

題名: Illicit drug using behaviors and HIV risk behaviors among juvenile inmates

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摘要: BACKGROUND/PURPOSE: Injection drug users (IDUs) have become the major contributors to the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome epidemic in Taiwan, accounting for more than 60% of new cases in 2005. In Taiwan, gender difference in risk factors for HIV among IDUs has not been reported before. We studied the clinical and sociodemographic characteristics, sexual behaviors, drug use histories and criminal records of male and female HIV-infected IDUs. METHODS: A total of 100 male and 25 female HIV-infected inmates from two prisons were included. An individually structured interview was conducted with each inmate. Serostatus of hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) were tested. CD4+ T cell count and HIV viral load were also evaluated. RESULTS: The mean age of the HIV-infected inmates was 31.7 +/- 6.4 years. All inmates were co-infected with HCV and 20% were HBV carriers. The mean CD4+ T cell count was 498 cells/microL, and the mean viral load was 20,119 copies/mL. Heroin use history averaged 6.3 +/- 5.1 years, and 84.8% of patients had a previous criminal offense prior to current conviction. Female inmates were significantly younger, had more sexual partners, had more drug-using family members or sexual partners, shared injection paraphernalia more frequently, and started using methamphetamine and heroin at younger ages ($p < 0.05$). Male inmates tended to be single, had less parental support, had been more frequently convicted of non drug-related crimes, started using non-illicit substances more frequently at younger ages and had sex with prostitutes more frequently ($p < 0.05$).

CONCLUSION: The results of this study suggest that drug injection risks and sexual behavior related risks are equally important in determining the risk of HIV infection among IDUs. Gender-specific approaches to prevention which reflect differences in gender-related patterns of risk are also needed.