

# 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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