

Perceived occupational risk and negative attitude towards people who use drugs among community health workers in Vietnam



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OVERVIEW

A cross-sectional study reports risk factors of perceived occupational risk and confirms its positive association with negative attitude towards people who use drugs (PWUD) among community health workers (CHW) in Vietnam.

INTRODUCTION

- ❖ CHW serve as a bridge between PWUD in the community to their needed healthcare services.
- ❖ CHW's perceived occupational risk of working with PWUD may impact their attitude towards PWUD, which can affect quality of care and referrals.

METHODS

- ❖ Cross-sectional survey among 300 CHW from 60 communes in two provinces of Vietnam in 2014.
- ❖ Audio Computer-Assisted Self-Interview on background characteristics (gender, age, job position, years of education, years in medical field), negative attitude towards PWUD and perceived occupational risk.
- ❖ Multiple linear regressions to explore factors related to CHW's perceived occupational risk and its association with their negative attitude towards PWUD.



RESULTS

- ❖ Among the participants, 75.7% were female, 16.7% were doctors, average age was 39.3 (SD 10.3), 70.7% had less than 16 years of education, 55.7% had worked in the medical field for more than 10 years.
- ❖ Years of education was positively associated with perceived occupational risk level.
- ❖ Perceived occupational risk was positively associated with negative attitude towards PWUD.

Variable	Perceived occupational risk		Negative attitude	
	Coefficient	p-value	Coefficient	p-value
Male vs. Female	-0.86	0.135	-0.384	0.514
Years of education	0.254	<.0001	-0.065	0.254
Doctor vs. Others	0.371	0.583	0.666	0.334
Years in medical field	0.042	0.097	-0.015	0.544
Perceived occupational risk			0.285	<.0001

CONCLUSION

Tailored intervention to improve medical safety in commune health clinics may contribute to reduction of CHW'S stigmatizing attitude towards PWUD in Vietnam.

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