

The Effect of Needle and Syringe Program on Injecting Drug Users' Use of Non-Sterile Syringe and Needle Behaviour in Palembang

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ABSTRACT

Introduction	HIV/AIDS has become one of international public health problem. An effective method to spread HIV/AIDS is through shared needle and syringe among Injecting Drug Users (IDUs). Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) has been implemented in Palembang since 2009. However, there is no previous research to examine IDUs behaviours in using non sterile injection and syringe in Palembang.
Methods	This was a case control study with respondents recruited using snowball technique. Simple and multiple logistic regression tests were performed using statistics program (Stata version 10) to identify main association between NSP access status and behaviours of using non-sterile needle and syringe. Some possible confounders were also explored. Odds ratio, 90 % Confidence interval and P value were reported.
Results	Forty six IDUs from NSP group and 75 IDUs from non-NSP group were recruited. Mostly, respondents were male with senior high school education level and of single status. Crude odds ratio indicated that IDUs accessing NPSs had an odds of 1.07 to share needle and syringe among IDUs compared to IDUS without accessing NSPs (OR=1.07, 90% CI = 0.50-2.31), p=0.87). After OR was adjusted by knowledge about HIV/AIDS& Harm Reduction, IDUs' Attitude towards Harm Reduction, education level, income level, IDUs accessing NSPS tend to minimize their behaviours to share needle and syringe compared to IDUs in NSPs group by 29 % (odd ratio, 0.71, 90% CI = 0.23-2.23, p=0.56). P value showed that there is weak evidence against the null hypothesis of no association between IDUs accessing NSPs and risk behavior of using non-sterile needle and syringe.
Conclusions	Availability of NSP appeared to reduce the use of shared or non-sterile syringe or needle, although the association was not significant. One of the reasons could be the free access of needle and syringe in pharmacy could be one confounding factors that contributed to this non significant association. Further research with bigger sample size and qualitative research to explore more in-depth information about IDUs' behaviours in using non-sterile injection and syringe is recommended.