ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study on factors affecting risk behavior on HIV/AIDS among speed boat drivers was carried out in March 1998 at the Golden Triangle area (Thailand, Lao PDR, and Myanmar).

Two hundred male speed boat drivers from Thailand, Lao PDR and Myanmar were selected for interview at the Golden Triangle area by using structured questionnaires.

Amongst the speed boat drivers, 51.5 percent were from Thailand, 37.0 percent from Lao PDR and 11.5 percent from Myanmar. Their ages ranged from 16 years to 66 years with 68.0 percent being 20 to 39 years old. There was a significant association between risk behavior to getting HIV/AIDS and age group and resident area.

Sources of HIV/AIDS information were found to have a significant association with the risk behavior of speed boat drivers. There was also a significant association with the place (country) of getting information on HIV/AIDS.

Subjects had high level of knowledge on HIV/AIDS and positive attitude toward HIV/AIDS but also high risk behavior of getting HIV/AIDS. Almost all of the speed boat drivers had drunk alcohol, nearly half of them never used condom and did not know the place to get condoms, more than half (57.5%) of them believed that taking medicine before or after having sex with somebody was not a risk factor for acquiring HIV/AIDS infection.

In summary, there was significant association between knowledge on HIV/AIDS, attitude toward HIV/AIDS and risk behavior of getting HIV/AIDS.