

## Drug Use and HIV-Related Risk Behaviors among Female Sex Workers in Bangkok, Thailand and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

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**Project Description:** “Drug Use and HIV-Related Risk Behaviors Among Female Sex Workers in Bangkok, Thailand and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam” is a two year NIDA-funded supplemental study to our current study, “HIV Prevention Interventions Targeting Asian Masseuruses” in San Francisco.

Employing both quantitative and qualitative methods, this supplemental study will identify and describe drug use, sexual behaviors, and access to HIV/STI testing and health care among Thai and Vietnamese female commercial sex workers in Bangkok, Thailand and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, respectively. This study will also compare the behaviors of Vietnamese and Thai sex workers in their home countries with those of Vietnamese and Thai commercial sex workers in the US.

**Significance:** Findings from the parent study show that a large number of Thai and Vietnamese female sex workers immigrate into US cities to earn money through employment at massage parlors. Past research studies have mainly focused on risk behaviors among Asian female sex workers in Asian countries. However, this study will describe cultural and immigration issues among Asian female sex workers and compare drug use and HIV risk behaviors of Thai and Vietnamese sex workers in their home countries and in the US. Understanding differences in socio-cultural and economic environments, patterns of immigration, and transitional work issues will allow us to design effective interventions that are more culturally and occupationally appropriate to Asian female sex workers.