Key Advocacy Messages: New Official HIV/AIDS
Estimates and Projections for Viet Nam, 2005-2010

Rapidly increasing HIV epidemic in Viet Nam

- More than 100 Vietnamese get infected by HIV every day. This compares to the 31 deaths per day due to road accidents.

- There are an estimated 37,000 new infections in 2005.

- The number of people living with HIV more than doubled between 2000 and 2005, from approximately 122,000 to 263,000.

- There is also an increasing number of children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

- The overall prevalence rate among adults aged 15-49 is estimated to be 0.51% in 2005.

- Approximately one in 60 households has a person living with HIV.

- There will be an estimated 14,000 AIDS-related deaths in 2005.

Majority of new HIV infections are due to sexual transmission

- The number of HIV infections due to sexual transmission is now higher than the number of cases caused by injecting drug use.

Note:
1 HIV figures are estimations, and are from MOH (2005), HIV/AIDS Estimates and Projections 2005-2010, Hanoi
2 The National Traffic Safety Committee 2003
3 Estimated number of people living with HIV/AIDS divided by number of households in Viet Nam
Due to increased heterosexual transmission, the number of infected females compared to males is increasing each year. In 2005, the ratio was 2 to 1, males to females.

There is evidence of significant prevalence rates among men who have sex with men (MSM) and even higher rates among male sex workers.

High HIV Prevalence among IDU and Female Sex Workers

The national prevalence rate of HIV is highest among injecting drug user, of 33%. There are much higher rates in Ho Chi Minh City, Quang Ninh and Hai Phong.

Female sex workers have the 2nd highest national prevalence rate, of 16%; with higher prevalence rates in Hai Phong, Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, and Can Tho.

The prevalence rate among male clients of sex workers is also steadily increasing.

Now a wider HIV epidemic among men in Viet Nam

By 2005, the MOH estimates that 0.68% of the adult male population (aged 15-49) are HIV infected.

Young men’s sexual and drug taking behaviour is driving the HIV epidemic in Viet Nam.

Over 1% of adult infected with HIV in Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong and Quang Ninh

Ho Chi Minh City has about 10% of the country’s population, but 20% of the HIV cases.

In HIV epidemic terms, Ho Chi Minh City already has a serious epidemic, with 1.3% of the adult population infected with HIV.

Serious HIV epidemics are also underway in the northeast coastal cities of Quang Ninh, Hai Phong (1.2%), and Hanoi (0.9%).

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4 Presentations at the workshop HIV prevention, care and treatment for men who have sex with men in Viet Nam, 15 - 17 September 2005, Ho Chi Minh City