

Abstract

Knowledge About and Attitudes to HIV/AIDS Among Nurses at a Thai University Teaching Hospital

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HIV/AIDS knowledge and attitudes to HIV/AIDS and HIV-patient care, female commercial sex workers (FCSW) and their health care, and fear of contracting HIV at work among nurses at a Thai teaching hospital were assessed using a questionnaire containing two knowledge and six Likert-type attitude scales. Factor analysis employed to construct validate the attitude scales showed the same factor structure for three of the scales as in an earlier Australian study, demonstrating the robustness of these scales and indicating trans-cultural conceptual equivalence.

Respondents' knowledge levels on transmission and non-transmission routes and precautions to take were reasonable. RNs had significantly more knowledge than ENs and nurse aides. Negative and positive attitudes to HIV-infected people care were equally common. Attitudes to homosexuals and FCSWs were predominantly negative. A majority believed there was a clear risk of contracting the virus at work.

As trained staff showed significantly more knowledge than untrained staff, the authors recommend more time be allocated to in-service training using experiential training approaches.