

審査の結果の要旨

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This study was a community-based cross-sectional study, which was conducted in a Chinese border city Muse, Northern Shan State, Myanmar from January to March 2013. This study had two objectives. The first was to examine the risk factors for the early initiation of methamphetamine (MA) use. The second was to examine the factors influencing high-risk sexual behaviors among MA drug users in Muse, Northern Shan State, Myanmar. My main hypotheses are as follows: The early initiation of MA use will be associated with the reason to start to use MA and will vary by gender and the early initiation of MA use will be associated with high-risk sexual behaviors, namely inconsistent condom use, having multiple sexual partners, and history of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

A respondent-driven sampling method was used to recruit 1,385 self-reported MA users (782 males and 603 females). These participants completed surveys using a computer-assisted self-administered (CASI) program. Each CASI interview took about 30-45 minutes to complete. The key findings of this study are as follows:

1. The rate of the early age of MA initiation was 73.0 % among male participants (n=563), and 60.5% among female participants (n=355). Among the participants 90.7% of males and 85.2% of females reported inconsistent condom use in the past six months whereas 94.2% of males and 47.2% of females had multiple sex partners in the past six months. Regarding a history of STI, 55.7 % of males and 56 % females had a history of STI.
2. Multiple regression analyses revealed that both males (adjusted odds ratio [AOR] 3.08, 95% CI: 2.03-4.65), and females (AOR = 4.06; 95% CI: 2.67-6.17) who used MA for the first time at entertainment venues such as bars, clubs, restaurants, and karaoke were

positively associated with early MA initiation. Furthermore, both males and females who gave the reason for their first time MA use as being either to lose body weight or for work related purpose, and who used MA for the first time because of curiosity about its effects or for fun were also positively associated with early MA initiation.

3. Generalized estimating equation analyses revealed both males (AOR=1.67; 95% CI=1.23-2.28) and females (AOR=3.39, 95% CI: 2.51-4.56) who used MA before and during sex were more likely to use condoms inconsistently, to have had multiple sexual partners within the preceding six months, and to have an STI history. Furthermore, employed males (AOR=1.42; 95% CI=1.08-1.87), and employed females (AOR=1.57; 95% CI=1.13-2.18) were more likely to use condoms inconsistently, to have had multiple sexual partners within the preceding six months, and to have an STI history.

In this study, the high rate of early initiation of MA was observed among males and females. Likewise, the high magnitude of MA users engaged in high-risk sexual behaviors was also observed. The early initiation of MA use was associated with the first time MA use at entertainment venues. High-risk sexual behaviors (inconsistent condom use and having multiple sexual partners in the preceding six months and having a history of STI) were associated with MA use before or during sex among both male and female users. Hence, comprehensive and targeted MA prevention strategies and programs that address early age of MA initiation and high-risk sexual behaviors are urgently needed in Myanmar.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the first community-based study that provides an extensive description, and highlights several potential risk factors for, the early age of MA initiation and the high-risk sexual behaviors of MA users in Muse, Myanmar where an HIV and methamphetamine epidemic is occurring. Therefore, this study constitutes an important contribution in areas with limited illicit drug use and health information, it is considered worthy of doctoral degree.