



TANGERINE

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

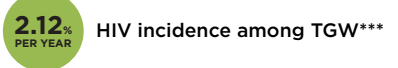
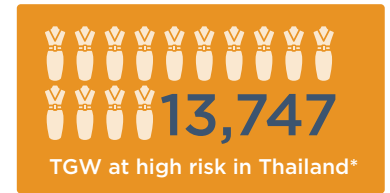
BY THE THAI RED CROSS AIDS RESEARCH CENTRE

Data among transgender women (TGW) as a discrete population in Thailand are limited, but HIV prevalence among this group was reported to be 12% in 2015¹, with an HIV incidence of 2.12% per person-year². Critically, based on estimates made using the Asian Epidemic Model, 53% of new HIV infections in Thailand are attributable to TGW along with men who have sex with men³. TGW are a critical target population for Thailand's HIV response.

In addition to high rates of HIV infection, the Community-Led Test & Treat Cohort Study led by the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research

Centre (TRCARC) detected a 9.5% prevalence of rectal gonorrhoea and 19.5% prevalence of rectal chlamydia among TGW in 2016. Despite a clear need for health services, stigma and discrimination toward TGW in healthcare settings remain barriers to health service uptake. Almost 50% of TGW report having had negative experiences with healthcare providers, and, despite the fact that concerns about hormone-antiretroviral cross-reaction is one of the key reasons many HIV-positive TGW do not access HIV treatment, few report ever having received counseling or advice from healthcare providers on gender-affirming hormone treatment.⁴ Further, a survey conducted by the Thai Ministry of Public Health in 2014 indicated that 15% percent of healthcare workers believing that HIV-positive TGW should be ashamed of their gender identity and/or serostatus.⁵

Recognizing the unmet health needs of transgender populations, TRCARC, in consultation with members of the Thai transgender community, established the Tangerine Community Health Center, Thailand's first transgender-specific sexual health and wellbeing clinic in 2015. **The Tangerine Community Health Center** has been supported by the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) LINKAGES Thailand Project, managed by FHI 360. Tangerine offers a comprehensive, fee-based health service package, covering gender-affirmative hormone treatment, HIV counseling and testing, management of sexually transmitted infections, vaccination for viral hepatitis A, hepatitis B and human papillomavirus (HPV), HIV antiretroviral therapy (ART), and HIV pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP and PEP).



* KP Size Estimation Draft, Thai MOPH, 2015. ** Thailand AIDS Response Progress Report, Thailand's National AIDS Management Center, MOPH, 2018
*** Community-Led Test and Treat Database, May 2015-June 2017

“At the Thai Red Cross Tangerine Community Health Center, we are committed to provide highest attainable standard of health in affordable and accessible manners for all transgender people with respect to their rights to health and human dignity”

Professor Emeritus Praphan Phanuphak, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre, November 27, 2015

1 Thailand AIDS Response Progress Report, 2016

2 Community-Led Test & Treat Database, May 2015 - June 2017

3 AIDS Epidemic Models, 2015, Projection & Estimation Working Group

4 Thai Transgender Alliance and Transgender Europe, 2015

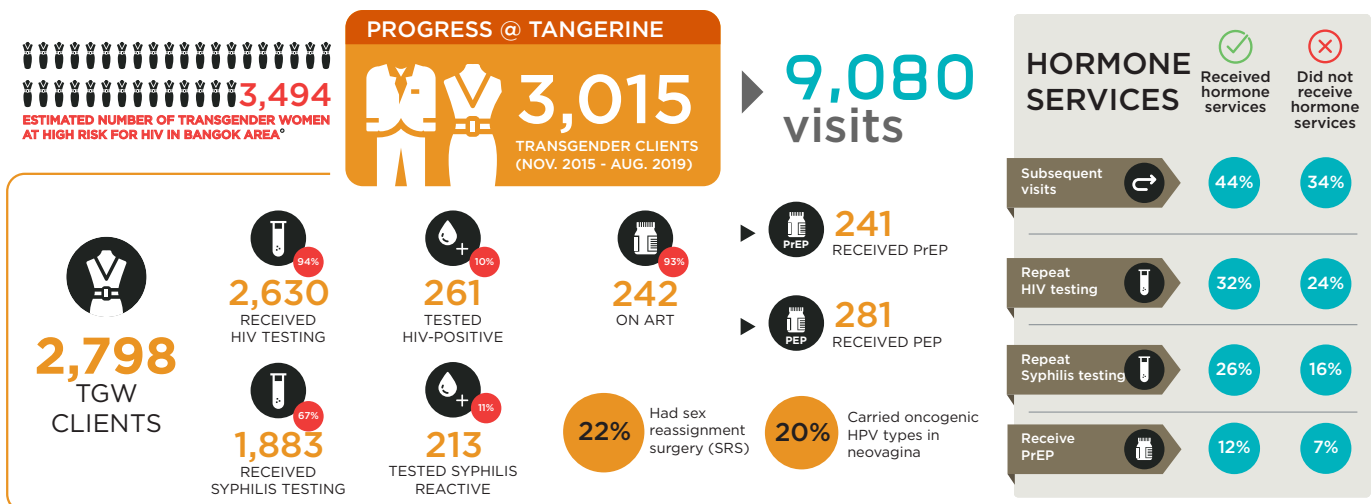
5 Developing Tools and Methods to Measure HIV-related Stigma and Discrimination in Health Care Settings in Thailand and; the HIV Stigma and Discrimination Survey Guidelines and Procedures Manual, International Health Policy Program, National AIDS Management Center (NAMC) Thailand, Ministry of Public health (November 2014).

TANGERINE COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PACKAGE

- Counseling on HIV, STI and hormone use
- HIV testing
- Syphilis testing
- Hormone treatment and hormone-level monitoring
- Condoms and lubricant
- Cervical, anal and neovaginal Pap smears
- High-resolution colposcopy, anoscopy and neovaginoscopy
- PrEP, PEP
- ART, CD4 count and viral load testing
- STI treatment
- Vaccination for hepatitis A, B and HPV
- Referrals for gender-affirming surgery, as well as hormone blockers for children and adolescents, and counseling for their parents

In addition to gender-sensitive nurses and physicians, Tangerine also employs transgender staff, including transgender staff who are living with HIV. Remaining in close contact with the community it serves has proven essential to ensuring that the clinic continues to offer accessible, transgender-sensitive and quality services. Recently, Tangerine has also worked with popular transgender social media influencers to reach online TGW at substantial risk for HIV infection, including youth and first-time HIV testers.

The Tangerine Community Health Center served 432 clients in its most recent quarter, exceeding the annual target by 91%. The tremendous progress is due in large part to transgender influencers as an online-to-offline social media strategy to better reach transgender virtual communities. ART uptake has also significantly improved; 92% of all clients tested HIV-positive have initiated treatment. The integration of hormone services has not only coincided with increases in service uptake; additionally, preliminary data suggest clients who receive such services are more likely to return to the clinic for follow-up visits. The Tangerine model that integrates gender-affirmative hormone services and sexual health services is feasible and effective in increasing access to and retention in HIV testing and PrEP services.



SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Thai TGW have high prevalence and incidence of HIV and STIs.
 - Health professionals in general still have limited understanding and clinical skills to provide services to transgender people. A comprehensive service package, including hormone and sexual health services, is needed, along with clear and concise training materials for service providers.
 - Trans community-led health services which integrate hormone services into sexual health services are feasible and effective in increasing access to, and retention in, HIV testing and PrEP services.
 - Data collection from trans health service programs is crucial for the further refinement of this comprehensive health service package, as well as for health policy advocacy to ensure transgender people have access to this service package.
 - Knowledge exchange between the trans community and health professionals is necessary to increase access to, and provision of, trans health services, aiming at ending AIDS in Thailand and the region.
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