



POLICY BRIEF

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The Law on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control: Community and Closed-Settings

The HIV/AIDS law (passed June 29, 2006, effective January 1, 2007) and implementing Decree 108 (issued June 26, 2007) provide a strong foundation for *human rights- and evidence-based HIV/AIDS policies and programs* in Vietnam, in terms of prevention, care and treatment, support for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLHA) and their families, and ending HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination.

This brief is designed to provide those who are responsible for implementing HIV/AIDS prevention program in community and closed-settings with a summary of key provisions, rights, and responsibilities under the HIV/AIDS law and implementing Decree No.108/2007/ND-CP.

HIV Prevention

- **Harm reduction** interventions include peer education, needle/syringe provision, condom distribution, and substitution treatment for opiate addicts (except in drug rehabilitation centers – Decree 108). Provincial People’s Committees determine what specific programs are to be implemented (Decree 108);
- **Peer educators** are to be provided with ID cards and legal protection when distributing condoms and needles/syringes;
- **Provision of free needles/syringes** carried out through mobile and fixed networks include peer educators, HIV/AIDS prevention and control centers, preventive medicine centers, VCT centers, pharmacies, and “other appropriate sites” (Decree 108);
- **Interfering** with the implementation of harm reduction interventions is prohibited (Decree 108);
- **People’s Committees and police** at all levels are responsible for “creating favorable conditions” for operation of condom and needles/syringes distribution programs (Decree 108).

HIV/AIDS Services in Closed-Settings

- **HIV/AIDS prevention programs** are to be provided with information on safe injection and substance abuse treatment;
- **HIV testing** shall only be conducted on a confidential and voluntary basis;
- **OI treatment** and access to ARVs;
- **Isolation of patients** with contagious diseases, such as TB;
- **Integration of HIV/AIDS education** in continuing education program of closed-settings;
- **Additional details** prescribed in the Decision No. 96, issued June 28, 2007.

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