

Abstract title

HIV Seroprevalence among Visitors of Public Health Centers in Korea

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Abstract text : **Background** : Since 1985, 3,468 HIV infected Koreans were found as of June 30,2005. Each year newly infected persons increased at an average rate of 20 percent since 2000. To find out prevalence, incidence and scale of HIV infection in Korea, we analyzed HIV seroprevalence among visitors of public health centers in Korea.

Methods : We collected raw data of subjects who took HIV tests in the first half of 2005 in all 248 public health centers of Korea. We confirmed the results by referring to HIV confirmatory tests performed in the Division of AIDS in NIH, Korea, and figured out HIV seroprevalence.

Results : A total of 195,700 tests were performed and men were 25.3% and women were 74.7%. 91 positives were confirmed. 69 infected persons were newly diagnosed: 61men, 8women. The seroprevalence was 0.047%(men:0.144%, women:0.005%), while seroincidence was 0.035%, The seroprevalence of 20s, 30s, and 40s was 0.015%, 0.061%, and 0.076%, respectively. 2,502(1.3%) tests were conducted for foreigners with 3 positives. The seroprevalence for foreigners was 0.016%, which was 3.6 times higher than that of Koreans. HIV test takers at public health centers were dvided into three categories: "professionals" required to take mandatory tests by law, volunteers, and the anonymous. The "professionals" took 91,809(47.5%) HIV tests, volunteers, 85,633(44.3%) and the

anonymous, 15,737(8.3%), respectively. The seroprevalence of "professionals" was 0.012%, volunteers, 0.058% and the anonymous, 0.191%.

"Professionals" were mainly women(95%) and about half of them (55.2%) were twenties, while women in volunteers were 65.8% and the anonymous, 37.9%.

Conclusions : HIV seroprevalences of foreigners and the anonymous were higher than others, so for HIV/AIDS prevention and early detection of HIV, we found that the more active HIV test program was needed for the anonymous and the foreign residents.