

Recognizing and confronting the epidemic of HIV among men who have sex with men in Southeast Asia

SORRY!!

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Southeast Asia – Mekong basin countries



MSM have a long and rich cultural history in Southeast Asia

Prevalence of male same-sex behavior, Southeast Asia

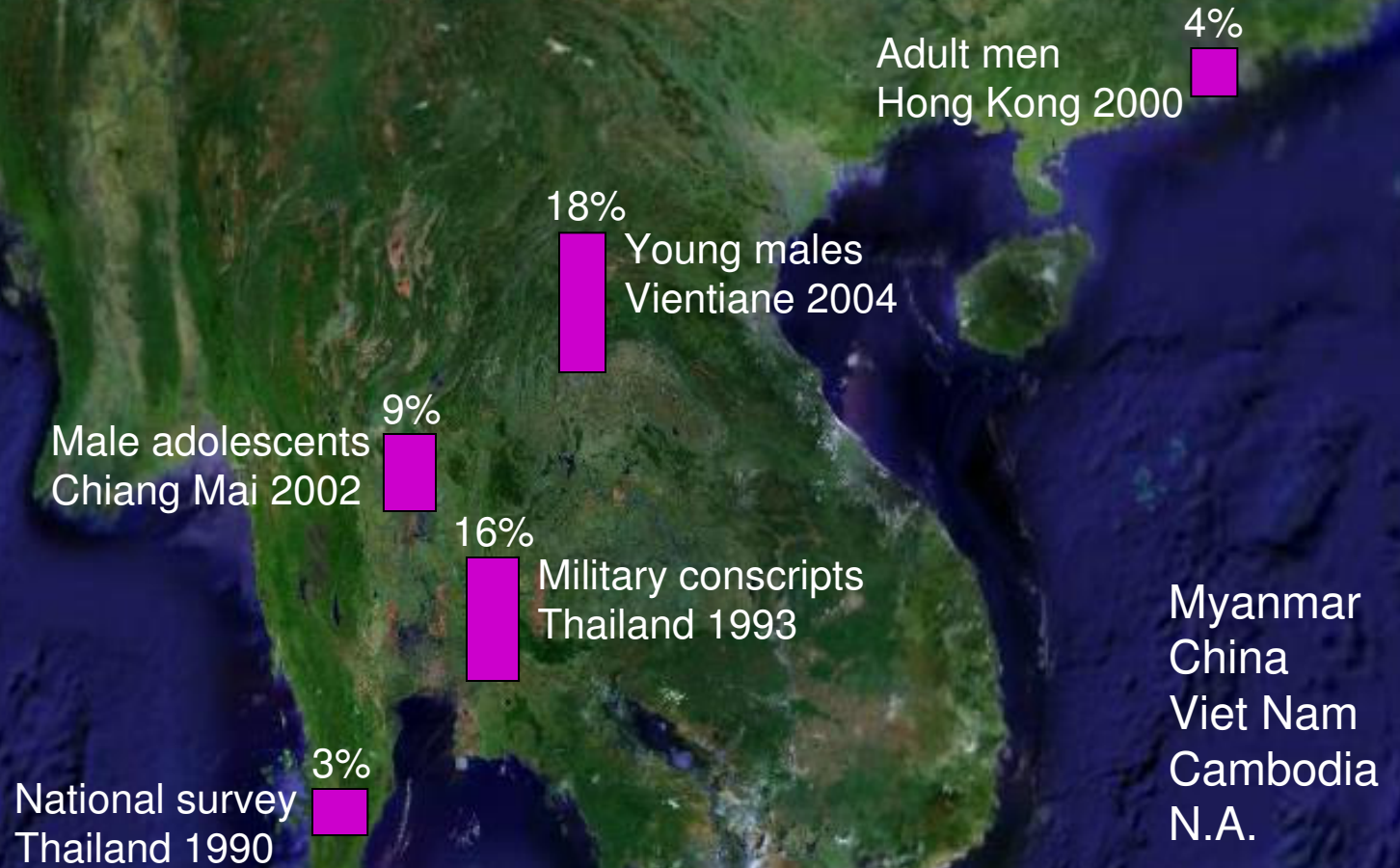


Image © 2005 MDA EarthSat

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Male same-sex identities and behaviors in Southeast Asia are enormously diverse

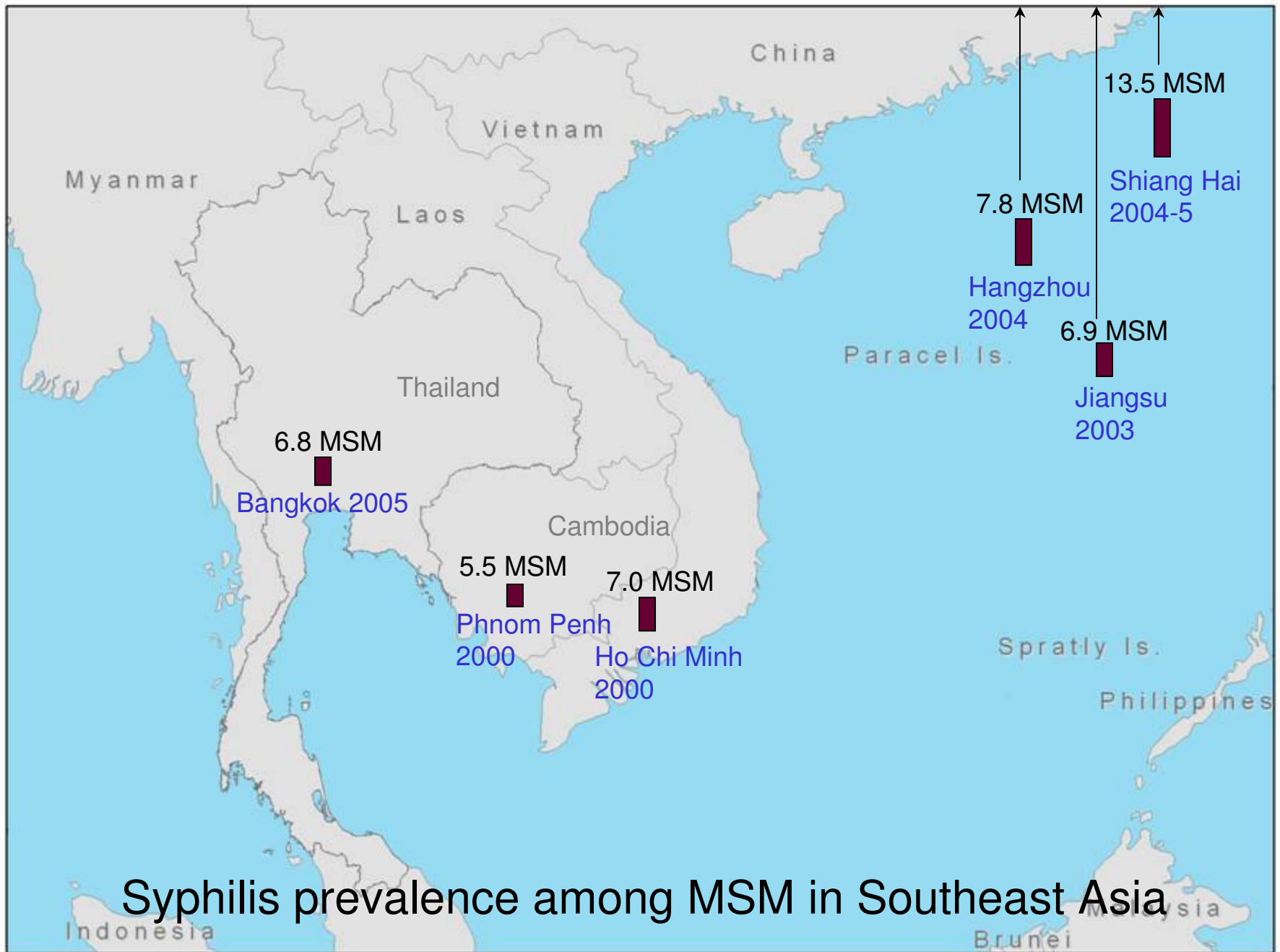
- Traditional and modern identities
 - Katoey, transgender, long hair, short hair etc
 - Homosexual, gay, MSM
- Sexual role Identities
 - Man, woman, male, female
 - Top, bottom, both, king, queen
- Compensated versus non-compensated
- Increased manifestation, political organization and commercialization
- Almost endless variety of meeting places

So many men – and so little time: sexual risk happens

Risk behavior data among MSM in Southeast Asia

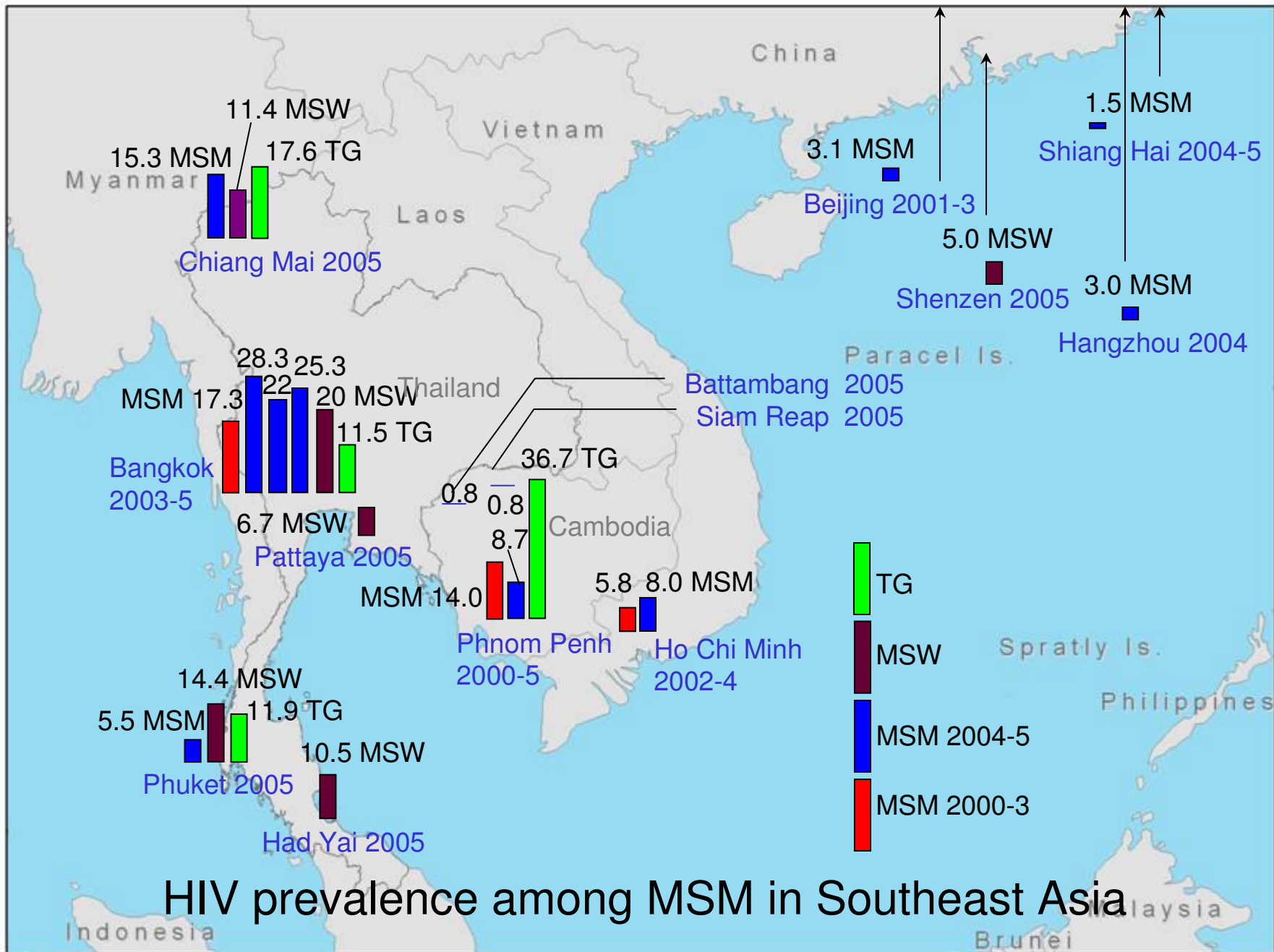
Country	Year	Sample	Behavior	Reference
China – Beijing	2001-3	Snowball 482 MSM	49% unprotected sex with male past 6 mo	Choi et al, 2003
China – online	2001	Internet 353 MSM	46%-57% unprotected sex with male ever	Wang et al, 2002
Jiangsu	2003	Convenience 144 MSM	46% unprotected sex with male in past 3 mo	Jiang et al, 2006
Vietnam – HCMC	2001	Outreach 219 MSM	78% Unprotected sex with casual male past year	Colby et al, 2003
	2004	Snowball 600 MSM	49%-57% Unprotected sex with casual male past 6 mo	NIHE, 2004
Laos – Vientiane L Prabang, S'ket	2004	TLS 281 TG and 401 male partners	61% unprotected sex with casual male past 3 mo	PSI, 2004
Cambodia – PP	2000	TLS 206 MSM/MSW	67% unprotected sex with casual male past mo	Girault et al, 2004
PP, BTBG, SRP	2002	Snowball 370 MSM	83%-100% unprotected sex with casual male past mo	Catalla et al, 2002
Thailand – Bangkok	2003-5	VDTs 1,121, 821 MSM	45% unprotected sex across all partner types	van Griensven, 2005, 2006

And when there is risk, there are sexually transmitted infections



Syphilis prevalence among MSM in Southeast Asia

And when there is risk and sexually transmitted infections
there is HIV



Summary

- Male same-sex behavior common in Southeast Asia
- High levels of unprotected intercourse
- High prevalence of sexually transmitted infections, e.g., syphilis
- Serious epidemics of HIV infection among MSM in Thailand and Cambodia, similar epidemics can still be averted in other countries, e.g., China, Vietnam, Laos
- Continued monitoring and interventions are necessary

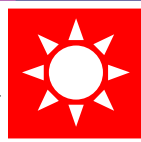
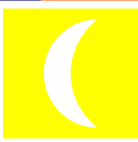
Positive action steps

- MSM are now politically recognized and/or included in the National Plans for the Alleviation of HIV/AIDS in all countries
- Repeated cross-sectional assessments of HIV prevalence in MSM are available in Thailand and Cambodia; inclusion of MSM in regular surveillance is planned for Myanmar, China, Vietnam and Laos
- MSM friendly clinics for HIV VCT and STI services have been initiated in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Phnom Penh and Yangon
- First MSM cohort study in preparation for evaluation of biomedical interventions has been started in Bangkok
- Regional network for preventive interventions among MSM is operational and has representatives from throughout the region
- Peer driven and internet based sexual health interventions for MSM are now being implemented in all countries

Bangkok MSM Cohort STUDY at the Silom Community Clinic



BANGKOK MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN



“The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for HIV, STI and TB Prevention.”

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SPEAK NO DAMAGE

FEEL NO DAMAGE



FEEL NO DAMAGE