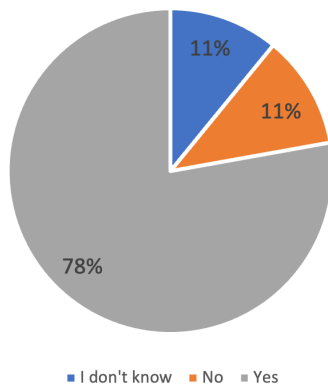
HIV can be transmitted by sexual intercourse with people who live with HIV/AIDS.



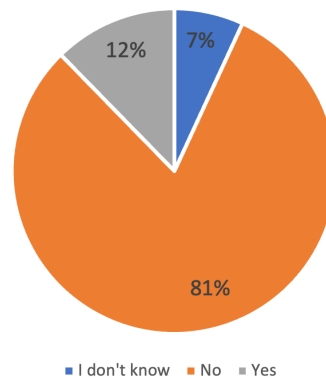
HIV can be transmitted by sharing a needle or syringe



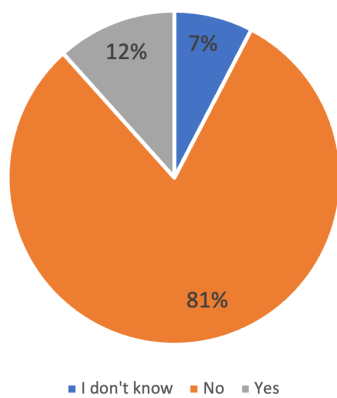
HIV can be transmitted from mother to child



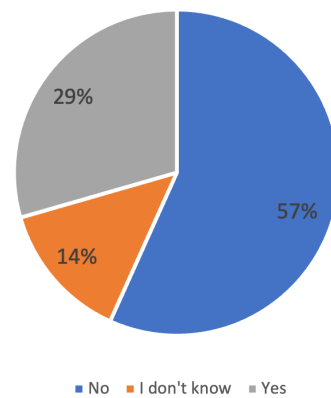
HIV can be transmitted by a handshake



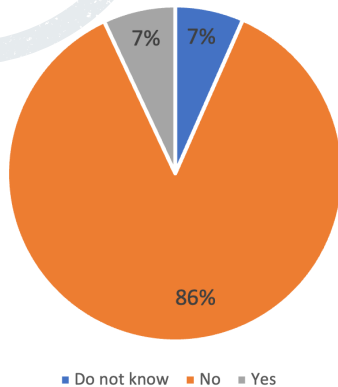
HIV can be transmitted by eating together



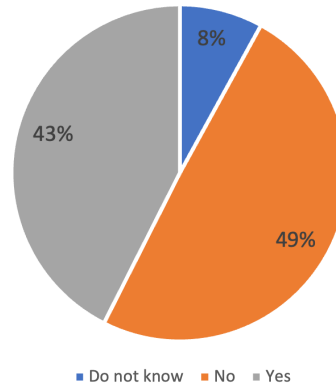
HIV can be transmitted through mosquito bites



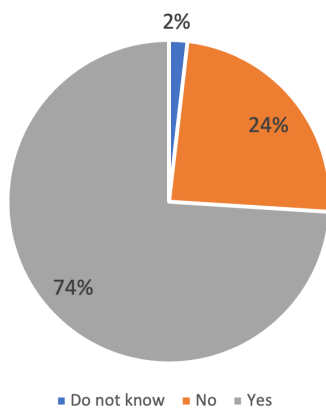
Would you drink from the same glass used by a person with HIV?



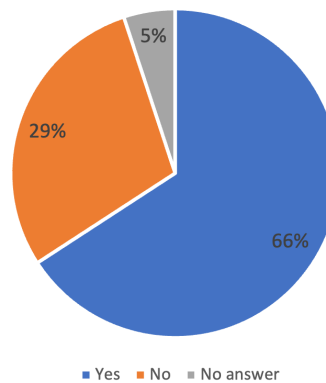
If a shop-keeper or food seller is HIV positive, would you buy from them?



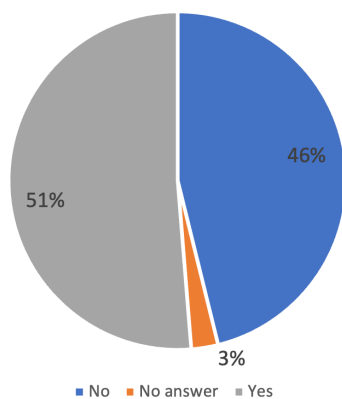
If your friend were HIV positive, would you continue your friendship with them?



Did you use condoms during your last sexual intercourse?



Did you use condom during your first sexual intercourse?



Do you use more than one condom at a time?

