

## HIV Risk Behaviors Among Thai Transgender Women

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**Project Description:** A number of Thai transgender women (kathoeys) are engaging in sex work (transgender female sex workers) in large cities such as Bangkok. The aims of the study are:

- 1) To provide scientific data regarding HIV risks among Thai transgender female sex workers in Bangkok, which have not been investigated and reported.
- 2) To fill a gap in understanding HIV risk behaviors in sociocultural contexts among Thai transgender female sex workers in comparison with those among Thai female sex workers.
- 3) To fill a gap in understanding HIV risk behaviors in sociocultural and international contexts by comparisons with our previous research findings from transgender female sex workers in San Francisco.
- 1) To provide the preliminary findings for developing a HIV prevention intervention study for Thai transgender female sex workers.

A total of 10 pilot interviews with transgender female sex workers will be conducted by trained Thai Health Educators. The pilot interviews will examine the appropriateness of the survey questionnaire, which will be modified from our current survey questionnaire for Thai female sex workers. A total of 100 survey interviews with Thai transfemale sex workers will be conducted. We will conduct uni- and multivariate analyses to describe HIV risk behaviors among Thai transfemale sex workers in comparison with those among female sex workers.