KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, SELF-AWARENESS, AND FACTORS AFFECTING HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AMONG THAI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Vanida Durongritichai

Department of Community and Mental Health, Faculty of Nursing, Huachiew Chalermprakiet University, Samut Prakan, Thailand

Abstract. The objectives of this study were to describe knowledge, attitudes, and self-awareness, and to identify predictable factors affecting HIV/AIDS prevention among Thai university students. A cross-sectional survey was conducted among 844 first-year university students using a validated, self-administered questionnaire as a research instrument. The questionnaire included items assessing knowledge, attitudes, self-awareness, and HIV/AIDS preventive behaviors. It was found that 22.4% of the subjects received various sexually provocative media. The university student’s knowledge, attitudes, self-awareness, and preventive behaviors toward HIV/AIDS were at a high level. The results from the multiple regression analysis identified self-awareness, faculty, sex, sexual-risk score, income-per-month, GPA, and knowledge as significant independent predictors of HIV/AIDS preventive behaviors. These factors contributed to 36.9% of the explanation of HIV preventive behaviors, and the strongest predictor was found to be self-awareness. Scientific information, and useful and productive life skills are needed to educate the university students regarding the health consequences of HIV/AIDS. An integrated approach is strongly suggested for creating knowledge, attitudes, and awareness to control the spread of HIV/AIDS among young people.

Keywords: HIV/AIDS, knowledge, attitudes, self-awareness, university student, Thailand