

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

V Wiwanitkit

Department of Laboratory Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn, Bangkok, Thailand

Submitted: 22 September 2006; Resubmitted: 12 December 2006; Published: 9 February 2007

Wiwanitkit V

Correlation between the demographic data and the Anti HIV serology among blood donor in a rural Thai community
Rural and Remote Health 7: 662. (Online), 2007

Available from: <http://www.rrh.org>

Dear Editor

Throughout the world, blood services aim to provide a life-saving service by ensuring an adequate supply of safe blood¹. 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 donation². Similarly, Wiwanitkit found that rural people's knowledge of HIV also significantly related to their level of education³. 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 Nigeria⁴. This is an important safety issue for rural communities.

Viroj Wiwanitkit, MD

**Department of Laboratory Medicine
Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University
Bangkok, Thailand**

References

1. Sullivan P. Developing an administrative plan for transfusion medicine - a global perspective. *Transfusion* 2005; **45**(4 Suppl): S224-S240.



2. Wiwanitkit V. A study on attitude towards blood donation among people in a rural district, Thailand. *Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public Health* 2000; **31**: 609-611.

3. Wiwanitkit V. Knowledge about human immunodeficiency virus infection: the perceived risks of infection of Thai adolescents in a rural community. *Sexual Disability* 2003; **21**: 263-267.

4. Durosinmi MA, Mabayoje VO, Akinola NO, Adegunloye AB, Alabi AO. A retrospective study of prevalence of antibody to HIV in blood donors at Ile-Ife, Nigeria. *Nigerian Postgraduate Medical Journal* 2003; **10**: 220-223.