LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Correlation between the demographic data and the Anti HIV serology among blood donor in a rural Thai community

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Dear Editor

Throughout the world, blood services aim to provide a life-saving service by ensuring an adequate supply of safe blood\(^1\). Contamination with blood-borne infectious agents, especially human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), is an important problem leading to the exclusion of donated blood. This letter reports on an audit of 215 blood donations from a rural area of Thailand (Bang Sapan District, Prachuab Kiri Khan Province, 400 km south of Bangkok) in 2005. An interesting finding was the difference in HIV seropositivity between donors of high and low education status (1/41 vs 7/166).

Education has been established as the main factor in attitude towards blood donation\(^2\). Similarly, Wiwanitkit found that rural people’s knowledge of HIV also significantly related to their level of education\(^3\). This is of concern because 80% of donors were from the low education group. Indeed, low educated donors are the main donors in many developing countries\(^2,4\). In addition, a similarly high rate of HIV seropositivity among paid unemployed donors was also described in Nigeria\(^4\). This is an important safety issue for rural communities.

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